



OREGON SENTINEL

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Umatilla Chemical Depot renamed to honor venerated Oregon General



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

UMATILLA, Ore. - Framed under a newly erected archway bearing his name, Major General (ret.) Raymond F. Rees was duly recognized during an official ceremony to rename the former Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) in his honor on Sept. 29, 2022. Over the past several decades, the post has seen a slow transition from one of nine Army installations that stored chemical weapons in the United States, to now, being an important training site utilized by members of the National Guard for consistent drills and military instructional training.

The original site covered nearly 20 square miles and was built as the nation prepared for World War II. As a native of Eastern Oregon, Rees grew up in Helix, less than 50 miles east of the UMCD. Throughout his extensive tenure with the Oregon National Guard, Rees often contemplated how Oregon Citizen-Soldiers could use the location, in lieu of recurrent travel to Idaho and Washington State for range exercises and weapons training.

Oregon Army National Guard Color Guard members render colors during the National Anthem to begin the renaming ceremony at the Raymond F. Rees Training Center, Umatilla, Ore., on Sept. 29, 2022. Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Raymond F. Rees (right) is a retired Oregon Guardsman and served as The Adjutant General, Oregon for more than 16 years. He is joined on stage by Gen. Daniel Hokanson, Chief of the National Guard Bureau (left) and current Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel (center).

Story continued on Page 3

Oregon National Guard Celebrates Tenth Anniversary with its State Partnership Program



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

Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, The Adjutant General, Oregon and Lt. Gen. Nguyen Trong Binh (center right), Deputy Chief of General Staff of Vietnam People's Army and Deputy Standing Chairman of Vietnam's National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM), pose for a photo with members of the Oregon National Guard and VINASARCOM State Partnership Program (SPP) in Salem, Oregon, on Nov. 14, 2022. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Oregon National Guard and VINASARCOM working together under the Department of Defense Program.

Story continued on Page 5

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Oregon Sentinel Editorial Staff

Director of Public Affairs
Stephen S. Bomar
Stephen.S.Bomar.mil@gmail.mil

Deputy Director of Public Affairs
Leslie M. Reed
Leslie.M.Reed.mil@gmail.mil

Sentinel Editor | Feature Writer:
John R. Hugel

Staff Writers:
Aaron Perkins
Zachary Holden
W. Chris Clyne

Contributors:
41st Inf. Bde. Combat Team Public Affairs
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
142nd Wing Public Affairs
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Oregon Emergency Management
Unit Public Affairs Representatives

Editorial Offices:
503-584-3917
AGPA@mil.state.or.us

Oregon Military Department
Attn: Editor, Oregon Sentinel
P.O. Box 14350
Salem, OR 97309

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COMMAND

Integrated Deterrence encompasses U.S. relations with allies & partners

In late October, the Department of Defense released the public version of the National Defense Strategy (NDS). The 2022 NDS reinforces an emphasis on collaboration with U.S. allies and partners on shared objectives. It also focuses on the essential need to strengthen U.S. deterrence against the rise of China, the Russian war in Ukraine, persistent threats from North Korea and Iran, and other extremist groups.

The fiscal year 2023 budget further stresses strategic deterrence as the Department of Defense continues modernizing, increasing cyberspace capabilities, and maintaining U.S. dominance with land and sea forces.

As the operational reserve of the Army and Air Force, the National Guard plays a vital role in the NDS as part of the most capable military in the world and by integrating with partner nations' militaries as a force multiplier. Colin Kahl, the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, recently said, "Deterrence must be integrated in the domains of land, sea, air, space, and cyberspace. It must be integrated with allies and partners." Building a resilient Joint Force defense ecosystem is a top-level defense priority and over the past year, Oregon National Guard members have deployed around the world and reinvigorated cooperation with our two State Partners Bangladesh and Vietnam in support of those initiatives.

This past year, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry had 73 Soldiers return from and 16 Soldiers deploy to Kuwait as a part of U.S. Army Central's Operation Spartan Shield. At the same time, 1st

Squadron, 82nd Cavalry had over 100 Soldiers for 10 months in Poland where they practiced interoperability with NATO allies in support of the European Deterrence Initiative.

In October of 2021, we sent representatives to the Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange in Dhaka, Bangladesh, where more than 300 representatives from 147 organizations and nearly 30 countries participated in the three-day conference focused on earthquake management under pandemic conditions. Members of the Oregon National Guard returned to Bangladesh in March, along with the 5th Security Force Assistance Brigade from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, and the 303rd Ordnance Battalion (EOD) from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, to take part in the two-week Tiger Lighting exercise at the Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operations Training.

In June, Oregon Guard members traveled to Vietnam to participate in the 2022 Disaster Management Engagement Activity in Hanoi where they sharpened readiness skills while sharing information about the Incident Command System and best readiness practices. Just last month, a delegation from Vietnam's National Committee for Search and Rescue visited Oregon to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of our partnership with at a ceremony held at the Oregon Military Museum at Camp Withycombe.

These investments with our allies and partners are at the core of our Nation's security and our way of life. However, the NDS also demands continued investments in our personnel.



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



Along with the NDS public release, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin announced a substantial pay raise for service members beginning Jan. 1, 2023. "Above all, it means investments in our people," he said. "They will always be this department's most valuable resource and the bedrock of American security."

Other benefits, programs, and the many resources available through the Service Member Family Support program are similarly investments in our people. Nonetheless, simply investing the time to care for the people you work alongside often has the greatest impact.

Each member of the Oregon National Guard is an invaluable part of our Nation's defense. As we face new challenges next year, take care of each other and take great pride in your contributions to our Nation and our communities across Oregon.

Congratulations on a job well done in 2022. Wishing you a safe New Year and a Great 2023!

Celebrate the journey & hard work that has gotten you to this point

Taking on your first leadership role is a major milestone in your career. You are moving into a new position where you will be expected to lead the effort. This shift often brings with it a heap of emotions: excitement, fear, anticipation, insecurity.

It's easy to get caught up in the excitement of a new leadership role. Before you focus on questions like, "What can I do? What can I change?" Listen to what others have to say. Pay attention to the needs of both your leadership and your team. What are their goals and priorities? What is getting in their way? How can you help while still holding each member accountable?

You must gain confidence in your leadership qualities and abilities. To do that start by celebrating the journey that has gotten you to this point. Think about what you did in

your previous position and what you are charged with in your new role. With this new perspective you will begin to see what you didn't before. Look for repeatable processes you can create to make the work more manageable and consistent. Don't fall into the trap of trying to do both your old job and your new one.

Pause, evaluate and seek to make informed decisions before you do anything. Stop reacting automatically and created a consistent decision-making process for yourself instead.

Learn to communicate with subordinates who used to be peers, particularly when some of them were competing for the same position. In these situations, it helps to disarm people with empathy and candor, and then lead.

As Brigadier General Jeff Silver once told me, "This is a new chapter



Command Chief Master Sergeant
Daniel C. Conner,
Command Senior Enlisted Leader,
Oregon National Guard



in your career, you have an opportunity to create your own brand as a leader."

Don't be afraid to show others who you are and what you bring to the table, and don't let perfectionism hold you back. Never stop asking questions, and never stop learning, and you will keep growing as a leader.

Portland Air National Guard Base welcomes President Joe Biden

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Sean Campbell,
142nd Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. - President of the United States, Joseph R. Biden Jr., arrived at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Oregon on October 14, 2022 for two days of scheduled campaign events held in the state. The trip is President Biden's second visit to Oregon this year.

The president spent about 22 hours in the state. With the election on Nov. 8, 2022, President Biden was able to meet current elected leaders and Oregon Air National Guard Commander Brig. Gen. Donna Prigmore at the Air Base when he arrived. Important campaigns for the U.S. House, U.S. Senate as well as Oregon Legislature, and Governor were on this fall's ballot for all Oregonians.



COMMAND

Continued from Front Page

On a warm but windy afternoon, Rees began his remarks, noting this paradox for convenient training space, specifically with the abundance of available military terrain at neighboring federal installations.

"So over 40 years ago, from my earliest days as a staff officer and commander with the 3-116 CAV, we were constantly faced with a dilemma of having to travel hundreds of miles to places like Gowen Field [Idaho], or Yakima Firing Center, and Fort Lewis [Washington] to conduct our training," Rees said, describing the lack of range options in Eastern Oregon. "One of the most maddening circumstances – was driving by this depot and the Boardman Bombing Range, and knowing that these federal facilities could ease the burden of our soldiers – but we couldn't use them."

Though the depot officially closed in 2012 after all the chemical weapons were incinerated, the enormously intricate process to transfer the UMCD to the National Guard involved nearly every level of federal, state, county, and local leadership, which Rees highlighted and acknowledged many of the leaders in attendance during his address.

"Without their willingness to work in a collective and cooperative effort this would not have happened, and certainly we would not have been able to tie this together with the Boardman Range without the cooperation of the United States Navy," he said.

When the Umatilla Army Ordnance Depot first opened in 1941, it was constructed to store munitions for its geographical location in the Pacific Northwest and proximity to accessible railroad lines. By 1988 the Base Realignment and Closure Committee identified the depot for closure and by 2004 the process to dispose of the chemical agents stored at the site began. When the process was completed in 2011, the entire site was declared as excess property by the Army in 2012.



Family, friends and guest of Maj. Gen. (ret.) Raymond F. Rees, along with local and state officials, listen to remarks by the Keynote speaker, General Daniel Hokanson, during the renaming ceremony at the Raymond F. Rees Training Center, Umatilla, Oregon, on Sept. 29, 2022.

With a license agreement finally completed in 2017, a portion of the site was allotted to the National Guard, where the 249th Regional Training Institute is now located; one of two infantry training schools west of the Mississippi River. Additionally, other portions of the property will now be returned to local control, helping impact regional economic concerns while ensuring natural areas and sacred tribal lands are protected.

"Today is an affirmation of that old saw: patience is a virtue," Rees said, reflecting on the long process leading up to the ceremony. "My appreciation for today's honor goes beyond the brick and mortar - It goes to the spirit of the National Guard."

In detailing the financial impact for the Oregon Military Department, which has already spent \$60 million at the training center, Rees said future investments will bring additional growth.



Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, delivers remarks as the Keynote Speaker during the ceremony to officially rename of the former U.S. Army Umatilla Chemical Depot that now honors Maj. Gen. (ret.) Raymond F. Rees.

"Now \$130 million has been programmed for the best training center in the National Guard, with \$20 million more in the near future," he stated. "And \$25 million more for the Boardman range in two years."

