



OV-1 Mohawk
Restoration and
Dedication
Pages: 8-9



Oregon Guardsmen
support Veterans
Day, civic activities
Pages: 12-13

Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Oregon National Guardsmen mobilized across the state for diverse overseas operations



Oregon National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Division stand at attention for the mobilization ceremony at Southern Oregon University's Raider Stadium in Ashland, Oct. 13, 2019. The 1-168 Infantry Battalion is scheduled to deploy to Djibouti in the Horn of Africa.

Photo by Capt. Jessica Clarke, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

Complete story continued on Page 6

Oregon Guard participates in International Exercise and Exchange

Story and photos by
Christopher L. Ingersoll
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Bangladesh Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), Bangladesh Armed Forces Division (AFD), and the United States Army Pacific (USARPAC) hosted a Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (DREE) 2019 beginning on Oct. 27. The five-day event brings together 20 countries and several government and non-government organizations to compare best practices for disaster relief, culminating in an exercise simulating a large scale earthquake response.

Master Sergeant Robert Bentcliff, from U.S. Army Pacific Command (USARPAC), says that the DREE Program is a key program (you have 'program' in sentence twice) for helping develop relationships and disaster response capabilities in the region.

"USARPAC civil-military operations, extends reach into the Indo-Pacific region with a focus on the disaster relief and humanitarian assistance realm," said Bentcliff. "The DREE is another engagement strategy we can have with countries inside our area of responsibility, both short and long term."

DREE 2019 in Bangladesh is the biggest yet in the country both in scope and participation.



Representatives from multiple countries, agencies, and non-government agencies practice crisis communication in the media cell, during the field training exercise portion of the Bangladesh DREE hosted by The Bangladesh Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief Armed Forces Division.

"There are 20 different countries at this DREE which is great and that means just over 100 individual actual foreign participants which makes up more than 650 participants on opening day," Bentcliff said. "It's a long way from where we started and you can see the direct impact the DREE program has had over the years. Bangladesh, regrading

DREE, has come a long way and we are pretty proud of that, that we have had that kind of impact. Each country is different in what stage they are at with building a national defense plan from the national level to the local level and Bangladesh is progressing very well."

Story continued on Page 7

PRSR STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit #605
Salem, OR

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



The Oregon Military Department

- State Commander-in-Chief
Governor Kate Brown
- The Adjutant General
Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel
- Interagency Director
Mr. David A. Stuckey
- Asst. Adjutant General - Air
Brig. Gen. Mark A. Crosby
- Joint Domestic Ops. Commander
Brig. Gen. Gregory T. Day
- Air Component Commander
Brig. Gen. Donna M. Prigmore
- Land Component Commander
Brig. Gen. William J. Prendergast IV
- State Command Chief Warrant
Chief Warrant Officer 5 Scott D. Brundidge
- Command Senior Enlisted Advisor
Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Foesch
- State Command Chief
Chief Master Sgt. Mark W. McDaniel

Oregon Sentinel Editorial Staff

- Director of Public Affairs
Stephen S. Bomar
Stephen.S.Bomar.mil@mail.mil
- Deputy Director of Public Affairs
Leslie M. Reed
Leslie.M.Reed.mil@mail.mil
- Deputy State Public Affairs Operations
Christopher L. Ingersoll
Christopher.L.Ingersoll@mail.state.or.us
- Sentinel Editor | Feature Writer:
John R. Hughel
- Staff Writers:
Jason van Mourik
Zachary Holden
Aaron Perkins
Paul Rushing
Ursula Bischoff
- Contributors:
Oregon Emergency Management
41st Inf. Bde. Combat Team Public Affairs
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Unit Public Affairs Representatives
- Editorial Offices:
503-584-3917
AGPA@mail.state.or.us
- Oregon Military Department
Attn: Editor, Oregon Sentinel
P.O. Box 14350
Salem, OR 97309

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

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

Paid advertising is prohibited in the Oregon Sentinel. Announcements which benefit Oregon Guard members and their families are allowed, at the discretion of the editorial staff.

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

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

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

COMMAND

The National Guard: A history of service and readiness

This December the National Guard celebrated its 383rd birthday, remembering the first colonial militia units organized under the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1636. Comprised of 1,500 Citizen-Soldiers, coming from 15 towns, they were formed into three regiments that still exist today.

The Militia Acts of 1792 further provided for the organization of state militias and authorized the President of the United States to take command of the state militias in time of imminent invasion or insurrection. This was ultimately memorialized in Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

American colonists informally adopted the term "National Guard" after the French National Guard in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette and his service in the Revolutionary War. The term was first officially adopted in 1861 by Connecticut as the title for its state militia. The National Defense Act of 1916 later mandated the term National Guard for all organized militia.

In the 2020 National Guard Posture Statement, Gen. Joseph Lengyel, Chief of the

National Guard Bureau, states that fighting America's wars is the primary mission of the National Guard.

Today, the National Guard makes up 20-percent of the entire joint force, which demands that we remain ready and interoperable with our active component teammates. The Oregon National Guard has 1,500 service members who are currently overseas serving in a variety of missions across three different combatant commands, demonstrably showing that we are up to the task.

Both abroad and here at home, I continue to admire the commitment and determination of our organization to meet every mission assignment. Gone are the days where we were just working one weekend a month and two weeks of annual training. While our members are truly strong and resilient, it's important to have work/life balance. Know that each and every one of you, whether Air, Army or a State employee, add value and expertise to our Oregon Military Department team and we depend on you for our continued success.



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

2019 has been a year of hard work and dedication, with our ops tempo picking up to support missions around the world. We continue to put forward our best efforts in fulfilling our duty to both the State and Nation.

Although we have already begun our training year 2020, the holidays are a time to reflect. I would ask that you keep in mind gratitude for our friends, families and loved ones - and the sacrifices they make in supporting us. Please give them my thanks and thank you for your continued service.

10 WAYS to Prevent Mishaps in an Inherently Dangerous Profession

Reprinted story from Army magazine AUSA by
Brig. Gen. Timothy J. Daugherty and
Capt. Lawrence M. Massengill



1. ENFORCE ACCOUNTABILITY

Consistently, soldiers are killed or injured by violating basic Army safety standards. These unfortunate events continue to happen because leaders are not holding soldiers accountable for these violations. Unit awareness of safety issues and policies put in place to mitigate pitfalls is only the first step. Awareness must be coupled with enforcement for safety rules to be taken seriously. Commanders can use letters of reprimand and ultimately, the Uniform Code of Military Justice action for gross violations of safety rules.

Both action and inaction reverberate within a unit. Appropriate action, such as enforcement of consequences, proves unit leadership takes safety seriously. Inaction reveals there are no penalties for blatant disregard of safety policies; thus, soldiers wrongly believe no change is required.

2. ESTABLISH REDLINE RULES

Redline rules are a short list of no-fail safety measures that everyone in a unit is held accountable to and recognizes. Expecting each soldier in an organization to be an expert on the nuances of every aspect of safety would be unrealistic. Redline rules provide an overview of a unit's safety priorities and serve as a simple reference for soldiers to remember. There is a list of redline rules that fits every organization, and these rules should be reinforced constantly. Examples include:

- Rehearse before every convoy.
- Use seat belts.
- Train and license drivers in accordance with the Army standard.
- Do not move vehicles without proper ground guides.

3. SEEK INFORMATION ON UNIT SAFETY CULTURE

No leader can observe all that takes place within an organization. In his 2018 article "Changing the Hidden Safety Culture," published by the American Society of Safety Professionals, Robert Pater contends that the way leaders deal with what they do not directly see has a significant impact on how they influence unit performance. The U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center (USACRC) at Fort Rucker, Alabama, has found that the Army Readiness Assessment Program (ARAP) offers leaders valuable insights on unit safety culture and is a key indicator of the likelihood of a mishap occurring. New battalion commanders are required to enroll in the program within 90 days of taking command. Once conducted by a unit, ARAP provides leaders with a score on a scale of 1 to 5. USACRC's analytics indicate that units with ARAP scores in the bottom 25% account for a disproportionate amount of reported mishaps-almost 50%. Once ARAP is complete, leaders receive immediate, quantifiable feedback that can help them identify safety shortfalls and inform improvement efforts. If they have not done so, leaders should enroll in ARAP as soon as possible.



Courtesy photo: U.S. Marine Corps memorial service for their fallen comrades in May 2019.

COMMAND

4. ANALYZE AND SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT NEAR-MISS INCIDENTS

Near-miss events are fortunate because they don't typically result in personal injury or equipment damage. Still, two questions should come to mind when there is a near-miss in an organization: What is being done to address the situation so it does not occur again? And are findings being shared with sister organizations? Units should dissect each near-miss occurrence to gain insights on how to prevent similar mistakes. If an organization overlooks near-miss situations, it forfeits valuable insights and is destined to repeat failures. Leaders must take advantage of fortunate near-misses, learn from them and share the resulting knowledge across the Army enterprise.



Photo courtesy of 1st Cavalary Divison Safety Office
A Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle rests on its turret and hood after a rollover.

complex rehearsal before every mission is not realistic. Leaders should choose the rehearsal method compatible with the given mission, time constraints and resources the organization has available. Even a simple map or terrain model rehearsal can help soldiers build a mental picture of how the mission will occur and identify shortcomings in the plan.

7. TEACH SOLDIERS HOW TO COUNSEL, AND ENFORCE THE COUNSELING STANDARD

An effective way to prevent avoidable reckless mishaps that occur off-duty is through proper counseling. It is leaders' responsibility to teach subordinates how to counsel and to ensure counseling is done in accordance with the Army standard. Over the past five years, USACRC data indicates driver misconduct was a contributing factor in 42% of Class A private motor vehicle mishaps. Effective counseling allows leaders to better understand how soldiers behave off-duty, recognize red flags and help prevent unsafe actions. Counseling establishes a crucial relationship between leaders and subordinates and allows leaders to address safety concerns before they take place.

a company commander reminding soldiers to make an intelligent plan for weekend activities. USACRC has published an information paper entitled "Micro-Engagements as Safety Messages" on its website: <https://safety.army.mil/MEDIA/InformationPapers/id/1177>.

It explains how to conduct micro-engagements and encourages local commands to utilize them as a best practice. Leaders should draw from their experiences to develop unique out-of-the-box safety initiatives that resonate with soldiers and address units' greatest safety concerns.



1943: "Don't Get Hurt!" A United States Army World War II safety poster: Safety has always been an important aspect for readiness, the health of the force and mission success in the U.S. military.

10. ENSURE LEADER PRESENCE, KNOWLEDGE AND WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE

During multiple mishap investigations, USACRC found appropriate leaders were not present when their units were conducting dangerous portions of an operation. Rather, the leaders delegated authority to a subordinate who did not have the training or knowledge to succeed in the given scenario. Whether in combat or while conducting standard garrison tasks, it is essential that Army leaders place themselves at the point of greatest friction. It is here that inherently dangerous operations occur and soldiers require the most guidance. In these situations, a leader who is knowledgeable about the task at hand and has the gumption to make necessary corrections is essential to accomplishing the mission safely. By design, the Army is frequently called upon to conduct dangerous tasks, but the persistent presence of danger is no excuse for complacency when it comes to safety.

In fact, the threat of injury and loss of life should drive Army leaders to commit to improving their units' safety culture. Following these 10 recommendations will not eliminate the danger inherent to the Army's directive, but it will help minimize risk and prevent avoidable mishaps. Leaders must eradicate the mentality that safety is too vast a problem to address, and must not be resigned to losing more soldiers in preventable incidents. When mishaps occur, not only are soldiers' lives impacted, but also Army resources are removed from the fight and valuable organizational energy must be redirected. Army readiness increases when every asset at a commander's disposal is capable of being applied to a unit's designated mission. For the Army to be an effective lethal fighting force, this readiness has to be prioritized, and safety culture must be at the forefront of all leaders' minds.

5. IMPLEMENT A RISK-REDUCTION PROCESS

Each unit needs a standardized risk reduction process for the operations it conducts. The risk-reduction process should be guided by a functional document that discusses the hazards of an operation and describes ways to reduce the likelihood of a mishap occurring. When a leader is not comfortable with hazards associated with an operation, action should be taken to mitigate risk or modify the operation. This process should be relatively easy and should not be excessively time-consuming. Ultimately, this forces soldiers and leaders to think about the hazards associated with a mission as well as control measures that can be implemented to reduce risk.

8. EVALUATE DRIVER TRAINING AND LICENSING PROGRAMS

Driver training programs should be comprehensive and realistic. Soldiers crash Army vehicles because they are not prepared to operate them when the soldiers are placed in challenging situations. Soldier failure in these circumstances is often a result of a lack of training in environments similar to those encountered during actual operations. USACRC's data shows that, over the past five years, 67% of unit driver training programs were found to be inadequate and were identified as contributing factors in mishaps involving Army vehicles. When soldiers complete driver training, they should be prepared to safely operate vehicles in all modes of operation to standards set forth in Army Regulation 600-55: The Army Driver and Operator Standardization Program.

