



# OREGON SENTINEL

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

## Oregon Civil Support Team safeguards visitors and competitors at World Athletics Championships



Hayward Field at the University of Oregon, in Eugene, Oregon, hosted the World Athletics Championships from July 15-24, 2022. Oregon National Guard Members of the 102nd Weapons of Mass Destruction - Civil Support Team, and other security staff of the Joint Hazard Assessment Team (JHAT) conduct security sweeps during the ten days of international competition.

Photo by John Hughel, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Story continued on Pages 8 & 9

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

## ORNG SPP strengthens ties with Vietnamese partners during Disaster Management Engagement activity

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Cory Grogan,  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

**HANOI, Vietnam** – Oregon National Guard (ORNG) members supporting the State Partnership Program (SPP) shared knowledge and built relationships with a variety of Vietnamese partners during the 2022 Disaster Management Engagement Activity (DMEA), June 13-17 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The SPP currently supports 65 partnerships between states and nations. In 2012, the ORNG signed a partnership agreement with the Vietnam National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM).

DMEA is an annual event where U.S. and Vietnamese partners, including VINASARCOM, have shared culture and knowledge. Training has focused on disaster response and management and the U.S. Incident Command System (ICS).



U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Christner and Nguyen Thi Thu Huong pause for a photo during the United States and Vietnam Disaster Management Engagement Activity, June 15, 2022 in Hanoi, Vietnam. The Oregon National Guard and Vietnamese partners, including Vietnam National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM), have been working together as part of the National Guard State Partnership Program for nearly 10-years, sharing culture and knowledge.

Story continued on Page 6



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COMMAND

Looking back at FY 2022 while preparing for FY 2023

Looking back on fiscal year 2022, we see once again how the Oregon National Guard played a pivotal role for both our State and Nation. Our service members were prepositioned in Poland when Russia broke the peace in Eastern Europe and invaded Ukraine. We were also a key part of Operation Allies Welcome, supporting vulnerable Afghans as they safely resettled in the United States.

In Oregon, many of you served our communities by supplementing an overburdened healthcare system as part of our most intensive domestic operation since Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Most recently, Oregon National Guard Service Members augmented safety and security on traffic assistance points during the Rum Creek and Double Creek wildfires.

While on their way to training in Idaho, Airmen of the 125th Special Tactics Squadron proved why they were "Always Ready, Always There," as they saved the lives of two motorcyclists following an accident. The Black Hawk crews out

of G/1-189 General Support Aviation Battalion have had a number of notable rescues in the mountains of Oregon. These are only a few examples of how you served our State and Nation this past year, and I am proud of every one of you and your selfless service.

As we roll into 2023, continue our efforts to be Ready, Relevant and Resilient. Whatever new challenges come our way, our approach requires us to remain relevant and ready, to work with our communities and further develop our national and international partnerships, and to take care of our people.

To have the force to accomplish our goals, we need to retain the resources we have and recruit the best people to join in this effort.

I ask that the entire Oregon Military Department family – service members, civilian employees, retirees, friends, and family – reach out to others that want to serve their Nation, State and communities. Share our accomplishments with people you interact with outside our organization. We are doing great things and need



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



people with similar values that want to be a part of our team.

Finally, with the holidays coming up, I encourage you to make as much time for friends and family as possible. We owe them a tremendous amount of gratitude for the sacrifices they make in supporting us through the challenges of military life and public service. They make you successful, which makes the Oregon Military Department successful.

I look forward to all of us making 2023 a phenomenal year!

Leadership begins with a foundation of trust and respect

Trust is a critical part of all interactions that we have as humans. It also plays an integral role in communicating in the workplace. Trust is being able to have a sense of security and confidence when dealing with someone.

You need to have a sense of trust built up with your fellow service members. A high level of trust creates a more positive work environment. It also leads to a more productive workplace where people feel safe and respected.

Building trust in teams from the beginning and maintaining it is crucial. Once your credibility starts to slip, people will see you and your team as less reliable. Our leadership chains of command are teams that must be trusted and foster trust.

We must first and foremost live by our core values which leads to the following key actions.

*Be honest:* Developing a reputation as someone who is dishonest is one of the fastest ways to erode trust. Always

tell the truth, even if it's awkward.

*Honor your commitments:* A trustworthy person does everything in their power to stick to agreements they've made. If you make a promise, follow through on it. Avoid making promises that you might not be able to keep.

*Be accountable:* People don't like to hear excuses. If you do something wrong, it's best to just be upfront about it. If you realize you were incorrect about something, own up to it.

*Communicate effectively:* Trust can be easily damaged by miscommunication. Communicate in a way that doesn't leave room for misinterpretation. Follow up with honest feedback. If you aren't sure about something during a conversation, ask questions to clarify. Listening is just as important as speaking for effective communication. Make sure that you give others a chance to talk.

*Be transparent:* Explain what you're doing and why you're doing it. Don't



Command Chief Master Sergeant  
Daniel C. Conner,  
Command Senior Enlisted Leader,  
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hoard information for yourself. The people you're building trust with are usually people on your team that you should be working collaboratively with.

Our service members should expect a trustworthy chain of command. No matter where you fit within that chain you must foster that trustworthy expectation. Leadership isn't easy. It requires conscience deliberate action and that all begins with trust.

ANG Deputy Director Maj. Gen. Duke Pirak visits 142nd Wing

Story and photo by  
Master Sgt. Steph Sawyer,  
142nd Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. - The Deputy Director of the Air National Guard, Maj. Gen. Duke A. "Juice" Pirak toured the 142nd Wing on July 14, visiting various shops and speaking with Airmen about their various mission roles, both state and federal.

Pirak started his tour by meeting with 142nd Wing Commander, Col. Todd Hofford, who briefed him on the wing's dynamic mission set.

His visit to the 142nd was a homecoming in many ways, having formerly served as the Wing commander from 2016 to 2018, and was the Squadron and Wing Training Officer from 2005 to 2007.

In his current role as the deputy director of the Air National Guard, Pirak is responsible for assisting the Air National Guard Director in formulating, developing and coordinating all plans, programs and



Air National Guard Maj. Gen. Duke Pirak, center left, deputy director, Air National Guard, sits down for lunch with a group of 142nd Wing Guardsmen during a visit at Portland Air National Guard Base, Oregon on July 14, 2022.

his gratitude for the men and women of the wing, noting their hard work and dedication. This was followed by a luncheon with Airmen, many of whom he knew personally from his time as wing commander.

Along with wing leadership, Pirak also had the opportunity to observe the Security Forces Squadron's newly acquired Quadrapedal Unmanned Ground Vehicle (QUGV), more commonly referred to as a "robot dog," as well as a demonstration of the squadron's police bumper grapple.

"It was a privilege to contribute to the nostalgic tenor exposed by Gen Pirak, and feed an enduring relationship between the Oregon Air Guard and the office of the Director of the Air National Guard," said 142nd Wing Commander Col. Todd Hofford, reflecting on the visit.

COMMAND

USAF at 75: ANG Commanders of the Pacific reflect on their path to leadership and shared mission challenges

Feature Story by John Hughel,  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

SALEM, Ore. - With an old family photograph of a man he never met, Brig. Gen. Gent Welsh Jr. can trace the footprints of his military career back to his grandfather, William Gent Welsh. His impression of a determined B-25 pilot flying combat missions in China during World War II set in motion the restless curiosity of the younger Welsh. Soon after completing high school, the Vale, Oregon teenager enlisted in the Air Force, launching his own military journey in 1988.

"I wanted to at least do what my grandfather did," said Welsh, describing a fondness for this legendary member of his family. "I looked at pictures of him in uniform from WW II – wearing 'Captain's Bars' and thought that if I could become an officer someday and make it at least to that rank, that would be pretty neat...his military service was an early motivator for me."

After an enlistment stint on active duty as a security forces airman, Welsh found his way to the Washington Air National Guard in 1991, then received his commission in 1994 just before graduating from Eastern Washington University. In the 1990s, the Air National Guard granted four-year degree waivers to those enlisted members who were close to graduation. He completed his bachelor's degree in English a year later.

He has held various command leadership roles in the Evergreen State's ANG. Today he is the Commander of the Washington ANG and part of unique fraternity of Air National Guard Commanders – each leading their states bordering the Pacific Ocean, and collectively beginning their careers as enlisted members of the Air Force.

As the U.S. Air Force turns 75 years old on September 18, 2022, Welsh is joined by Brig. Gen. Tracy D. Smith who leads the Alaska ANG, Brig. Gen. Steven J. "Bucky" Butow who commands the California ANG, Brig. Gen. Joseph R. Harris, II guiding the Hawaii ANG, and Brig. Gen. Donna M. Prigmore leading the Oregon ANG. From 'Chevrons to Stars,' each have shaped a diverse pathway to leading their respective states air component militia, all the while, keeping an attentive eye on imminent challenges just over the horizon.

A foundation of commitment

When he began his career as an enlisted member supporting a Pararescue Team with the 129th Rescue Wing in Sunnyvale, California, Brig. Gen. Steven Butow quickly realized that a fervent commitment to teamwork was crucial to mission success.

"Teamwork is more than being responsive when someone asks for help," Butow said. "In the ANG, teamwork also infers knowing what is going on and anticipating that your help is needed to keep the mission going."

With only 10 full-time 'PJ's,' in the unit when Butow began his career, he said that civilian rescue missions required all members to be 'multi-capable.' "The lesson was instilled with me early in my career and has never been more relevant than it is for me today."

Following is his father's footsteps in the Air Force, Butow said he benefited from "home schooling" in a many ways.

"My dad was a chief...when I became an



Graphic image by Charo Gutierrez, Defense Media Activity - Air Force

NCO, I truly understood the importance that I played in the accomplishment of the mission. It is often said that the enlisted corps drives the Air Force. My personal experiences as an airman proved this to be true."

After receiving his commission in 1989 from the Academy of Military Sciences at Knoxville, Tennessee, he was recognized at a distinguished graduate, and then completed pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas. He has now logged over 3,300 flight hours ranging from the T-37 and T-38 models, to the C-130 Hercules, HC-130P (rescue/ combat search and rescue version), and MC-130P Combat Shadow.

Now commanding five ANG Wings in California, Butow is responsible for over 4,900 military and civilian personnel serving at 10 locations within California, primarily integrating and synchronizing joint forces to protect and defend the state's population of over 40 million. California has the second biggest state National Guard force in the country, and its global economy is the fifth largest in the world.