The ceremony also served as a homecoming for General Daniel Hokanson, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, who delivered the Keynote address for the ceremony. After leaving active duty in 1995, Hokanson's first assignment in the National Guard was serving as the Aide-de-Camp, for Rees, who was the Adjutant General for the Oregon National Guard.

"There are no words that capture my gratitude to describe his commitment or could possibly convey the magnitude of the impact that Fred Rees has had on so many," Gen. Hokanson said, as he began his remarks. "That is why it is so fitting today, that Camp Umatilla becomes the Raymond F. Rees Training Center."

In describing the influence that Rees has played on his own career, Hokanson spoke about the legacy he has left with others.

"Leadership is not about the leader, it's about the lead. It's about taking care of people; the men and women who serve and the families that support them," he said. "I am merely one of the many countless soldiers and airmen he has influenced in his sixty-year career...everyone at every rank, every partner at every level have benefited by his counsel and leadership by example."

Maj. Gen. (ret.) Rees began his military career as a cadet at United States Military Academy. After graduating from West Point in 1966 he was assigned as a platoon leader with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in West Germany. In late 1968 he was assigned to serve in Vietnam with the 2nd Battalion, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division.

After joining the Oregon National Guard, he held various roles with the 116th Cavalry Regiment before his first appointment as the Adjutant General of Oregon in 1987. His career took him to the Pentagon and Colorado, before returning to Oregon for his third and fourth terms as the Adjutant General, before retiring in July of 2013. As a government civilian, he was selected as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army

for Training, Readiness, and Mobilization from 2014 to 2019.

Many of these accomplishments were recounted by Oregon State Senator Bill Hansell, who grew up nearby in the town of Athena, "or just a few miles apart – as the crow flies." Their long affiliation dates back to playing basketball against each other at rival High Schools.

"Fred was an outstanding player on an average team," Hansell said, reminiscing to those in attendance. "Bill was an average player on an outstanding team."

As Rees prepared to retire from the military after 47 years of service, Hansell introduced a resolution to acknowledge his contributions to the country, state and region.

"When General Rees retired I was honored to sponsor a Senate resolution, commemorating his distinguished career of serving our nation and Oregon."



Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau (left), and Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon (center) render a hand salute to Maj. Gen. (ret.) Raymond F. Rees (right), as Gen. Hokanson deferred 'Ruffles and Flourishes' to honor Rees during the official renaming ceremony at the Raymond F. Rees Training Center, Umatilla, Oregon.

It was not by chance that the ceremony was held on September 29th. When addressing those attending the ceremony, Oregon's current Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel cleverly acknowledged the conjecture of the date.

"This is truly one of the best birthday gifts that I think I have ever personally delivered," he said, to the applause of those in attendance. "So General Rees – Happy Birthday!"

When talking about the future of the Raymond F. Rees Training Center, Stencel alluded to the new prospects for the site.

"Throughout my career, I've come to recognize that facility dedications like this, are a recommitment to the future," he said. "General Rees represents not only the values of our organization but also this region. With this dedication today we not only honor his legacy and contributions to our state and nation, but with his name, we visibly define what we stand for – for generations to come."



Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, addresses guests and local officials as the host during the renaming ceremony at the Raymond F. Rees Training Center, Umatilla, Oregon.

NEWS

US Army Pacific Co-host Disaster Response Exercise & Exchange in Bangladesh

Story by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Morris Jones
76th Operational Response Command

Photos by Army Sgt. Hannah Hawkins,
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

DHAKA, Bangladesh — The annual Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (DREE), co-hosted by U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) and Bangladesh's Armed Forces Division, was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from Oct. 30 to Nov. 2, 2022. A total of 358 participants from 124 organizations and 27 countries participated in the event.

The 2022 DREE comes soon after the 50th anniversary of bilateral relations between Bangladesh and the United States; furthermore, the DREE is a great example of how the relationship has grown during this period.

The Bangladesh Armed Forces Division, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, and U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) jointly organized the exercise. Brig. Gen. Husain Muhammad Masihur Rahman, Director General of the Operations and Plans Directorate of the Armed Forces Division; Md Kamrul Hasan, Secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management



Oregon National Guardsman Command Sgt. Maj. John Zagya participates with Sanzida Yesmin, Bangladesh Senior Assistant Secretary for the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief in a group session during the Bangladesh Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (DREE) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Nov. 1, 2022.

and Relief; Lt. Gen. Waker-Uz-Zaman, Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division; Dr. Md Enamur Rahman, MP, state minister, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and Brig. Gen. Mark A. Crosby, Assistant Adjutant General-Air for the Oregon National Guard delivered remarks during the opening ceremony at the Army Golf Club in Dhaka.



Bangladeshi fire service members control a hose spraying water towards a real fire during a staged earthquake as part of a field training exercise demonstration for a more realistic show of Bangladesh's response task forces during Bangladesh's Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (DREE) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Nov. 2, 2022.



Various Bangladeshi people act through a staged earthquake as part of a field training exercise demonstration for a more realistic show of Bangladesh's response task forces during Bangladesh's Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (DREE) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Nov. 2, 2022.

This year's exercise focused on best practices for emergency preparedness, especially on preparation for earthquakes. Multiple countries shared knowledge under the theme "Resilience through Preparedness." Crosby, from the Oregon National Guard said the DREE helps develop relationships and disaster response capabilities in the region.

"Your role as emergency responders is important. We all grow as human beings and participating in events like the DREE." He also said that we, "emerge from them better prepared to help the people of our countries in their times of need. I want to thank the Bangladesh Armed Forces Division for hosting this great event over the years and I challenge you to make the most of the DREE and I hope you make many new friends." Brig. Gen. Mark Crosby has attended every Bangladesh DREE since 2010.

USARPAC has a long history of co-hosting the Bangladesh DREE, an event that is a key component of Pacific Resilience. It was started in 2010 and has been held every year except for 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Bangladesh DREE is a comprehensive effort focusing on building multilateral interoperability for disaster response between the United States, Bangladesh, and regional partners. The DREE also identifies areas to increase preparation and reduce risk.

Day two of the event included academic discussions on landslides caused by earthquakes, infectious diseases during incidents, and tsunamipreparation. Further, Chief Master Sgt. Denise Phillips spoke on Gender Equity and Inclusion of Women during disasters. In his closing remarks, Maj. Gen. Reginald Neal highlighted that this was the, "first time we've fully integrated women into all aspects of the response." He also noted that integrating women generates, "a fully integrated response to build operational readiness, and I applaud you for that!"

Day three included a comprehensive tabletop exercise (TTX) to familiarize participants with an earthquake scenario, as well as their roles and responsibilities.

On November 2, Brig. Gen. Husain Muhammad Masihur Rahman and Maj. Gen. Reginald Neal (USARPAC) closed the event. "The benefits we gain from training exercises like this are tremendous," said Neal. "These collaborative efforts will pay great dividends for years to come. You will save many lives in the future from suffering and despair. The friendship we have here will transcend unforeseen future obstacles and challenges and I'm truly excited about the future."

The Bangladesh DREE is one of many Pacific Resilience exercises that occur throughout the Asia-Pacific region. They



Maj. Gen. Reginald Neal of United States Army Pacific Command exchanges greetings with members of the coordination and collaboration booth after observing a field training exercise demonstration for a more realistic show of Bangladesh's response task forces during Bangladesh's Pacific Resilience DREE in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Nov. 2, 2022.

enhance the U.S. government's readiness and preparedness to provide aid when natural disasters happen. Pacific Resilience supports U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's civil-military integration and humanitarian assistance/disaster response (HA/DR) capabilities, the equipment that they do have very effectively," said Lt. Col. San Miguel.

San Miguel hopes to have the Bangladeshi C-IED crew visit Oregon in the near future so that they can continue their training on what has been a successful State Partnership Program exercise in the realm of C-IED and EOD training.



Oregon Air National Guardsman Chief Master Sgt. Denise Phillips interacts with Singapore Logistics Officer Delson Soh during a break period as part of the Bangladesh Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (DREE) held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, November 1, 2022.

NEWS

173rd Fighter Wing commemorates Native American Heritage, culture of service

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

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. - The 173rd Fighter Wing welcomed members of the Klamath Tribes and others of American Indian descent to a ceremony during Native American heritage month, November 6, 2022.

Named the Indigenous Veteran Resiliency Event, local members of the Klamath Tribes and numerous former and currently serving military members attended the event.

Event coordinator, 2nd Lt. Jennifer Hall, the 173rd Fighter Wing health promotion coordinator, welcomed all in attendance explaining that the ceremony, "honors those of you in this room that are currently serving and those that have served, those serving across the country and beyond, and for those that have fallen."

Falling just days before Veteran's Day, the ceremony highlighted the service Native Americans have rendered to the United States dating back to the Civil War.



Members of the local Klamath Tribes attend an event honoring American Indian Heritage Month, Nov. 6, 2022 at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore. The 173rd Fighter Wing hosted this event which featured a first-hand look at an F-15 Eagle ceremony to honor current and former military members of American Indian descent and a traditional drum circle.

One example was Gen. Ely S. Parker, a member of the Seneca Nation who served as Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's military secretary during the Civil War, said Col. Micah Lambert, the 173rd Fighter Wing vice-commander, during his remarks to the group.

"American Indians serve in the United States' Armed Forces at five times the national average," he added.

Hall stated that since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, "19-percent of all American Indians have served in the armed forces," and that 20-percent of Native American's who serve are women.

History finds Native Americans in many iconic moments of military service including at Iwo Jima where Marine Cpl. Ira Hayes of the Pima people, was one of the six Marines who famously erected the U.S. flag there, said Lambert.

He added that 29 service members have been awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest honor the country bestows upon its military heroes.

Six currently serving 173rd Fighter Wing Airmen of American Indian descent were honored, including Tech. Sgt. Kanee Chocktoot of the Klamath and Modoc Tribes, Chief Master Sgt. Ryan Rainville of the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribes, and Tech. Sgt. Angela Brown of the Piute Tribe, among them.



The Klamath Tribes performed a drum circle, a traditional event dating back several thousand years, during a ceremony in honor of American Indian Heritage Month at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore., Nov. 6, 2022. The event featured a first-hand look at an F-15 and a ceremony where American Indian Veterans and current service members were recognized.

Also, crew chief Staff Sgt. Robert Holster of the Choctaw Nation explained how he commissioned nose art for his Kingsley F-15 Eagle, derived from the first code talkers of World War I.

He explained that although the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II are better known, it was during WWI that the Choctaw language helped American forces hide communications from the enemy, thus paving the way for their impact in WWII.