6. EMPHASIZE REHEARSALS

Whenever units engage in activities that involve the potential for soldiers to be injured, there should be some form of rehearsal. USACRC's analysis of incidents that occurred over the past five years revealed that poor mission planning contributed to 79% of on-duty Class A Army vehicle mishaps, identified as accidents involving \$2 million or more in property damage and/or injury that resulted in a fatality or permanent total disability. Field Manual 6-0: Commander and Staff Organization and Operations emphasizes, "Rehearsals are limited only by the commander's imagination and available resources." A

9. DEVELOP AN OUT-OF-THE-BOX SAFETY INITIATIVE

Out-of-the-box safety initiatives should draw attention to units' most serious safety concerns. One example is micro-engagement. Micro-engagement is the practice of communicating with personnel through various forms that require only small portions of time, attention, money or other involvement. These engagements can be conducted by text, Twitter, Instagram, etc., and can be as simple as a short message from

Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB) Post-9/11 GI Bill®

- Are you wanting to transfer you education benefits?
- Have questions on what to do?
- What you get?
- How to apply?

For more info goto: www.benefits.va.gov/gibill

OREGON ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

NEWS

VETERANS DAY / ARMISTICE DAY: FACES IN THE CROWD

Story by David J. Shattls,
Courtesy of Camas Life Magazine



Lt. Col. David Shattis, 142nd Fighter Wing

CAMAS, Washington - Camas has always been a community of service. Even the mill provided a service to our town and to a global economy as the industrial revolution turned to the intellectual revolution. This month there is much to be thankful for and to those among us that have, and continue to serve our neighborhood. We recognize Camas as a little Mayberry. A quaint town that has ice cream trucks in the neighborhoods,

intimate town gatherings, a robust community service program in the school system, and dozens of offerings that many have not found yet. But at the heart of it all, is a community of service.

This Veteran's Day, we enjoy a holiday surrounded by individuals in this community who have served and continue to serve our Nation. Just across the Columbia River, the 142nd Fighter Wing stands guard over the Pacific Northwest.

Lt. Col. David Shattls is a member of the Oregon Air National Guard and a squadron commander in the 142nd Fighter Wing. On any given day, the unit conducts training activities during every form of bad weather to support the North American Aerospace Defense mission, should there be a need.

There are over a thousand American Airmen supporting the mission to protect our way of life, and this year many of them are deployed to various places around the globe. A few hundred of those individuals call Camas home.

You may not know who they are, chances are they will not bring it up in conversation, most likely they will just



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

be faces in the crowd. But on days like Veterans Day, or Armistice Day as was originally called or the various holidays in the months ahead, some of them will be ready to answer the call and launch into the skies above.

The members of our community who continue to serve our Nation and those who have completed their service are who we honor this Veterans Day. Our Veterans may not always wear a hat or shirt that identifies them, but if you look closely, they continue to serve. They are shop keepers, restaurant owners, coaches and teachers and they have dedicated their lives to serve those around them.



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



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

Oregon Youth Challenge Program Graduation

Story and photos by Zachary Holden, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

REDMOND, Oregon - The Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge Program (OYCP) class 2019-02 graduated 154 cadets Dec. 18, 2019 from the five month physical and acedemic training program. OYCP's mission is to provide opportunities for personal growth, self improvement, and academic achievement among 16-18 year old Oregon high school drop outs, teens no longer attending and those failing in school, through a highly structured non-traditional environment; integrating training, mentoring and diverse educational activities.



Members of the Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge Program (OYCP) class 2019-2 drill team perform a demonstration during the graduation ceremony for class 2019-2, Redmond, Ore. Dec. 18.



Cadets from class 2019-2 of the Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge Program (OYCP) erupt in celebration at the conclusion of their graduation ceremony, Redmond, Oregon, Dec. 18, 2019. OYCP is Oregon's only accredited statewide alternative high school, and provides opportunities for personal growth, self improvement, and academic achievement among 16-18 year old Oregon high school drop outs, teens no longer attending and those failing in school.

1249th Engineer Battalion and Regimental Association Hall of Honor ceremony

Story by Paul Rushing and Bill Schutz
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

SALEM, Oregon - The 1249th Engineer Battalion along with the Regimental Association held the 2019 Hall of Honor Ceremony and Christmas Dinner at the Oregon Gardens on December 6, 2019.

The event had three main purposes for this year's event. First and foremost, was the recognition and induction of Soldiers into the 1249th Engineer Battalion Hall of Honor. Second, was to expose the battalion, particularly the younger engineers, to the Regimental Association. Finally to perpetuate friendships and relationships of those who have served as engineers in any unit of the 1249th Engineer Battalion and to preserve the heritage, traditions and past achievements of the 1249th Engineer Battalion's history.

Ten current or past members of the battalion were inducted into this year's Hall of Honor, they include: Staff Sgt. Crystal Adams (224th EN), Sgt. Maj. (R) Joseph Bell (Formerly HHC), Sgt. 1st Class Alison Benedict (HHC), Sgt. Luke Bobeda (1/224 EN), Chief Warrent Officer 2 Todd Bobeda (FSC), 1st Sgt. Shayne Hines (Formerly HHC), Sgt. Steven Jared (442 EUD), Sgt. 1st Class Virgil Newberry (442 EUD), Staff Sgt. Nathan Payne (HHC) and Sgt. 1st Class Anna Rutherford (Formerly HHC).

In addition, three Soldiers were recognized with the Engineer Regiments' Bronze de Fleury medal. The medal is named after Francois Louis de Fleury, a French Engineer who volunteered to fight with the American Army against the British. De Fleury was recognized by the Continental Congress in 1799 for valor in the battle of Stony Point, New York.

The awardees for 2019th include: Staff Sgt. Benjamin Clapp (224 EN), 1st Sgt. Shayne Hines (Formerly HHC) and Sgt. 1st Class Virgil Newberry (442 EUD).



Army Sgt. 1st Class Anna Rutherford is presented with her induction certificate during the Hall of Honors Ceremony, Dec. 6, 2019.

The Oregon Gardens was the perfect venue for this year's event. The Great Hall provided the necessary room to fit more than 500 personnel in attendance. Of course at this time of year The Gardens host the famous Christmas in the Garden event which we were all given the opportunity to attend. Christmas and dance music was provided by the spectacular 234th Army Rock Band. Oregonians can be proud of these professional, talented musicians and ambassadors for our National Guard.

The battalion and association wish to thank our donors who made this event financially possible and "One Step Better."

The American Legion Post 124, The VFW Post 10580, The Association of the United States Army Columbia River Chapter and to our contributing Regimental members.

NEWS

Sentry Eagle 2020: Preparation lays groundwork for successful exercise

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

KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon - Preparing for a Sentry Eagle Exercise is a lengthy endeavor; everything from structuring parking for more than 50 visiting fighter and tanker aircraft, making sure fuel supplies can cover a month's worth of flying in five days, to planning food and lodging for hundreds of visiting aircrew members, and so on.

This preparation takes on a life of its own stretching across nearly every organization on base and requires a sustained effort to execute.

Among these myriad tasks is the effort to publicize the upcoming event in order to draw people to the open house, which is in large measure a "thank you" from the 173rd Fighter Wing to the people of the Klamath Basin.

A significant part of this effort is the creation of a Sentry Eagle patch, which adorns t-shirts and posters, social media

platforms, press releases and other merchandise sold during the exercise.

This year's preparation led to a special Sentry Eagle 2020 patch collection.

"There are seven patches," said Lt. Col. Adam Gaudinski, the Sentry Eagle 2020 project officer. "We put it out to the men and women of Kingsley to decide what they wanted, and we received four or five different ones and I funneled those to the designers."

Gaudinski included a combat theme relating to the Sentry concept, that of guarding something valuable. "What is a Sentry?" It's a guardian—a warrior—someone who stands at the gates to protect our assets or preserve our freedom. One who is willing to make the ultimate sacrifice," he said.

In a nutshell that is air superiority, guardians in the air keeping enemies at bay, protecting friendly forces.

When Sentry Eagle 2020 kicks off members of the Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, both active and reserve

One pilot wears it and anyone can issue a challenge to see if they can take it. A dog fight in the airspace determines the victor and who will wear it going forward.

"We expect it to change hands every day, maybe multiple times a day," said Gaudinski.

It adds a visible wrinkle for the visiting public during the open house, if a pilot is wearing that patch then he's the "Best Pilot" for the moment.

But when asked what his favorite patch is Gaudinski replied that it's the overall exercise patch featuring two F-15 aircraft over Crater Lake, perhaps the most distinctive feature in the local area. He said its shape,

that of a pentagon, symbolizes the actual Pentagon building in Washington D.C.

The building that integrates the different services and reflects the integration a real war requires. In summary, it reflects the quality of training Sentry Eagle 2020 will provide.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Penny Snoozy, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A U.S. Air Force pilot, 173rd Fighter Wing, prepares to taxi onto the runway during the Sentry Eagle exercise, July 22, 2017, at Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Oregon. The Sentry Eagle Exercise was conducted simultaneously with an open house event open to the public.

components, will take to the skies as one team, and they will all wear the Sentry Eagle 2020 patch on their right shoulder.

There are Red Air Patches, OCP Patches, 173rd Fighter Wing specific patches, overall exercise patches, but notably there is only one Basic Fighter Maneuvers Champ patch.

1186th Military Police conducts National Guard Response Force training

Story by John Hughel,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

SALEM, Oregon - The Oregon Army National Guard's 1186th Military Police Company conducted National Guard Reaction Force (NGRF) training during their recent drill weekend of December 7 and 8, 2019 at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST), at Salem, Oregon, in preparation for their annual certification requirements.



Photos courtesy of the 1186th Military Police Company
1186th MP Soldiers move out together during NGRF training, Dec. 8, 2019.

For many of the Soldiers of the 1186th Military Police Company, "this was their first experience conducting this type of security training and also allowed others to refresh their skills and proficiency," said Oregon Army National Guard 1st Sgt. Adrian Gonzalez.

"Soldiers were able to focus on-site security, roadblocks and checkpoints, civil disturbance control and personal security," said Gonzalez. "This training is important in case the National Guard is needed in Oregon to perform riot control or respond to other civil disturbances."

Gonzales is relatively new to the unit and along with the Company Commander Capt. Caleb Tomulty, the unit plans to incorporate more of this type of training in 2020.

"As our members prepare for their annual certification, training like this is a good head start in that process," said Gonzalez.

Normally the Military Police (MP) members would have full riot control equipment on such as; body shields, body armor, shin guards, knee and elbow pads, and other specialized safety gear. In many ways it allowed members to understand the importance of having the right gear for personal protection and mission success.



1186th Military Police Company Soldiers work together to conduct NGRF training at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training in Salem, Ore., Dec. 8, 2019.

"Army Guardsmen, in coordination with the Air Force (National Guard), have a piece of this NGRF package," Gonzalez explained. "The intent is to have between 75 to 125 personnel ready to go and out the door within the first 8-hours during the initial call up, and within the first 24 hours an additional 375 members (Army and Air National Guard members combined) in place."

In time, the unit's goal is to have

all Military Policemen assigned to the unit, trained to the NGRF standards and available to respond to the required time conditions.

"This is the intent, to get this certification next year," said Gonzalez. "We are planning on doing the training in coordination with the Air Force at Camp Rilea (in Warrenton, Oregon) and build on the training we started over this past (December) drill period."

ESGR presents Seven Seals award



Photo by John Hughel, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

(Left to right) Oregon Army National Guard Capt. Sean Popravak, John Bier, Principal of David Dougals High School, Dennis Kline, Oregon chairman of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), and Greg Carradine Vice Principal of David Douglas High School, pause for a photo together at the Salem Aviation Support Facility, Salem, Ore., Oct. 19, 2019. The Seven Seals award was presented to David Douglas High School for their support of Oregon National Guard members.

Service Member Relief Fund honored with donation

The Oregon Service Member Relief Fund was honored once again this year with a significant donation from the "Get Wet for a Vet" organization of \$25,000. These funds will assist Oregon National Guard members and their families in the coming year. Chairman of the Get Wet for a Vet Committee Mr. Tom Stein presented this year's donation to Ms. Dawn Taylor, President and Mr. Bill VanNatta, Treasurer of the ORSMF on Dec. 16, 2019, at the Salvation Army's Veteran Center, Beaverton, Oregon.

Get Wet for a Vet is a non-profit that holds two major fund raising events yearly. One is it's name sake, Get Wet for a Vet golf tournament held the first week of October then a fundraising Gala Dinner at the Portland Golf Club in the middle of November.

Oregon Service Member Relief Fund is one of ten Veteran organizations to receive charity donations. The Oregon Service Member Relief Fund (OSRMF) is a non-profit and relies entirely on yearly donations such as these to support Oregon service members and their families with utilities and rent when unforeseen financial issues may place them in need for assistance. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation checks can be made out to: "Oregon Service Member Relief Fund" and mailed to: Oregon Military Department. Attn.: OSRMF, PO Box 14350, Salem, Oregon 97309.



FEATURES

Oregon National Guardsmen mobilized across the state for diverse overseas operations

Continued from Front Page

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

SALEM, Oregon - Oregon Army and Air National Guardsmen, from Ashland to Astoria, and all points in-between, have been mobilized for deployment while being recognized by their communities in multiple ceremonies around the state in recent weeks.

These mobilization of troops marks one of the largest activations in Oregon history as families, neighbors and employers gathered at Armories, College stadiums and High School gyms to wish good luck, and say their heartfelt good-byes.

The first group was mobilized on Sept. 28 in Portland as Soldiers from both 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery (Forest Grove), and Company A, 141st Brigade Support Battalion (Clackamas) prepared to depart to Qatar. On Oct. 13, two ceremonies took place at two locations; the first in Ashland as the 1-168 Infantry Battalion prepared to deploy to Djibouti in the Horn of Africa, and the second in St. Helens as the 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion prepare to deploy to the Middle East.

