

# OREGON SENTINEL

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

## Air Force selects 173rd Fighter Wing as F-35 training squadron

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

**KLAMATH FALLS, Ore.** – The U.S. Air Force has selected the Oregon Air National Guard’s 173rd Fighter Wing as the preferred location to host the service’s next F-35A Lightning II training squadron. The F-35A is the Air Force’s latest and most-capable fifth-generation fighter.

The basing decision announced today becomes final when a Record of Decision is signed upon favorable completion of an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposal now underway.

“Kingsley Field is an integral piece of the Air Force’s modernization plan,” said Col. Lee Bouma, 173rd Fighter Wing commander. “Our vast airspace, a culture of excellence, and unprecedented community support make us a viable fit to continue our legacy of training the next generation of fighter pilots.”



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

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A U.S. Air Force F-35A Lightning II assigned to Luke Air Force Base flies over the skies of Southern Oregon, May 17, 2023, on a mission with the 173rd Fighter Wing assigned to Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon. The 173rd Fighter Wing was selected as the Air Force’s preferred location to host a F-35A Lightning II formal training unit.

## Oregon Soldiers Take On The National Guard Marathon



Photo by John Hughel, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Capt. Amy Mireles (number 9165) starts the 46th Annual Lincoln Marathon on May 7, 2023 in Lincoln, Neb. Mireles finished in 20th place in the female division and made the “All-Guard Team.” **Story on Pages 8-9**

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COMMAND

Guardsmen demonstrate a commitment to fitness challenges

As we transition from spring to summer, there is no better time to remind ourselves about finding a work/life balance between the duties and responsibilities we have to the National Guard, our employers and our families. If you have not done so already, please remember to plan quality time with your family, friends and loved ones. Whether you enjoy spending time at the lake, in the mountains, or at home for a backyard BBQ, get it on your calendar now and have fun!

The good weather also offers a great opportunity to become more familiar with the Army's Holistic Health and Fitness Program, and the Air Force Comprehensive Airman Fitness Program. These programs are designed to optimize Soldier and Airmen performance, prevent injury and illness, and improve the overall health and fitness of our Service Members.

The two nearly identical programs provide Service Members tools to improve and maintain their wellbeing. Whether training for a local 5K run, boating with friends, or just catching up on sleep, the components of the programs play a vital role in enhancing your abilities as military professionals.

Beyond military sponsored programs, there are endless examples of members within our organization taking part in activities that highlight having fun with physical activity. This past May, the Oregon National Guard Family Program partnered with the Department of Oregon and Veterans of Foreign Wars hosting the 7th Annual, 'Run 2 Remember' 5K family run at Salem's Riverfront Park.

Some of our Soldiers, led by Lt. Col. Billie Cartwright, along with Capt. Kevin Jung and Sgt. 1st Class Louisa Brock, traveled to Lincoln, Nebraska to take part in the "All Guard Marathon Team" trials. Running her first marathon, Capt. Amy Mireles qualified to participate on the team of National Guard members who compete in marathons occurring throughout the year.

In March, some of Oregon's junior enlisted and NCO Soldiers tested their grit at the annual Oregon Best Warrior Competition held at Camp Rilea. Sgt. John Shown from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3-116 Cavalry, won the NCO division and Cpl. Ashton Dieli, from Alpha Company, 2-162 Infantry took top honors in the Soldier division. Sgt. Shown also went



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



to place second overall at the Regional Competition in Helena, Montana. Also at Camp Rilea this year, our top Army and Air Force shooters competed in the annual "TAG Match" ORARNG Staff Sgt. Patrick Strand from 249th Regional Training Institute took top honors, and 1st Battalion, 186th Snipers top team honors.

We appreciate the dedication to fitness demonstrated by these Oregon Guardsman and their remarkable contribution to fitness and wellness.

These opportunities are not only great breaks away from our normal duties and responsibilities, but they also provide an avenue to stay Ready, Relevant and Resilient!

Oregon Army National Guard General gets second star

By Aaron Perkins,  
Oregon Military Department  
Public Affairs

CLACKAMAS, Ore. – The Oregon Army National Guard promoted Brig. Gen. Gregory T. Day to the rank of major general in a ceremony held on June 9, 2023, at the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center, Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon.

Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, The Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard, presided over the promotion ceremony with Day's family, friends, and fellow service members in attendance. He assumes duties as the Special Assistant to the Combatant Command, NORAD/NORTHCOM for National Guard Matters and Liaison to the Chief, National Guard Bureau. Day has a long and accomplished career with the Oregon Army National



ORARNG Maj. Gen. Gregory T. Day (center) pinned with his new "two-star" rank by his wife, Linda, and stepson Cody (left), during a promotion ceremony, June 9, 2023.



Event photos by John Hughel, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs  
ORARNG Maj. Gen. Gregory T. Day takes the oath of office, administered by Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, during a promotion ceremony on June 9, 2023.

Guard, culminating in his most recent assignment as Commander, Land Component Command.

"The reason we're here today is an incredible opportunity, and this is a position he is ideally suited for," said Maj. Gen. Stencel.

General Day's prior assignments include Commander, Joint Domestic Operations Command, with a dual hat position as Deputy Chief of Staff Operation/G3 (Wartime), 8th Army, U.S. Army Forces Korea. Additionally, he previously served as Army National Guard Assistant to the

Commander, United States Army Alaska ("DCG-NG"). He is an accomplished Joint Qualified Officer Level III and a leader with demonstrated outstanding service at every level of command and staff with overwhelming success. In his civilian job, Day is a highly recognized attorney and partner in a well-established law firm in Grants Pass. His combat experience and strategic understanding highlight his ability to serve in this new position.

"I am honored to be selected for this new position, but a bit melancholy to be leaving all the outstanding Soldiers and Airmen that continue to serve here in the Oregon National Guard," said Maj. Gen. Day.

COMMAND

The Oregon Air National Guard's first female General Officer retires

Story and photos by John Hughel,  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. – The first woman to serve as a general officer in the Oregon Air National Guard, Brig. Gen. Donna M. Prigmore retired after 38 years of military service on May 1, 2023.

"A proven leader, Donna has worked as the (142nd Wing) Mission Support Commander, then as the Vice Wing Commander at both the 142nd and 173rd (Fighter Wing) here in the state. In terms of experience, she's worked with services, public affairs, planning, and communications – then served as an inspector general, led the force support squadron, and worked as an executive officer to the Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau," said Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General of Oregon, the presiding officer for her formal retirement ceremony on June 3, at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Oregon. "On top of that, nationally, Donna was the representative for the strategic planning system here in the Northwest region, and most recently served as an advisor to the Commander of the Air National Air University (Maxwell AFB, Alabama) and she also supported our SPP (Vietnam and Bangladesh) strategic planning program."

"In some of these countries, it's unusual to see a woman in a place of authority. I can't tell you how much of an inspiration it is for those young enlisted members and officers over in those countries to see a General Officer like Donna, being paid the respect and attention that she has earned."



Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General for the Oregon National Guard (left) presents The Oregon National Guard Distinguished Service Medal to Brig. Gen. Donna M. Prigmore (right) during her retirement ceremony on June 3, 2023.

Her selection in August of 2018 to become the Assistant Adjutant General-Air with the Oregon National Guard, elevated her to the rank of brigadier general, only the second promotion for a woman into this distinct rank for the State of Oregon. In January of 2019, she took command of the Oregon Air National Guard. She has also balanced her commitment to the military with her full-time profession as the Senior Manager for Terminal and Landside Operations for the Port of Portland.

The journey of her long career began when she enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, as an electronic technician in 1982, and after four years of active duty service, she transitioned to the Arizona Air National Guard. By 1990, she received her commission, graduating at the top of her class at the Academy of Military Science in Knoxville, Tennessee. She completed a Bachelor of Science degree from Arizona State University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Oklahoma State University.

With two of the largest mobilizations in the state's history and upcoming fighter jet aircraft conversions at both wings, Stencel said that her leadership played a key role during her command.



ORANG Brig. Gen. Donna Prigmore, former Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard delivers her formal retirement address to those attending her retirement ceremony held at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, Oregon, on June 3, 2023.

"As we responded to the pandemic as well as wildfires here at home, and as a tireless advocate for the transition of the F-15EX here at the 142nd and now the F-35 down at the 173rd," Stencel said. "What's special about Donna, she brings an added level of determination and self-confidence when it comes to advocating for both of those wings – and to get the job done."

As part of her ceremony, her two sons; Nathan and Brian Prigmore spoke about their mother's long career of service and dedication. "I think the number one thing for me, and that I can take away from her career is service," said Nathan. "Whether it has been her military career, her work at the Port, or at home it's her service – in everything you can think of."