These challenges have been immense during the COVID-19 pandemic as service members responded to domestic operations, ranging from establishing tests site to administering vaccines. Keeping the economy viable while safeguarding the community in areas of computer-generated infrastructure has been a vital task as well.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mercedes Taylor, 144th Fighter Wing Public Affairs  
Col. Christopher Clark accepts the 144th Fighter Wing guidon from Brig. Gen. Steven Butow, California Air National Guard commander, during an assumption of command ceremony, Sept. 11, 2022, at the Fresno Air National Guard Base, Calif.

"In my experience the Air National Guard, through its domestic response foundation, operates impeccably in environments where independent teams come together to operate jointly and work to solve a problem," Butow said.

Preparing and responding to natural disasters in the Western Pacific region are also imperative for the residents and commerce. This includes earthquake preparedness, responding to wildfires, flash flooding and

mud slides when called upon by governors.

"We work regularly with the Washington Air National Guard on Cyber efforts, share fire response lessons learned, training, and even occasionally contribute personnel and equipment to fire response efforts in both Washington and Oregon; and our special tactics and pararescue units train together too," Butow said.

One critical "no-fail mission" that the California and Oregon ANG share is their Air Sovereignty Alert Mission as part of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD).

Both states operate F-15 C/D Eagles that can intercept aircraft that are of potential threats to the United States, and are assigned to the 144th Fighter Wing in Fresno, California, and the 142nd Wing in Portland, Oregon. Working in concert with the Western Air Defense Sector, a Washington ANG unit at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, all three units operate 24/7 missions and report to AFNORTH 1st Air Force at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida.

WADS role involves the use of radar and communications systems to monitor air traffic from the Pacific Ocean to the Mississippi River east, and from the Canada-US border south to the Mexico-US border. WADS will scramble fighter jets for acute threats and directs them to targets of interest as a response to an air sovereignty event.

Competence as a key to mission success

With two F-15 Eagle units in Oregon, their assignments could not be more varied, both in mission scope and location. The Aerospace Control Alert mission is sustained by the 142nd Wing in Portland, while the only F-15 schoolhouse for the U.S. Air Force, under the Air Education and Training Command, is operated by the 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamath Falls, just 15 miles north of the California border.

Having served as the vice commander at both wings before assuming command of the Oregon ANG in August 2018, Brig. Gen. Donna Prigmore has deliberately made an effort to unify the these two F-15 Eagle wings within the state.

"I was surprised they didn't talk much or shared lessons learned very often," she said, having noticed after taking command. "With the help of the State Command Chief, we have really seen a stronger bond of collaboration and communication over the past several years—and it continues to evolve."

In describing the highly diversified schoolhouse mission at the 173rd FW, Prigmore fervently emphasized the unit's repetitive and well publicized slogan.

"The 'Land of no slack'...there is a reason for this motto. When young men and women learn to fly fighter aircraft...there is an inherent risk in that pursuit—this is a profession we can't afford to make any mistakes."

Other key units of the Oregon ANG are the 116th Air Control Squadron, 125th Special Tactics Squadron and the 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron. Looking toward the future, the new F-15/EX are due to arrive in Portland by late 2023.

Feature Story continued on Pages 4 & 5



## COMMAND

*Feature story continued from Page 3*

This should be a positive boost to the mission and unit morale as the aging fleet of C and D models is now over 50 years old.

"I really see a bright future for the Oregon Air Guard," she said. "We're in a great position to boost our mission readiness and grow our organization."

Prigmore began her own military career when she first enlisted as an electronic technician in the Air Force, and after her four years on active duty were complete, she joined the Arizona Air National Guard. In 1990, she received her officer commission, graduating at the top of her class from the Academy of Military Science.

Subsequent assignments took her to Oklahoma and later to the Alaska ANG's 176th Wing as the services flight commander, then as the chief of public affairs. When she joined the Oregon ANG in 2002, she served as the state's public affairs officer at the Oregon National Guard-Joint Force Headquarters. With her promotion to brigadier general, she became the first female general officer in the Oregon Air National Guard.

"I've always loved and appreciated the synergy and unity that the enlisted force brings to accomplish any mission the Air National Guard gives us," she said, looking back fondly over her career. "I am super proud to have literally been a member of that force at one point in time."

Nowhere was this sense of pride for her Airmen more evident than during the height of the Omicron variant surge in early 2022. The Oregon National Guard activated over 3,000 soldiers and airmen supporting 50 hospitals in the state on back-to-back activation periods.

At the Oregon Health Science University hospital in Portland over 1,950 full-time staff members tested positive for Covid from late December of 2021 to early January of 2022, leaving the service members assigned to the hospital quickly filling important jobs.

"When I visited some of the hospitals like OHSU, where our members were working, the (civilian) staff often had tears in their eyes, telling me how they don't know how they would have made it without our members' support," Prigmore said.

For the past dozen years, Oregon, California and Washington had been preparing for a potentially catastrophic Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake, only to find that instead of an earthquake, it was the coronavirus that launched citizen soldiers and airmen into a major domestic operational response. In total, the Oregon National Guard administered over 337,000 vaccines to the public.

"We're lucky to have uniquely qualified specialists in our state like the special tactics airmen who can do everything from mountain rescue to underwater rescue," Prigmore said. "This includes our CERFP team (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive Enhanced Response Fore Package), which just a few months ago were evaluated and received the highest ranking on being able to process casualties in a high threat type of environment. All of these assets bring a tremendous value to the state, and we employ these skills with our SPP partner (Bangladesh and Vietnam) countries."

### Character shaped by perseverance

When the events of 9/11 altered the nation and posture of the entire U.S. military, Brig. Gen. Tracy Smith (then a captain) was in another transition point in her career. She had just left active duty having served with the 354th Mission Support Squadron at Eielson

AFB, Alaska, and just started a new position in the Air Force Reserve as a personnel officer with the 939th Mission Support Squadron at the Portland Air Base, Oregon. Already her career had been far reaching, having initially enlisted in the Air Force in 1986 as a medical service specialist. She later attended the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado FALLs, and received her commission upon graduation in 1994. Through persistence, she was always ready for the next challenge.

"As an enlisted member serving in the medical field I always had a desire to learn and to be the best I could personally be at my job," said Smith, reflecting on her 36 years of service. "As an officer and commander I have tried to continue to provide opportunities for continuous learning both personally and professionally for my airmen."

With a distinct resume, Smith would later join the Air National Guard in 2004. She has held both staff and command positions at the squadron, group, wing, state, and national headquarters level. She attributes much of her success to education and experience.

"The essentials, traits, education or other factors that it takes to be an effective leader at any level can be learned and acquired in your career," she said. "In my experience as a prior enlisted medic and as an officer, the enlisted member's support of the officers and their contribution to the mission are immeasurable."

The Alaska ANG is comprised with both the 168th and 176th Wings, along with the 213th Space Warning Squadron, with a lineage dating back to 1952 before Alaska became the 49th State in January 1959.

The 168th operates the KC-135R Stratotanker out of Eielson AFB in Fairbanks, and predominantly refuels active duty operational aircraft. With a more diverse mission set, the 176th Wing conducts global airlift, tactical airlift and air-sea rescue utilizing the C-17 Globemaster III from JB Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage. The 'rescue triad' consist of three rescue squadrons (210th, 211th and 212th) utilizing HH-60G Pave Hawks and HC-130J Combat King aircraft.

When she was promoted in April of 2021 to command the Alaska Air National Guard, Smith acknowledged these wide-ranging task and responsibilities.



Photo by Master Sgt. John Hughe, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs  
Oregon Air National Guard Col. Donna Prigmore (center) shakes hands with Oregon Governor Kate Brown (left) alongside Maj. Gen. Michael Stencil (right), Adjutant General, Oregon, during her promotion ceremony to Brigadier General, Aug. 5, 2018, at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore.

"When you really sit and think about all of the diverse mission sets and all of the multitudes of support and maintenance personnel that are true arctic-experts operating in the most severe conditions, it is just incredible," she said.

This is a critical aspect for readiness, morale and being conditioned for the bracing winter conditions.

"The active duty members that get stationed here have to learn to operate in the arctic while the members of the Alaska Air National

Guard live and breathe wintry operations as long term community members."

Emphasizing this point for remote preparedness, Smith recently attended the Gobi Wolf 2022 Exercise in Bayankhongor, Mongolia, and expanded on the need for multinational civil relationships with other states and nations under the State Partnership Program. The field training exercise included hazmat response, search and rescue and mass medical care.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Julie Avey, 168th Wing Public Affairs  
U.S. Air Force Gen. Jacqueline D. Van Ovost, commander, U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM), visits with Brig. Gen. Tracy Smith, Alaska Air National Guard Assistant Adjutant General and Col. Michael Griesbaum, 168th Wing commander, at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, May 18, 2022.

"Our nations continue to become stronger as we exercise our ability to prepare for, to respond to and mitigate the effects of a domestic crisis or disaster," said Smith. "This regional approach to strengthen and refine our goal of a government model for emergency operations is key to security, stability and recovery."

### Courage to grow and foster change

Since the end of WW II, safeguarding the national defense of the United States has been built on regional and international partnerships. At the conclusion of the Cold War in 1991, the U.S. European Command established a Joint Contact Team Program in the Baltic Region utilizing reserve component soldiers and airmen. U.S. states became paired with former Soviet Bloc nations, creating the State Partnership Program, and helped vault U.S. security by facilitating cooperation and building international civil-military affairs with people-to-people associations. To date, 54 U.S. states and territories are now working with 93 international partner nations. Nowhere has this more recently notable and significant than the partnership between the Ukraine and the state of California. Echoing this point, Butow knows first-hand the impact of the SPP, as California ANG pilots have helped train their Ukrainian counterparts since the early 1990s.

"The rise of Russia and China as strategic competitors and evolving military threats has brought the Pacific States together with the aim of strengthening our ability to contribute to an enduring deterrence and, if necessary, defense of the nation from aggression," he said, describing these current and active threats.

"This 'firewall' doesn't start along the coasts of California, Oregon and Washington. The U.S. Territory of Guam and the Pacific ANG states (Alaska and Hawaii) are leading this pivot proactively – something that has always been the hallmark of the Air National Guard," said Butow.

The December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor has shown the historical vulnerability of the Hawaiian Islands. To help build these regional security corporations, Hawaii is partnered with Indonesia and the Philippines in a dual association with Guam.

"Here in Hawaii, with our proximity to China, we have unique challenges," said Brig.

## COMMAND

Gen. Joseph Harris, commander of the Hawaii ANG, detailing the distinctive position the state embraces. "In our theater here with INDOPACOM, were already a unique (154th wing with three MDS's (Mission-Design Series) with fighters, tankers and cargo haulers. Those combined together do things that other guard units and states can't take on."