The ceremony concluded with a drum circle performed by the Klamath Tribes, a tradition dating back several thousand years and shared by many tribes across the nation. The Klamath Tribes brought the drum to the base and performed "Soldier Boy," a patriotic song in homage to those who have chosen to serve.

State Partnership Program 10th Anniversary, *can't page 1*

Oregon Military Department Press Release

CLACKAMAS, Ore. - The Oregon National Guard's State Partnership Program celebrated its 10th anniversary working with the Office Vietnam National Committee for Incident, Disaster Response & Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM) on November 15, 2022. The ceremony took place at The Oregon Military Museum on Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon.



Photo by Aaron Perkins, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs
Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, presents Vietnamese Lt. Gen. Nguyen Trong Binh Deputy Chief of General Staff of Vietnam People's Army and Deputy Standing Chairman of Vietnam's National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM), hold a plaque commemorating the tenth anniversary of the State Partnership Program (SPP) with VINASARCOM and the Oregon National Guard on Nov. 15, 2022.

Through State Partnership Program, the National Guard conducts military-to-military engagements in support of defense security goals but also leverages whole-of-society relationships and capabilities to facilitate broader inter-agency and corollary engagements spanning military, government, economic and social spheres. The SPP has been successfully building relationships for over 25 years and now includes 87 partnerships with 95 nations around the globe. In addition to the State Partnership with Vietnam, the Oregon National Guard has also been partnered with Bangladesh since 2008.

"It allows our soldiers and airmen to really visit a lot of other countries, to look at the environment that they operate in, and to really see, in many cases, the same problems — just approached from a different angle, said Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Chief, National Guard Bureau, describing the long term SPP benefits. "We learn a lot in those countries and in those interactions that we bring back to make our organizations better, and I like to think vice versa."



Photo by Aaron Perkins, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs
Oregon National Guard team leaders working on the 10th Anniversary with the Office Vietnam National Committee for Incident, Disaster Response & Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM) gather for group photo at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Oregon, on Nov. 15, 2022.



Photo by Aaron Perkins, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs
Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, presents Vietnamese Lt. Gen. Nguyen Trong Binh Deputy Chief of General Staff of Vietnam People's Army and Deputy Standing Chairman of Vietnam's National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM), cut a ceremonial cake, Nov. 15, 2022.

NEWS

Mobilizations and community response made 2022 a pivotal year

Story by John Hughel,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

SALEM, Ore. - For nearly three years, Oregon National Guard members have been on the front lines of the Coronavirus pandemic, supporting their neighbors and nation. From testing sites to providing vaccines to thousands of Oregonians and other community missions throughout the state. This past year over 1,500 Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen were assigned to Task Force Reassurance, which directed staffing assistance to nearly 50 hospitals around the state.

As the largest domestic mobilization since World War II, the deployment was short-lived. By the end of December, the Omicron variant was surging cases around the nation. During a January 7 press conference, Governor Kate Brown announced the activation of 500 Guardsmen. "We are at another critical point in this pandemic — and the Oregon National Guard is stepping up again to assist."



Photo by Maj. W. Chris Clyne, OMD Public Affairs



Photo by John Hughel, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs
Oregon Army National Guard members assigned to 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, take part in their mobilization ceremony at Camp Withycombe, Oregon on January 2, 2022.

When January began, the second mobilization of nearly 120 Oregon National Guard soldiers assigned to Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment deployed to Poland to support the European Deterrence Initiative, as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve. By month's end, 130 members of Alpha Troop returned from Poland having been mobilized in April of 2021 as part of the same mission supporting NATO allies. Also deploying to Europe during the past year, nearly a dozen members of the 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment were assigned to the United States European Command at Stuttgart, Germany, providing public affairs and media support throughout Europe during their nine-month assignment.

With many of the pandemic protocol restrictions, travel changes allowed for in-person training once again with State Partnership Program host nations. In October of 2021, the 10th Annual Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange between the government of Bangladesh and the U.S. Army Pacific took place in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and focused on the dual disasters of earthquake management during a pandemic. Six months later in March, Oregon Guardsmen took part in "Tiger Lightning 2022," a bilateral exercise sponsored by U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and hosted by the

Bangladesh Armed Forces. The training helped to strengthen Bangladesh's defense readiness and interoperability while reinforcing the partnership between the Bangladesh military and the Oregon State National Guard.

Combined allied disaster training is a key component to working with Joint Partnership nations but the foundation for this groundwork stems from the

frequent missions here in the U.S. Hundreds of Guardsmen took part in a large-scale multi-day exercise in mid-June at Camp Rilea, which brought together the 102nd CBRNE and Oregon National Guard CERFP. While these two field training exercises were taking place, members of the 173rd Fighter Wing took part in an earthquake and readiness tabletop

exercise, which stimulated some of the expected chaos following a Cascadia Subduction Zone event. Guard members worked with state and federal agency partners, practicing emergency medical response, and rescue operations. The basis of this training is the hallmark of real-life emergency circumstances.

After completing a day of small arms training, Airmen with the 125th Special Tactics Squadron were in a convoy heading to Gowen Field in Idaho on May 15 - when an auto accident involving two motorcycles on Interstate 84 highway, unfolding in front of them. The extreme injuries required immediate medical attention and the Airmen provided on-the-spot first aid. Senior Master Sergeant Stephen Studenny, the 125th STS Senior enlisted leader proudly said, "You have over a combined century's worth of combat experience with the medics that we had on the ground. If I'm ever in a situation that bad of trauma, those are the guys I want working on me."

As summer began the world turned its eyes to the World Athletics Champions, held at the historic and refurbished Hayward Field in Eugene. The Oregon National Guard's 102nd Weapons of Mass Destruction – Civil Support Team was called upon by the Eugene Police Department to provide 24-hour Hazard Assessment Team Operations for the 10-day event from June 15-24. This was the first time the World Champions meet have been held in the United States, as nearly 2,100 of the best

Track and Field athletes from over 200 countries competed.

After winning the Oregon Army National Guard Best Warrior Soldier competition in February, Specialist Wyatt Walls, assigned to HHB, 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery advanced to the Region 6 Championships in May, held at Camp Guernsey JTC in Wyoming. Walls bested all contenders and moved on to the National Best Warrior Championships in Nashville, Tennessee from July 24-29. Then in late September and early October, Walls was selected as one of just five Army National Guard team members - from the 54 states and U.S. territories to compete in the U.S. Army's Inaugural Best Squad Competition held at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

With a fitting conclusion to the fiscal year, Camp Umatilla has formally renamed the Rees Training Center on September 29, honoring retired Major General Raymond F. Rees, who served four terms



Photo by Maj. W. Chris Clyne, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs
HH-60 MEDEVAC Helicopter Crew, Sgt. 1st Class Mark Carter, 1st Lt. Conner Breedlove, Chief Warrant Officer Corey Wadsworth, and Spc. Blakely Stone at Medford Airport, Ore., Sept. 2, 2022. Oregon National Guard members support fire fighting efforts with traffic control and medical air evacuation and helicopter assets.

as the Adjutant General of Oregon prior to his retirement in 2013. Returning home to Oregon, General Daniel R. Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau was the keynote speaker for the event. Hokanson, who served as the Adjutant General following Rees's retirement described the impact his mentor had on so many, during his formal remarks. "I am merely one of the many countless soldiers and airmen he has influenced in his 60-year career," he said.



U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Emily Opio-Wright
Spc. Wyatt Walls, representing the U.S. Army National Guard, prepares for a task during the U.S. Army Best Squad Competition at Fort Bragg, N.C., Oct. 3, 2022. The Army Best Squad Competition tests Soldiers on their individual and collective ability to adapt to and overcome challenging scenarios and battle-readiness.

Throughout the year, the Oregon Guardsmen lived up to their motto of "Always ready, Always there," when responding to wildland firefighting and Search and Rescue operations. At any given time, there is no shortage of incidents large or small when supporting the Oregonians' needs. SAR coordinator Scott Lucas said that "There's some type of Search and Rescue operation in the state every single day. With so many remote wilderness areas, we typically have close to 1,100 missions a year." In 2022, the Oregon Army National Guard flew 12 SAR Missions, primarily using UH-60M Blackhawks to recover severely injured patients. With all of the mobilizations, training exercises, and community response efforts, 2022 proved to be a pivotal year for the Oregon National Guard.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Yuki Klein, 142nd Wing Public Affairs
Oregon ANG Commander Brig. Gen. Donna Prigmore and 142nd Medical Group Commander, Col. Damon Armitage, speak with CERFP Commander, Lt. Col. Christopher Webb, while on a site visit during an Air and Army disaster response exercise and evaluation at Camp Umatilla, near Hermiston, Oregon, on June 15, 2022.

NEWS

1-186 Infantry Brigade prepares for intensified 2023 summer training

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

ASHLAND, Ore. - The Oregon Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), is preparing for the eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) at Camp Roberts, California, scheduled for the summer of 2023. Additionally, the battalion has recently redeployed from a rotational deployment in Djibouti in 2020. Since the Djibouti deployment, 1-186 has been instrumental in the Oregon National Guard's domestic responses, including fighting wildfires, the Capitol security mission, and Oregon Hospital Support during the COVID pandemic.

Currently, the 1-186 Infantry Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) is conducting staff training over multiple Inactive Duty Training periods in Military Decision Making Process (MDMP), Joint Battle Command - Platform (JBC-P), and Command Post of the Future (CPOF) to prepare them for the XCTC rotation.



Mission Command Training Program (MCTP) contractor Pernel Edwards instructs 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oregon National Guard Soldiers on the Joint Battle Command-Platform (JBC-P) in Ashland, Oregon, on September 9, 2022.

Oregon Army National Guard Commander Wins MacArthur Award

Story and photo by Maj. W. Chris Clyne,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Oregon Army National Guard Captain Taylor B. Frye from Pendleton, Oregon, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment, is the recipient of the General MacArthur Leadership Award, that was announced on Oct. 26, 2022, at the Pentagon here in Washington, DC. The prestigious award was given to 28 Army awardees, with a majority of those selected coming from active duty service.

Gen. Randy A. George, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, and Mr. Richard G. Diamonstein, General Douglas MacArthur Foundation Board of Directors, spoke and made the Award Presentations at the ceremony.

"I want to thank you for the positive impact up-front that you had on soldiers, Gen. George said, while addressing the awardees, "Being a great leader takes energy, and I want to thank you for the energy and commitment you put into doing that."

A Pentagon statement noted that "The General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award recognizes company-grade commissioned officers and warrant

Battalion Executive Officer Maj. Josh Rapp, an estimator and project manager for Knife River in his civilian occupation, said, "Training for XCTC is a very significant gate that will ensure we are prepared for a JRTC in 2024. We are approaching XCTC with the same rigor that we would a combat rotation overseas."