The sentiments were also shared by Brian, saying that, "the principles of discipline, leadership, and service that my brother touched on, was really instilled in her and through that, and in part, how she parented my brother and me – she's been an extraordinary leader for us, whether she knows it or not."

Beginning her formal remarks at the Rosenbaum Hangar with the doors open, framing a view of the Portland International Airport across the flightline – gave her the picture-perfect setting to address both her military and civilian co-workers together.

"If I were to be perfectly honest, I feel the same way today as I did back then as a Staff Sergeant as I went off to officer training school," she said. "Advancing in rank was never my agenda...so to the young Airmen here today, know that if I can do it, you can do it. Anything is possible."

She attributed this to "working hard, treating people well, maintaining your integrity and being humble," noting that success often comes "when you don't expect it."

During her address, she referenced baseball great Lou Gehrig, and his legendary remarks made at Yankee Stadium on July 4, 1939, announcing his retirement due to his diagnosis of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. "The past two weeks, you've been hearing about a bad break – today I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth."

"Obviously I am no baseball player, but what I do want you to know, as I reflect on my life and my 38 years of service, I feel like I am the luckiest woman on the [face of] earth," Prigmore said. "I say that because the Air Force has left me with experiences that have enriched my life beyond measure. And I say that I am the luckiest person because I've been able to travel to faraway places I've only dreamt of, and in some cases never even heard of."

She described traveling to Ecuador to help build a school house on a humanitarian mission when she was a member of the Alaska Air National Guard, a trip she said, gave her a new perspective on life.

"It was in that moment I realized that in America we have it all wrong, in that, our wealth is not based on our money and richness is actually based on building communities, supporting one another and being there for each other."

These opportunities, she said, to travel and support other nations as a member of the Air Force built lasting memories and friendships, and associations.

"I feel like I am the luckiest woman on the earth because of my past and present mentors; Generals [Daniel] Hokanson, [Fred] Rosenblum, and [Michael] Stencel," she said while listing other officers and senior enlisted leaders that made an impact on her career.

"Most of all I would like to talk about my family and my two sons. They make me the proudest momma ever – they are honorable men with servant's hearts and I love them deeply," she said and also talked about her father, sister, and brother who were also in attendance for her ceremony. "My dad taught me since I was a little girl the importance of good manners, the difference between right and wrong, and how to treat people with respect."

In closing her address, she deflected her admiration back to the Airmen under her command, highlighting the COVID-19 pandemic and other mobilizations in Oregon.

"You were the ones who did the hard work, you were the ones who responded to the state's cry for help in 2020. When multiple wildfires were burning people's properties and homes," she said, recalling this tumultuous period of historic activations. "You were the ones at fifty different hospitals throughout Oregon. Cleaning beds in the ER, assisting in the ICU, and supporting in every way possible."

"And finally, thank you for inspiring me and making me the proudest commander ever – it's been such an honor serving alongside each of you."



ORANG Brig. Gen. Donna Prigmore (right) presents a personal gift for a trip to Hawaii to each of her son's Nathan Prigmore (left) and Brian Prigmore (center) during her retirement ceremony on June 3, 2023.

LEADERSHIP

# ORNG, VINASARCOM build on 10+ year partnership during annual training

Story and photos by Maj. Leslie Reed, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

**HAI PHONG, Vietnam** — Tsunamis. Landslides. Floods. What do these natural disasters have in common? They all are realistic scenarios that disaster management officials in both the U.S. and Vietnam continue to plan and refine their responses too.

The quote, “hope for the best, but plan for the worst” was at the forefront of everyone’s mind during the Disaster Management Engagement Activity (DMEA) in the northern coastal town of Hai Phong, Vietnam, where delegations from both the Oregon National Guard and the Vietnamese National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM) met to exchange best practices during their annual engagement.

The state partnership between Vietnam’s VINASARCOM and the Oregon National Guard is a continuation of the bilateral relations both nations established in 1995, to further the trust, respect, and a shared commitment to regional and international security.

The Oregon National Guard and VINASARCOM became partners through the National Guard’s State Partnership Program (SPP) in 2012 and celebrated their partnership’s 10th anniversary last year in 2022. Evolving from an initial U.S. European Command program in 1991 among former Soviet Bloc countries in the Baltic region, the program officially began in 1993 and now includes 88 partnerships with 100 countries across the globe.

New partnerships are initiated from the host nation through diplomatic channels, and make their way through the combatant commander, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Joint Staff and the National Guard Bureau before approval and pairing with a state’s national guard. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, who was in attendance, said the program is looking to grow “another 30 partnerships in the next 10-years.”