Another import partnership the Hawaii ANG has is with the Pacific Air Forces, at Hickam AFB. They often attend each other's commander conferences and training events.

"Being co-located with a major command is a luxury that most other guard units don't get," said Harris, acknowledging the distinct affiliation. "It really comes down to relationships that we have built with people in other units and commands. We're constantly talking with PACAF on how to better partner, and they'll ask of us things they might not ask other guard units."

"Optimizing your contribution to the context of your military environment is the same for every guard commander but radically different in every state."

Harris is a firm believer in networking, building alliances and keeping the doors of communication always open. In many ways, these traits helped him advance quickly in his career over the past eight years. When transferring to the Hawaii ANG, he joined the 154th Wing as the unit's deputy maintenance group commander. That decision would elevated him quickly to group commander, then two years later serving as the director of plans and programs (A5/8). By April 2020, he was promoted to brigadier general and assumed command of the Hawaii ANG.

"I found out about the opening with the Hawaii Air Guard through (then 154th Operations Group Commander Colonel) Maj. Gen. Duke Pirak, who I had served with in the 142nd (Fighter Wing) Maintenance Group," Harris said.

Having served 29 years in the Oregon ANG, he took a career leap, much like he did after his first 13 years in the military when he received his commission in 1988. Upon graduation from the Academy of Military Science, he was selected for the Commander's Military Achievement Award, having accumulated the highest academic average.

"I knew I was going to lose some credibility starting over as a second lieutenant, but it was temporary and I knew I would gain other opportunities in the long run by commissioning."

In many ways, Harris's unconventional career path has given him an insight and appreciation for his airmen at every level, especially working through the initial lock downs during the pandemic.

"So much of Hawaii's economy is based on tourism and that really hit some of our traditional members hard. Early on I just asked that everyone be good Wingmen – look for ways to be there for each other," said Harris.

This also led to some creative out-of-the-box planning for delivering the vaccine to vulnerable citizens living on the less populated outer islands in the state.

"The Covid-19 vaccine was hard to get to the many members of public because risk and age issues limited the available supply. We took a



Courtesy photo provided by the Hawaii Air National Guard Public Affairs  
Hawaii Air National Guard Col. Phillip L. Mallory (right) assumes command of the 154th Wing, Sept. 11, 2022, in a ceremony officiated by Brig. Gen. Joseph R. Harris II, Hawaii Air National Guard commander.

C-17 and turned it into a mobile vaccination hospital," he said, designing a creative solution for a Hawaiian problem. "After we landed, people could walk up one ramp, they would get the shot, and then they would exit out the other door of the airplane."

Harris said this is what makes serving in the Hawaii ANG so worthwhile because the guard is a trusted local entity.

"You get to serve in your community and there is so much flexibility and opportunities for helping your country."

With the rapid pace of change in technology, Harris emphasized what the future 5th generation aircraft and 6th generation unmanned platforms will need to address and how best to protect the state and nation. "How we adopt new skills and look for advancements are urgent concerns for the Air Force... they will affect every state looking to developing new missions too."

### Stability built through partnerships and compassion

With the National Security Strategy challenges over the past several years, recognizing these new threats is imperative to safeguarding U.S. national interests against global risks.

This reshaping of global standards is being driven by cybersecurity and building international capacity to disrupt and investigate cyber threats.



Photo by Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy, 154th Wing Public Affairs  
U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Michael A. Loh, director, Air National Guard, joins Hawaii Air National Guard leadership during a roundtable luncheon Feb. 8, 2022, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

wing of the future. We have a special warfare piece, a cyber-piece, and an intel piece, which makes them a capabilities-based wing, not a platform-based wing," Welsh said.

As important as these technology concerns are for long-term security, Welsh has invested a large portion of the past decade working with the Washington National Guard's SPP nations of Thailand and Malaysia.

"We benefited significantly with having these established relationships before

the pandemic," he said, explaining the importance of sustained affiliations. "If you think about someone on active duty who was just starting a new job when the shutdowns happened – you really don't have a reference point. We (in the Guard) kept these virtual meetings going and it benefited us when we re-opened the in-person interactions. The guard was the glue that really held it together with our Pacific partners."

This long term approach is another advantage the National Guard has over their active duty counterparts. By thinking long-term and placing a focus on high context relationships, Welsh said that the guard cannot afford to 'burn bridges' for long term success.

"That's why I think the Guard's SPP works so well in the Pacific because we're programed to build enduring practices and not be transactional – it all comes back to relationships."

Having just completed another trip across the Pacific in early September, Welsh and other members of the Washington and Oregon ANG visited Thailand and Malaysia. They subsequently held meetings with the PACAF Chief of Staff and exercise planners to sync SPP efforts.



Photo by Master Sgt. John Hughe, Washington Air National Guard Public Affairs  
Washington Air National Guard Commander Brig. Gen. Gent Welsh (right) meets with Airmen and Soldiers activated to assist law enforcement agencies for protest and unrest assistance in the state, June 7, 2020, in Seattle.

Welsh described some of these successes on his Facebook page, detailing the trip's value.

"While in Malaysia, the team was able to meet with senior members of the Royal Malaysian Air Force to discuss the things our SPP program will be able to do in the coming years. We've got some great opportunities in Air Refueling (with the WAANG's 141st ARW), Air Domain Awareness, medical and cyber."

For Welsh, the trip was yet one more potent reminder about his grandfather's service in the Pacific nearly 80 years ago.

"He actually flew bombing missions into Thailand and into Bangkok," he recalled. "Every time I am on the Chao Phraya River, I wonder which one of these docks might have been his target in WW II. It's really an interesting dynamic."

These unique circumstances, with a sense of providence, creates a distinct bond for these five commanders leading their states in the Pacific region.

This revelation was something that Harris thoughtfully recounted during a moment of reflection, evoking the value of an enduring sense of purpose and community service.

"For me to be able to get to drive home from work and talk to my neighbors, as I park my car ... from the schools where I have my kids ... to see that gratitude and feel that gratefulness through the life of my family is so unique to the National Guard. You don't get that very often in the active duty because you're transient and moving every two or three years. You never get to build those deep ties into the community like we do in the Guard. How can you compete with that?"



NEWS

Oregon National Guard SPP strengthens ties with Vietnamese partners

Continued from Front Page

“The State Partnership Program has helped us build a relationship with the Oregon National Guard,” said Vietnamese Sr. Col. Pham Hai Chau. “For disaster management, we are getting new information about how to make a plan and respond to potentially help our Vietnamese rescuers. We are learning that we have some things in common and are building relationships.”

Brig. Gen. Eric Riley, Assistant Adjutant General for the ORNG, attended this year’s event and spent time sharing knowledge and culture with Chau and others.

“Thanks to this partnership program, we have had a wonderful opportunity to build relationships, share knowledge, and learn from our Vietnamese partners for nearly 10-years now, and we are extremely grateful for the hospitality our Vietnamese partners have shown,” Riley said. “We will look forward to continuing to build what is already a strong connection with Vietnam. We are sharing information about our incident command system and disaster response techniques and building partnerships that support defense cooperation efforts.”



A Vietnamese participant in the Humanitarian Assistance and Relief portion of the Pacific Partnership 2022 participates in an activity during Incident Command System training in Phu Yen, Vietnam, on June 23, 2022.

The 2022 DMEA delegation from the ORNG was accompanied by ICS experts, both active and retired, from the U.S. Coast Guard and retired U.S. Forest Service Incident Commanders.

United States Coast Guard Captain Jennifer Conklin, Pacific Area Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer, said DMEA is a great opportunity to come to Vietnam and engage with disaster management and emergency management experts.

“Sharing information about the Incident Command System and best practices and learning from each other is a wonderful opportunity,” Conklin said. “The best part is engaging with each other. Our Vietnamese partners are very eager to learn, but we also learn from them.”

Conklin said ICS gives you an adaptable system within a common framework where multiple agencies can effectively work together under the same structure and system to save lives.



United States and Vietnam partners pause for a photo during the Disaster Management Engagement Activity, June 15, 2022 in Hanoi, Vietnam. The Oregon National Guard and Vietnam National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM) have been working together for nearly 10-years sharing culture and knowledge through the National Guard State Partnership Program.

SPP Deputy Director Lt. Col. Christopher Markesino said the Oregon National Guard and Vietnamese SPP partners still have a lot they can learn from each other as they continue to build relationships for a strong partnership.

“Our systems have a lot of similarities and differences, and we have a lot of ideas we can share with each other,” Markesino said. “The best part is getting to learn about their culture and seeing familiar faces, as we’ve continued to develop this relationship for 10-years now.”

ORNG SPP visits Phu Yen Province for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Engagement

After completing the 2022 Disaster Management Engagement Activity (DMEA) in Hanoi, a group representing the ORNG SPP program set off for a unique engagement at the provincial level in Vietnam.

Oregon Air and Army National Guard members teamed up with U.S. Coast Guard representatives, retired U.S. Forest Service Incident Commanders, and Australian Air Force and Army members to share knowledge about the U.S. Incident Command System (ICS) with provincial leaders in Phu Yen, Vietnam, June 21-23,



Women representing the Oregon Army National Guard, U.S. Coast Guard, Australian Air Force and Army, the Phu Yen province, and the U.S. Navy pause for a photo in Phu Yen, Vietnam, June 23, during the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) portion of Pacific Partnership 2022.



Oregon National Guard Assistant Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Eric Riley shakes hands with Vietnamese Sr. Col. Pham Hai Chau, June 16, 2022 during a National Guard State Partnership Program annual event where U.S. and Vietnamese partners, including the Vietnam National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM), shared culture and knowledge during a Disaster Management Engagement Activity, June 13-17 in Hanoi Vietnam.

during the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) portion of Pacific Partnership 2022.

Now in its 17th year, Pacific Partnership is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific.

For the ORNG SPP, it was the first opportunity to engage at the provincial level where leaders from the Phu Yen government gathered to learn about the ICS and share knowledge.

“I received tremendous knowledge from the experts here over the past three days,” said Tran Thanh Son, a Border Control and Forest Officer with the Phu Yen province. “It’s been a great opportunity to learn, and I am hoping we will have more opportunities like this in the future.”

Provincial leaders and subject matter experts from Phu Yen also shared a variety of information about disaster response from different perspectives in their areas of expertise that included health, human services, firefighting, agriculture, environmental, energy, and more.

“This is such a unique and wonderful opportunity to learn from each other about how we respond to disasters. There are so many unique perspectives to go along with a wealth of experiences,” said Lt. Col. Christopher Jenkins, who led the HADR delegation from the Oregon National Guard SPP.