Before going to the U.S. Army's Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk, Louisiana, the battalion is preparing for Camp Roberts.

The Army National Guard (ARNG) says, "XCTC is the ARNG's program of record that enables Brigade Combat Teams (BCT) to achieve trained Platoon readiness in preparation for a Maneuver Combat Training Center (MCTC) rotation like JRTC. Exercising units achieve this readiness in the training year before their MCTC rotation through highly realistic, immersive, and fully instrumented training. XCTC allows commanders to assess their unit's Mission Essential Task and Collective Live Fire proficiency levels." The battalion is constantly planning for future operations, "We just sent an entire company with the California National



Oregon National Guard Capt. Jared Hoffer, 1st Lt. Jeremy Edwards, and 2nd Lt. Andrew Shute of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st IBCT, review military decision-making process products during a training session supported by Mission Command Training Program contractors in Ashland, Ore., Sept. 10, 2022.

Guard to JRTC this summer. This training support will also help us prepare for JRTC since we have an entire company's worth of soldiers who've already seen what it will look like there." Said Rapp, "but the short-term target is XCTC."

"So, besides the staff training, we've packed three battalion field training exercises into our training plan this year to prepare to meet all the requirements going into Camp Roberts."

Commenting on the upcoming training events, Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Jered Carpenter, an Oregon Department of Transportation engineer in his civilian occupation, said, "JRTC is game day, and we're focused on winning. So everything we do from now until we get to Ft. Polk in the summer of 24' is just game prep. I'd be pretty worried if I were Geronimo."

Geronimo referring to the nickname for the U.S. Army active duty Opposing Force (OPFOR) 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment the 1-186 Infantry Battalion, will battle at JRTC.



Gen. Randy A. George, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, and Mr. Richard G. Diamonstein, General Douglas MacArthur Foundation Board of Directors, Present the General MacArthur Leadership Award to Capt. Taylor B. Frye, on Oct. 26, 2022, at the Pentagon in Washington, DC.

officers in the Active Army, the Army Reserve, and the Army National Guard that demonstrate the ideals for which General Douglas MacArthur stood: DUTY, HONOR, and COUNTRY.

The award promotes and sustains effective junior officer leadership in the United States Army. Selection is based on overall leadership performance throughout the calendar year."

When asked what leadership means to him, Capt. Frye said, "It's all about caring, just taking the time to care about your soldiers, to care about your subordinates, to care about your leaders, and giving them the dedication they deserve."

The recipients receive an engraved 15-pound bronze bust of General Douglas MacArthur mounted on a walnut pedestal. The statues are cast in Chester, Pennsylvania, and sculpted by Zenos Frudakis, director of the National Sculpture Society.

From a speech giving at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York on May, 12, 1962, General Douglas MacArthur emphasized these three leadership traits: Duty, Honor, and County. "Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying points: to build courage when courage seems to fail, to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, to create hope when hope becomes forlorn."

OREGON NATIONAL GUARD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND REGIONAL EVENTS

Oregon National Guard members take part in Albany Veterans Day events



Photo by Maj. W. Chris Clyne, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs
Soldiers of the Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Battalion, Oregon National Guard fire their M119 howitzer in a salute at the Linn County Veterans Memorial Service in Albany, Oregon, Nov. 11, 2022.



Photo by Maj. W. Chris Clyne, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs
Lebanon High School JROTC Color Guard retires the flags at the Linn County Veterans Memorial Service, Albany, Oregon, Nov. 11, 2022.



Photo by John Hughe, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs
Members of the Oregon National Guard 234th Army Band march in the 71st Annual Linn County Veterans Day Parade in Albany, Oregon on Nov. 11, 2022.



Photo by Maj. W. Chris Clyne, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs
Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Mark Crosby, Assistant Adjutant General - Air, and Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Nathan Flores greet spectator as they walk along the beginning of the Linn County Veterans Day Parade in Albany, Oregon, Nov. 11, 2022.



Photos by John Hughe, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs
(Above) Young spectator wave and greet participants at the 71st Annual Linn County Veterans Day Parade in Albany, Oregon, on Nov. 11, 2022. The event is recognized as one of the largest Veterans Day parades in the United States each year.

(Left) American Veterans from every generation take part in the Linn County Veterans Day Parade that featured over 150 entries from around the state of Oregon.

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation." ~ George Washington



Photo by John Hughe, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs
An Oregon National Guard Joint Color Guard leads the beginning of the 71st Annual Linn County Veterans Day Parade in Albany, Oregon, on November 11, 2022.



Photo by Maj. W. Chris Clyne, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs
Thousands of spectators turned out on a cloudy afternoon to watch the 71st annual Linn County Veterans Day Parade in Albany, Oregon, on November 11, 2022. The event is recognized as one of the largest Veterans Day parades held each year in the United States.



Photo by John Hughe, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs
Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers march information as they pass the reviewing stand during the 71st Annual Linn County Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11, 2022.



Photo by John Hughe, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs
Brig. Gen. Mark Crosby, Assistant Adjutant General for Air (left) along with Albany, Oregon Mayor Alex Johnson (center) and Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Nathan Flores (right) and other guest enjoy the 71st Annual Linn County Veterans Day Parade.

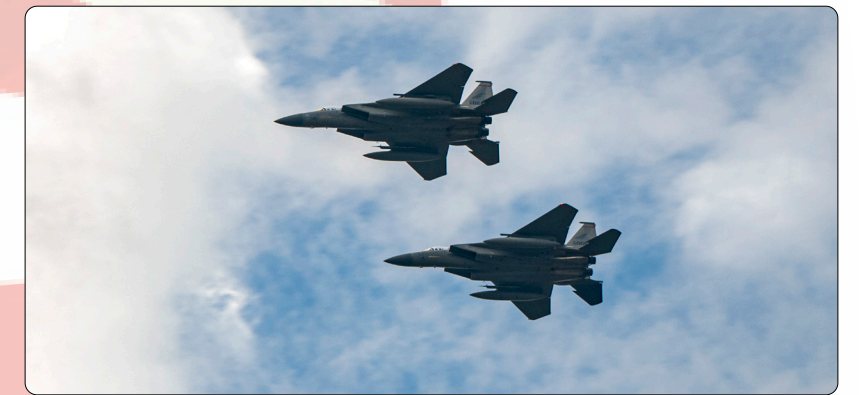


Photo by John Hughe, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs
Two Oregon F-15 Eagles assigned to the 142nd Wing, fly over Albany, Oregon, to begin the 71st Annual Linn County Veterans Day Parade.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Amy Elker, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs
Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Mesa, a 22-year old and youngest veteran in attendance at the 71st Annual Veteran of the Year Banquet, Albany, Oregon, on Nov. 10, serving the first slice of cake to the oldest veteran in attendance, David Russell, a 102-year-old Pearl Harbor survivor.

Veterans of the Year Banquet
November 10th

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Amy Elker, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs
Oregon National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel speaks to a crowd of Veterans at the 71st Annual Veteran of the Year Banquet the evening of Nov. 10, 2022. Stencel was the keynote speaker at the banquet, which was held at the Linn County Expo Center, Albany, Oregon, the evening of Nov. 10, 2022. Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker, Master of Ceremonies, and his granddaughter are seated to the left.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Amy Elker, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs
Shelly Boshart Davis, State Representative for House District 15, presents David Solomon with the Linn County Veterans Day Parade Veteran of the Year award during the 71st Annual Veteran of the Year Banquet. The banquet was held for the first time in three years at the Linn County Expo Center, Albany, Oregon, the evening of Nov. 10, 2022.

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

142nd Wing celebrates “Family Day” at the Portland Air Nat’l Guard Base

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Alexander Frank,
142nd Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. - Airmen and families from the 142nd Wing gathered to celebrate Family Day at Portland Air National Guard Base (PANGB) Oregon, on September 11, 2022. The event marked the first time Airmen and families have gathered since 2019 due to COVID-19-related restrictions.

During the celebration, service members and their families enjoyed live music, carnival games, food carts, and various other activities. It was all part of an effort to bring the larger 142nd community together and refocus on the essential role that family has on mission success.

Wing Commander Col. Todd Hofford, stressed that the event isn't just an opportunity to have fun, but an important component of overall readiness.



Airmen and families from the 142nd Wing celebrate “Family Day” during the September Regularly Scheduled Drill (RSD) at Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, Oregon, on September 11, 2022.

“Family Day is in line with the Wing’s number one priority which is to ‘Trust and Care for One Another,’” said Hofford. “Our military families deserve recognition and praise from the highest levels and Family Day is one way in which we can give back to those who care for us most.”



Families from the 142nd Wing celebrate “Family Day” while checking out a ‘robot dog’ at Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, Oregon, on September 11, 2022.

Heather Gauthier-Bell, 142nd Wing Director of Psychological Health, and one of the organizers of the event, wanted to use the celebration as an opportunity to showcase resources available not just to Airmen, but to spouses who don't frequently visit the base.

“So often spouses, especially during COVID, didn't come out to the base,” said Gauthier-Bell. “For them to be able to come out and see the resources that are available to them and meet those service providers and get information is really crucial.”

Some of the services available at the event included representatives from the American Red Cross, Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), and the 142nd Wing's own Resiliency Team. Service members could gather information about mental health resources, deployment support, or even just grab some back-to-school supplies for military youth. It's part of a broader focus on putting family first.

“This is kind of an opportunity for us to put our money where our mouth is,” said Gauthier-Bell. “For people to come together to see

each other again and regain that sense of community.”

Whether it was the sound of children gleefully rocketing down an inflatable slide, or the nervous screams of parents during a live reptile show, it was clear through the jubilant atmosphere that the celebration was a rousing success. While the events of the last few years might have kept military community members apart, it's clearly a bond that is easily reformed and essential to overall mission readiness.

“My hope is for no spouse or child to be a stranger to this Wing,” said Hofford “There is no greater priority in this world than our families.”



The “Family Day” event was the 142nd's first in-person gathering of family and service members since 2019 due to COVID-19-related restrictions. Organizers sought to provide family fun while highlighting the various resources available to Airmen and their families.



142nd Wing Firefighters gain critical skills during training in Arizona

Story and photo by Airman 1st Class Yuki Klein,
142nd Wing Public Affairs

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.- Firefighters assigned to the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Wing, Portland Air National Guard Base (PANG), trained with firefighters from Luke Air Force Base, Arizona to accomplish their annual training from August 5 - 19, 2022.

During their two weeks of training, the team trained on live fires, F-35 Lightning II and F-16 Fighting Falcons egress procedures, fire suppressant techniques, medical training, as well as combat arms training and qualification.