The final ceremony was held in Astoria on Nov. 3, as Airmen from the 116th Air Control Squadron were mobilized to support Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Resolute Support.



Photo by Christopher Ingersoll, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs (From L to R) Brig. Gen. William Prendergast, Land Component Commander, Oregon National Guard, Oregon Representative Greg Walden, Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, the Adjutant General, Oregon and Gov. Kate Brown stand for the national anthem during a mobilization ceremony for 1-168 Infantry Battalion Oct. 13, 2019, at the Southern Oregon University, Ashland, Oregon.

Speaking at the first of the four mobilization ceremonies on Sept. 28, Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, the Adjutant General, Oregon, addressed the Soldiers, along with their family and co-workers as the start of more than 1,600 members of the Oregon National Guard prepared to deploy for overseas contingency operations.

“One of my greatest points of pride as the Adjutant General is seeing our Oregon National Guard units train as hard as they do and then apply those skills and professionalism in areas around the world to help our neighbors and allies.”



Photo by Aaron Perkins, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Oregon National Guard Soldiers render a salute during the mobilization ceremony at the Oregon Convention Center, Portland, Oregon, Sept. 28, 2019, for Soldiers from both 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery (Forest Grove), and Company A, 141st Brigade Support Battalion (Clackamas) as they prepare to depart to Qatar.

The arrays of assignments are as varied as the units heading out the door and downrange.

Stencel detailed some of the unique characteristics and distinctions with these units as he reminded members of the 2-218th that their history dates as far back as 1866.

“In fact it is, the 2-218th is the oldest National Guard artillery unit west of the Mississippi River continually serving,” he said, as he introduced some of the members deploying.

“An example of what I am talking about is Staff Sergeant Brett Naylor and his Wife Staff Sergeant Erin Naylor. They were married in March of 2017, but had to put their new life together on hold when just a month later Erin deployed with the 1186th Military Police for a year in Kabul, Afghanistan.”



Photo by Master Sgt. John Huguel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs A joint Air National Guard Honor Guard team from the 142nd Fighter Wing and 173rd Fighter Wing present colors along with members of the 116th Air Control Squadron during the unit's memobilization ceremony at Astoria, Ore., Nov. 3, 2019.

The couple are now parents to a daughter born in July of 2019, but for this deployment, it will be Brent deploying to Qatar for the next year. As they are both members of the Oregon Army National Guard, the also have the same civilian employer.

“In addition to their grueling deployment schedule and all the responsibilities of being new parents, they also work for the Clackamas County Sheriff’s department, helping keep their community safe.”

The second ceremony two weeks later at St. Helens High School, on Oct. 13, Stencel again highlighted members of the unit to illustrate some of the distinct stories of Oregon’s Citizen-Soldiers.

“The members of the Oregon National Guard are remarkable people and the 741st is no exception, said Stencel, as he highlighted the multiple deployments of some members.

One of those, Sgt. 1st Class Andrew McGillivray has now deployed four times while keeping a small construction business thriving, while his family continues to grow between the deployments. The McGillivray’s are also a two-member Guard family as his wife, Staff Sgt. Lauren serves and together they have a combined 29 years of service.

“While he is away, he and his wife of four years will welcome a second daughter, a little sister to their first daughter.”

When Sgt. Andrew McGillivray was asked about this deployment, he humbly replied that “I’m excited to get to deploy with such a great group of individuals, and I can’t wait to get back home to meet my newest daughter after the deployment.”

With so many Oregon Guardsmen deploying in a narrow window of time, the ceremonies around the state emphasize the impact and importance the National Guard plays in each community, large and small.

“These ceremonies offer an opportunity for our communities to show support for not only our service members, but also for our families and employers,” said Col. Eric J. Riley, Commander of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team. “We are proud to represent Oregon and the Oregon Army National Guard as we mobilize for overseas missions.”

The fourth mobilization ceremony in Astoria on Nov. 3, 2019, saw Airmen from the 116th Air Control Squadron (ACS) join their Army comrades heading out the door during this large activation period.

Representing Gov. Kate Brown for the ceremony, Oregon State Treasurer Tobias Read acknowledge to those filling the Astoria High School gymnasium the continued sacrifices that local Guardsmen play in supporting overseas assignments.

“I recognize that to keep a balance between being a citizen and guard member can be difficult,” he said. “To all of you deploying, your willingness to take on these additional duties and responsibilities is commendable and admirable.”

The 116th ACS is one of the most deployed units in the Oregon National Guard, deploying frequently, with assignments in 2006 in Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Iraq in 2008, Qatar in 2011, to provide Air Defense of the Arabian Gulf and in 2015 like now, to Southwest Asia.

Stencel described many of the Airmen who have made repeated deployments over this time period, and how many members of the unit have grown with the frequent operations over the many years.

“The unit is filled with extraordinary people, and countless stories,” he said highlighting many members who have seen multiple deployments. “This will be Captain Tyler Birman’s third deployment, he grew up as an Air Force brat, and eventually had the opportunity in 2011 to deploy with his father Chief Master Sgt. Bob Birman, when he was working as a computer maintenance technician. Tyler later applied for a commission as an Air Battle Manager, a position he has held now for over eight years.”

In concluding the ceremony, Stencel touched on many of the same themes he emphasized in all the mobilization ceremonies around the State of Oregon.

“I think we have all heard the phrase, “it take’s a village,” he said. “Just know that you’re family, friends, employers and so many others are supporting you as well.”

“When I look around and see the entire community, I know that we’re all in this together.”



Photo by Aaron Perkins, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Oregon Governor Kate Brown (left) receives the unit flag from Capt. Jake Albright, Bravo Company, 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion commander, during the unit's mobilization ceremony held at St Helens High School, St. Helens, Ore., Oct. 13, 2019.



Photo by Aaron Perkins, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Family and friends of deploying service members gather for a photo with Oregon Gov. Kate Brown (center) and other Oregon National Guard leaders following the mobilization ceremony at St. Helens High School, St. Helens, Oregon, Oct. 13, 2019.



Photo by Master Sgt. John Huguel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Members of the 116th ACS gather for group photos with friends and family following the formal mobilization ceremony for the unit, Nov. 3, 2019 at Astoria High School, Astoria, Ore.

FEATURES

Oregon Guardsmen participate in Bangladesh International Exercise and Exchange training

Continued from Front Page

As a state partner with Bangladesh for more than 10 years, Oregon was uniquely suited to participate in the event, as well to learn and share as Oregon also prepares for a future Cascadia subduction earthquake.

“DREE is one of our primary focuses, Bentcliff said. “We have been doing it since 2008 with several nations cohosting them from North all the way down to Oceana. With state partnerships, we see the advantage of inviting them and leveraging the relationships they have with their partner nations to build stronger disaster relief capabilities within the region.”

With several DREEs occurring with many of the United States Partner Nations in the Indo-Pacific region, Bangladesh’s has grown substantially and serves as a large scale exercise to inform many other smaller exchanges with Oregon to exchange more specific training and capabilities. The bi-lateral engagements have paid big dividends for Oregon and Bangladesh both.

“I’m a huge fan of the state partnership program,” said Ed Flick, Representing the Department of Defense, Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance. “I was in Bangladesh working at the (U.S.) embassy while I was on active duty back in 2008 when the State



Emergency services responders arrived rapidly on the scene to practice search and rescue, and firefighting during the field training exercise portion of the Bangladesh DREE on Oct. 29.



Lt. Col. Evan Hessel, Deputy Director of the Oregon National Guard (ONG) State Partnership Program serves as a subject matter expert during the tabletop exercise portion of the Bangladesh Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange.

Partnership Program was established. From the beginning, it was really our hope that the Oregon National Guard could contribute to our overarching theater security cooperation by bringing this wonderful mix of civilian and military expertise. In the years since it has been in existence, that experience and exchange and persistent engagement with our partners here in Bangladesh have benefitted both partners immensely.”

Capt. Syed Rizvan Ahmed, Corps of Engineers, Bangladesh Army was also present at the DREE and found the exchange of information to be beneficial.

“I’m actually feeling good about what’s happening because I’m being asked by my team for my input and to share my experience in using certain equipment that we are used to using,” said Ahmed. “I’ve never seen so many different countries working together, that was great to see all the different people working together. I really enjoyed that part. I met so many different engineers.”

The DREE consists of Subject Matter Expert (SME) exchanges and an exercise portion. A simulated large scale earthquake was the scenario for this year’s exercise portion which, for the Oregon SPP team, was particularly relevant.

“I think the things that our delegation is going to learn how other nations have developed practical ways to coordinate disaster response and particularly between civilian and military sides of the response,” said Flick. “The hazard from earthquakes here in Bangladesh is not all that different from our own. In

the true spirit of a subject matter exchange, there are things that we can bring from our experience and there are also really important things that we can learn here that will help us be more prepared back home.”

Lt. Col. Evan Hessel, Deputy Director of the Oregon National Guard State Partnership Program and also the Commander of the 741 Brigade Engineer Battalion and 102nd Oregon Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) shared Flick’s view.

“I think it is very relevant to us, that the exercise for this event is a simulated

earthquake,” said Hessel. “Similarly to Bangladesh, Oregon is situated on a fault zone, in our case the Cascadia subduction zone. Also similar to Bangladesh, our subduction zone is considered to be overdue for an earthquake. So we really have a lot of things that we can share.”

After the closing ceremony, handshakes and business cards were exchanged so that further discussion and correspondence could ensue. As for the Oregon team, more exchanges with Bangladesh are already on the horizon through the state partnership program and Oregon Guardsmen will continue to share knowledge, training and capabilities for years to come.



Dancers perform for more than 650 participants during an evening of cultural exchange as part of the Bangladesh DREE on Oct. 29.

OBON Society helps return World War II Japanese ‘Good Luck Flag’

Courtesy story by Brig. Gen. (ret.) Steven Beach

SANTA FE, New Mexico - On October 26, 2019, the New Mexico Military Museum held a ceremony to start the process of returning a World War II Japanese “Good Luck Flag” (Yosegaki Hinomaru), long held as a World War II artifact in the museum.

The Adjutant General of the New Mexico National Guard, Maj Gen Kenneth A. Nava, presided over the ceremony, sponsored by the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society and the museum.

The OBON Society, an Oregon-based non-profit, received the flag and started the process of locating the family in Japan. The event is historic because the OBON Society has returned about 300 WWII flags so far, but this is the first it has received from a military museum.

It was an honor to be invited to this ceremony because it was historic, because I support the repatriation process, and because of Oregon’s past and current ties to the New Mexico National Guard.

The founders of the OBON Society, Rex and Keiko Ziak, have collected flags from members of the 41st Infantry Division in years past, establishing a pattern of diligent and detailed research to uncover enough details in the writing on the flag to pinpoint the region and town in Japan of its origin. With their success, the efforts are therapeutic to both the American and Japanese families, sometimes answering questions and healing emotional wounds buried by more than seven decades of deeply-held feelings.

Rex and Keiko Ziak started returning good luck flags for a very personal reason. Keiko’s grandfather was lost in WWII and his flag eventually came back. She knew how much the return meant to her and how much it would mean to other families too. Some of the first flags Rex and Keiko received were from members of the 41st Infantry Division who served in World War II.

The Division, from the Northwestern States, had some of the toughest fighting in the Pacific against Japanese forces on various islands during World War II, with their final action in clearing the Southern Philippines. When the Division cased its colors in the late 1960s, the Army named the 41st Infantry Brigade as its successor to bear its lineage and honors.

The 41st IBCT flag bears the battle streamers of the Division, and the Brigade has a responsibility to maintain the history, honor the successes, and uphold the reputation that so many toiled, bled, and often died to earn over the years, and especially during World War II.

The New Mexican units, the 200th and 515th Coast Artillery, sent 1,816 Soldiers to serve in WWII, and 829 were killed or died and did not come home. The 200th and 515th served in the area near Manila in the Philippines during WWII, and defended Bataan and Corregidor until their surrender to the Japanese Forces in April of 1942.



One of nearly 300 Japanese ‘Good Luck Flags’ is displayed at the New Mexico Military Museum that OBON Society members are returning to Japan.

Over the years, the U.S. Army changed the organizational structure of the New Mexico National Guard, as it has in Oregon, and the 200th is now infantry. Today, Soldiers and other New Mexican citizens honor the heritage and noble service, responsibly maintaining the outstanding reputation that so many New Mexicans toiled, bled, and often died to earn. They may also have more reason than most to hold onto old grudges because of their treatment by the Japanese during World War II.

Many the children of Bataan Death March survivors attended the ceremony in New Mexico. The drive to return the Good Luck Flag displayed at the New Mexico Military Museum was spearheaded by one of these family members, Margaret Garcia, whose father was a Bataan Death March survivor. Unfortunately, Bataan Death March survivors themselves are nearly all gone because it has been so long, but anyone who has read about Bataan knows the brutality of the captors and

the extreme conditions of the 65-mile forced march.

The Survivors and their family members, despite an often deep-seated emotion and anger, are now gratified with the return of the flag, understanding its emotional importance to the Japanese family. The act of returning the flag highlights our shared humanity.