NEWS

Oregon Soldier Wins Region VI Best Warrior, competes at Nationals

Story by Private First Class Rachael Tofflemeyer, Wyoming National Guard Public Affairs

CAMP GUERNSEY JTC, Wyo.- Army National Guard Sgt. Tyler Holloway of Sheridan, Wyoming and Spc. Wyatt Walls of Albany, Oregon won the Region Six Best Warrior Competition at Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center, on May 20, 2022. Holloway is a fire support specialist with the 115th Field Artillery Brigade in Wyoming, and Walls is a fire support specialist with Delta Battery, 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment.

After a tough five-day competition, the two came out on top against 12 other competitors from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

The states sent their best Soldiers and Non-Commissioned Officers to compete in multiple events that displayed skill in marksmanship,

navigation, and other events that demonstrated their knowledge in warrior tasks and battle drills.

“The most difficult part of the competition was probably duration,” Walls said, who won in the Soldier of the Year category. “Most people aren’t used to five days of minimal sleep and maximum effort.”

Each Soldier pushed through the events, even

when confronted with things they had never done before, whether operating a new weapon or conducting land navigation on Wyoming’s uneven hills and ridges.

“I can take this information back to my unit and help readiness in the state,” Holloway said, who won the NCO of the Year category. “When I know this stuff, I can teach it to my guys, and then they know it. Suddenly combat readiness goes through the roof.”

Holloway added, “The takeaway from this event

was where my deficiencies were. Now for Nationals, I know what I’m good at, what I can brush up on, and the stuff I need to get in-depth and work on.”

The National Best Warrior Competition will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, from July 24 to 29. Although everyone performed well, only two can advance to the next level of competition. Holloway and Walls earned their spots through grit and determination.

“These competitions really get after basic Soldier readiness in the National Guard,” Col. Edward Lewis, chief of staff of the Wyoming National Guard.

“The Soldiers and Non-commissioned officers that go through the competition not



Photo by U.S. Air National Guard Master Sgt. Erich Smith

Spc. Wyatt Walls, a fire support specialist with the Oregon Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, performs a butterfly kick in a lap pool at the Middle Tennessee State University Aquatic Recreation Center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, during the 2022 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition, July 25, 2022. The competition spanned five physically and mentally demanding days as 14 competitors challenged each other for the National Guard's Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

only challenge themselves physically and mentally, but they take back (these) good ideas to their home units. It’s a collaborative way to share good ideas,” said Lewis.



Photo by U.S. Army National Guard Sgt. Kristina Kranz

Spc. Wyatt Walls of the 218th Field Artillery Regiment in the ORNG operates a Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System in a lane at the National Best Warrior Competition July 26, 2022.

173rd FW maintainers help replenish supply of spare parts for F-15 fleet

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

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - For units who fly the F-15 Eagle the end of an era is close at hand.

After amassing an undefeated record in combat since its first U.S. Air Force sortie 46 years ago the all-weather tactical fighter McDonnell Douglas built is approaching its inevitable retirement.

At Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon, the Eagle still soars but some launches are for the last time as airframes head to “The Boneyard” at Davis-Monthan Force Base. In many cases the airframes remain airworthy but require extensive inspections done off-site to certify continued airworthiness, and those inspections are coming to a close as well.

For the 173rd continuing to fly this environment has its challenges, among them is a growing need for spare parts.

“The availability of parts in general has been limited over the last few years,” said Master Sgt. Kaylee Gibson, who manages the

Mission Impaired Capability Awaiting Parts program. She went on to say that wait times for parts can stretch to nine months in certain cases.

One answer to the low supply of spare parts presented itself to Kingsley Airmen with a service-wide request for maintainers to travel to Robins Air Force Base, Ga., and remove useful parts from condemned aircraft

Master Sgt. Brad Hammack and seven others made that trip in early June and

spent two weeks removing a total of 587 parts and returning them to the supply system.

“Just a few weeks after Brad Hammack headed the Kingsley Field-led effort to replenish the F-15 supply system—pulling parts from condemned jets in Georgia—we witnessed huge results here at home,” said Maj. Richard Schuster, the 173rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander. “Our Mission Impaired Capability Awaiting Parts list was at better levels than we have seen in the better part of a decade.”

The value of those parts exceeded 12-million dollars but represents a higher value to the flying mission here and elsewhere, said Hammack.

“Knowing that I’m helping the whole F-15 Eagle fleet is rewarding,” he said. “We have seen some of these parts come through our shop—this is a sure-fire way to help jets get back into the air.”

The early summer trip was one of two, and a previous trip in early 2022 brought the total reclaimed parts values to more than 20-million dollars.



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Brad Hammack

U.S. Air Force Airmen, many from the 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon, teamed up to remove parts from condemned F-15 Eagle's at Robins Air Force Base in Georgia in order to help alleviate backlogs in the supply system for F-15 aircraft, on June 13, 2022.



## OREGON NATIONAL GUARD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND REGIONAL EVENTS

Continued from Front Page

WORLD ATHLETICS  
CHAMPIONSHIPS  
OREGON 22

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

Second Gentleman of the United States Douglas Emhoff and Oregon Governor Kate Brown, along with Sebastian Coe (background) interact with the crowd during the opening ceremony of the World Track and Field Championships, July 15, 2022.

and security at these events by assisting authorities with early-detection and analysis capabilities of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosives (CBRNE) threats. The CST, based in Salem, is comprised of 22 full-time Army and Air National Guard members.

Staff Sgt. Kayla Smith, CST member, said you never know when there's going to be an incident.

"If an incident were to arise, it could get out of hand quickly," she said. "If there's a biological incident, which can obviously go undetected really fast, like Covid, so having us as a team to be able to identify or recognize there's a hazard and mitigate it fast—that's what's important."

Hayward Field is familiar territory for the CST, who also conducted JHAT operations during football games and the Olympic Track and Field Trials, held at Hayward in 2021. Cpt. Philip Troy, Operations Officer, who has worked with the Oregon CST since 2019, and with Kansas CST prior to that, said the Olympic Trials helped prepare his team for Oregon 22.

"Though it was on a lot smaller scale," Troy said, "we got to meet our partner agencies that we would be working with."

These partner agencies include the Eugene Police Department and Oregon State Police, the Eugene Fire Department, Homeland Security, Department of Energy, and the Coast Guard to name a few. Each JHAT team consists of members from these partner agencies and includes HAZMAT (fire and paramedic), a police bomb technician, an explosive K-9 handler, and a member of the Oregon Guard's CST. The JHAT worked together, regularly patrolling the grounds, to conduct sweeps to evaluate and respond to

any suspicious packages, persons, or other potential threats in order to help ensure the safety of the participants and observers at the Championships.



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

Soldiers from the Oregon Army National Guard, the University of Oregon Marching Band and Army ROTC cadets carry the American flag to the infield to display during the opening ceremony of the World Track and Field Championships, July 15, 2022, at Hayward Field, University of Oregon, in Eugene, Ore.



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

Oregon Adjutant General, Major General Michael Stencel (right), presents a challenge coin to Master Sgt. Justin Fox, 102nd Weapons of Mass Destruction - Civil Support Team (CST), Oregon National Guard, for his outstanding efforts during the World Track and Field Championships, in Eugene, Oregon, July 15-24, 2022.



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

Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Mark Crosby, Assistant Adjutant General-Air, speaks with Sgt. Demian San Miguel, Bomb Squad Commander, City of Eugene Police, at the operations center for the 102nd Weapons of Mass Destruction - Civil Support Team (CST), Oregon National Guard, located near Hayward Field, University of Oregon, in Eugene, Ore., during the World Track and Field Championships, July 15, 2022.

Troy said all the hard work really goes into the preparation, as the training they do to prepare for these events is "very extensive" and "very lengthy."

"Day one of the event, things just kind of slow down because everything falls into place," he added.

Despite all the preparation, when thinking about the millions of viewers around the world who would be watching Oregon 22, Troy said the event was a big deal.

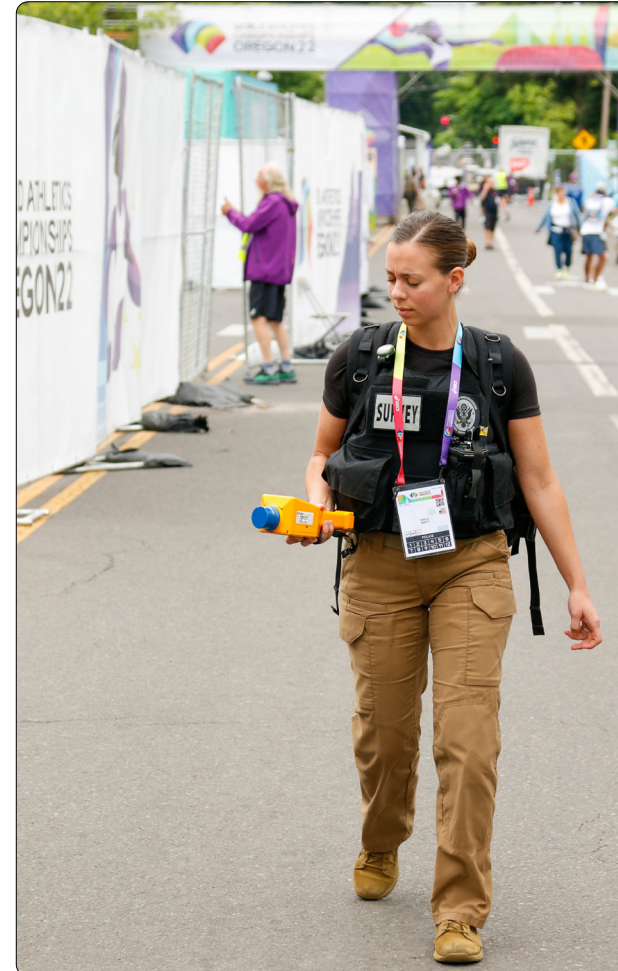


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Amy Elker, JFHQ Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Kayla Smith, Survey Team Chief, 102nd Weapons of Mass Destruction - Civil Support Team, Oregon National Guard, surveys the grounds of the World Track and Field Championships, University of Oregon, in Eugene, Oregon.

"It's pretty important we were on our 'A' game, and we were doing everything we were supposed to be doing," he said.

Sgt. Jeremy Jamieson, CBRNE Specialist and CST survey team member, said their unit cohesiveness also helped contribute to the success of the mission.

"We all run a pretty tight ship here," Jamieson said. "We've worked with each other for multiple years, so each year we've gotten more confident working with each other."

Maj. Richard Hosmer, Commander, added the past relationships that have been built with the partner agencies have also been invaluable.