Training away from home base provides an opportunity for Airmen to broaden their skill sets by taking advantage of resources that are not readily available at PANG. Additionally, it enables joint-training with the host unit, in this case, firefighters from Luke Air Force Base's 56th Fighter Wing.

During their time in Arizona, the team was able to cross several items off their annual training checklist. Tech. Sgt. Dylan Congrove, a fire fighter for the 142nd Wing, and one

of the senior ranking members of the team, stressed the importance and impact of training this way and getting to see the big Air Force picture.



A firefighter from the 142nd Wing participates in annual training at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., Aug. 16, 2022. During their two-week temporary duty assignment, 142nd Wing firefighters trained on live fires, aircraft egress, and fire suppressant techniques.

“The Air Force is a global entity right?... and so it's nice to be able to get out there and see all of it, especially for some of our newer folks, to realize that the Air Force and the Air National Guard, is much bigger than just PANG,” said Congrove.

This is not the first time the team has traveled for annual training. Over the past few years, PANG's firefighters have trained at Keesler Air Force Base,

Mississippi, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, and Marine Corps Base, Hawaii.

Each of these training endeavors has provided unique challenges and learning scenarios as well as opportunities for multi-unit collaboration and relationship building.

For Senior Airman Cole Siemon, a firefighter with the 142nd Wing, this training is a first. Fighting fires in the Arizona heat has been a unique and physically demanding experience for the young Airman.

“Its a different type of heat and being in all of our gear, or in the trucks, or just even outside in the direct sunlight, it's super hot,” said Siemon. “As a firefighter, it really limits you physically. It's an adjustment for sure, but that's what we're here to do.”

Congrove says that working with the Luke AFB firefighters and learning new skills has been crucial for the team.

“It is extremely valuable to get out here and do this kind of training,” said Congrove. “It helps prevent the tunnel vision of just focusing on one mission, one type of airframe, and realizing the bigger picture and what's out there, which is important when we deploy.”

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

F-15C/D Eagle fleet prepares to stand down after 50 years of vigilance

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

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. - For 24 years the F-15 Eagle has roared over the city of Klamath Falls, Oregon, flying countless training missions and supplying air superiority pilots to the U.S. Air Force.

This aircraft is special in its own right boasting an undefeated record in combat and a service life reaching back 50 years—a remarkable lifespan for a fighter aircraft.

Those days are nearing their end however as the retirement of the aircraft is fast approaching.

So, where will they go? It turns out, a number of different places—the sunny Arizona desert, Israel, NASA, and some are going on to fame and notoriety of sorts...

On September 11, 2016, saw eight Kingsley F-15 Eagles transferred directly to the Israeli Air Force where they are still flying today—the first-ever active ramp-to-ramp transfer of aircraft.

“Several of our jets were scheduled for retirement and they were going to be taken to the bone yard; one of the options that came up was FMS [Foreign Military Sales],” said Air Force Lt. Col. Matthew Thomas, the detachment commander for the deployment at the time.



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

Since 1998 the 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Oregon, has flown the F-15 Eagle both A/B and C/D models, which are now nearing their eventual retirement. The wing retired 11 airframes this year and expects to see the majority of the fleet retiring in the next two years.

Another aircraft was transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, better known as NASA, where it will be a part of their chase plane program helping capture research data for their airborne platforms.

“We transferred aircraft 78-0515 this last July,” said Senior Master Sgt. Jay Bosse, a maintenance management production scheduler.

Some Kingsley aircraft go on to become a “rock stars”—figuratively speaking—they will transfer to the National Museum of the United States Air Force are subsequent be loaned to a community for public display. Once a city or town expresses an interest and are approved, they go on a

waiting list to receive a piece of Air Force history. With the retirement of the Eagle fleet that list is shrinking rapidly as the museum transfers jets to communities around the country.

Kingsley Field has three of these jets, an A-model F-15 that flew here, which was transferred to the museum upon its retirement and subsequently put on-loan to the base for the static display. Additionally, there is an

F-4 Phantom II and an F-16 Fighting Falcon on display, which both flew over the base and region in their days of active service.

The National Museum of the United States Air Force has also approved one Kingsley Field F-15 Eagle to transfer to the local community, Klamath Falls, Oregon, for public display.

Finally, many jets are retiring to sunny Arizona. Commonly known as “The Boneyard”, the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group, takes jets and mothballs them in the southwest desert.

Like legions of retirement age Americans the jets enjoy the low humidity and lack of snow or rain for their later years. It's an environment that helps preserve the aircraft in the event they should be called back to service. This year the 173rd Fighter Wing has seen the retirement of 11 aircraft and will continue to see Eagles move on to their ‘golden years’ for another year or so.



File photo by Staff Sgt. Penny Snoozy, 173rd FW Public Affairs
September 11, 2016 saw eight jets leave the 173rd FW for the last time as they transit to Israel in the first active ramp-to-ramp transfer of aircraft under the purview of Foreign Military Sales.

173rd Communications Flight practices domestic operations response skills

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Penny Snoozy,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. - The 173rd Fighter Wing Communications Flight practiced domestic operations skills with their Army National Guard counterparts from Salem, Oregon, on September 10, 2022. Together they set up an internet satellite and a radio tower while training to stand up the Joint Incident Sight Communication Capability (JISCC).

“Our goal is to have members that are trained and ready to go out the door utilizing the domestic response capability of the JISCC,” said Oregon Air National Guard Capt. Tracy Coon, the 173rd Communications Flight commander.



Oregon Air National Guard Senior Master Sgt. Michael Moore, 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron, set up tactical solar panels and batteries Sept. 10, 2022, at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

“If disaster strikes, we then have the tools and Airmen needed to support the emergency response efforts to enhance aid to citizens of Oregon.”

There were two main pieces of equipment being installed for the JISCC—the satellite terminal and the multiband omni-directional antenna. The satellite provides average commercial internet speeds to the site where it is set up and can communicate with any JISCC that is set up.

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Christopher Brewer says the importance of the multiband omni-directional antenna is that it allows the user to connect to UHF, VHF, and 700 and 800 bands all simultaneously.

“The goal is to set up in 45 minutes to one hour for an experienced team, which requires training like we’re doing today,” said Brewer.

To power these communications tools, the members used generators and

a flexible, 12-panel solar system unit with battery storage supplied by the 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron. The set-up allows for the JISCC to run in an austere environment, day or night and provides an essential function during potential disasters.

“The joint training between Army and Air Guard has greatly enhanced my team’s capabilities so they can confidently respond anytime, anywhere,” said Coon.



Oregon Air National Guardsmen assigned to the 173rd Fighter Wing Communications Flight, set up a satellite at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore., on Sept. 10, 2022. The unit members worked with their counterparts from the Oregon Army National Guard, setting up a commercial internet satellite and a radio tower while training to stand up the Joint Incident Sight Communication Capability to enhance their capability to respond to domestic operations.

FEATURES

Oregon Army National Guard Service Member and Family Support offers life-saving suicide intervention training to Soldiers

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Amy Elker,
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

SALEM, Ore. — Marital and family strife, issues at work, financial stress, hardships due to deployments and a myriad of other issues may lead a service member to contemplate suicide when they feel there is no other way out. While the causes of suicide are complex and not fully understood, the additional life stressors resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, has only heightened the awareness of mental health concerns that Guard members and civilians may face.

The Oregon Army National Guard's (ORANG) Service Member and Family Support (SMFS) program offers training for Soldiers to help them recognize those who may have suicidal ideation and get them the help they need before it is too late. The Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) is a two-day interactive workshop that instructs participants in providing life-assisting suicide first-aid intervention to those at risk for suicidal thinking, behavior and/or attempts.

The training utilizes the Pathway for Assisting Life (PAL) model, which is made up of three steps. These steps involve recognizing a person who has suicidal thoughts and making a connection, understanding his or her story and choices, and working together to develop a "safeplan" to keep the individual safe from immediate harm and resources to receive further help.

After training, participants will be more equipped to: identify those who have thoughts of suicide; understand how beliefs and attitudes can affect suicide interventions; listen to the story of a person with thoughts of suicide and recognize turning points that connect that person to life; as well as conduct a safety assessment, develop a safeplan and confirm the safety actions to be carried out.

Steven Deluna, Resilience and Risk Reduction program lead, SMFS, ORANG, is one of the ASIST training facilitators. Deluna said every single member of the Guard community should take the ASIST training.

"Often times, people don't feel comfortable or confident to take on these conversations, which leads to the culture of our community, (Oregon National Guard) being incredibly passive and assuming others will be the one to help, but not us," Deluna said. "While the professionals may be more prepared and equipped to provide support and intervention, they're not the first ones, typically, to come across someone in need. We all, individually, are each other's front-line leaders and need to have the confidence and tools to take care of each other on a human level."

Vicki Farnsworth, Risk Reduction coordinator and interim Suicide Prevention coordinator, is the other ASIST training facilitator. Farnsworth said while this training is essential as a first-line of defense for suicide, it is more than that.

"This course teaches us how to address the larger issue of connectedness, and reducing the hopelessness and helplessness that comes with isolation," she said. "We are all human and deserve to have a connection to life, build rapport with others, and care for our fellow person."

Maj. Robert Earhart, DCSOPS Training Branch Chief, JFHQ, Oregon National Guard, attended the ASIST training last December. Though he had previously attended Master Resilience Training (MRT), that was his first time attending ASIST.

Earhart said he wanted to participate in the training because he knows how much of a personal impact resiliency training has had on him, and has guided how he interacts with others.



Utilizing the Pathway for Assistance Life (PAL) model, Steven Deluna [Center background] observes the interaction of two members attending a training course in December of 2021.

"I felt learning ASIST would help me recognize warning signs and red flags in other soldiers, as well as people in my civilian life, and allow me to intercede appropriately," he said. "Having more people trained on ASIST in my unit also makes us stronger and more supportive of each other."

During the training, each participant has to role play a scenario, with one individual contemplating suicide and the other applying PAL.

"Genuinely reacting to someone talk about suicide is a scary process because you don't want to react harshly or say something that could push them away," Earhart said. "On the flipside, putting yourself in the shoes of someone with suicidal ideation is tough because you have to consider how they'd express their feelings, what they'd be willing to share, and how open they might be to getting help."

Farnsworth believes ASIST is something everyone should be trained and retrained on to ensure people in distress have people to talk to, both in the military and in our civilian lives.