Maj. Adam Lulay, a former Oregon Bilateral Affairs Officer assigned to U.S. Embassy Hanoi from 2020 thru 2022, and who’s involvement stems back to the partnership’s initial meetings in 2012, said the “original agreement was to start with Incident Command System (ICS) classes and expand from there.” Lulay has since gone on, as both a planner and an instructor, working with VINASARCOM through the basic ICS classes (100-400, 700-800, National Incident Management System). It’s now, says Lulay “that we pivot to a true exchange” following the 5-year plan he developed back in 2020. “We proposed topics (for this year’s presentations) based off of incidents Vietnam experienced and responded to,” paired together with additional VINASARCOM guidance.

During the week-long event, both country’s delegations presented case studies covering topics such as medical evacuation, search and rescue, communications, hazardous material, COVID-19 and landslide responses-- including more than just military subject matter experts.

Aaron Bielemeier, Fire Training Coordinator, Oregon Department of Public Safety, Standards and Training was once such presenter during the engagement. Bielemeier explained that Maj. Lulay “asked if I would attend and accompany the group for this trip to Vietnam,” he explained. “He was looking to put together a diverse background group for helping to explain how Oregon responders take action on the civilian side, and how the military can assist as the emergency evolves.”

Oregon’s delegation included members from a variety of agencies, to include the U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army Reserves, the Center for Excellence

in Disaster Management, the Pacific Disaster Center, Oregon Department of Public Safety, Standards and Training and the Oregon National Guard.

A career firefighter, Bielemeier presented two case studies, one on hazardous material response and another covering search and rescue operations in a building collapse, “we explained how an Incident Management Team works and its importance, so when a local responder or incident commander is exhausted and needs more help, it isn’t just asking for more resources.”

“It’s asking for a larger overhead team to come in for an event that can evolve over multiple days and potentially even months.”

Both delegations were “working towards the same end goal, trying to better one another” shared Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Gonzalez, an operations non-commissioned officer, with the 1186th Military Police Company. The DMEA trip was Gonzalez’s first overseas engagement, outside of regular combat-type deployments.

Support from commanders at the lower level is significant, “not only does it give guard members the ability to opportunity to operate in a global environment,” voiced Hokanson, but there “may be a day in the future where we’ve got to go there, and so our ability to understand the culture, and the willingness of our military personnel, really to try and make the communities more resilient and able to withstand disasters, whatever type they may be, is really important.”

During Gen. Hokanson’s remarks he further explained there are “many things to challenge us, they come in the form of climate change, energy crisis, global pandemics, malevolent actors, these challenges aren’t confined to a single country, a single region or a single hemisphere, both directly and indirectly they impact all of us, they are our collective problem and addressing and overcoming them is our collective responsibility.”

Hokanson, who previously served as Oregon’s Adjutant General, vocalized that his visit was “especially significant to me as an Oregon Guardsman. Since the partnership between Vietnam and the Oregon Guard began more than a decade ago, I’ve seen how the relationship between our Guardsmen and our Vietnamese partners has grown.” He fondly remembers visiting in 2014, two years after the partnership first began.

Now serving as the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, the organization’s top spot, Hokanson reflects “If I go back to my last visit here in Vietnam, nine years ago, we were talking about how they would build these disaster management centers and now today there are 14 of them built.”

Disaster Management Coordination Centers (DMCCs) are “dual use” buildings offering both shelter and a central location for responders to coordinate disaster relief efforts within the province and are built to sustain a category three typhoon. One of the first DMCC’s built in 2015 was one in Quang Ngai.

Lt. Col. Sung Yoon Ji, another former Oregon Bilateral Affairs Officer assigned to U.S. Embassy Hanoi, recalls DMEA being “a much smaller event when I started as the BAO in 2017.” During his tenure, he recalls the 2018 DMEA took place in Quang Ngai (central coastal area) and was the first time DMEA was executed in a province versus the capital, Hanoi. “Coming back to Vietnam this year was familiar,” said Ji, who in addition to planning the annual event while serving as the BAO between 2017 thru 2019, participated in both the 2022 and 2023 events.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this was the third time that the partners met face-to-face for the annual



Senior Advisor, Roy Johnson, USAID/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance engages with a member of the Vietnamese delegation during a table top exercise, part of the DMEA event held May 17, 2023.

engagement since 2019. Senior Col. Pham Hai Chou, the Vietnamese Head of Delegation, spoke to meeting virtually in 2021, but said that he was “very happy to meet in person again, and to share their experiences of disaster response.”