"When the team originally went heavy back in 2004, some of the original members hired were already active members of the police department, and

that really transpired into relationships from the ground level," he said. "We've

developed a lot of our training plans to support our community agencies as opposed to trying to have our scope too big, trying to take on too much. So, I think it's a little bit two-fold. It's the established partnerships and there's good continuity on the team. I think that's just helped build upon the legacy the original members have put in place."

City of Eugene Police Sgt. Demian San Miguel, Bomb Squad Commander, concurred with Hosmer that the relationships between the partner agencies and CST are what make the whole thing work. San Miguel also has a unique perspective, as while he works with CST as one of the partner agencies, he is also a Lieutenant Colonel in the Oregon Guard and used to be a member of CST for over four years.

"I know if I give it to CST, I don't even have to worry about it; they will knock it out of the ballpark," San Miguel said. "CST brings the ability to problem solve through complex situations, whether communication, CBRNE threats, or coordination between multiple agencies. They are extremely proactive. They make my job as a civilian requester 100 percent easier."



Photo by John Hughel, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

ORNG Members of the 102nd Weapons of Mass Destruction - Civil Support Team, and other security staff of the Joint Hazard Assessment Team (JHAT) prepare for shift changes during the World Track and Field Championships, at the University of Oregon's Hayward Field in Eugene, Ore., July 21, 2022.

Overall, Troy said being a member of the CST provides a lot of unexpected opportunities.

"A lot of the Guard has no idea what the CST is," he said. "There are so many things we get to do that you don't even



Photo by John Hughel, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Tim McKenna, an Explosive Detector K-9 handler with the Federal Protective Service works with his dog Misa, a Belgian Malinois, as they conduct on-going training sweeps at in the dugout at Jane Sanders Stadium adjacent to Hayward Field at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Ore., July 21, 2022.

think about—being lowered from a Coast Guard helicopter onto a ship, swift water rescue, ropes training, embedding with the community you're working with—you don't fathom just how much you learn. It just opens a bunch of doors you never knew existed. It's the greatest job in the Guard that nobody knows about."



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

Chase Ealey (center) proudly displays the American flag and her gold medal after becoming the first American woman to win the shot put world title at the World Track and Field Championships at Hayward Field, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, July 16, 2022.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Amy Elker, JFHQ Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Duane Reno sings the U.S. National Anthem during the opening ceremony of the World Track and Field Championships, July 15. Reno performed, while the Adjutant General's Color Guard presented the colors, and Soldiers from the Oregon Army National Guard held the American flag on the infield.



OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Hawaii Civil Engineer Airmen conduct training at Portland ANG Base

Story by Master Sgt. Steph Sawyer,  
142nd Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. - For two weeks in August, the Hawaii Air National Guard (HIANG) set to work on two projects at the Portland Air National Guard Base for the 142nd Wing.



Photo by Steven Conklin, 142nd Wing Public Affairs  
Hawaii Air National Guardsmen gather in front of a memorial wall they built and inscribed with a depiction of the Hawaiian Islands as part of innovative readiness training at Portland ANG, August 17, 2022.

The projects were accomplished by the Hawaii Air Guardsmen as an opportunity designed to increase readiness while allowing participants to network and build positive working relationships with other units.

The Guardsmen constructed a wall, a blank slate for what will eventually become a memorial wall, on PANG's parade field.

In addition to the wall, the team laid the foundation for a recruiting sign which will face oncoming traffic on Cornfoot road.

Master Sgt. Roy Moriyasu is the senior enlisted leader in charge of the team of eight Guardsmen from two different units; the 292nd Combat Communication Squadron based in Maui and the 154th Civil Engineer Squadron based in Honolulu. All of the Guardsmen on the team have background experience and qualifications in engineering, construction, and simliar construction skill sets.

Moriyasu has overseen and participated in past training in Portland to include the construction of a sidewalk for maintenance, painting parking stripes, and building the foundations for several static displays on base. Moriyasu says this training is invaluable to his team.

"It's not only technical training, but also more mentoring, guidance with how to run projects, foresee things, [and] work with different members of the Guard so they can work anywhere with anybody," said Moriyasu.

Prior to and throughout the execution of these

projects, the 142nd Wing's civil engineers helped to facilitate and expedite processes for the HIANG. The teams work together to overcome obstacles and ensure overall mission success.

"Support from the [PANG] Civil Engineers has been awesome," said Moriyasu. "They've really been supporting us with any needs we have."

In addition to the hands on training opportunity this mission provided, participants also gained some quality time with team members.

Hawaii Air National Tech. Sgt. Matthew Calibuso said that for many traditional Guardsmen, exercises like these are rare opportunities to get to really know their fellow Guardsmen.

"It's good team-building, especially for our shop," said Calibuso. "When you spend a lot of time with people that you don't usually spend a lot of time with, you get to learn their tendencies and their pet peeves... which further along the line makes you a better team."



Photo by Master Sgt. Steph Sawyer 142nd Wing Public Affairs  
Members of the Hawaii Air National Guard lay rebar in preparation for pouring concrete during annual training at Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore., on August 10, 2022.

270th ATCS brings new approach to standing up all-weather airfields

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

AMEDEE ARMY AIRFIELD, Calif. - The 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon spends two weeks a year practicing its deployed mission, establishing airfields in remote locations.

This year they traveled to Amedee Army Airfield, in Northern California in early summer of 2022 to test new capabilities needed for the modern field of battle and for natural disaster response.

It's all called Agile Combat Employment or ACE. In short it's the ability to provide flexible support to air operations in a given area and it hasn't been done before.

"We actually opened three different airfields at once," said Chief Master Sgt. John Wyman, the project coordinator for the training. "Opening one airfield creates a vulnerability, so this exercise

was designed to take little teams and to setup, remote, rapidly-established all-weather airfields, use them and then quickly break them down again."

A single airfield in a combat zone is a ripe target he explains, whereas the small temporary airfields provide an element of surprise, denying the adversary a single fixed target.

Initially the 270th Air Traffic Control Airmen set up an airfield at Amedee, but also did the same in Herlong and Susanville, Calif. From those three airfields, they controlled C-130s from the 192nd Airlift Squadron, Nevada Air National Guard, who landed there as part of their unit's required training, as well as Civil Air Patrol aircraft.

Between the three airfields, air traffic controllers guided 316 aircraft on approach vectors

piece of airspace to the unit.

"There were some big 'firsts' involved with this training," said Wyman. "We literally took over a 720-square-mile swath of airspace and controlled it."



Courtesy photo by Master Sgt. Timothy Lombardi  
A U.S. Air Force 312th Airlift Squadron C-5 Galaxy, the largest aircraft in the inventory, lands at a newly established airfield during an exercise designed to enhance austere airfield establishment and breakdown at Amedee Army Airfield, on May 6.



Courtesy photo by Master Sgt. Timothy Lombardi  
U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Loren Meeker (right) helps Airman 1st Class Jason Sharrer and Max Empol, and Tech. Sgt. Jay Hester drive a grounding rod into the soil as they set up equipment to create an active airfield during annual training at Amedee Army Airfield.

toward the live airfield, including two Kingsley Field F-15 Eagles. The new airfield also boasted a landing by the largest airframe in the inventory, the C-5 Galaxy. Additionally, more than six tons of cargo were air-dropped on the airfields during the exercise using pallets slung under parachutes.

Wyman explains the scope of this exercise saying, "It involved 12 different airframes from 10 different flying units across three states, four different branches of service, as well as Guard and Reserve and the Civil Air Patrol."

For the duration of the exercise the Federal Aviation Administration turned over a large

He went on to say that it's extremely rare for the FAA to do this and that it was only possible because the unit's drill status Guardsmen controllers are certified FAA controllers when they are not wearing the uniform.

Reflecting on the training he said there were many highlights. "We conducted the first U.S. Air Force live test of tactical IMC (all-weather air traffic control), we had the highest traffic count yet for a 270th exercise, and we controlled the most diverse environment in our unit history."

Wyman says this takes to a much more modern and lethal air force, "This increases by an order of magnitude the ability to respond quickly to the needs of our state and our country."

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

173rd Fighter Wing trains with Marine Corps counterparts in California

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

AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. - The 173rd Fighter Wing out of Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon has been in the fighter training business for nearly 40 years and is the sole F-15C training base for the U.S. Air Force. For two weeks in August, Team Kingsley

took that experience to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego, California, to act as Red Air for fledgling Marine Corps fighter pilots.

Maj. Tom McGee, Miramar Temporary Duty (TDY) Project Officer and F-15C Instructor pilot, said "It's been great flying—nice over the ocean—and the base has been supportive of everything we need."

The Oregon Eagles flew against two airframes—the F/A-18 Hornet from Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101 (VMFAT-101) and the F-35B Lightning II from Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 502 (VMFAT-502). Both squadrons operate school houses, similar to the 173rd FW, training brand new fighter pilots known as B-courers.

"Ultimately we're trying to train to the same type of idea, albeit a different weapons systems than us, we're all looking to give the B-courers the same experiences so that when they leave here and they go on to their next squadron they've had a level of experience that they are able to think outside the jet and adapt to different environments," said McGee.

He also said the training has been fantastic and they have integrated well with their Marine counterparts.

"Some things are exactly the same in working through a student's first flights and trying to choreograph the training they need," he said. "The biggest thing is, having been in the Navy myself, is that it comes down to use the same words and it meaning the same thing...but then sometimes we use the same words and it can mean something completely different."

McGee, who served in the Navy as an F/A-18E Super Hornet pilot prior to joining the Oregon Air National Guard and becoming an Eagle Driver, referred to himself as the "translator" for the unit having worked in both worlds. "We also have a couple of maintainers who have that Marine background so they helped as well; it helped having someone speak the language."

He emphasized that this was a good challenge to build communication skills overall. "The challenges of operating with someone you

are not used to, whether it be maintenance or operations, is that it sometimes takes a lot more communication to make sure we get the same desired end result."

Integrating with other units, as well branches of service, in a training environment is extremely important noted McGee. "The big thing for us, when we are deployed nothing is going to happen stove piped in our own little world, we are always going to be integrated



Oregon Air National Guard 1st Lt. Phil Chu, 173rd FW, prepares to start the engines of the F-15 Eagle in preparation for a flight at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 15, 2022.

together as different services, so this is a good introduction to remind people what it's like to work with someone else."

Off station training such as this is not only beneficial for the pilots, but the maintainers and support personnel as well.

"The TDY has gone great," said McGee. "We have had a couple of maintenance challenges but that's helped a couple of shops flex their muscles and use their knowledge to kind of figure out how to fix the jets. But that happens at every TDY—it seems like whenever you go somewhere the jets start to get cranky being as old as they are."