There is nothing more basic to human nature than relating to others. Yet, healthy relations are difficult to maintain even in the best of times because of the underlying host of emotions, perhaps the full range, which must be balanced through individual effort and control. Each one of us must put the “human” into the “being” by understanding and controlling how we choose to feel or at least choose to act based on how we feel.

In war, it’s more difficult than in normal life due to the nature of war. Returning a hard-won war trophy, perhaps the result of a fight to the death, even after 75 years, still evokes strong emotions. But, over time, many old World War II Veterans came to the realization that it is time to forgive, both the enemy and themselves, for suspending their humanity during war (sometimes necessary to survival for a time) and move on to reclaim that bit of their humanity that was suspended during the war. It’s not an easy process.

The decision to return a Good Luck Flag may not be an easy one, but as Rex Ziak put it, “Hating, despising and feeling distrust towards someone with whom we have been to war is an old trait reaching back to our primitive roots.... What we hear time and time again from WWII Veterans is how many decades of their lives were wasted hating the Japanese.

The hatred hardened their hearts and robbed them of joy.” Rex would like it if all of us “across America were to make an effort towards returning WWII heirlooms to bereaved families in time for the 75th Anniversary, this show of compassion and reconciliation would become an enormous healing moment for everyone, while sending a loud message to the world reaffirming the friendship between America and Japan.”

The OBON Society has returned 300 flags in the first ten years of existence as a non-profit, with 900 more that are entrusted to the Society to return. They have seen a substantial amount of healing. The ceremony in New Mexico was a dignified and proper send off for the flag. I was glad to be able to attend and witness the wonderful act of forgiveness and humanity in a simple ceremony.

OREGON NATIONAL GUARD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND REGIONAL EVENTS

OV-1 MOHAWK HOMECOMING HONORS ARMY AVIATION, OREGON NATIONAL GUARD HISTORY

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

SALEM, Oregon - The OV-1 Mohawk had an unusual mission, equally mirroring its peculiar appearance and unique place in U.S. Army aviation history. The twin-turboprop, two-seated, fixed-wing surveillance airplane flew on the field of battle over Vietnam, and later during Operation Desert Storm in Iraq; all the while helping secure the peace in Europe and Korea. Yet in the heart of many Oregon Army Guardsmen, it held a special place, flying significant operations above the Pacific Northwest skies for more than twenty years.

A fleet, ranging up to nearly 21 of the curious ‘Bug-eyed, triple tail’ observation Mohawks flew out of McNary Field in Salem, Oregon from 1972 to 1992. Assigned to the 1042nd Military Intelligence (M.I.) Company (later reorganized at the 641st MI Battalion), the OV-1 was one of only two National Guard units flying the distinct aircraft. As the U.S. Army began to retire the entire airframe in the early 1990’s, several were sold to private buyers, while others were scrapped as the new Blackhawk helicopters were adopted globally by the Army.

In the 27 years since the last OV-1 flight departed Oregon, one Mohawk has returned home and was distinguished during a symbolic exhibit ceremony on Nov. 2, 2019. Mohawk #926 is now the centerpiece display aircraft at the Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF), in Salem, honoring many of the Pilots and Soldiers who flew this idiosyncratic airframe during its service to the U.S. Army.

As the host for the formal dedication ceremony, Brig. Gen. William Prendergast, Oregon National Guard Land Component commander linked the two-decades of Mohawk operations to the next generation of Oregon aviators and Guardsmen.

“This dedication of this outstanding aircraft is a celebration of Oregon Army Guard aviation and those from Oregon who flew the OV-1 Mohawk in war and peace,” he said, praising the volunteers who worked on Mohawk #926. “Projects such as this, tie the past, present and future into one rich story.”

Supporting those future missions, Prendergast acknowledged that the distinct appearance of the display and aircraft will provoke a great deal of curiosity to those driving by the Deibert Flight Facility at the AASF.

“What is old is new again as the military looks to create a

new light attack aircraft in support of current operations,” Prendergast said.

THE MOHAWK #926 PROJECT

In late 2015, the Mohawk #926 Project began when Capt. (Ret.) Gary Clark and Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Chuck Rosenfeld (Co-Chairmen of the #926 Mohawk Project) started a discussion about acquiring a Mohawk for some type of static display at the AASF. By early 2016, Clark had found a company in Florida that had flown the OV-1 under an Army contract as late as 2005. While introducing many of the contributors to the project, Clark detailed meeting Mr. Paul Pefley, Mohawk Technologies, LLC Lantana, Florida, during the search for the Mohawk display. “When I first talked to Paul, he said he had two (Mohawks) airplanes in storage that he would recommend, and they might be what we were looking for (to restore). My next question-- were either one of them based in Salem?”

It turned out that aircraft #926 was and would become the focus of the project going forward. After some initial fundraising, the airplane was purchased and made its way back home to Oregon in 2016.

“We brought it out by flatbed truck, had a small celebration when it arrived, and soon after we spent nearly three and half years working on the aircraft,” Clark said.

The evolutionary process of extending the OV-1 flying legacy honors beyond the missions of the Oregon National Guard took off from that point too.

“In February of last year, we discovered that Lt. Col. Nopp and his T.O. (Staff Sgt. Kipina) had been found at the

crash site of an OV-1C model on a mission in Vietnam,” Clark recalled. “We (Mohawk #926 Project) decided to also honor them as part of this overall display.”

As Mohawk #926 becomes the centerpiece to a permanent display to the flying mission years with the Oregon National Guard, it also pays tribute to the service of Salem resident and U.S. Army Lt. Col. Robert G. Nopp, along with Staff Sgt. Marshall F. Kipina, who were lost aboard an OV-1 aircraft during the Vietnam war, and to Oregon National Guard Sergeant 1st Class (ret.) Kimberly D. (Robinson) Jark, the first female U.S. Army OV-1 Technical Observer (T.O.).

“At the beginning of this year, the Oregon Military Museum reached out to the project team because they thought Kimberly Robinson Jark might have been the first female T.O. to be qualified in the OV-1 Mohawk’s in the U.S. Army back in 1974,” Clark said, describing the third honoree addition to the Mohawk #926

display. “This unique piece of Oregon

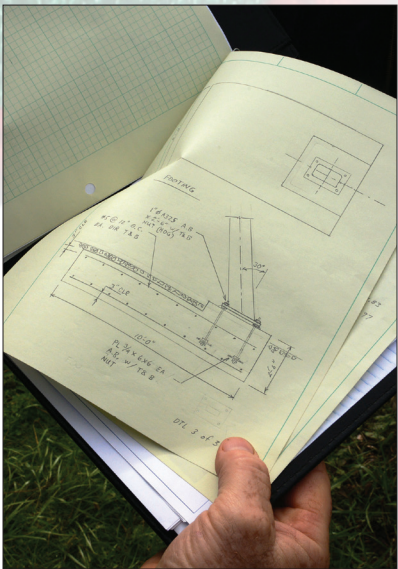
aviation history was later confirmed by the U.S. Army Intelligence Museum at Fort Huachuca, Arizona.”

EARLY ORIGINS OF THE OV-1,
ARRIVING IN OREGON

The OV-1 program was started in the late 1950’s and was awarded to Grumman Aircraft Corporation as a joint venture between the Army and Marine Corp. Many of the key designed specifications were developed to meet the needs of both services, which include the capability to fly in-and-out of smaller, rougher, forward airfields, and ten-year service life. The Marines pulled out of the project after the early production stage, leaving the subsequent prototypes consistent to meet the Army’s reconnaissance requirements.

The aircraft was quickly thrust into service in the early 1960’s with the building of the Berlin Wall in Germany, and in Vietnam with the increase of American military presence. In total, 380 OV-1 (A-D models) Mohawk were built between 1959-1970.

“The OV-1 was such a unique aircraft, it had a variety of sensors



Ken Safe reviews design documents for the Mokawk base pedestal, Oct. 23.



A U.S. Army OV-1 Mohawk surveillance airplane, #926 is lifted by crane at the Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF), Salem, Oregon, Oct. 23, 2019. The new display of the OV-1 is installed at the main entrance to the AASF.

and cameras,” Clark concisely described during the display ceremony. “For an airplane designed in the late 1950’s, it truly was packed with interesting equipment.”

Detailing those features, the airplane had multiple camera systems to include, a panoramic camera in the fuselage and in later models, a nose panoramic and a camera under the fuselage to provide along-track imagery. Night imagery could be obtained using an electronic photoflash and I.R. technology. Yet it was the proficiency of the Mohawk’s radar image capability that proved significant in both war and peacetime missions.

The Side-looking Airborne Radar (SLAR) could map terrain, detect moving targets and ‘look through foliage.’ At the height of the Vietnam War, Mohawks units were flying reconnaissance missions over the Mekong Delta and along the Ho Chi Men Trail. In Germany, during the height of the Cold War, advances in the Mohawk SLAR capabilities, allowed for offset radar mapping, providing moving target indications along the East German and Czechoslovakia border.

the activities before and after the May 1980 volcanic eruption of Mount St. Helens.

“The geothermal activity began to attract the nation when Mount St. Helens started to heat up from 90 days before the massive eruption, we flew photo and I.R. missions on a daily basis,” Rosenfeld recalled with vivid details of the events. “The Big eruption, fortunately, happened on a drill weekend, we already had two aircraft in the air and by days end, we had flown more than a dozen more Mohawk missions.”

Rosenfeld said that because of these surveillance missions and

the work of the Oregon National Guard that, “Mount St. Helens is known for being the best-documented eruptions in human history -- unit members also personally briefed President Carter and the effected state Governors.”

THE PROJECT RESTORATION COMES FULL CIRCLE

One of the biggest moments in the project took place 10 days prior to formal dedication ceremony as Mohawk #926, fully restored, made a final voyage from the work hangar at AASF to the pedestal in front of the entrance.

As the fully assembled aircraft was lifted, loaded to a flatbed truck, and then moved into place on the pedestal on Oct. 23, it hung gracefully in the air at times, as the sun began to break through the morning fog.

With a pedestal pitching the aircraft pitched nose up in at take-off position, a ‘slightly rolled’ 5 to 10-degree angle to the side gives the displayed Mohawk a valiant pose ‘on its a final landing spot.’

A group of volunteers, construction and project engineers watch like proud parents as the aircraft lifted, rose, rotated and then slowly descended into place. With notebook in hand, Ken Safe, Construction and facilities management officer, and project engineer for the stand and mount finally got to see how his math matched the design.

“It (airplane) could easily go 50 percent more on the weight for this fixture and that taking in full wind gust conditions, snow load and all other safety considerations.”

One of the more difficult unseen challenges was getting inside the belly of the aircraft to build support structures to keep the integrity of the airplane enact once it was mounted.

Going through the drawings and specification, Safe said it was extremely complicated once inside. “Getting up into there (the airplane) we had to connect the wings to conjoin and transfer weight to all the structural members of the airframe.”

“This project, it defiantly was a labor of love!”

Holding one of the guiding lines of the



Army National Guard Capt. (Ret.) Gary Clark (left), delivers remarks as Brig. Gen. William J. Prendergast, Land Component Commander Oregon National Guard, (center) and Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Charles L. Rosenfeld, (right) take part in the formal dedication ceremony of the Mohawk #926 Aircraft at the Deibert Flight Facility, Army Aviation Support Facility in Salem, Oregon, Nov. 2, 2019.

aircraft, Jim Brown helped direct the Mohawk. With four large bolts, Chief Warrant Officer four Grant Rush and Gary Smith with Mike Adams Construction Company skillfully attached the airplane to the stand.

“It’s bringing some of our history back,” said Brown, observing #926 finally attached to the pedestal and mounted into its new permanent home at the main AASF gate. Brown is a full-time technician for the Oregon National Guard, but also the Command Sgt. Major the 641st Aviation Battalion. He started working with (UH-1 Iroquois) Huey’s and (UH-60) Blackhawks but the OV-1 was here when he first arrived in 1987. Like many in the Oregon Army National Guard aviation community, the Mohawk represents more than just an airplane.

“The Mohawk went away in 1992 so many of the members at that time were at retirement age and left when the airframe retired too,” he said, describing two generations ordained now toward one goal. “So on this project we’ve got guys from (age) 60 to 80 years old, working together with those of us still active in the unit-- we truly are one extended family in that sense.”

Another great part of this story Brown said was learning about the Nopp Family. During the project, Lt. Col. Nopp along with Staff Sgt. Kipina’s crash site was found and their remains officially identified. “It was during this restoration period for #926 that we made this connection -- it really gave this project a deeper purpose.”

At the dedication ceremony on Nov. 2, Lt. Col. Nopp’s widow Patti Nopp, along with sons; Scott and Tim attended and were honored. With Christopher Witherspoon, representing his late mother, Sgt. 1st Class Jark, adding their story to the project reinforced their contribution and unique association with the Mohawk aircraft. In a larger sense, the local Salem community, the Oregon Army National Guard and U.S. Army aviation organizations all share a special connection to the #926 project.

As the ceremony concluded Gary Clark echoed this sentiment to those present. “To those here today and to my Mohawk comrades, this project and exhibit is dedicated to everyone who was ever assigned to an OV-1 Mohawk unit worldwide.”



Members of the Oregon National Guard, retirees, and other dignitaries take time to greet each other during the Mohawk #926 Project dedication at the Deibert Flight Facility, Salem, Oregon, Nov. 2, 2019. The Mohawk restoration project took more than three years to complete.