"At least two people in every squad, as well as officers and NCOs responsible for leading soldiers should be trained and able to sit down with someone to discuss how they're feeling," she said. "Too many service members and veterans die from suicide every day, and if a genuine and heartfelt conversation can begin the process to help them recover from suicidal ideation, then it should be one of the military's highest priorities."

Within the last year, attendees from previous ASIST trainings have provided one-to-one life-saving interventions. Farnsworth said one recent ASIST graduate provided intervention after seeing an alarming post on social media. Another ASIST trained service member led a fellow Soldier through PAL until the "safe for now" status had been established. The service member then communicated the situation to someone in their chain-of-command who dropped everything to go check on the distressed Soldier.

"It would be amazing if every single person in the Guard could attend this training," Earhart said, "because that would mean we'd have that many more eyes and ears watching for signs of suicidal ideation in each other."

While the ASIST training is available to all Oregon National Guard members and their families, funding is only available for Army Guard Soldiers who will be placed on orders to receive pay, travel and lodging for their attendance. The training is provided four times a year, once every quarter, which is typically scheduled in four different cities to make it as accessible to Soldiers as possible. The four trainings courses that will take place in 2023 will be held in Portland, Salem, Bend and Medford. If you or a Soldier in your unit is interested in attending the training, please contact Vicki Farnsworth by email at: vicki.r.farnsworth.ctr@army.mil or by phone at 971-355-3430.

Dates and Locations for training:

Anderson Readiness Center in Salem from 18 January – 19 January 2023.

Camp Withycombe in Clackamas from 22 March – 23 March 2023.

Bend National Guard Armory in Bend from 10 May – 11 May 2023.

Medford National Guard Armory in Medford from 12 July – 13 July 2023.

Course Hours: The course hours are 0800 - 1630 daily. Time lines are driven by the Course Instructors. It is required that you attend both days of training to complete the course and receive certification. Report with required documents and classroom items (notebook, pens, highlighters, etc.) Workbooks will be provided.

Uniform: The Uniform for Service Member and Civilians/Technicians is business casual (no jeans, shorts, flip flops, provocative attire, etc.).

Important Note: In July of 2022, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 988 number went into effect, making it quicker and easier to access help. Now, instead of trying to recall a 1-800 number, the Veteran/Military Crisis Line may be reached by dialing 988, then pressing 1.

If you, or someone you know is struggling with thoughts of suicide, you do not have to struggle in isolation. Please contact the crisis line, someone in your chain of command, the Chaplain, or Behavioral Health staff member.

FEATURES

The Portland Air National Guard Base Chapel: A generational beacon of hope

Story by Airman 1st Class Yuki Klein &
Photos by Master Sgt. Steph Sawyer,
142nd Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. - Throughout 2022, members of the 142nd Wing have helped to clean up and restore the firmly standing World War II chapel building on Portland Air National Guard Base.

The Base Chapel was built in 1941 as a temporary structure and has persevered through natural disasters and housed many events over the years. It was closed for renovation back in 2016 and officially reopened in April of 2022.



Volunteers work to clean up vegetation surrounding the Portland Air Base Chapel on July 16, 2022.

Following the chapel's reopening, a re-vamp of the chapel has enabled members of the 142nd Wing to come together as a community, sharing commander's calls, chapel services, other notable and significant events.

One such event included a change of command ceremony wherein the 142nd Wing Security Forces Commander, Capt. Noah Irshad, became the Security Forces Squadron commander. The ceremony was one of the first public events to be held in the chapel following its reopening.

Irshad remarked on this major career milestone and the significance of holding it in the same historic chapel where others

before him have done the same.

"The chapel was a great place for the [Security Forces Squadron] change of command," said Irshad. "It [was] an honor to take command and to do it in a historic building like the chapel made it that much better."

Chaplain (Maj.) Robert Edwards, 142nd Wing Chaplain has played an active role in making the chapel whole again.

"It's great. One of the things that's wonderful about it is that it's gotten more use in the last three months than it ever did," said Edwards. "People are seeing it more during Commanders calls [and] changes of command. There's more seating capacity here than anywhere else on base."

In an effort to get the chapel in service able condition, service members from the 142nd Wing have worked together to refurbish the World War II era relic, including 142nd Wing Chaplain Corps superintendent, Master Sgt. Sara Wassam.

"We want to make it a welcoming space for all," said Wassam. "This includes having weddings or ceremonies, family movie nights, a safe place for meetings such as Alcoholics Anonymous. We are excited for what the Chapel will offer for our military and family community."

In addition to fostering a sense of community, the chapel has become a symbol of love as numerous service members have held their wedding ceremonies there.

Command Senior Enlisted Leader of the Oregon National Guard, Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Conner, has served in the state of Oregon for nearly 40 years, with many of those

years served at the Portland Air National Guard Base. Conner married his wife, Pamela on October 10, 1998, in the Base Chapel.

"I am very proud of my service. So to be able to do it there was something that my family also enjoyed because they all championed for me, and were proud of my service as well. So being able to do it there was definitely something that represented me," said Conner.

Through the excitement of getting the chapel up and running again, Wassam highlighted that it was not always smooth sailing. Along with the chapel clean up, they also had their everyday duties that needed to be accomplished.

"One of our biggest challenges was only having two of us in the Chaplain Corps to assist with the project: Chaplain Edwards and myself," said Wassam.

On the bright side, through the clouds came a ray of sunshine, with help from enlisted members and contributions from leadership, the chapel rehabilitation was, to its core, a team effort. "Watching us all come together has been a highlight of my nearly 20-year career," said Wassam.

According to Wassam, next up is the continuation of cosmetic renovation, such as the lighting, painting the interior, implementing new flooring, and refinishing the pews.

As the years go by one thing that stands firm is the Portland Air National Guard Base Chapel. Not just a building, but a home for the airmen to come together, through religious services, community meetings, and refurbishing projects, the chapel is timeless.



Volunteers spend the day clean windows and pews inside the base chapel at Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore., on July 16, 2022.

Service Member and Family Support contractor wins DOD award

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

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Department of Defense honored a group dedicated individuals, Sept. 7, 2022, who have committed to increasing awareness about suicide prevention during the 2020-2021 Department of Defense Suicide Prevention Recognition Ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

One of the awardees was Vicki Farnsworth, the former Suicide Prevention and Risk Reduction Coordinator for the Oregon National Guard Service Member and Family Support (SFMS) Program, who is currently the SMFS Marketing Lead and Resilience Coordinator. Farnsworth attend the ceremony with Carrie Froelich, State Family Programs Director, and SMFS Branch Chief. Dale Williams, ORNG Director of Human Resources.

During the ceremony, Mr. William Booth, Director, Defense Human Resources Activity (DHRA) honored Farnsworth and the Oregon National Guard program for exceptional efforts to increase suicide prevention awareness and community engagement during Suicide Prevention Month and throughout the year.

Farnsworth had notable accomplishments including the first annual Walk for Suicide Prevention, a

Suicide Prevention Brief & Discussion with the Oregon National Guard teen panel, the production of two video messages on suicide prevention, and participation in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training training.



DoD photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jack Sanders
Members of the Oregon National Guard Service Member and Family support pause for a photo at the Suicide Prevention recognition ceremony hosted by William Booth, Director, Defense Human Resources Activity, at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., Sept. 7, 2022.

"Building relationships consisting of trust and grasping the idea that we can be there for one another is what I am most proud of" said Farnsworth. "When Soldiers contact me to just ask if I can provide resources, I feel as though that is a win."

Since 2016, the DOD ceremony has

recognized installations for their efforts. The ceremony honors the recipients' year-round accomplishments, including their efforts during Suicide Prevention Month each September and their dedication to life-saving work.

"We need people to be leaders at every level, because even the smallest gestures matter like saying hello when you pass someone in the hallway, or asking a colleague how they're doing or checking in with a friend that you haven't talked to in a while, or backing up a teammate so they can get the care and support they need," said Deputy Secretary of Defense Dr. Kathleen Hicks.

Farnsworth acknowledged the Service Member and Family Support team and others who have worked to raise awareness and help prevent suicide saying the efforts of suicide prevention in Oregon is truly a team effort.

For Suicide Awareness Month Farnsworth also participated on the podcast "Hope in the Trenches" hosted by the Oregon National Guard State Chaplain, Col. Jacob Scott. Farnsworth described the training she conducted for ORNG senior leadership, point out the importance of understanding of being vulnerable and seeking help is okay.

"It's a strength and not a weakness to talk about your emotion, to talk about your vulnerability as long as you're doing it in a healthy way," she said.

FEATURES

Guardsman represents 142nd Wing at 2022 Air Force Marathon

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

PORTLAND, Ore. - Senior Airman Susi Traudt has been a drill-status Guardsman at Portland Air National Guard Base for over four years. As a search and extraction medic for the 142nd Medical Group, Detachment 1, Traudt trained to search and locate disaster victims, assessing and treating immediate life-threatening injuries, and stabilizing them for safe removal from the hazardous area.

Her skillset includes confined space, structural collapse, and rope rescue. Traudt said that she enjoyed the physically demanding nature of her job.

"I was already an [emergency medical technician] as a previous firefighter, so I liked the hands-on first responder role," said Traudt.

Traudt joined the Oregon Air National Guard at age 33, later in life than most, but what inspired her to serve was her husband, Tech. Sgt. Tim Traudt, a firefighter assigned to the 142nd Civil Engineer Squadron.

"I was always so intrigued with what he did and I was so proud of him and the work he was doing," said Susi Traudt. "My husband really lit that fire under me to think about it. I had never considered it before."

Since joining the unit, Traudt has become an invaluable member of "TEAM 142." A highly motivated individual, Traudt recently completed her master's degree in organizational leadership at Western Oregon University and is set to commission into the 142nd Force Support Squadron in the future.

In 2019, she began volunteering to help

with run analysis and teaching best running practices for Wing members, in coordination with Run Doctor, Dr. Mark Cucuzzella.

Traudt has been an avid runner for more than a decade. Running, she said, helped her through a difficult time in her life and has since been a way to cope with life's challenges.

"Running has really become my pressure release valve," said Traudt. "It gives me mental clarity. It's really like a meditative time to myself."

Traudt's love for running began when she completed her first race at the age of 24.

"I'm not sure what possessed me to sign up for a race, but I did," said Traudt. "It was really slow and I had to take a lot of walk breaks but I did a half marathon and I was just invigorated. Something just sparked."

This year, Traudt had the distinct honor of being selected to run on the Air National Guard team as part of the Air and Space Challenge for the 26th annual Air Force Marathon.

The Air and Space Challenge involves teams from across the U.S. Air and Space Forces who compete against each other. Each team is comprised of 10 individuals, three women and seven men. Each team member will run either the full or half marathon.