Senior Master Sgt. James Dreyer, 173rd Miramar TDY Maintenance Chief, said off station trainings such as this are important to developing and enhancing the skill sets of the maintainers who keep the jets in the air. He says it makes for "A well rounded maintainer."

One of the ways this is accomplished is by bringing shops that typically do not work on the flightline every day, referred to as the back shops, and allowing them to assist the crew chief's with launching the jet as a "b-man."

"A 'b-man' is basically the alternate crew chief that is launching and recovering a jet," said Dreyer. "They are assisting the primary crew chief with putting the chinks in the tires, putting the pins in, refueling...all that kind of stuff. They are really helpful for the primary crew chief."

Dreyer says this is essential to creating a cohesive maintenance team. "Just the understanding of what else outside of their career field goes on I think it is very helpful."

He adds that being at different unit, especially a different branch of service is helpful. "We see how the Marines do their thing here, learn from them. We also get to fly with a different unit...Jacksonville is here; we are working side by side with them."

F-15s from the 125th Fighter Wing out of Jacksonville, Florida, were also part of the

training with the Marines Corps aircraft.

Staff Sgt. Sergio Galvez-Ramirez of the non-destructive inspection shop shared how these off-station trainings allow for important connections and relationship building. "When I first arrived here I had no idea where the NDI lab was located...or even if there was an NDI lab. I wasn't sure where I would be able to accomplish the testing I have to do every day."

Galvez-Ramirez said he was able to talk to his counterpart from the 125th FW who had already established a relationship with the local Marines and gained access to the machines they needed. "It is awesome to have that connection; I know someone in Florida now if I need something," he said.

This event also translates to stronger inner-unit connections. One of the ways this is done is through giving a select number of members familiarization flights in the backseat of the F-15.

"We tried to work it so that each shops put in a few people in, and on this trip we are able to get a variety of different areas...it's be a great trip for that," said Dreyer, noting that they were able to put 14 Airmen in the backseat. "It is so important for morale building...people love it," he added.



Senior Airman Emma Harding, 173rd Fighter Wing, an Aircrew Flight Equipment, fits a helmet to Staff Sgt. Alexander Kaakuli, in preparation for a familiarization flight on Aug. 16, 2022.

Staff Sgt. Colton Oates of the 173rd FW engine shop had the opportunity to fly in the backseat of the F-15 during the first week of the trip. "Worst, best experience of my life," he said with a laugh.

Oates says this experience gave him a better appreciation for what the fighter pilots do up there. "They are super knowledgeable...very capable. It is so much more than just pulling G's."

"I also now have a better understanding of what our engines go through and what their capabilities are," said Oates.

As the Wing prepared to pack up their equipment and head back home, McGee said he is grateful for the hard work from the Airmen. "I really appreciate everything everyone has done to make this TDY a success."



A U.S. Air Force F-15 Eagle from the 173rd FW takes off at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., on Aug. 15, 2022. The 173rd FW spent two weeks training with the F/A-18s from the Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101 and the F-35s from the Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 502.



NEWS

A Well-Oiled Machine: Oregon National Guard Search & Rescues operations

Story by John Hughel,  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

SALEM, Ore. – The rugged majesty of the Pacific Northwest provides for a boundless range of outdoor activities, both for local residences and flocks of travelers eager to get back to nature after two previous summers of pandemic health protocols.

Mountain climbing, windsurfing, and discovering meandering trails along hilly beaches are popular activities to challenge enthusiastic travelers in the region. For most, a day enjoying the natural environment can energize and restores a person's weathered spirit. But even the best prepared and experienced explorers can find themselves stranded, lost, or injured in vulnerable wilderness areas.

At any given time, there is no shortage of incidents large or small around the state that local Search and Rescue (SAR) teams respond to, often calling on the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) and the Oregon National Guard for assistance.

"There's some type of SAR operations in the state every single day," said Scott Lucas, State of Oregon SAR Coordinator with OEM. "As big as the state is and with so many remote wilderness areas, we typically have close to 1,100 SARs a year."

Lucas also said that more people are exploring new places they are unfamiliar with, not knowing the area, terrain, and weather conditions, especially during the excessive heat-related injuries this summer. SAR missions also take away resources – including SAR teams, volunteers, gear, and time.

"Know before you go may seem like obvious advice, but it makes a difference when it comes to staying safe," said Lucas.

Though only a fraction of those cases requires Oregon Army National Guard aviation support, many of the mountain rescues where climbers are severely injured could not be accomplished without helicopter assistance.

"Air rescues are vital for life-threatening injuries," Lucas explained. "For most mountain rescue situations, the hiker has injuries that prevent them from being moved by rescue climbers, and being exposed to the elements is a critical factor too."

While coordinating with all 36 counties of Oregon, Lucas said in most cases, requests are generated from local sheriff's offices that need the additional SAR support assets. The Oregon Emergency Response System process creates an Incident Report Number where federal and state assets can then be directed to the counties requesting support.

As these missions are assigned to the Oregon National Guard, they pass through the Joint Operations Center (JOC) to get the mission launched.

"There have been several high profile rescues recently where we have used Blackhawk helicopters to conduct rescues at Diamond Lake (on Aug. 10) and on Mt. Hood (on July 2) supporting high elevation missions," Lucas said.

The Army National Guard maintains both HH-60M Blackhawks and UH-72A Lakota's for search and rescue operations at McNairy Field in Salem, and in special cases, CH-47 Chinooks at the Pendleton Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF) can be called upon for assistance.



Photo courtesy Clackamas County Sheriff's Office

An Oregon Army National Guard Blackhawk helicopter helps an injured climber that had fallen over 600 feet during a search and rescue operation on Mt. Hood on July 2, 2022. The climber was transported off the mountain with serious injuries to an area hospital.

The state Aviation and Safety officer Col. Brian Houston initially receives a call from Scott Lucas, and the decision is made if the Army can fly the mission. If the mission is a go, then Col. Houston will call Maj. Daniel Russell, Operations Officer at AASF 1 in Salem.

"We support domestic operations so most of the time our full-time staff are the ones that execute the search and rescue missions," said Russell, describing how the missions are staffed. "The people who go fly the mission are often times our part-time drill status members."



Photo by John Hughel, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Mark Carter (left) and Maj. Daniel Russell (right) pause for a photo with one of the states HH-60M Blackhawk assigned for Search and Rescue (SAR) at McNairy Field, in Salem, Ore., on Aug. 19.

Russell, a Blackhawk pilot, is 'dual-hatted,' working full time as the supervisor of training, and then in his M-day (Guard members who perform weekend drill and not on full-time duty) status as the Battalion S-1, Human Resources Officer for the 2nd Battalion, 641st Aviation Regiment. He will then put the "call out" in the form of a mass text asking for volunteers that are available.

"We don't always have a full crew that works here during the week so we rely on this list of volunteers," he said. "Most of the missions we fly are done by our M-day crews."

By asking for volunteers, Russell can keep a list of ready volunteers sharp and spread the experience across the force. Those crews are made up of service members who are commercial pilots or have jobs working as medical first responders for community hospitals in their civilian jobs. A normal SAR crew will have a pilot, co-pilot, crew chief, and flight paramedic.

"I am actually always very impressed with our ability to respond to something as a primary part-time force – that's something

that most people don't know because they assume we have a dedicated full-time SAR force."

In 2022, the Oregon Army National Guard has flown 10 SAR missions, nine of those using the Blackhawks to recover patients. This includes the well-published July 2 rescue at Mt. Hood.

According to Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, the climber lost his ice ax and fell approximately 600-700 feet from the summit ridge to the rocks above the Hot

Rocks fumarole and sustained serious injuries. Portland Mountain Rescue and the Crag Rats reached the injured 43-year-old climber from Happy Valley by mid-day, and around 1:00 p.m. the Oregon National Guard Blackhawk arrived. They first dropped off two flight paramedics, who secured him with a litter so they could hoist him into the helicopter for transport to a hospital in Portland.

This was followed by another SAR helicopter mission on Aug. 10, 2022, successfully rescuing an injured hiker at Diamond Lake, Oregon. Douglas County (SAR) requested air assets to assist in the search for a 37-year-old female hiker who suffered a broken ankle and was dehydrated. In both rescues, the hoist system on the Blackhawk was critical, as well as the experience of the crew to work in demanding terrains.

Though many of the rescues come in the warm weather months, the mission is year-round.

"It's not just during the spring and summer," said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Carter, the senior crew chief working at AASF 1 in Salem. "We have snowmobilers and hunters that get lost and loggers who can get pinned down that we need to recover."

The unit keeps two aircraft ready at all times and Carter helps the crews coming in with having their gear ready to go.

"I spent 12 years on active duty before joining the National Guard in 2002, but we spend more time doing our jobs in the Guard because of these types of missions," Carter said. "It's what I do -- and I do it because of the mission."

With these types of missions, Russell is quick to point out there are many unsung heroes that work behind the scenes. This includes Guard members working in communications and support.

"They answer the radios, track and relay communication. This includes making calls to the hospitals to make sure they know we're coming," said Russell. "Whenever we do these missions, I get the flight crews to come in but I also get them [support team] to come in as well...their just not on the helicopter."

With so many moving pieces, both in the air and on the ground, it takes a total team approach to help search, rescue, recover and transport those who have become lost or injured throughout the region's rugged, scenic landscapes.

"At the end of the day, people love being in the unit because it's one of the reasons we joined and we get to do it," said Russell. "Literally, we're saving lives – it doesn't get any better than that."

NEWS

Soldiers and Airmen Supporting Rum Creek Fire in Southern Oregon

News Release by Maj. W. Chris Clyne,  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

MEDFORD, Ore. – The Oregon National Guard helped support firefighting efforts at the Rum Creek Fire in Josephine County and the Double Creek Fire in Wallowa County this season. Guard members have helped secure vulnerable areas, manning road closure points on the ground. In addition, the guard also dispatched HH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to the Medford and Redmond airports to help if any firefighters or support staff were injured and needed rapid transport for medical treatment.



Photo by Maj. W. Chris Clyne, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon Air National Guard 2nd Lt. Taylor Perry, 173rd Fighter Wing Mission Support Group, coordinates with troops in the field as the officer in charge of the guard's road closure teams supporting the Rum Creek Fire in Merlin, Ore., Sept. 2, 2022.

"We are here in Medford for MEDEVAC standby for the wildland fires and are the dedicated MEDEVAC asset for any of the firefighting crews in the area," said Chief Warrant Officer Corey Wadsworth, HH-60 pilot.

Teams of Soldiers and Airmen staff road closure points on the smoke-filled roads around the fires' perimeters. "We're just trying to keep everybody safe, keep the bad people out, and let the good people in, that kind of a thing," said Air National

Guard Staff Sgt. Joshua Rose. "The overall experience out here has been great. A lot of the residents have been really appreciative of what we're doing out here."