The first Mohawk arrived in Oregon in October of 1972 when a lone OV-1C model left the U.S. Army Aviation Center at Fort Rucker, Alabama in route to Salem. Piloted by Stephen F. Hammonds, aircraft number 18948 would be the first of many OV-1’s assigned to the 1042nd. The unit would benefit with veterans of the Vietnam War as well as filling the ranks of the new unit with Citizen-Soldiers from all walks of life.



Oregon Military Department file photo

OV-1 Mohawks were instrumental in the observation and documentation of the of Mt. Saint Helens eruption in 1980.

“It was early on, while the initial training progressed, the Oregon Department of Forestry credited the infrared mapping capability of the 1042nd greatly improved the forest fighting abilities,” said Rosenfeld as he addresses those in attendance for the display dedication.

With more than 250 people in attendance, many of the unit’s former members were at hand to see the alluring restoration on the brilliant autumn afternoon. Rosenfeld went on to describe a variety of missions, task and projects accomplished in those twenty years but most notably was

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Oregon Guardsmen participate in Joint Exercise Sentry Aloha

Story and photos by
Airman 1st Class Adam Smith,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

HONOLULU, Hawaii - Five F-15 Eagles and more than ninety Airmen from Kingsley Field flew to Hawaii for three weeks to support Sentry Aloha 19-2, a large-scale exercise with both American and Australian Forces, August 16 through September 6, 2019.

Lt. Col Victor Knill, 173rd Fighter Wing Sentry Aloha project officer, said, “The purpose of this exercise is to get the Hawaiian F-22s as much training as they can get since they’re kind of out here, isolated. They don’t get a lot of opportunities to get a lot of big, large force exercise training.”



Airmen from the 173rd Fighter Wing board a U.S. Air Force KC-135 as they prepare to depart Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon for the Sentry Aloha exercise.

Knill emphasized that Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) occupies a strategic position in the highly contested Pacific Command Area of Responsibility and maintaining unit effectiveness is vital

to U.S. interest. Exercises such as Sentry Aloha 19-2 allow JBPHH pilots to train against a diverse set of opponents that can imitate what may be encountered in combat. Kingsley Eagles flew with Hawaiian F-22 Raptors simulating both friendly “Blue Forces” and as adversaries. F-16 Fighting Falcons from Tulsa Air National Guard Base and an Australian E-7 Wedgetail AEW&C also participated.

Captain Paul Spotten, 173rd FW Sentry Aloha maintenance officer in charge, said that the benefits of this exercise extend beyond just the local Hawaiian Raptor pilots.

“The way these large force exercises work, it really is good training for everyone involved. Everyone is learning a lot from being able to participate in an exercise like this.” More than ninety Airmen followed Kingsley’s five jets to ensure the mission went smoothly, said Spotten. “We’ve got folks from maintenance squadron, aircraft maintenance squadron, maintenance operations flight, operations support, the fighter squadron, logistics readiness, comm flight. We really did bring a really good, big diverse team.”



U.S. Air Force F-15 Eagles from the 173rd Fighter Wing out of Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon, receive fuel from a Hawaii Air National Guard KC-135 over the Pacific Ocean during the Sentry Aloha exercise at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, August 27, 2019.

Knill also praised the hard work of every Kingsley Airman who supported the mission. “They showed dedication and resilience throughout the entire exercise, sometimes working ten plus hour shifts to make the flying happen.” During the nine mission days, Kingsley Eagles flew 65 sorties, adding up to more than 110 hours in the air.



Senior Airman Kyel Beasley, 173rd FW Crew Chief, loads liquid oxygen into an F-15 during the Sentry Aloha exercise, Aug. 23.

173rd FW hosts new 19th AF Commander

Story and photo by
Master Sgt. Jefferson Thompson
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon - The new 19th Air Force Commander visited the 173rd Fighter Wing to see firsthand the operations at the schoolhouse providing all of the F-15C air superiority training to the U.S. Air Force, Sept. 10, 2019.

U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Craig Wills assumed his command June 13, 2019 and prioritized making a visit to the rural, southern Oregon base.



U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Craig Wills, the 19th Air Force Commander, is fitted for a flight helmet by Staff Sgt. Christopher Burdi, a aircrew flight equipment technician, during a visit to Kingsley Field, Sept. 10.

“It’s important to get out and see what is going on at our different flying training locations,” said Wills. “That’s why I made it a priority to come out here.” His visit included opportunities for the command to brief him on the current state of operations, including a busy construction schedule stretching into the next several years. “We are ready to start the most complex project we’ve ever undertaken,” said Joe

Young, a base civil engineer. “Essentially we are going to replace every bit of concrete you see,” he said while standing on the ramp with Wills. That project will begin in earnest next summer and is large enough to require contractors to build their own concrete mixing plant on the air field in order to have the required supply to finish the project, said Young. For Wills, the visit is part of overseeing his flying training mission, which spans all of the flying training for the U.S. Air Force. In many respects, his command is the largest customer of the 173rd Fighter Wing as the majority of pilots that train here are active-duty. For the wing it was an opportunity to discuss the state of operations and what items are high profile where the mission is concerned. For this trip, the pending construction is front and center with the concrete project, as well as the scheduled groundbreaking for a new corrosion control facility, and an airport project to repave all the taxi ways as well. The flying mission will continue as planned, but the command says it never hurts to keep everyone in the loop should the need for flexibility arise. Another critical aspect of the tour was showing Wills the expansive airspace range Kingsley Field has available. Kingsley’s airspace is nearly the size of the Nellis Air Force Base range complex and boasts far less traffic. Additionally, it lies in close proximity to tanker support and meets the criteria for fifth generation flying training. Wills saw this first-hand in the back seat of an F-15 Eagle, something he’s familiar with as a rated F-15 pilot in C, D, and E models with more than 2,500 flight hours.

Kingsley Field establishes new health and fitness center

Story and photos
by Tech. Sgt. Jason van Mourik
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon - The term fitness is everywhere today, from advertisements to hash tags to bookstores; however, there is often a confusion as to how it is actually defined. Within the military, fitness represents a balance between readiness and well-being, where each of those two conditions support each other. The 173rd Fighter Wing is starting up a Community Health and Wellness Center (CHAWC) in order to support the health, nutrition, and overall fitness needs of Airmen at Kingsley Field. “Over the years, I have seen a real lack of this resource on base and how that affects people negatively,” said Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Hall, the new health promotion coordinator for the 173rd FW. “We just didn’t have the tools to really help people with fitness and health for a long time.” The CHAWC’s goal is to create a unified team of qualified and trained individuals who can provide tools for Airmen’s mental, emotional, and physical well-being. Keeping Airmen fit and healthy helps ensure the wing continues to train the best air-to-air superiority pilots in the world, support their community and missions around the globe, says Hall. “This program isn’t going to be centered on just the annual fitness test, but it is a resource to help people that are struggling,” she adds.



Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Hall, the health promotion coordinator, serves up some chicken salad lettuce wraps during a nutrition class, Sept. 7.

“The team provides a holistic approach to making a better Airman.” The wellness team plans to work alongside the chaplains, mental health professionals, and other resource experts to provide the knowledge, experience and resources Airmen need to make healthy and smart life choices adds Hall. Part of the programs goal is to build partnerships with community organizations who also offer resources for promoting healthy lifestyle choices, from dietary choices to physical exercises and mental health resources. “Our overall goal is to give our Airmen the tools to be able to create a better life for themselves,” said Tech. Sgt. Rachel Warnick, a CHAWC human performance specialist. “When you’re eating healthy and working out correctly, you are reducing the chance of injury to yourself.” Along with providing nutrition and fitness education now, the CHAWC team plans to incorporate even more in the future such as assisting members who have an illness, injury, or pregnancy in the healing process, to smoking cessation programs, and even cooking classes. “A lot of people don’t know there is a proper way work out to prevent injury,” said Warnick. “We’re here to provide the training and resources to keep our Airmen fit, because who wants to be injured from working out; it’s miserable.”



Staff Sgt. Jacob Williams, a health and fitness trainer with the 173rd FW, demonstrates the proper push-up position in class, Sept. 7.

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

142nd Fighter Wing Guardsmen participate in Checkered Flag 2019

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

PANAMA CITY, Florida - More than 150 Citizen-Airmen from the 142nd Fighter Wing in Portland, Oregon traveled to Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida to participate in Checkered Flag, a two-week joint-service exercise beginning Nov. 4.

The exercise included several airframes from various Air Force and Navy installations, working together to meet combat readiness requirements. The focus of Checkered Flag is to enable the execution of complex, and primarily defensive, counter air and fighter integration.

In these air-to-air combat simulations, pilots represent either red air (the threat or opposition) or blue air. Red air pilots imitate aircraft from other countries while blue air pilots implement counter measures.

Aside from enabling pilots to meet Air Force mandated annual requirements, multi-airframe exercises like Checkered Flag present pilots with the opportunity to participate in intricate and demanding combat representative experiences.

Lt. Col. Jarrod Aranda, Director of Operations for the 123rd Fighter Squadron, 142nd Fighter Wing, at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Oregon, said that the training experience offered at exercises like Checkered Flag is invaluable.

“We have the ability to expose guys to much more complex training scenarios here that we just can’t get back home because of the limited number of lines [sorties] that



A U.S. Air Force F-15 Eagle, assigned to the 142nd FW, takes off from Tyndall AFB, Florida, Nov. 12, 2019 during Checkered Flag training.

we’re able to generate,” said Aranda.

Training scenarios at home station are typically two blue vs. four red, whereas at exercises like Checkered Flag, scenarios will typically be played out with 30-40 blue vs. 40 red.

But while quantity is undeniably important in generating challenging training situations for pilots, the variety of aircraft plays a significant role as well. Working with multiple airframes allows pilots to learn about other platform’s capabilities and how to counter different aircraft.

“Each MDS (Mission-Design Series) has its own specific capabilities and back home we’re flying with just [F-15] C models,”

said Aranda.

“But to fly with the F-22, a stealth aircraft out here, and to fly with the Strike Eagle and the vipers [both] with air-to-ground capability, there’s pretty good cross-talk on how each of us executes air-to-air.”

Tyndall hosts multiple Checkered Flag flying exercises throughout the year, facilitating imperative training opportunities for pilots across many branches of the U.S. Military.



Oregon Air National Guard 142nd FW maintenance crews perform pre-flight inspections during the Checkered Flag exercise conducted at Tyndall AFB, Florida, Nov. 12, 2019.

‘Redhawk’ CGO Council cleans up local park

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

PORTLAND, Oregon - The Company Grade Officer (CGO) Council organized a clean-up event with Portland Parks and Recreation. On Friday, Sept. 6, the group helped clear an invasive plant species from Whitaker Ponds Nature Park, located approximately one mile from Portland Air National Guard (PANG) Base.



Photo courtesy of 142nd Fighter Wing CGO Council

Members of the 142nd Fighter Wing Company Grade Officer (CGO) Council pause for a photograph while taking part in a clean-up event with Portland Parks and Recreation.

The CGO Council consists of five 142nd Fighter Wing ‘Redhawk’ volunteers: Capt. Miles Dodge, 142nd Force Support Squadron; Capt. Christopher Young, 142nd Fighter Wing; Capt. Amy Aranda, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; 1st Lt. Leo Short, 142nd Maintenance Group; and 2nd Lt. Kalene Kaplan, 142nd Maintenance Group.

The CGO Council has been volunteering in the local community for the past two years. Last year, the Council built and donated a tiny house through an outside organization that works to support homeless veterans. The house was constructed on base over the course of several months, and donated in November 2018.

The CGO Council’s members range in rank from the rank of 2nd Lieutenant (O-1) to to Captain (O-3). Capt. Aranda has been a member since she transferred to the Oregon National Guard in spring of 2014.

“I was motivated to join the Council as a way of meeting people at PANG,” said Aranda. “A fellow CGO invited me to a meeting and I’ve been involved ever since.”

In addition to being a great way for qualified officers to meet and collaborate with individuals outside of their shops, the

Council offers professional development opportunities for its members. It also strives to create opportunities for Airmen outside the Council.

The CGO Council is responsible for organization of the 2016 Contemporary Base Issues (CBI) Course at Camp Withycombe, located in Clackamas County, Oregon; as well as the 2016 U.S. Air Force Profession of Arms Center of Excellence (PACE) presentation at the Portland Air Base.

The CBI course offered officers, Non-

Commissioned Officers (NCOs), and future leaders the opportunity to collaborate with one another in order to identify and respond to contemporary base issues. The PACE presentation was a course titled “Professionalism: Enhancing Human Capital,” that focused on the use of self-reflection as a means of becoming better friends, parents, spouses, coworkers, and leaders. Both events impacted hundreds of service members’ careers.

For Aranda, being part of the CGO Council has allowed her to work with other motivated service members, serve the local community, and help other service members to advance their careers.

173rd upgraded mass-casualty first aid kits

Story and photo by
Master Sgt. Jefferson Thompson
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon - Oregon Governor Kate Brown has challenged organizations across the state to be ready -- ready for a possible but, growing likelihood of a Cascadia subduction zone earthquake, for other natural disasters like flooding or a Tsunami -- essentially for whatever comes our way.

The Oregon Air National Guard’s charter for emergency response in the state and the commander-in-chief’s challenge have units like the 173rd Fighter Wing looking for ways to improve overall readiness.