The Guard is uniquely situated for the SPP mission, as unlike their active duty counterparts who can change out every two to four years, a National Guard member’s service to their state is more consistent and long-term. This allows the same personnel to engage and develop relationships. As Gen. Hokanson described, “We provide a chance

for relationships to develop, not just over the days and weeks we train together, but over decades and the duration of careers. We improve readiness, enhance interoperability, and build cooperation.”

When serving as Adjutant General, Oregon recalls Hokanson “Lt. Gen. Minh (Sr. Lt. Gen. Pham Ngoc Minh) was the commander of VINASARCOM. I had not seen him in nine years, and it was so good to see him and that partnership, that relationship just puts it at a whole other level.”

Members of the delegation also used the DMEA event as an opportunity to work with the community, engaging with students at Hai Phong University on a variety of different subjects, from practicing their English, to participating in cultural activities such as traditional dancing, sampling traditional foods, musical presentations and playing traditional games.

“Yes, we enhance our capabilities, yes, we gain essential experience, but we also establish ties that withstand the test of time and distance. We cannot surge trust; we can only build it. Person by person, day by day, year by year” Hokanson articulated.

One take away for Bielemeier was the fact that “Vietnam has an urban search and rescue team, multiple teams that are regionally spread out. Recently when Turkey experienced their earthquake, teams from all over the world responded. We had people from Oregon that responded, as part of the U.S. team and so did Vietnam.”

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs (OCHA) response included teams from both countries, and while the Vietnamese and U.S. responders were in different locations, they both had similar numbers of personnel and K9s on the ground helping with efforts near Adiyamm and Hatay.

“What we start in training will transition into working more together in the future,” says Bielemeier. “I would love to do a ride along with their fire department and the emergency medical side,” he muses. “I like to learn...and in order to keep growing, and gaining more knowledge you have to go to different places and learn.”



Army Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, chief, National Guard Bureau (center) gathers together with members of the Oregon National Guard delegation for the Disaster Management Engagement Activity (DMEA) following the closing ceremony of annual event, May 19, 2023, in Hai Phong, Vietnam.

LEADERSHIP

# Oregon State Partnership Program wins Director of the Year Award

Story by John Hughel, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

**SALEM, Ore.** – The success of the State Partnership Program (SPP) stems from years of interpersonal and bilateral relationships, where both nations’ military-to-military engagements seek to build upon a ‘whole-of-society approach’ – bridging military, governmental, economic, and social relations.

Following the breakup of the Soviet Union, the State Partnership Program began 30 years ago and is now paired with 100 nations in combination with National Guards from all U.S. States and U.S. territories. Oregon first partnered with Bangladesh in 2008 and followed four years later with Vietnam. These enduring relationships enhance U.S. access and encourage readiness and response to emerging challenges for both the United States and partner forces.

During the annual SPP conference held in Denver from April 17-21, states together with their nation partners were presented awards and recognized in a number of categories. The award for the State Partnership Program Director of the Year was presented to Oregon Army National Guard Lt. Col. Christopher Markesino and his role working with Bangladesh and Vietnam.

“This is an amazing opportunity and an opportunity I might never get again,” Markesino said, describing his decision to apply for the State SPP Director position in 2021. “I thought – If I stay in my corporate civilian world, I’ll never have this chance to work on the ambassador and National Guard Bureau level.”

He left his job after 17 years with Kaiser Permanente, where he was the Director of Regional Environmental Health & Safety and Emergency Management. It was during the height of the pandemic, in his civilian role, that he helped coordinate many of the civilian medical responders with members of the Oregon National Guard medical teams working at vaccination sites in the state.

“I am a true believer that diversity makes a better leader,” he said, describing his decision to leave an established career. “Staying in one organization, you learn that organization but you don’t get to experience all the other leadership attributes and cultural experiences outside of that organization.”

Prior to supporting medical operations at the Portland Convention Center through his civilian job, Markesino was deployed to Kosovo with the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team in late January 2020 as the Medical Operations Officer.

“We got there and almost right away, the world went into lockdown,” he said, recalling

this hectic period. “Then nearly a year later, switching gears during this once-in-a-lifetime pandemic – supporting the mass vaccination clinic. It was a great phase as a medical guy.”

The challenge of supporting the SPP mission is ongoing for him and his team, with engagements scheduled well in advance, and last-minute items inherent to the job.