The Oregon National Guard has a history of helping fight wildfires, keeping with the National Guard motto of, "Always Ready, Always There." The Oregon Guard has several firefighting crews to support civilian firefighters when needed.



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

Twenty Airmen from the 173rd Fighter Wing departed Klamath Falls, Ore., for the Rum Creek Fire, near Grants Pass, to work on traffic control points. The fire had grown to over 10-thousand acres as of the afternoon of Aug. 29, 2022.



Photo by Maj. W. Chris Clyne, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Jeremy Hensler conducts a radio check for teammates Staff Sgt. Casey Reed and Spc. Britney Rivera at Road Closure Point #1 near Merlin, Oregon, on Sept. 2.

Guardsmen help fight Double Creek Fire in Wallowa-Whitman Nat'l Forest

News Release and photos by Maj. W. Chris Clyne,  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

JOSEPH, Ore. - Oregon National Guard members are supporting the Double Creek Fire by providing staffing to road closure points around the fire's perimeter. The Double Creek Fire in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in Northeast, Oregon, at 157,000 acres - is considered a Megafire by the U.S. Forest Service. Currently, the Oregon Forestry Department says they have the fire 81% contained, which was started by a lightning strike.

The Oregon National Guard has been at the fire since September 10, and recently switched out some personnel with fresh service members to provide safety and security. The roadblocks serve to protect area residents and wildland firefighters.



Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Decker, Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge gives a situation brief to new Double Creek Fire volunteers at the main fire camp in Joseph, Oregon on Sept. 23, 2022.

Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Decker, who's volunteered since the Rum Creek Fire in Josephine County, said, "The National Guard is the



Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Zack Baker, a Double Creek Fire volunteer talks with area residents at a road closure point in Imnaha, Oregon on Sept. 23, 2022.

last resource called in to come in and help – so we come in, we help with these TAPs (Traffic Assistance Points), where we're out there trying to keep everybody safe."

Wallowa County is a very rural area that draws many to its natural beauty and outdoor activities.

"It's that time of the season, and you know they want to do their hunt, and they got their tags, and they want to fill them," said Decker. "We understand that, but it's not safe for them, and it's not safe for the fire crews either."

Oregon National Guard Maj. Joshua Reese, the officer in charge of the National Guard group, is an IT specialist that works at the Salem Hospital for his civilian job, said, "As a Citizen-Soldier, it's an honor to serve my fellow Oregonians

and help keep people safe," commenting on his fellow members supporting fire operations. "I am really proud of our group, some of these soldiers and airmen have been on State Active Duty [orders] for over 28 days, working at these closure points."



Double Creek Fire volunteers Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Justin Seibel, Sgt. Kenneth Steward, and Spc. Pamela Fredrick fill out State Active Duty forms at the La Grande National Guard Armory Sept. 23, 2022.



Oregon Army National Guard Capt. Cody Comerford and Maj. Joshua Reese give an in-brief to fresh Double Creek Fire volunteers of the Oregon National Guard at the La Grande National Guard Armory Sept. 23, 2022.



FEATURES

Sentry Eagle 2022 roars over Klamath Basin after 5-year hiatus

Story by Master Sgt. Jeff Thompson,  
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs  
  
Photos by Staff Sgt. Penny Snoozy,  
173rd Fighter Wing Commander Support Staff

KLAMATH FALL, Ore. - Sentry Eagle 2022 started with a roar as four F-15 Eagles winged their way over the crowded flightline, punctuating a live rendition of the National Anthem and kicking off a day of aerial demonstrations, food and festivities.

"Once every couple of years, we open the doors and allow all of our community to come in here and see what Kingsley Field provides to our community," said Col. Lee Bouma, who assumed command of the wing just over a month ago.

On Saturday, June 25, the show began with a small aerobatic bi-plane demonstration, followed by vintage World War II fighter aircraft and the A-10 Demonstration team rounded out the show with an aerobatics display that only the Warthog is capable of.

Katie Terrell, a young girl from Arkansas who came with her parents, said she like the small bi-plane demonstration at least in part because it was piloted by a woman.

"I'm kind of thinking about joining the Air Force," she said with a smile.



Crowds watch aircraft taxi to the runway prior to take-off during the Sentry Eagle Open House on June 24, Kingsley Field, Oregon.

Camp Rosenbaum returns to in-person activities, celebrates its 50th Anniversary

Story by Lt. Col. Brian Kroeller,  
Camp Rosenbaum - Camp Director

WARRENTON, Ore. - After two years of cancellations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Camp Rosenbaum saw the return of campers, staff and volunteers to help officially celebrate the 50th Anniversary from 24-29 July, 2022.

Since its inception in 1970, Camp Rosenbaum has offered a unique experience to children from low-income households and disadvantaged circumstances across Oregon and Southwest Washington. All the while, campers focus on a daily "good citizenship" theme of the day, from "good citizen's care" to "good citizens work together." Throughout the week campers are making new friends, learning the power of positive role models, and learning life skills to empower themselves and boost confidence in their future choices.

The camp is named after the late Fred Rosenbaum, who escaped the Holocaust as a boy and served as a brigadier general in the Oregon National Guard and as chairman of the Housing Authority of Portland.



Photo by Bobby "Skeeter" Kennedy, Camp Rosenbaum Support Staff  
A Camp Rosenbaum staff member helps out a youth camper with her catch at the fishing dock during the 50th Anniversary year of the camp, which started in 1970 at Camp Rilea, near Warrenton, Oregon.

"The F-15 is my favorite," Katie's younger sister Laney said. "They are so loud!"

This year's event is unique in several ways, it's the first year the A-10 Demo Team has performed and it also featured a very special presentation from a family member of Lt. David R. Kingsley, the Medal of Honor recipient who the base is named for.

Frankie Stoneham, Kingsley's great, great niece, presented his Purple Heart Ribbon and citation to the base from the main stage.

"I am honored to be here today, and to share my blood with a hero," she said as a descendant of Kingsley, "This is a true honor and a blessing to be able to present the 173rd Fighter Wing with Lt. David R. Kingsley's Purple Heart."

Col. Lee Bouma, the wing commander, accepted the historic item on behalf of the base, saying, "Words just really cannot do justice to signify how important this is."

He went on to thank her and her family for donating a significant piece of Kingsley's legacy to the base.

The crowd watched this presentation while a fully restored B-17 Flying Fortress, the very same type of aircraft Kingsley served on as bombardier, flew low passes behind the stage.

For those who crewed these aircraft during WWII, returning home was often against the odds



U.S. Air Force Colonel Jason Nalepa, 173rd Fighter Wing Operations Group Commander, flies the 173rd Fighter Wing "Heritage Jet" in formation with F-15s after refueling during the Sentry Eagle Open House event on June 24, 2022, near Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

with up to 70-percent of aircraft being shot down by enemy fire. This was true for Kingsley's aircraft when it was heavily damaged and subsequently crashed. During that crash he sacrificed his life, taking his own parachute off and placing it on a wounded man, thus condemning himself to a fiery crash near Ploiesti, Bulgaria.

Following that presentation the aerial demonstrators again took to the sky and so did a BMX bike show featuring aerials using ramps. Between acts people could buy food and drinks or drink water provided free-of-charge on the 90-degree day.

Crowds for Sentry Eagle historically fall between 8,000 to as high as 12,000 and this year security forces defenders who safely ushered the community through the gate estimated it was higher than usual, surpassing the previous high.

"Sentry Eagle 2022 was a resounding success for Kingsley Field and our community," said Bouma.

Chris "Skidmark" Skidmore, a Clark County Sheriff Deputy.

While kids are having fun riding horses, building rockets, playing on the beach or just hanging out with new friends, they get a chance play and explore for a week with enthusiastic adults that share their energy for, "just being a kid."

One of the most difficult decisions was to cancel camp due to COVID-19, for two years. Camp Rosenbaum wanted to find a way to still serve low-income children in during those two summers with a camp-like experience.

In 2020, the Camp Rosenbaum Program Director implemented Operation Lemonade; a week's worth of camp activities stuffed in a new backpack and a dedicated website linking on-line videos. The backpacks, which were sponsored by local supporters, contained an activity schedule, and were filled with new items such as science experiments, footballs, books, journals, arts & crafts, and educational kits from first responder agencies. In total, 1,000 backpacks were delivered to children in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Camp Rosenbaum is free to the families who send their children and focuses on good citizenship skills and the hope and support for a bright future.

Barry "Sizzler" Quinn, who works for Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue and has been coming to camp for well over a dozen years, says that this anniversary is important but looks forward to many more years ahead.

"We all missed being at camp in-person, but 50 years is significant and all I see is the next 50 years."

FEATURES

STARBASE summer camps inspire curiosity while building STEM skills

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

UMATILLA, Ore. - For children, play and learning can take shape in many forms, whether it comes through artistic expression or scientific discovery. For kids attending the STARBASE summer camps in Oregon, having fun comes from eager experimentation and testing boundaries.

Over a three-day summer camp from July 12-14, nearly a dozen children from the Hermiston area sharpened their creative designs and engineering abilities during the BattleBot Camp at STARBASE Umatilla. The class allows 4th through 7th graders a chance to build STEM skills in a hands-on and exciting interactive atmosphere.

The Department of Defense's STARBASE program provides underserved students in the U.S. an opportunity to explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in a stimulating community based outreach program.

"When the kids first walk in the classroom, they can be somewhat intimidated, but right away we start with concepts and the design wheel, introducing why it's okay to fail -- because by failing you learn something," said Denise Kortess, State Director for STARBASE Oregon.



Students attending the STARBASE BattleBot camp use iPads to program their robots on July 12, during the three-day camp held at Camp Umatilla, Ore.

The BattleBot summer camps are aimed at getting kids over those initial classroom pressures by allowing time to design, practice, test and rebuild their robots beginning with basic turning movements, then onto inclined planes and an obstacle course. The final day is a bracket style tournament and a no holds barred battle royale using their Lego robots.

"They think they are just having fun, but right away they are learning not only about robotics and physics, but learning how to overcome setbacks through trial and error," Kortess said.

During her 10 years with STARBASE education, Kortess has not just seen the program grow, but has witnessed the lasting impact it has made on the students who attend the summer camps and programs during the school year.

"We have things that kids can experiment with that some of the schools in the area cannot afford," she further explained. "In 2014 we started using iPads because they saved paper and printing cost, and

were more interactive for the students. It also took time to print out booklets and, really, the kids were not that interested in using those materials. Once we introduced the work on iPads, it only enhanced their interest in technology."