“It prompted us to have a look around the maintenance group and ask ourselves how we would fare if we had to respond to any type of mass-casualty event,” said Master Sgt. Michael Shirar, the Resource Advisor

to the 173rd Maintenance Group. “One of the first things we noticed was that a lot of our first aid kits were antiquated and a lot of their contents had been expended over the years.”

Shirar went on to say that these old kits didn’t really suit the type of medical emergencies that today’s Airmen are preparing for. One such example is the aircraft crash at the Reno Air Races back in 2011. Several wing members who were there, responded to medical emergencies for 50-60 injured bystanders when shrapnel from the downed aircraft sprayed into the crowd of spectators. He said they reacted according to their military training but lacked medical supplies, especially ones to stop bleeding—using their shirts as makeshift bandages.

Shirar started searching for a better alternative to the current first aid kits and

found a good option while traveling.

“I was recently at Andrews Air Force Base and I noticed that they had a mass-casualty, bleeding control station,” he said. “And it appeared to be exactly what we were looking for.”

Upon returning home he was able to coordinate funding for the items and now they are going up on walls throughout the maintenance group buildings.

The kits themselves are based on the IFAK, Individual First Aid Kit, which Airmen carry onto the battlefield while deployed. Each kit has eight, individual, hermetically-sealed IFAKs designed to staunch bleeding or open air ways and a collapsible litter. Additionally, Shirar coordinated the procurement of more Automatic External Defibrillator (AEDs), and is working with the maintenance group to have them located them next to fire extinguishers.



Master Sgt. Mike Shirar, a 173rd FW Maintenance Group resource advisor, opens a bleeding control station kit to show the eight sealed kits that each contain breathing and airway first aid capability.

“The idea was a member wouldn’t have to run more than 100-yards to get to an AED or a bleeding control station,” said Shirar. “Now there are 11 AED stations, nine of which have a bleeding control station.”

Additionally they are looking at a larger purchase to add more stations around base beyond just the maintenance group.

FEATURES

Volunteers for All Seasons: Oregon Guardsmen step-up

Feature essay by Master Sgt. John Hughel,
Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

ALBANY, Oregon - Veterans Day 2019. This year, the 11th day of the 11th month marks 100 years since the first Armistice Day remembrance that took place at Buckingham Palace on November 11, 1919. A simple two-minute moment of silence was set aside to remember those who died and never returned from the “War to end all Wars,” that ended a year before on the same day.

Each year the anniversary takes on a deeper meaning as veterans from every conflict since World War I, pause to participate in memorials at national cemeteries, gather at American Legion or VFW Posts, line local parade routes or attend other remembrances across the nation. For many Oregon Guardsmen, the national holiday is not a ‘Day off’ but more of a ‘Call to action’ as volunteers show up to march in parades, perform honor guard details, man howitzers for ceremonial salutes, or work an extra shift launching jets for patriot flyovers around the region.

As significant as Veterans Day is each year, there are other major holidays and events that require assistance from Soldiers and Airmen from the Oregon National Guard. The work behind the scenes is often rehearsed and trained weeks in advance, and for some throughout the year, as skills are sharpened to present a refined presentation to the public and nation as a whole.

“Largest Veterans Day Parade West of the Mississippi”

The Albany (Oregon) Veterans Day parade is one of the largest and oldest Veterans Day events in the country dating back to 1951. It comes complete with a full color guard detail, squadrons of marching Soldiers and Airmen, howitzer cannon firings, fighter jet flyovers, and the 234th Army National Guard Band performing along the entire route. In many ways, it’s a full ensemble of the most ardent and dedicated Citizen-Warriors that defend the Pacific Northwest participating at this distinctive setting.



Photo by Maj. Chris Clyne, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs
The 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery, Oregon Army National Guard perform a howitzers salute during the Albany Veterans Day Memorial Service, Timber-Linn Park, Nov. 11, 2019.

For more than three decades, Chief Master Sgt. Larry Keller, Maintenance Operations Flight Superintendent for the 142nd Fighter Wing, has been instrumental in building some of these select teams of ‘extra duty volunteers.’ Keller has been on the flightline (as an Army Engine Mechanic) when OV-1 Mohawks and later as an (Air Force Crew chief) F-15 Eagles have launched for patriot flyovers. He has also trained and deployed with wildland firefighters around the state, and for one last go-around, a key lead for the Albany Veterans Day parade; assembling the volunteers needed to make up the Air Guard marchers for the last 10 years.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Aaron Perkins, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs
Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Duane Reno sings the National Anthem, opening the University of Oregon annual Spring Game, April 20, 2019, at Autzen Stadium, Eugene, Ore.



Photo by Maj. Chris Clyne, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs
The 234th “Oregon’s Own” Army National Guard Band march and play along the parade route of the Albany, Oregon Veterans Day parade, Nov. 11, 2019. The 234th play in over 40 different community events each year.

“The first time I marched in the Albany parade is when we went in Desert Camo’s in the 1990’s,” said Keller, reflecting back over a long military career. “I live in the Salem area and marching in the parade was a way to get my family to come out too -- which is a driver for getting others now to volunteer and be part of such an amazing event.”

With more than 1,600 Oregon Guardsmen recently deploying, Keller said there was an added challenge to get enough marchers but in the final push, the parade was a success with people stepping up in the last few days to fill the ranks.

“I was concerned when we were looking for volunteers but it worked out -- like many of these tasks that need manning, it all comes together in the end,” he said.

Over the past several years, Keller has been instrumental in leading firefighting teams for the Air National Guard in Oregon. One of the common traits he noted between those who are willing to step up for a day of ceremonial details or two-weeks in the backcountry is a passion to serve above and beyond the confines of one’s military occupational skill.

“I tell everyone who wants to be part of firefighting duty to only sign up if you know you can drop everything in your life and be ready to move out in 72 hours,” said Keller, describing the pro and cons to volunteering in advance for fire season work. “Occasionally I’ll have some people who say they can do it because it looks good that their name is on the volunteer list, but then when they get the call to head out it can be a different story.”

These types of additional community responsibilities can often seem seamless to the greater public. Guardsmen take great pride in their motto “Always Ready, Always There,” yet for every Army Band performance or funeral detail, there is a recruitment process to find a dedicated member, and hours of practice and rehearsal to have those skills polished.

“Oregon’s Own” and “The Governors Own” maintain time-honored standards

Musicians in the U.S. Army date back to the American Revolution, as they would provide the stable rhythms for new recruits during drill and marching training. As these Militia companies grew, military bands developed the Esprit de Corps for these units with patriotic melodies, offering a sense of unity and determination for the Minutemen.

The 234th “Oregon’s Own” Army Band recently celebrated their Centennial Birthday with concerts around the state. They follow in footsteps of a proficient flutist, Gen. George Washington, the first General in the U.S. Army who would later become the first President of the United States. The 234th Army Band perform more than 40 events a year, yet to make this team, one has to not only pass an audition with their musical instrument but there is a clear understanding to the demands in the schedule that must be adhered to in advance.

The 4th of July, Memorial Day and Veterans Day are part of this established itinerary for members of the 234th. Members realize that they may play in multiple events in one day, sometimes at different locations depending on the event size and the particulars of the request and maybe...what instrument they might end up playing for the event.

“With the recent mobilization of so many Soldiers this fall, we ran into some real hurdles both with funding and availability,” said Staff Sgt. Duane Reno, describing the issues with allocating funding with the beginning and ending fiscal period quarters.

“There were two ceremonies happening on the same day with one in Ashland (1-186th Infantry Battalion and the 141st Brigade Support Battalion) and the other up north here in St. Helens” (741st Brigade Engineer Battalion and the 141 Brigade Support Battalion), he said.

“We’re lucky that some of our people are so versatile and can play more than one instrument -- which allowed us, in this case to assemble bands at both locations so we could properly send our Soldiers off on deployment.”

Reno, a vocalist, has been with the band for nearly five years and coordinates many events around the region. He emphasized the groundwork that has fostered the long-term success for the 234th, was established years ago with innovative leaders leaving an exceptional structure in place.

“Our predecessors saw the benefit of setting up our drills so we meet more frequently and split train sometimes so we are not losing a whole weekend,” Reno

said in describing the distinct schedule. “We normally drill two Tuesday nights a month and one Saturday so we can flex our training and still be mission effective.”



Photo by Maj. Chris Clyne, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs
The Oregon Army National Guard Color Guard stands ready to start marching in the Albany Veterans Day Parade, Nov 11, 2019.

The dedication from many members is unique and crucial to maintaining the integrity of the band. With their duty headquarters at Camp Withycombe at Clackamas, some make the drive from as far away as Le Grande and Ashland, arriving by 6:30 pm for the four-hour bi-monthly midweek practices.

“They’re making quite a commitment to play the instrument that they love while serving the country they love too.”

As any good musical conductor might profess, having a robust bass accompaniment can emphasize the sound for the entire orchestra. Often with the help of “The Governors Own,” 218th Field Artillery, Alpha Battery and their 105mm Howitzers, a perfect complement of reverberation adds for a timely finale.



Photo courtesy by Sam Gaither, Tillamook Headlight Herald
Two Oregon Air National Guard F-15 Eagles assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing perform a Patriot Flyover the Tillamook Air Museum, Oregon on Veterans Day, November 11, 2019.

“For several years we provided the cannon salute to Tchaikovsky’s 1812 Overture during the “Oregon Symphony’s concert in the Neighborhood, at Tom McCall Waterfront Park” (in Portland), said Sgt. 1st Class Richard Botta, 218th Battalion Operations Sergeant. “We would have four of our Howitzers on stage, and play what I call, ‘First Chair Howitzer’ for the song, giving us time to cue each Howitzers to orchestra -- it’s a symbolic and powerful conclusion to the piece.”

Like the band, they are part of these significant patriotic community celebrations each year around the state. When they are not providing cannon firing routines, often they will travel to events to provide static displays with their 155mm Howitzer in tow.

“When we are doing a salute to the nation, our teams will fire the 21 rounds to fully support the venue,” said Botta, noting how many people in the unit like to volunteer for patriotic events. “Our young Soldiers especially; they really like to go to these events and feel connected to the community and support these national holidays.” (con’t on page 13)

FEATURES

to support Veterans Day and other civic patriotic callings

Of these holidays each year, Memorial Day at Willamette National Cemetery is distinct for multiple reasons. They will bring three howitzers, vehicles and three people per gun to man the firing party. The trios of howitzers and firing teams work in precise sequence to emphasis the full salute for this solemn day.

“There is one person to load, one that handles the canister and one NCO (Non Commissioned Officer) to pull the lanyard to fire off the round, said Botta. “The total team is somewhere between 9 to 14 people.”

“During a situation like now where most of our people are deployed it does become a bit of a challenge on what we can and cannot support but our fall back is our trained full time staff and they can supplement.”

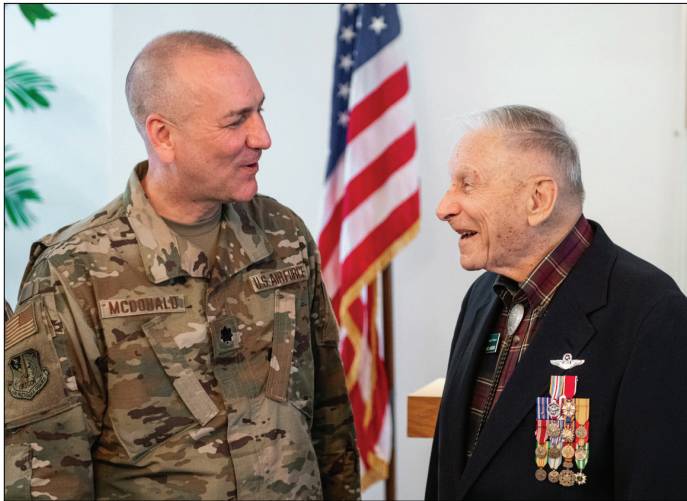


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Zachary Holden, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs
Air National Guard Lt. Col James E. McDonald (left), deputy director of the Oregon National Guard's State Partnership Program, speaks with Col. (ret.) William Mercer Harris IV, during a Veterans Day celebration hosted by the Mt. Angel American Legion post #89, Mt. Angel, Ore., Nov. 11, 2019.

Like many of these volunteer events, members will perform the occasion in lieu of a regular drill duty period, often making accountably, logistics and pay paperwork a challenge. Botta noted that the howitzer salutes are considered a two-day event because of moving them from station to station with the required maintenance and cleaning after a firing detail.

“Much like going to the range or out in the field, the weapons require attention to detail.”

Yet there's no mistaking the impact the howitzers have on any patriotic event: The all-encompassing boom and smoke resonate for everyone viewing their thundering display.

“This allows the community to understand, not only what goes into our military job [with bringing the howitzers out to an event], but in a greater sense, it builds that deeper purpose of what the National Guard provides to the public,” said Botta.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Zachary Holden, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Veterans observe as the colors are posted during Veterans Day celebration hosted by the Mount Angel, Oregon, American Legion post #89, November 11, 2019. The first Veterans Day began 100 years ago as “Armistice Day” November 11, 1919, marking the first anniversary of the end of World War I.

“The One Percent of the One Percent”

The 3rd United States Infantry Regiment is renowned by their nickname, “The Old Guard,” as they provide full military funeral honors at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C. as well as dignified transfers at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. A significant role of the U.S. Army National Guard is to provide funeral honors throughout the rest of the nation with specified training to those Soldiers who meet the grade.