Photo courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Pena, National Guard Bureau Public Affairs (L-R) Ambassador Dennis Hankins, foreign policy advisor to the National Guard Bureau; Maj. Gen. William Zana, director of Strategic Plans and Policy and International Affairs for NGB; Lt. Col. Christopher Markesino from the Oregon National Guard; Senior Enlisted Advisor Tony Whitehead, SEA to the chief, National Guard Bureau; and Col. Scott Humphrey, chief of the National Guard Bureau International Affairs Division, during the annual State Partnership Program conference April 20, 2023.

Annual, the Oregon National Guard takes part in multiple exercises with their two partners, including the Disaster Management Engagement Activity (DMEA), the Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (DREE), Tiger Lightning, and oftentimes supporting other states with their partnerships.

“There are so many engagements that Oregon is taking part in, and there is so much that goes on behind the scenes...passports, travel visas, declaration forms, and ISOPREPs...you name it,” he said, describing the work of their small but effective SPP team. “In-person relationships is what our countries want – They want us there, we want them here, and we really want that face-to-face to exchange ideas.”

These distinct opportunities to participate in leadership positions within the SPP mission also allow for opportunities to travel overseas for service members in a liaison role, and in some cases, being assigned overseas for extended tours. From July 2017 to July 2019, Army Lt. Col. Sung Yoon Ji, was assigned as Oregon’s Bilateral Affairs Officer to the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi. He recently returned from Vietnam during the

annual engagement exercise, describing how he rekindled past bonds with his Vietnamese counterparts.

“This was a chance to see some of the changes – just in the past few years since I was assigned to Vietnam,” he said, after taking part in the planning for this year’s event.

“It really was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, one that my family and I appreciated even more after we came back home,” Ji said. “My wife and I will now laugh at some of the challenges we had at first, but it really was a great experience and opened our eyes to the culture by living in the country.”

This is one of the key aspects that Markesino points out about the State Partnership Program’s impact on National Guard members.

“We tell our teams going overseas on these missions – not only are you representing yourself, but the entire Oregon Guard, and they’re going to look at you as the entire U.S. Military,” he said, emphasizing the impression each Soldier or Airman can make during the exercise engagement. “You’re getting a chance to share your experience and expertise that the Army sent you to school for with others. It’s an incredible opportunity for our NCOs and junior officers.”

With all the engagements and training opportunities taking place now that travel has resumed after more than two years of pandemic restrictions, Markesino entered the Oregon National Guard’s accomplishments into the awards process.

“With everything we are doing with our two partner nations, it came back that I was selected as the State Partnership Program Director of the Year,” he said. “Which was pretty cool since this was a new category that all 54 states and territories had entered.”

The State Partnership Program Director is responsible for planning, managing, and coordinating all approved SPP activities, also overseas logistics, resources, and budgets while working with U.S. government agencies and embassy country teams. These were many of the areas that were evaluated for the award. Other winners for 2022 included Pennsylvania-Lithuania and New York-Brazil partnerships, being named the Department of Defense National Guard State Partnership Program partnerships of the year, and the Bilateral Affairs Officer of the Year award was given to Army Capt. Omar Rosario of the Puerto Rico Guard for his work with the Dominican Republic.

As busy as Markesino is with his SPP role, he will soon be taking command of the 141st Brigade Support Battalion in July, leaving his current drill status position with the Joint Operation Center (JOC).

“This is an exciting time, especially with the operational tempo picking up,” he said. “With the upcoming training this summer and deployments in the near future, it’s going to be a challenging next couple of years – for sure!”

# Oregon State University displays ROTC 2023 Joint Service Review

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

**CORVALLIS, Ore.** – The Army, Navy, and Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs at Oregon State University proudly present their annual Joint Service Review on May 5, 2023, at the Oregon State University Memorial Union Field, Corvallis, Oregon. The event is a celebration of the commitment, dedication, and hard work of the cadets who are training to become officers in the United States Military. The Joint Service Review allows these future officers to showcase their skills, discipline, and professionalism to the reviewing officer and guests.

The reviewing officer for this year’s Joint Service Review is Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard. During Stencel’s speech, he said, “It’s a privilege to be here and to play a small part in the continuing history of the Oregon State military science program, the cadets and midshipmen. It will be the foundation of our nation’s defense. This event is a display of your hard work and discipline. More importantly, it’s a display of teamwork and tradition.”