The STARBASE Academy at Camp Umatilla is the fourth and newest Academy in the state of Oregon, opening last year. In 2019 Camp Rilea in Warrenton was added, joining the two established Academies at the Portland Air National Guard Base and Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls.

"Oregon is one of the few states that has four academies," Kortess said. "Just in Portland, we're seeing 60 school classes from different public schools in an academic year, where the kids are getting 25 hours of work during those five days in the classroom."

There is no testing or grades. Therefore, everything the kids do in the program is a success because the program is designed around innovation and working in groups to develop solutions.

"The first day they arrive, the kids work on the programming aspect of robot building, which includes sensors to get their robots to function with automatic controls," said Colin Haines, who has served as Deputy Director of STARBASE Umatilla since the site opened two years ago. "The second two days are focused on engineering, so that their robots are agile, and can battle each other."

The excitement during each testing phase is matched when the campers work on modifications. Each child builds their own robot, but they also work with a partner to share ideas and strategize for the BattleBot competition.

"The combination of coding and engineering is really where they develop academically," Haines said.

The small class size of 10 to 12 campers helps Haines both teach the class and offer one-on-one feedback the campers have. Each team of two has their own table, upon which they can assemble the motors, Lego parts and other pieces to build the ultimate BattleBot robot.

"Teamwork is key," Haines said. "Number one, it gives them confidence, and secondly, social learning is often the best learning. Collaboration gives them multiple ideas. They turn the learning into play."

Haines said the BattleBot camp needs to be exciting given all the other choices kids have for summer fun.

"We really need to go above and beyond the fun level because they could be playing baseball or at home with video games," he said.

Alexander Gonzalez, a 6th grader at Sandstone Middle School in Hermiston, was one of those campers eager to attend -- and equally excited to talk about all the distinctive features of his automaton, "Walking Brick."

"The way I built it was to put a scoop on



Students attending the STARBASE BattleBot take part in the final "Battle Royale" on July 14, concluding the three-day camp held July 12-14, 2022 at Camp Umatilla, Oregon.

the back and front, then a shield so the other robots can't hit it," he explained. "I also put a hammer on the back to attack with but made sure it is protected on the sides."

He joined the camp with his sister Gissel Gonzalez, an 8th grader, who also attends Sandstone Middle School. But for the BattleBot camp, they were on opposing teams.

"I put a ramp on my robot to scoop and lift up others," Gissel said, highlighting a dissimilar design for her robot, "King Bob."

The design was good enough to have her advance to the semi-finals. She took a quick lunch break, so she could make some last minute changes for the finals. This week at camp was Gissel and Alexander's first time attending a STARBASE class, but both are excited about returning in the future.

"We were able to make our robots better and better by trying out new designs," Gissel said. "In school, I hope to get more of this kind of training in technology."

This is another aspect with the STARBASE program, which helps bridge those gaps that some schools are missing in STEM education.

"When you can get kids to accidentally learn something when they are goofing around, that's a real win," Haines said. "That just makes you feel good to know these kids want to actively stay engaged... we live for that 'Ah ha moment,' when they connect to something new."

Prior to becoming an instructor for STARBASE, Haines had worked as a school teacher after leaving the Army, where he spent 10 years as a medic. He said being back on a military post feels supportive too.

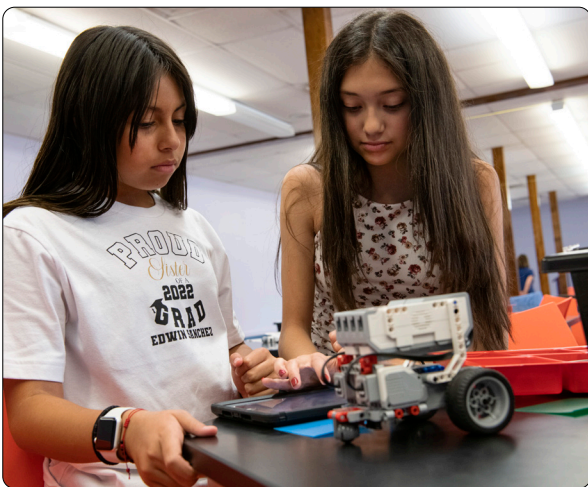
"It's great seeing uniformed soldiers again," he said. "It feels homey...I like it."

In many ways, Camp Umatilla is going through a comparable renaissance. Originally built in 1940 as the Umatilla Army Chemical Depot, it comprised 1,001 concrete igloos, with grounds for testing, demolition, and disposal of weapons.

In 2005 Camp Umatilla began the process of transferring over 7,500 acres to the Oregon National Guard, now renovating the post to accommodate new training missions.

STARBASE is just one of those new missions at Camp Umatilla, and it has already made a positive contribution to the community in Eastern Oregon.

"During the school year, we're infinitely times more fun than a regular classroom," Haines said. "That's one reason this place is really special."



Students attending the STARBASE BattleBot camp assemble Lego pieces and other hardware to build their robots during the three-day camp.



AZUWUR

# 41st Infantry Division Association's legacy lives on at the Oregon Military Museum



Story by Sgt. 1st Class Amy Eker,  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

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

**CLACKAMAS, Ore.** — The 41st Infantry Division Association commemorated the 77th anniversary of its creation and 70th reunion of the Association's members during a ceremony at the Oregon Military Museum at Camp Withycombe on August 24. Three of the Association's members in attendance were World War II veterans, with the eldest member, Joseph Garcia, in his 103rd year of life. Other distinguished guests included Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, The Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard; Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Raymond F. Rees, former Undersecretary of the Army and Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard; Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Steven R. Beach, former Assistant Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard; Col. Philip DeMontigny, Commander, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT); and Command Sgt. Maj. Lee G. Smith, Land Component Sgt. Maj., Oregon Army National Guard.

The ceremony recognized the many accomplishments of the Association over the years and its commitment to keeping the 41st Infantry Division's heritage and service to the community alive. They also recognized those who will continue to preserve its legacy in the future. After the ceremony, guests were invited to tour the museum and eat lunch together.



Photographs of the 41st Infantry Division at Biak 1944 and uniform worn by Ralph Purchase of the 162 Infantry Regiment displayed during the final 41st Infantry Division Association meeting at the Oregon Military Museum, Clackamas, Ore. Aug. 24, 2022.

Association members who played an integral role in the preservation of the Division shared remarks and were recognized during the ceremony for their efforts. Those members include David Funk, 41st Infantry Division Association



Back row: Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, Mr. Bob Bach, 41st Infantry Division Assoc. Historian and Jungleer Editor, Mrs. Carolyn Bach, 41st Infantry Division Assoc. webmaster Kathleen Sligar, Oregon Military Museum Directorate, Col. Philip DeMontigny, Commander 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Mr. David Funk, 41st Infantry Division Assoc. Ambassador. Front row: WWII veterans and 41st Infantry Division Assoc. members Carl Gangl, Secretary/Treasurer, Mr. Joseph S. Garcia, and Mr. Dan Sokol, National President.

Ambassador; Bob Bach, 41st Division Association Historian and Jungleer Editor; his wife Carolyn Bach, 41st Infantry Division Association Webmaster and Archivist; Carl Gangl, 41st Division Association Secretary and Treasurer and World War II Veteran; and Dan Sokol, National President, 41st Infantry Division Association and WWII Veteran.

"Many generations to come are going to benefit greatly from all of your efforts," Funk said. "But most importantly, we are fulfilling our obligation to promote the remembrance and the perpetuity of the magnificent deeds of the Jungleers."

The 41st Infantry Division, Oregon Army National Guard, entered into federal service on Sept. 16, 1940, after the start of World War II, and was inactivated just after the war ended on Dec. 31, 1945. To this date, the 41st Infantry Division has performed the longest overseas service of any Division in the United States. Not wanting their acts of selfless service and sacrifice to fade away, representatives from units of the 41st Division met in the Division's chapel on Aug. 25, 1945, in the city of Zamboanga on Mindanao Island in the Philippines, and, at the proposal of the Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Jens A. Doe, the group became the organization known as the 41st Infantry Division Association.

The Association was created with the purpose of preserving the history and legacy of its Service Members through publishing a newsletter, holding reunions for its members, and gathering artifacts, now on exhibit at the Oregon Military Museum. The newsletter initially outlined the details of the Division's history during its period of activation, and was distributed to each Association member, as well as to the next of kin of all Division

men who lost their lives during World War II. The "Jungleer", as the newsletter became known, continued over the years and included first-hand stories of veterans, battle casualties, and histories from each campaign. During the Association's first year, the membership grew to almost 7,700.

With the numbers of the original Association members from World War II dwindling, Sokol passed the gavel of responsibility for maintaining the Division's legacy to DeMontigny, current commander of the 41st IBCT, which traces its lineage back to the 41st Infantry Division.

"The weight of legacy," DeMontigny said, "is knowing

what the organization was capable of, what they've already done, what they're doing now, and to make sure you leave it in a place that's going to be successful in the future. Thank you for years and years of service. Thank you for reminding us of the legacy of the Division, and to add on to that legacy the responsibility that I have, and future commanders have to keep that legacy moving forward."



Oregon Military Museum Directorate Kathleen Sligar and 41st Infantry Division National President Mr. Dan Sokol discuss the anti-tank gun he used in WWII during the final 41st Infantry Division Assoc. meeting at the Oregon Military Museum, Clackamas, Ore., Aug. 24.

The final speaker of the event was Kathleen Sligar, director and curator, Oregon Military Museum, who also carries the responsibility for maintaining the 41st Infantry Division's legacy. "What an honor to know we are sharing in not only this momentous day, but to know that we, the caretakers of the Oregon Military Museum, were selected to carry this torch," she said. "That's a huge responsibility and one we do not take lightly...your stories will carry on. Your camaraderie and kindness in the face of such darkness will never be forgotten. Your acts of bravery and sacrifice will also never be forgotten. But, most importantly, you and your legacy will never be forgotten."

## Monmouth American Legion host Boys and Girls State event

News Release by Maj. W. Chris Clyne,  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Photo by Paul Rushing,  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

**MONMOUTH, Ore.** - Former Oregon Guard members Maj. Gen. (Retired) Raymond F. Rees, former Undersecretary of the Army and Adjutant General, Oregon, and Lt. Col. (Retired) Fred Broadwater attended the American Legion program Boys and Girls State in Monmouth, Oregon

on June 14, 2022. The event centers on the structure of city, county, and state governments.

Boys and Girls State is operated by high school students elected to various offices running a simulated state government. Rees spoke on leadership and helped the gathering celebrate flag day, the adoption U.S. Flag, by cutting a cake with a military saber. If you are interested in community service organizations, every national guard member in Oregon is eligible to join the American Legion.