Many of the Oregon Army National Guard funeral Honor members originate from the 218th as well as Soldiers from the 41st Infantry Brigade “Sunset” team. This small but select group provided full funeral honors for fallen Army comrades while also performing ceremonies and special events representing the U.S. Army as a whole to the American public.

Willamette National Cemetery overlooks the city of Portland, three major mountains and the Willamette River. It is one of the largest and most active National Cemeteries in the country. Over the past three years a joint team of Oregon Army and Air Force Guardsmen, along with Navy Reservists make up the mission performing more than 2,000 funerals a year. Prior to the contribution of the Air Guard in 2016, the Army shouldered the responsibility for nearly two-thirds of all services.

Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Joshua Flores is the team lead at Willamette National Cemetery and on any given day, as many as 10 or more funeral will need to be covered. Having a mixed team of Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen allows nearly all branches of the military to accomplish the mission [currently the Marine Corp covers their own funerals].

“There has been nearly a 40 percent cut in our budget for manning this year,” said Flores. “We couldn't cover all these services without the help of the other service branches.”

Added to the challenge is a continuing rise in service for veterans from WW II, Korea and Vietnam, up to the current Gulf Wars and Afghanistan. Flores also noted that with so many Oregon Soldiers deployed, having individuals who can step in to augment for high profile funerals is often problematic.

“For a recent important funeral for Col. Norman Thomas (the former Oregon National Guard Chief of Staff), to meet our protocol we needed a 6-man flag fold team, a lead Field Grade Officer, a 7-member firing party, the Firing Party Commander, and a bugler,” said Flores, describing the added manning requirements. “Getting those 14 to 15 members together meant having Army members come from Medford and Eastern Oregon as well as Air Force and Navy personnel making up most of the firing party detail.”

The logistics is only one part, having a chance to rehearse the service is also critical. Often a minimum of two or three hours of group run-throughs is needed for a high profile funeral. What seems simple and routine comes from hundreds of hours of training and dedication prior to a single funeral or memorial service.

Flores has been part of the Army National Guard funeral Honors program for more than three years. His duty military occupation for the past nine years is 11C, Indirect Fire Infantryman, mortar squad and he is a graduate of the 80-hour funeral honors course.

“It sounds cliché but nobody knows when someone is going to pass away...quite often it happens and overlaps with drill weekends,” said Flores. “We currently have only 12 full time active members in the state, but between deployed trained people and budget issues -- it is still hard to get some leaders to understand the need to support the family members timeframe for a specific funeral request.”

Air Force members from the 142nd Fighter Wing have two full-time members as part of the Honor Guard team at Willamette National Cemetery (WNC) and another half dozen fully trained members in funeral honors that can support the mission. On top of that, the 142nd Honor Guard covers more than 60 Color Guard and memorials each year and a large portion of those events are covered by drill status Guardsmen.

As the teams' current NCOIC, Tech. Sgt. Keven Baker is currently one of the full-time Willamette members while schedules and performing many of these ‘extra-extra’ events.

“At times it can be a bit overwhelming to do both but the entire unit from top to bottom supports what we are doing with the program,” said Baker. “But it is hard to describe to those outside of this program how much goes into it, from where it first started with funeral honors three years ago to now.”

In outlining the direction of the program, the Air National Guard falls under McChord Air Force Base Funeral honors, which fund the two active duty positions at WNC, Baker said. Currently he is building a longer-term plan that will streamline keeping the mission for the Air Guard and a pipeline of proficient Airmen for funeral details.

“It is one thing that we have saved over a quarter million dollars by taking on the mission here at Willamette (National Cemetery) but with the Navy and Army support, we have been able to give extensive recognition and honors on funerals to retired Air Force members,” said Baker.



Photo by Master Sgt. John Hughe, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Honor Guard Soldiers Staff Sgt. Joshua Flores, Sgt. Everett Mayers and Spc. Isaac Yocum (left to right), present a hand salute while performing an Army funeral at Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, Oregon, Feb. 9, 2018.

“We're a small crew but we have the ability to come together and feel proud about what we can do as members of the Armed Forces.”

At a speech before National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics in June of 2018, Air Force Gen. Paul Selva emphasized to those in attendance that, “Only 1 percent of our population today will ever wear the uniform of this nation in any of its incarnations -- Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine, active, Guard or Reserve.”

To put the mission of Honor Guardsmen into a broader perspective, it means in a unit the size of the 142nd Fighter Wing with nearly 1,500 Airmen, about 1 percent of the members volunteer and train for this unique duty. In the distinction of military service members, this equates to a elite group of ‘One percent of the one percent.’



Photo courtesy by Janelle Kaplan

The 142nd FW Base Honor Guard leads the Lough Legacy Veterans Day parade at Fort Vancouver, Wash., Nov. 9, 2019. U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Keven Baker (right) is the team's NCOIC.

“If you ask almost anyone who is on this team, they'll tell you first and foremost the reason they want to be part of the Base Honor Guard is that it is a reflection of what one feels is important about the Air Force and conveying that to those outside of the Air Force,” Baker emphasized. “There is a camaraderie here that is like no place else in the military and it's a reflection for a passion to serve: to the public and nation as a whole.”

In his book, “The American Spirit,” Historian David McCullough describes this greater calling, as “an American need, above all is leadership to define the national ambition.”

“I think what most of us want, more than anything else -- is to be useful. This and to be part of something larger than ourselves...it's a common understanding of what that larger something can be,” McCullough surmised.

This echoes the perspective for volunteerism that Chief Keller has reflected upon; now on the eve of his retirement from the military.

“Putting this last group together (for the Albany parade) was in many ways bitter-sweet,” he said. “I'll leave with a lot of memories but this is what makes military service so special because of what it means to serve, and the bonds created along the way.”



Photo by Master Sgt. John Hughe, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

Chief Master Sgt. Larry Keller, 142nd FW Logistics Readiness Squadron, (right) give instructions to Airmen waiting to loading buses at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore., as they depart for firefighter training in Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST), Salem, Ore., Aug. 25, 2015.

FEATURES

Service Member and Family Support Targets Resources for Oregon Guardsmen

Story by Paul Rushing,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs
File photos from Service Member & Family Support events

SALEM, Oregon – The name change from Family Programs to Service Member and Family Support (SMFS) represents a dramatic expansion of the services that they offer. While there are still the Summer Family BBQs and awesome Christmas parties, the new SMFS programs expands support to our guard members on everything from child and youth programs, family resilience to service member and family employment, and everything in between.

FAMILY ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST (FAS): Nine Family Assistance Specialists (FAS) are located throughout Oregon to serve the needs of the Service Members and their Families. FAS’s offer information and referral services to all service and family members regardless of branch or duty status. The eight essential Services the offer are Legal Resource and Referral, Financial Resource and Referral, TRICARE Resource and Referral, ID Cards and DEERS, Crisis Intervention and Referral, Community Information and Outreach, the Exceptional Family Member Program, and Emergency Family Assistance Centers, Separation Outreach Calls, Follow up Services



FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTER COORDINATOR (FACC): The FACC provides management and administration of all FAS operations, provides supervision, guidance, and assistance to the FAS and is the State Family Program Director (SFPD) subject matter expert for Family Assistance services. The FACC is available, by phone, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to address emergency situations

FAMILY READINESS SUPPORT ASSISTANT: They provide family support services through synchronization with the command leadership at the Brigade, Battalion, or Company level in the form of all things Family Readiness. For example, newsletter, volunteer recruitment and phone trees. As well as provide training, administrative and logistical support to each unit Command leadership team, the Family Readiness Group and units overall Family Readiness Program, as provided by policy and guidance from the State Family Program Director.

SENIOR FAMILY READINESS SUPPORT ASSISTANT: The Senior Family Readiness Support Assistant is designed to provide the SFPD with Family Readiness program support and to coordinate all aspects of the Command’s Family Readiness Program to include wellbeing of Service Member and their Families during all phases of the deployment cycle. As well as provide training, administrative, and logistical support to each unit Command leadership team, the Family Readiness

Group and units overall Family Readiness Program, as provided by policy and guidance from SFPD.

CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAM: The mission of the Oregon National Guard Child & Youth Program is to positively impact Service Member and Family readiness, resilience, and retention by providing secure, timely, flexible, and high quality youth development opportunities and resources which promote the overall well-being of National Guard children and youth. They organize youth and family events such as the Youth Military Ball, Month of the Military Child (April)’, Family Camps, Yellow Ribbon Events, Community Outreach and Partnerships (YMCA, BGCA, 4-H, Etc.) Oregon Military Teen Panel and the Oregon Youth Symposium.

AIRMAN AND FAMILY READINESS PROGRAM MANAGERS: Airman and Family Readiness Program Managers empower Commanders in their duty to deliver the total Family Program so that Service Members and Families are entitled, informed, educated, assisted and made ready for the unique demands of military life before, during, and after deployment

YOUTH OUTREACH COORDINATOR: The Youth Outreach Coordinator collaborates with early learning and community organizations to provide support to military youth and families across the State of Oregon. The YOC also assist Service Members with all stages of Child Care Aware. Military Fee Assistance applications process.

SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES: The mission of the Survivor Outreach Services is to embrace and reassure survivors that they are continually linked to the Army Family through a unified support program that enables them to remain an important of the Army for as long as they desire. The SOS program is an Army-wide program which demonstrates the Army’s commitment to Families of the Fallen. SOS is a holistic and multi-agency approach to delivery services to survivors by providing services at garrisons and communities closest to where families live. Primary function is to liaise with civilian and military service providers and work with government casualty support entities such as local Casualty Assistance Centers (CAC) and Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Division (CMAOD) to fullest extent possible. Can provide preparation guidance to terminally ill service members.

CITIZEN SOLDIER FOR LIFE: Citizen Soldier for Life prepares and connect service members with financial and employment services, in an effort to enhance readiness and boost resilience. The program offers services to all National Guard members and their families who may be seeking civilian employment and financial assistance. The Readiness Counselors assist individuals in meeting Career Readiness Standards and gaining the fundamental skills necessary to obtain and sustain a fulfilling civilian career. It targets readiness at the individual level and creates stability at home and within the unit, thus allowing Soldiers at meet individual and collective training requirements in preparation of state and federal mobilization.

MILITARY ONE SOURCE: Military OneSource is your 24/7 connection to information, answers and support for the best MilLife. You can contact them anytime to arrange free Military OneSource services including: counseling, specialty consultations, health and wellness resources, online libraries, free H&R block tax services, financial and language services.

RESILIENCE, RISK REDUCTION, AND SUICIDE PREVENTION: The Army National Guard Resilience, Risk Reduction, and Suicide Prevention (R3SP) makes it a top priority to promote resilience and risk reduction and to correspondingly decrease suicidal ideations and actions. This includes enhancing the resilience of our Service Members and Families through institutionalized training, leadership awareness, and prevention and intervention programs.

SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM MANAGER: The Army National Guard Suicide Prevention Program mission is to foster a nationwide commitment to provide resources, network community partners, increase suicide intervention skills, and follow-up in an effort to reduce risks across the force. The suicide prevention program services are aimed to lower risk which may lead to acts of self-destructive behavior and provide support for Commanders to ensure the safety of Service Members and their Families.

STRONG BONDS: Strong Bonds is a unit-based, chaplain-led program which assists commanders in building individual resiliency by strengthening the Army Family. The core mission of the Strong Bonds program is to increase individual Soldier and Family member readiness through relationship



education and skills training. Strong Bonds is conducted in an offsite retreat format in order to maximize the training effect. The retreat or “get away” provides a fun, safe, and secure environment in which to address the impact of relocations, deployments, and military lifestyle stressors.

PERSONAL FINANCIAL COUNSELOR: Provide free confidential, short-term counseling designed to identify immediate and long-range measures to increase income, reduce household expenditures, and avoid additional financial burdens. PFCs educate and counsel all Service Members and Families regardless of service component.

YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM: The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program is a DoD-wide effort to promote the well-being of National Guard and Reserve members, their families and communities, by connecting them with resources thought the deployment cycle. Commander and Leaders play a critical role in ensuring the National Guard and Reserve Service members and their families attend Yellow Ribbon Events where they can access information on healthcare, education, and employment, financial and legal benefits.

TRANSITION ASSISTANCE ADVISOR PROGRAM: Is a liaison to all Service Members, providing resources to state benefits, physical and mental health well-being, disabled veterans benefits, employment assistance, education and training, financial assistance, health and life insurance, legal assistance, relocation/homelessness and career change.



SOLDIER FOR LIFE-TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: The program exists to help soldiers and their families make a smooth transition from military to civilian life. The program provides the following requirements. The program provides the following requirements: Pre-Separation counseling, Individual Counseling, Transition Overview (TO), MOS crosswalk, Financial Planning seminar, Department of Labor Employment Workshop (DoLEW), Veterans Affairs briefing 1 & 2, Goals-Planning-Success (GPS), and Capstone, job search & resume assistance, and financial counseling.

SERVICE MEMBER AND FAMILY EMPLOYMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM: The Service Members and Family Employment Education Program’s purpose is to increase educational and career opportunities for all current and retired military Service members and their Families that reside in Oregon. This is accomplished by developing proactive, positive relationships with Oregon educational institutions, VA Counselors, employment services, and employers through all available channels, to obtain stable careers for the Service Member and their eligible Family members.

EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE (ESGR): Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense (DOD) agency, seeks to develop and promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees with ESGR as the principal to advocate within DOD. ESGR does this by advocating relevant initiatives recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of applicable laws resolving conflict between employers and service members.