Stencel stated during his speech that, “choosing to serve our nation is an individual act. But it is indeed a decision to be part of something



Cadet leadership stand in formation at the Oregon State University Reserve Officers Training Corps Joint Service Review, held on May 5, 2023, at the Oregon State University Memorial Union Field, in Corvallis, Oregon.

greater than oneself. It is a commitment to put service first and continue in the footsteps of the great American military leaders that came before you and often sacrificed so much.”

Perhaps the highlight of the Joint Service Review is the “Pass In Review” parade, where the cadets and midshipmen march in formation in front of the reviewing officer and guests. The precision and discipline displayed by their marching during this parade is truly remarkable and is a testament

to their dedication and commitment to becoming officers in the United States Military.

The Joint Service Review is a special event for the cadets and midshipmen, who work hard year-round to prepare for it. Army ROTC Professor of Military Science Lt. Col. David McRae said, “This is a historic event for our program, referred to as the West Point of the West; it’s a tradition that OSU Army ROTC cadets have been participating in for 106 years.”

The Army, Navy, and Air Force ROTC programs at Oregon State University are proud to present their Joint Service Review annually. It is an opportunity to showcase their cadets’ talent and dedication and honor the commitment and sacrifice of those who serve in the United States military. In addition, the event brings together the entire university community, military personnel, and their families to celebrate the shared values of duty, honor, and country.

NEWS

# ORNG officially opens Unmanned Aerial Systems Operating Facility

Story by John Hughel, Oregon Military Dept. Public Affairs

BOARDMAN, Ore. – The Oregon National Guard and the U.S. Navy conducted a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the Unmanned Aerial System Operating Facility, located in Boardman, Oregon on April 21, 2023.

Oregon National Guard Maj. Gen. Michael Stencil, Adjutant General for Oregon and U.S. Navy Capt. Eric Hanks, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington, described the partnership between the two military organizations during their remarks to military members, community leaders and civilian guests in attendance. "This 13 million dollar

project employed almost 200 people in its development and construction, and includes a controlled waste facility, flammable materials facility, its own waste water and septic system," Stencil said, highlighting many of the features of the state-of-the-art building. "The High Energy efficiency design also includes a 25 kilowatt solar array to reduce environmental impacts and a minimum 50-year service life for this building."

The 12,400 square foot construction, along with an additional 10,400 square foot aircraft storage building first entered into a Host-Tenant Agreement in 2002, for approximately 6,852 acres to support both the Tactical Unmanned Aerial System

flight facility along with a Multipurpose Machine Gun Range. Construction began in January of 2021 and was completed in April 2022.

"Twenty years of collaboration and hard work have produced an installation that will be used for generations to come. I look forward to the future accomplishments of the service members who will have the privilege to train here into the future," Stencil said.

Apollo Inc., a Native American owned business in Washington State, was the primary lead team, along with Coover-Clark Architects, and Meier Engineering for preconstruction, construction and administrative services for the facility. Other key contributors were KWR Electrical Engineers, Briteworks sustainability consultants, Bruce Mechanical Heating and Air and Camp Creek Electrical.

The Naval Weapons System Training Facility in Boardman is used as the principal training grounds for testing U.S. Navy EA-18G Growler aircraft assigned to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington and also used for drone testing. Additionally the range has been used by the Oregon Air National Guard to conduct air-to-ground weapons systems applications.



Photo by W. Chris Clyne, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs  
The newly completed Unmanned Aerial Systems Operating Facility at the Boardman Range, Oregon, March 24, 2023.



Photo by John Hughel, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon National Guard Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencil, Adjutant General, Oregon (center-left) along with U.S. Navy Capt. Eric Hanks, Commanding officer, NAS Whidbey Island, Wash. (center-right) cut a ceremonial ribbon to officially open the Unmanned Aerial System Operating Facility in Boardman, Oregon on April 21, 2023.

# 'Redhawk' Airman one of the last to cross 2,000 flight hours in F-15C

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

PORTLAND, Ore. – On March 22, 2023, Lt. Col. Jonathan Friedman, a fighter pilot with the 123rd 'Redhawk' Fighter Squadron, took off from Portland Air National Guard Base flying an F-15C Eagle as he's done dozens of times before. But this flight was a special one, as it would mark the 2,000th hour Friedman has spent flying the F-15C model. While it's not entirely uncommon for pilots to reach this milestone, this is likely the last time it will be reached in this 'C model' airframe by an Oregon Air Guardsman.