Traudt was the only woman on her team to run the full marathon. This was also her first time running this race.

"It's just a huge honor to go represent not only the Air National Guard, but our Oregon Air National Guard and our wing here, the 142nd," said Traudt.



Photo by Master Sgt. Steph Sawyer, 142nd Wing Senior Airman Susi Traudt, pauses for a photo at the Portland Air National Guard Base on July 27, 2022. An avid runner, she completed the Air Force Marathon for the first time this year.

The race took place on the 17th of September, over the weekend of the U.S. Air Force's 75th birthday, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. Traudt, who ran the full marathon, 26.2 miles, finished the race in 3 hours, 27 minutes, and 34 seconds.

She ranked second overall military female, fifth overall female, first in her age division, and first Air and Space challenge female marathon finisher.

"It was a tremendous honor to be able to run this race on the 75th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force," said Traudt. "It will be a highlight in my military and personal career."

In addition to completing the Air Force Marathon for the first time, Traudt has also qualified for the Boston Marathon (3:30:00) and hopes to run it in 2023.



Courtesy photo provided by Senior Airman Susi Traudt Oregon Air National Guard Senior Airman Susi Traudt, an officer-select assigned to the 142nd Force Support Squadron, crosses the finish line at the 26th annual Air Force Marathon held at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, on Sept. 17, 2022.

116th Airman returns to home station during Weapons Instructor Course

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Alexander Frank,
142nd Wing Public Affairs

WARRENTON, Ore. - The 116th Air Control Squadron (ACS) hosted the 8th Weapons Squadron from Nellis Air Force Base (AFB) at Camp Rilea, Oregon in August. The 116th was selected as a temporary duty (TDY) location for one of the Weapons Instructor Courses (WIC) offered by the 8th Weapons Squadron.

For the 116th, the course offered not only a unique training opportunity, but saw the return of a familiar face. Staff Sgt. Soriah Curtis, a 116th ACS Airman and Weapons Director, returned to her home station while enrolled in the WIC.

"I couldn't be happier," said Curtis, "being able to do it with these guys, they're my support network. They're my family as much as any Guard unit ever is."

The course is centered around Command and Control (C2), where Airmen familiarize themselves with radar operations, weapons control and surveillance, and learn how each component affects the greater Control and Reporting Center (CRC). The CRC is a mobile command and communications radar element that works to create an aerial map from a plethora of data driven sources.

Curtis was informed of the serendipitous alignment while supporting the previous WIC course at Nellis AFB.

"I've been down to support [the course] several times before actually applying," said Curtis, "And I had just submitted an



Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Soriah Curtis participates in the Weapons Instructor Course during a Temporary Duty to the 116th Air Control Squadron on Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon.

application two days prior for the 22 Bravo class, and the instructor at the time said, 'yeah, let's make it work'."

"We try to cater to our students," said Master Sgt. Rebecca MacFadden, a CRC WIC instructor at the 8th Weapons Squadron. "Learning the equipment intimately by going to their units so that not only they're back home, but the other members get exposure to what we're doing."

The course itself is no walk in the park. Applicants are required to be between the ranks of E-4 and E-6 and have previous experience as a Weapons Director. Once accepted, students face a five-and-a-half-month-long course that will test every facet of CRC operations and certify them as experts in battle management operations.

After completion, graduates will be responsible for maintaining readiness at their home stations.

For Staff Sgt. Curtis and members of the 116th, the TDY gave an early preview of the expertise she'll provide the squadron upon graduating.

"I think the biggest thing is just starting to understand the capabilities that the Air Force has as a whole and how I can fit into that picture," said Curtis.

While much of the course focuses on the technical aspects of radar, and battlefield management; it's not meant to be the only takeaway. Ensuring that Airmen have the confidence to articulate these ideas is essential.

"When she graduates this course, she's going to be not only a tactical leader, but she's also going to be a leader that is going to be able to bring her crew together and lead them into wartime," said MacFadden "She's learning how to mission plan, critically think, and take information so she can enable her leaders to make effective decisions."

While only about a month into the near six-month course, Curtis admits that working with her home squadron during such a difficult course is daunting, but it's that same pressure that ultimately drives her forward.

"There's a little bit of added pressure of going through this course in front of my unit," said Curtis, "I don't want to let them down, but at the same time, I also want to represent, and I want to show them the cool things I'm learning. It's made me try harder."

FEATURES

Oregon Navy Reservist wins Miss Oregon for America Strong 2022

Story by John Hughel,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

MOLALLA, Ore. - Call it serendipity or coincidence, maybe even karma. For Boatswain's mate second class Kayla Gathright, in the face of prevailing winds, she prefers to call it determination "or having nothing to lose," that led her to the title of Miss Oregon for America Strong 2022, during the state pageant in Salem, Oregon on July 15-16, 2022.

As a six-year Naval Reservist, Petty Officer Gathright is assigned to MSRON 1 (Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron). Outside her drill schedule, she's already gotten comfortable pursuing goals outside of her comfort zone; volunteering in the community by supporting veterans organizations, working toward her college degree, all while holding down nearly full-time hours in the security field. By competing in the world of pageants, she knew her entry would be a trailblazing endeavor in the face of traditional stereotypes.

"Being in the Military you get comfortable with the uncomfortable," she said, comparing her Navy experiences to the bigger picture of life. "Adapt and overcome - it's something those of us in the military are familiar with, so when I entered the pageant world, I knew that I would be facing long established perceptions of the 'flawless supermodel type.'"

In 2019 the Miss for America Strong pageant was created as part of the Mrs. American system for married women. This new pageant's goal was to provide opportunities for women who are single, divorced or widowed with no age cap, other than a minimum age of 18.

Gathright had been intrigued about entering after two close friends, who are also shipmates, had participated in 2020. They enthusiastically encouraged her to try 2021. As someone who embraces fitness, she's often in gym lift weights before sunrise, but she's also enthusiastic about her body art.

"I laughed at them at first...are they (the pageant judges) going to accept me with all these tattoos? There is a stereotype in pageantry, that the body - especially your skin, is a blank canvass...well, that's not me!"

Tattooing among sailors has a long history, dating back to the 16th century with symbols emblematic of nautical folk lore. With downtime at port, many of the tattooed images that seafarers acquired served as records of travel and experiences, personal identity and self-expression. While gaining a surge in acceptance over the past several decades, the stigma for women, especially someone entering a 'beauty pageant' still remained uncharted territory.

As someone who serves with Gathright at Swan Island Naval Reserve Center in Portland, Aviation Electrician's Mate first class Chase Granger knew she would do well in the competition. His wife has competed in several pageants and together they are the Directors for the Oregon Miss for America Strong pageants. They don't have any influence over judges, but he did inspire her look at the competition as a way of personal empowerment.

"It took a little convincing on my part as we went through all the aspects of the competition," he said. "A large part of the pageant, almost 50 percent, is the narrative and I knew she had such a compelling story, especially as an advocate for veteran health issues."

Though she didn't win in 2021, Gathright took the "lessons learned," and tried again this year after serving as Miss Molalla for a year; meeting veterans and getting out in the natural elements makes a powerful impact on one's mental health, so this is another way to give back to my fellow veterans."

"I wasn't sure Kayla would come back and try it again this year, but she really flourished after spending time in the community, and gave it a second shot," Granger said, recalling her resolve for this year's Oregon pageant. "She has such genuine and outgoing spirit, not just in this competition but I've seen how hard she works with her commitments to the Navy and working with other service members."

When Gathright was announced as the winner for the Oregon pageant, Granger noted that her exhilaration was what impressed him the most.

"We talked about some of the misconceptions going into this pageant, about making a statement and how she is a terrific catalyst to crossover traditional

borders - about what a "Beauty Queen" might be or look like," he explained. "What sets her apart is how authentic and strongminded she is... fully embracing her body art, but more importantly, her heart for veterans, both past and present."

In mid-August she traveled to Las Vegas, competing in the national Miss for America Strong pageant from August 11-19. Although she finished outside the top contenders, she said the week was an amazing experience.

"It's so much more than what everyone sees with the stage presentation. It's about family, sisterhood and really being in the community," Gathright said, reflecting on a full week of activities with women from around the nation. "I was able to share my story while promoting causes I care about with my service in military - and hopefully, open some door for other women by showcasing my tattoos on a national stage."

Now that she is home, Gathright plans on using her title as Miss Oregon for America Strong as a voice and passionate advocate for The Fallen Outdoors project. The mission of the Fallen Outdoors organizes outdoor adventures for veterans of every generation,

past and present. The goal of the group is to create a connection both to outdoor experience, as well as a network of service men and women to direct support for the 22 a day suicide rate among veterans.

"Growing up... I've always been a 'Tomboy' - I hunt, I fish...I am a very avid outdoorsman," she said, describing why she fervently supports this program as her platform. "Being able to connect with other veterans and getting out in the natural elements makes a powerful impact on one's mental health, so this is another way to give back to my fellow veterans."

For several years now Gathright has been part of the Honor Guard with her Navy Reserve Center, this includes performing community color guard events, and conducting funeral honors for fallen veterans. At Willamette National Cemetery she also has been working with other services branches as part of a Joint military funeral honors team.

"She brings such a great attitude to our team," said Air National Guard Master Sgt. Keven Baker, assigned to the 142nd Wing Mission Support Group, and has worked and trained alongside Gathright on multiple joint service events. "Being in the Honor Guard is well outside the required duties for being a Reservist or Guard member, but she is always eager to jump in and volunteer for the extra work while representing her service branch."

Leading by example, Baker noted that when he is coordinating a Joint Service Team for a community event like a Portland Thorns soccer match or a Trailblazer game, he'll always try to get Gathright on the team to represent the U.S. Navy.

"It's another way she gives back to her fellow veterans and to our broader Oregon military community," he said. "I know she's always willing to step up - even for a last minute task."

This lineage of inspired dedication and supporting veterans dates back to her great-grandfather's service in World War II and surviving the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

"He was assigned to the USS Pennsylvania, which was in port at the shipyard and undergoing repairs," she proudly described. "Because it survived the attack with only light damage, the ship was one of the first to be ready for action."

"He helped inspire my desire to join the Navy and why I am an advocate for veterans causes."

As she prepares for her own deployment early next year, Gathright is fervently working to finish her Bachelor's degree while humbly ready to take on the role of Miss Oregon America Strong. This includes looking for ways to break through the labels that women from all background face - whether it's being decked out in orange hunting gear, or in her navy uniform and iconic 'Dixie Cup'.