FEATURES

Salem-Keizer Volcano's Jerry Howard wins Patriot Award

Story by John Hughel,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

SALEM-KEIZER, Oregon - Over the past several decades, Minor League Baseball (MiLB) has flourished in big cities to small towns alike. Innovative teams names such as the "Toledo Mud Hens", the "Albuquerque Isotopes," and "Lansing Lugnuts" distinguish the unique association to their community and local heritage. With offbeat promotional events from "Hunting Dog Competitions" to "Win a 'New Used Car' Night," the activities bring a flair found only in developmental leagues of the National Pastime.

For more than 23 years, one of these quirky named clubs, the "Salem-Keizer Volcanoes" have played in the Northwest League, a Class A-Short Season 8-team league affiliated with Major League Baseball's (MLB) San Francisco Giants. The team has won five Northwest League titles and 2012 MLB World Series Most Valuable Player (MVP) Pablo Sandoval developed his skills at third base playing with the Volcano's during the 2005 season.

Yet between the T-shirt giveaways and the offbeat promotional events, nothing quite compares to the Volcanoes annual July 4th Patriotic Tribute. Over the past 12 years Jerry Howard has been instrumental in honoring veterans, active duty, and National Guard and reserve service members and family members prior to the start of their July 4th home game. For his years of dedication and enthusiasm, Howard was recently awarded the "Charles K. Murphy Patriot Award" for 2019 for the outstanding Patriot Tribute in the Northwest League.

The Charles K. Murphy Patriot Award is presented to a team or individual in MiLB for outstanding support of the United States Armed Forces and veterans, both at the ballpark and in the community. The award was created in 2016 in honor of the longtime Florida State League president and U.S. Army veteran who passed away Feb. 21, 2015, at the age of 83.



Photo by Capt. Heather Bashor, JFHQ Public Affairs
Oregon Air National Guardsmen Lt. Col. James McDonald and Senior Master Sgt. Denise Phillips prepare to perform the national anthem for the July 4, 2019 Patriotic Tribute.

"Jerry Howard's efforts to acknowledge, thank and honor our servicemen and women, as well as their families, are exemplary of the type of passion deserving of the Charles K. Murphy Patriot Award," said Minor League Baseball President & CEO Pat O'Conner in a press release revealing the award on Oct 30. "He is very deserving of this award, and as a veteran himself, it is my honor to, on behalf of Minor League Baseball, present him with this award."

With a love of Baseball that goes back to age five, Howard, a middle infielder, played until he entered the Air Force in 1961. Assigned to Bergstrom Air Force Base outside of Austin, Texas, he later worked at President Lyndon Johnson's Ranch 60 miles west of the city as Air Force One flew into Bergstrom when the president would travel home from Washington D.C. or other states and nations.



Photo by John Hughel, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs
Jerry Howard of the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes baseball team stands along the dugout at the teams stadium, Nov. 21, 2019. Howard was awarded The Charles K. Murphy Patriot Award for 2019, and is presented to a team or individual in Minor League Baseball for outstanding support of the United States Armed Forces and veterans, both at the ballpark and in the community.

"I was pretty much 'a gofer,' and did a great deal of driving, especially when special quest and President Johnson were home," said Howard, reflecting on his five years in Texas. "I really enjoyed my time in the Air Force and extended for an extra year, but ultimately decided I wanted to get back into Baseball."

Howard started working as an umpire, working his way up just like the players from the Rookie leagues up to the Triple-A and on the College level.

"I got to umpire five National Junior College World Series, the U.S.A. Vs. China Olympic game," he said, as he recalled the years of traveling in professional baseball. "Eventually I did some coaching and then into scouting, first for the (Chicago) Cubs and then (Toronto) Blue Jays."

In January of 2006, Howard began working with the Volcanoes, 'crossing over the fence,' leaving behind the on-field work -- for an office job in baseball. He is one of just four full-time staff members working with the team and has a variety of tasks.

"I do a little bit of everything in the office, were just a small staff, but on September 1st each year, I start planning the July 4th Patriotic Tribute game."

It was during the 2008 season that the team honored four National Guard Soldiers that had recently returned from Iraq at the game. The success of that solemn gesture inspired everyone with the Volcanoes to plan for the next year.

The starting point is often the hardest part Howard said, detailing how all the aspects that go into supporting the theme of the event. In many ways, it's like being a Wedding Planner, as each part has to be carefully considered, thought out, and choreographed.

The tribute now is nearly 90 minutes in length with as many as 200 veterans and service members and family members on the field prior to the first pitch.

"A few years ago we purchased 176 American Flags, which represent 1776," Howard said. "They circle the entire ballpark and we have almost 30 tables represent military organizations set up so that fans can interact with these groups."

Static displays of military hardware are often part of the Patriot Tribute and having special guest such as Army Maj. (ret.) Larry Deibert, who flew 578 flights in Vietnam and Navy Capt. (ret.) Greg Woodridge, 3-time Commander of the Blue Angels just to name a few.

"It's been an honor to be associated with Salem-Keizer Volcanoes for over a decade," said Maj. Stephen Bomar, Public Affairs Officer for the Oregon National Guard. "The team and Jerry's commitment to the military play a significant role in our community."



Photo by Capt. Heather Bashor, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs
A Joint Oregon Army and Air National Guard Color Guard team present the colors for the July 4, 2016 Patriotic Tribute game at the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes stadium as family members of deployed service members are recognized on the field prior to the start of the game.



Photo by Capt. Jessica Clarke, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs
Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Karissa Gratrek and 1st Sgt. (Ret.) Brenda Powers are recognized during the annual 4th of July celebration at the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes Baseball game in Keizer, Ore., on July 4, 2018. They were the first mother-daughter duo in the Oregon National Guard to serve in combat together.

For Howard, the award is humbling because each year the veterans and currently serving service members the team honors grows and their stories add on to the Patriotic Tribute.

"This award really belongs to all those who've participated over the years -- the 2,000-plus outstanding and very brave men and women of the Armed Forces who have attended our annual Patriotic Tributes to be thanked, honored and saluted for their service to our nation," said Howard.

Howard will receive the award at the Baseball Winter Meetings Banquet on Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019 in San Diego, California, adding to his distinct trek during his baseball career.

"I am proud of what Jerry Howard has selflessly achieved with this program, and equally proud of all our active servicemen, servicewomen and all veterans who give so much in the defense of freedom and liberty," said Volcanoes owner Jerry Walker. "This award recognizes, at its purest form, the power of public service."



Photo by Capt. Heather Bashor, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs
Oregon National Guardsmen and their children participate in the 12th Annual Patriotic Tribute at Volcanoes Stadium honored Fallen Heroes and youth of military families.

AZUWUR

Streets named for World War II veterans at Camp Withycombe



Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office

Seven former Oregon National Guard members who served in World War II with distinction were honored with streets named after them on a military base in Clackamas.

On Sept. 21, the Oregon Military Department dedicated roadways on Camp Withycombe to honor WWII veterans of the 41st Infantry Division. The roads now bear the names of:

• **1st Lt. Sammy E. Radow** (1922-2001) of Oregon City joined Company D, 186th Infantry Regiment, in 1938 at the age of 15. From 1939 to 1942, he served in the 162nd Infantry Regiment, and then became an officer and transferred to the 163rd. His long and distinguished military career includes combat in World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam. He earned the Silver Star with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star with five Oak Leaf Clusters, two Purple Hearts and three Combat Infantry Badges.

Radow was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action near Changnyong, Korea, on Sept. 16, 1950, while serving as a commanding officer. When the radio operator was wounded, he remained in an exposed position, under intense enemy fire, and personally operated the radio until another operator was sent forward. His last residence was in Clackamas. He was buried in Willamette National Cemetery.

• **1st Lt. Melvin C. Monroe** (1918-1999), as a member of the 167th Field Artillery Battalion, in early June 1944, was in a compact, fortified position east of Sarmi, New Guinea. While leading a daily security patrol, he came under enemy machine gun and sniper fire in a jungle opening. His men hit the ground, but he charged the machine gun crew, yelling to draw their fire, an action that earned him the Distinguished Service Cross.

Nobody knew Monroe had been wounded until he almost collapsed and had to be helped back to the aid station. His foot, wounded with bullet fragments, became infected and he contracted malaria. This resulted in his August 1944 evacuation to a post hospital in Walla Walla, Washington, where he met his wife-to-be, First Lt. Jane Plant, U.S. Army Nurse Corps.

• **1st Lt. Rodney W. Orange** (1920-missing in action) reportedly created the 162nd Regiment's Intelligence and Reconnaissance platoon starting with a core of six men trained in intelligence. He gathered another 18 men considered most troublesome in the companies. While in the 1943 campaign at Salamaua, New Guinea, he made an extremely hazardous reconnaissance with the help of two native trackers. Even though he was far beyond his own forces, he stayed out nearly a month, bringing back detailed and accurate enemy information. He received a personal commendation from Maj. Gen. Horace



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

Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon and Maj. Gen. (ret.) Raymond Rees, pose with three of the 41st Infantry Division soldiers who served in WWII during the 41st Infantry Division Association street naming ceremony at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon, on Sept. 21, 2019.

Fuller, 41st Division Commander.

He left a short time later on a reconnaissance flight to Finschhafen further north in New Guinea, but the plane crashed near Lae, Morobe. He was never seen again and was reported missing in action.

• **Staff Sgt. Jordan W. Davis** (1912-2002), who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for knocking out the anti-aircraft gun positions with grenades while he led his squad in a July 9, 1944, action on Biak Island, near coast of Papua, an Indonesian province, northwest of New Guinea.

Born in 1912 in Iowa, Davis moved to Pendleton in 1936 and joined Company G of Oregon National Guard's 186th Infantry shortly before it was activated in 1940. He then served from Fort Lewis to Australia, Papua, New Guinea, and The Philippines. He and his unit fought in the battles of Hollandia, Biak and Palawan.

• **Staff Sgt. John McRoberts** (1919-1998) also was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism on Biak Island. On June 22, 1944, according to the official reports, "McRoberts encountered such heavy fire that the forward movement of his men was stopped. On his own initiative and alone, he charged

the enemy position and firing rapidly, killed two enemy soldiers and wounded a third. Although seriously wounded, he then directed his squad in reducing the enemy fortification, and enabled his platoon to secure the contested area."

McRoberts was then sent back to the U.S. on a hospital ship. After recovering from his wounds he was assigned to the Army Ground and Service Forces Redistribution Station in Santa Barbara, California. There he married Jeanine Leathers of Ione, Oregon.

• **Staff Sgt. Frank R. Gehrman** (1918-2007) was a farmer near Mount Angel when he enlisted in lieu of being drafted on Feb. 26, 1941. He served in the medical detachment of the 162nd Infantry Regiment. Gehrman then served overseas as a section sergeant and surgical technician in a battalion aid station.

He was awarded a Bronze Star for leading a heroic rescue under fire on April 23, 1944, at Humboldt Bay in Papua, New Guinea. On seven different occasions, without regard for his personal safety, he removed casualties from areas of heavy enemy fire. He also was awarded the Purple Heart for combat-related wounds.

• **Sgt. Leonard C. DeWitt** (1921-2016) became involved in a July 28, 1943, move to take higher ground near Salamaua, New Guinea, as part of actions that earned a Distinguished Service Cross. He was credited with forestalling an enemy breakthrough and preventing heavier casualties.

In 1938, DeWitt joined Bend's Oregon National Guard unit, Company I, 162nd Infantry, 41st Division as a rifleman. He was called back

to active duty for the Korean War and was wounded in action. He then served in Europe as an intelligence officer with the 6th U.S. Navy Fleet, as chief of staff for training with the eventual rank of lieutenant colonel. He was a resident of McMinnville when he died.

Soldiers' names were selected from veterans currently highlighted in displays within the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Readiness Center building. The new street signs designate the main entrance road, the road to Readiness Center building, the main north/south axis road and connecting streets.

A street-naming dedication ceremony took place at the Oregon Military Museum, 15300 Minuteman Way, Clackamas. Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel and retired Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees participated in the ceremony, alongside Dan Sokol, president of the 41st Infantry Division Association.

"The accomplishments of these men who've been designated extends to all men and women who have served in and with units of the 41st Infantry Division throughout history," Sokol said.

The 41st Infantry Division was called to duty in September 1940. Now, 79 years later, more than 1,000 members of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team have begun overseas mobilizations to various parts of the world starting in September.

Known as Task Force Arrow, the group of more than 450 soldiers is one of several units that the Oregon Army National Guard's 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team is scheduled to deploy this fall and winter. In all, the 41st is scheduled to deploy more than 1,400 service members to five different countries: Djibouti, Jordan, Kosovo, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.



Photo by Jason van Mourik, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel (left), Adjutant General, Oregon, Maj. Gen. (ret.) Raymond Rees (center) and Mr. Dan Sokol (right) President of the 41st Infantry Division Association, participate as the official party of the 41st Infantry Division Association street naming ceremony at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon on Sept. 21, 2019.



Photo by John Hughel, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Brig. Gen. (ret.) Steven Beach (left) and Chief Warrant Officer (ret.) Diane Beachand (right) pause for a photo with Joanne DeWitt as they stand next to a street sign honoring her late husband Lt. Col. (ret.) Leonard DeWitt at Camp Withycombe, Clackamas, Ore., Sept. 30, 2019.