"You can be uniquely you and still be a 'Sailor or Queen' - you don't have to buy into what you see on TV or social media," she said, noting her own real-life experience. "You don't have to fit into a mold, don't be afraid to defy the social expectations of what a woman is supposed to be."



Courtesy photo Mathieu Lewis Rolland Photography Kayla Gathright, a U.S. Navy Reservist from Molalla, Oregon is crowned Miss Oregon for America Strong 2022, during the state pageant in Salem on July 16.



File photo by Master Sgt. John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs A Joint Service Firing Party prepares to render honors during a military funeral at Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, Ore., on Feb. 9, 2018. U.S. Navy Boatswain's Mate Seaman Kayla Gathright (center) is joined by Army Spc. Isaac Yocum (right) and Air Force Staff Sgt. Kalene Kaplan (left).

AZUWUR

THE BOMBING OF OREGON: 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JAPANESE ATTACKS ON THE STATE

AZUWUR
Oregon National Guard History

Story by John Hughel,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

SALEM, Ore. - Following the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, Americans living along the West Coast of the United States lived in guarded fear of further Japanese attacks and panic over a potential invasion. Within hours, scout aircraft and lookout posts were staffed along the entire western coastline from the Canadian border to California as the nation was propelled into high alert.

Ramping up for a possible attack, military members were quickly put into action. The Oregon National Guard's 123rd Observation Squadron began flying anti-submarine patrols by the following day on December 8. Historical records indicate that 123rd combat crews (28 members) received credit for anti-submarine missions flown from December 8, 1941, through November 10, 1942.

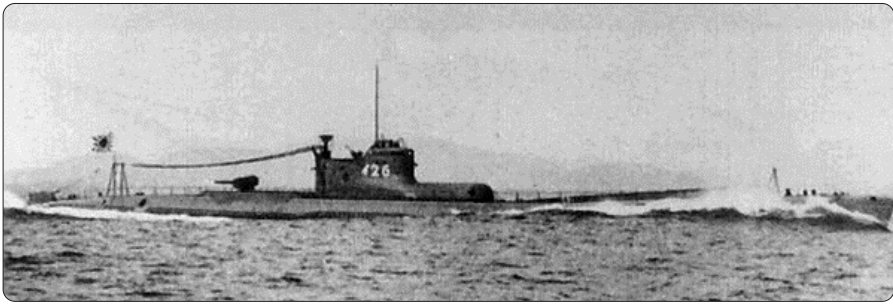
Three B-25B's assigned to the 17th Bomb Group at McChord Field were conducting a slated coastal patrol mission on December 24, 1941. The aircraft was flown by the federalized 123rd Observation Squadron members when they reported spotting a Japanese submarine off the mouth of the Columbia River. Lt. Everett W. Holstrom promptly engaged the enemy submarine.

"There never was confirmation of a lost submarine by either the U.S. or later accounts from the Japanese," said Lt. Col. (ret.) Terrence G. Popravak, 142nd Wing Historian, who has researched multiple prominent stories and operations of the 123rd during World War II. "One account of the attack, later written by then Brigadier General Holstrom, said that on the second engagement, their "top turret gunner reported a hit," and they reported oil and debris on the water."

In April of 1942, the Halsey-Doolittle raid on Tokyo only heightened the tension along the west coast, making an attack more plausible. Secretary of War Harry L. Stimson, was concerned that a Japanese attack on the west coast was a foremost concern, writing in his diary after a meeting with General George Marshall on April 21, "very much impressed with the danger that the Japanese, having terribly lost face by this recent attack on them."

On June 20, 1942, the Imperial Japanese Navy I-25 torpedoed a Canadian lumber schooner, the S.S. Camosun near Cape Flattery, followed by the shelling of the Estevan Point lighthouse and Canadian radio station on Vancouver Island by the I-26 submarine. In the late night and early morning of June 21-22, the I-25 submarine fired multiple 14-cm [5.5-inch] shells at Battery Russell on Fort Stevens, which defended the Oregon side of the Columbia River. It was later assessed that 17 rounds had been fired, yet no loss of life occurred during the attack. Most of the damage was done to the baseball field and telephone cables, but the bombardment only heightened the tension of more attacks. The shelling of Fort Stevens was historic, marking the first foreign attack on a military installation on U.S. soil since the War of 1812.

The Battery Russell was equipped with a 10-inch gun and manned by the 249th Coastal Artillery regiment of the Oregon National Guard. In his book, "Panic! At Fort Stevens," by Bert Webber, documented that soldiers operating a forward position with a .30-Caliber Browning weapon on the beach could actually see the surfaced submarine offshore. "The Yank had one finger on the trigger and one trying the crack radio."



Public Domain Image
The Imperial Japanese Navy I-26 Submarine, one of two submarines operating in the Pacific Northwest during WWII that attacked military post and vessels.

With the telephone wire damaged in the shelling, no order was given to return fire even as Soldiers had hurried to their action station and manned positions, which also included a 6-inch gun, searchlight batteries, and machine guns to rebuff an enemy landing. U.S. Army Air Forces planes, on a training mission spotted the I-25, calling in an A-29 Hudson bomber to attack the submarine. The I-25 successfully dodged the falling bombs and submerged undamaged.

As the U.S. mobilized troops to fight overseas in Europe and Asia during the summer of 1942, citizens across the Pacific Northwest were filled with a guarded readiness. On September 9, 1942, once again the I-25 was back in action, surfacing twenty-five miles off Cape Blanco near Port Orford, in southern Oregon. The submarine was fitted with a modified Zero seaplane, that catapulted off the deck of the sub. It was fitted with two 170-pound incendiary bombs and flew toward Mt. Emily in the Siskiyou National Forest. Piloted by Nobuo Fujita, the plane dropped both bombs on the heavily forested mount slope starting a small forest fire that was easy to control due to the wet conditions.

This attack by the Japanese submarine was to start a large enough forest fire that large numbers of resources in men and money would be allocated to suppress a massive wildfire. It was also a reprisal for the American bombardment of Tokyo in April. Howard "Razz" Gardner, a forest service lookout witnessed the attack and described the sound of the seaplane as "a Model A Ford backfiring."

In total, Fujita in his modified Zero dropped four incendiary bombs around Brookings in subsequent days in September without achieving the desired effect on the forest of southern Oregon. Once again, attempts to locate and destroy the I-25 failed. By early October the submarine had given up the aerial efforts, but on 4 and 6 October, the I-25 sank two tankers off the coast of southern Oregon near Coos Bay and Gold Beach.

These attacks quickly triggered a new level of panic in the local population, most of which had become somewhat weary of an attack or invasion. The fire-bombs in the Brookings area were the first ever foreign air attack on the continental U.S.

In his novel "Sometimes a Great Notion" (published 1965), writer Ken Kesey described the significance still lingering with locals nearly twenty years later. "This sort of distinction is bound to provoke a certain amount of community feeling; the bombing and the [labor] strike, while they exhibited very little in common outwardly, were in a way quite similar in that both had the effect of making the citizen feel, well, feel just a bit special? No; more than special; let's admit it: it made them feel downright different!"

Yet the war, was far from over.

From November 1944 to April 1945, Japan launched over 9,000 balloon bombs, which carried four incendiaries and one anti-personnel high explosive, and began drifting over the western U.S. and Canada, resulting in nearly 350 documented instances. By

design, they could travel along the airstream and reach up to 30,000 feet in elevation. A number of balloons were reported around the state on January 10, 1945, both by local residents and military authorities. Many were reported in the Harrisburg and Coburn area, and one report from a fighter pilot at the Marine Base in Klamath Falls, who had taken photographs while flying alongside the balloon.

Sadly, the state found its place in history once again, in Bly, Oregon on May 5, 1945 as the only place during WWII where American deaths resulted from direct enemy action in the continental United States. While Reverend Archie Mitchell was parking his car during a warm spring afternoon picnic, his wife Elise, along with five other children had discovered a balloon in a nearby tree. When one of the children attempted to free the balloon, it exploded - instantly killing Elise and all the children. In 1950, the Mitchell Monument



Photo courtesy of Michael McCullough
The Mitchell Recreation Area near Bly, Ore. The only location in the continental U.S. where Americans were killed during WWII by enemy action.

was erected in their honor in the Fremont-Winema National Forest. Ironically the monument survived the Bootleg Fire in 2021 when fire crews wrapped the stone historical marker with fire-resistant material as the fire passed through the forest.

On September 9, 1962, the 20th anniversary of the historic Mt. Emily bombing attack, Nobuo Fujita was invited to Brookings, where he presented to the town his family's 400-year-old Samurai sword "in the interest of peace and friendship." The sword is displayed in the Brookings Public Library and he has made additional return visits to plant trees.

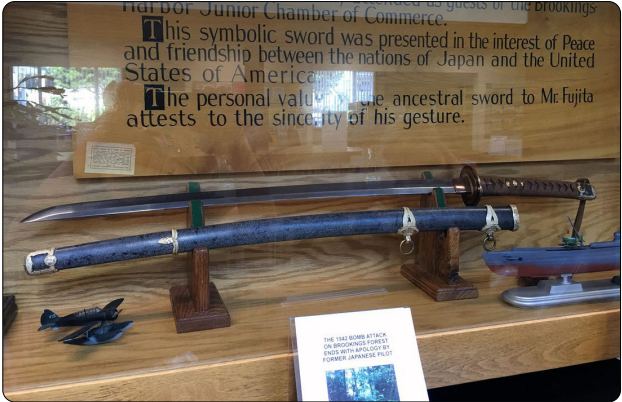


Photo courtesy of the Atlas Obscura
The Fujita sword on display at the Brookings Public Library, presented to the town on the 20th Anniversary of the bombing of Mt. Emily during WWII, on Sept. 9, 1942.

As the war ended on September 2, 1945, many of the legacy markers, memorials, and memories are still present in Oregon. Oregon National Guard units that were part of the defense of the continental U.S., and 80 years later, still play an important role today. The 249th Coastal Artillery Regiment was deactivated on Sept. 15, 1945. In 2016, the lineage was carried forward by the 249th Regiment Regional Training Institute, which is now located further 'upstream' along the Columbia River, at the Rees Training Center in Umatilla.

The Oregon Air National Guard pilots in Klamath Falls and Portland still supports active roles, both in homeland defense with the Airspace Alert Mission, pilot training, and in recent years supporting Operation Atlantic Resolve in Europe.

"The uniformed professionals here in the Oregon Air Guard stand at the ready, ever vigilant, to meet the needs of our Nation, our State, and our communities," said Col. Aaron Mathena, 142nd Wing Operation Group commander. "Defense is in our DNA and we're darn good at it."