With the arrival of the F-15 EX model at the Portland Air Base in the spring of 2024, the lifecycle of the F-15C is coming to an end. Because of this impending transition, Friedman will likely be one of the last Oregon Guardsmen to reach 2,000 flight hours in the aircraft, and potentially, one of the last in the U.S. Air Force. It's an accomplishment he didn't envision when he first joined the 142nd Wing in 2017, and a milestone he didn't realize he'd reached until after landing.

"I had forgotten about it altogether until after the flight

when our supervisor of flying congratulated me," said Friedman. "I'm incredibly grateful for the years I've been able to fly with the Redhawks and for the chance to reach this milestone."



ORANG Lt. Col. Jonathan Friedman, 123rd Fighter Squadron, stands in front of an F-15C (model) Eagle prior to takeoff from Portland Air National Guard Base, Oregon on March 22, 2023.

Totaling 2,000 hours is an extraordinary amount of time in any capacity. For context; that's over 83 days, 50 work-weeks, or more than 1,052 viewings of the 1986 classic Top Gun.

For Friedman, even after 2,000 hours in the air, he's still learning new things about the aircraft.

"Flying the F-15C is a humbling endeavor; just when I think I've

got a good handle on things, I find a new way to screw up," said Friedman. "I'm still working to fly the elusive perfect sortie."

The first F-15 A and B models arrived in Portland in 1989, and by that time the model was already nearly 20 years old. Since then, 142nd pilots and maintainers have worked to keep the aging aircraft in the air; a task that has proven to be more and more difficult as time goes on.

"Flying has grown exceptionally challenging in recent years given the new and unique ways the jets seem to break," he said. "I'm continually impressed with the F-15C maintenance community and our 142nd Maintainers in particular, as they've been able to keep these jets flying safely for all these years."

When the F-15 EX arrives at the Portland Air National Guard Base next year, the 142nd Wing will house the first operational EX airframes in the entire U.S. Air Force. The EX, or Eagle II, retains the basic design of the F-15C but

incorporates next-generation technology that brings the aging Eagle into the 21st Century. After spending years learning how to pull everything he could out of a nearly 50-year-old airframe, Friedman is ready to see what the next generation of air power can do.

"The EX will be a multi-role fighter capable of solving some of the most complicated problems that face the Air Force," Friedman said, "It will have better computers, displays, sensors, flight controls, and more thrust; it's an amazing opportunity to get to be part of Ops-1 for the newest fighter in the Air Force inventory."

After 30 years of flying the F-15C at the 142nd Wing, Friedman is the last pilot to do what generations before him have accomplished. It's a legacy that's more than the accomplishments of one person, or the capabilities of a single aircraft; it's a continuation of a legacy dedicated to serving the community.

"It's a little sad to see such a venerable platform reaching the end of its service life," he said. "The F-15C community has built quite the legacy and it's been a great privilege to get to be even a small part of that; thankfully there's an exciting opportunity to start building the Eagle II legacy in the future."

"The Boardman Range is an important national strategic level asset for our counties defense, it is the only restricted airspace in the Northwest that allows for advanced low-level aviation training of our War Fighters that include tactical jet aircraft, helicopters, and unmanned assets," Hanks said, while highlighting the joint training facility. "I look forward to what the innovation brings to increase safety to our nation's volunteer War Fighters."

The U.S. Navy and Oregon National Guard want to increase training at the range, and begin to use the multirole combat aircraft F-35 Lightning II, and the F-15EX Eagle II.

The original site was established in 1941 as a testing site for the Army Air Force during World War II. After the war the U.S. Air Force transferred large portions of the land to the Navy in 1960. Nearly seven miles of the historic Oregon Trail are located within the boundary area of the installation, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

NEWS

# Valuable Avian Knowledge Network training held at Rees Training Center

Story and photo by Aaron Perkins, Oregon Military Dept. Public Affairs

UMITALLA, Ore. – For the past 15 years, wildlife volunteers and multiple agencies from Oregon have been busy keeping tabs and performing research on the burrowing owls at the Oregon National Guard's Rees Training Center (RTC), formally known as Camp Umatilla/Umatilla Chemical Depot, outside Hermiston, Oregon.

The project first began in 2008, when Don Gillis, the natural resource manager at the RTC, noticed a decline in the nesting areas for the burrowing owls on the installation. The decline was due to a lack of badgers, prairie dogs and the like, which created natural tunnels the owls used for spring nesting.

Fortunately that same year, Gillis bumped into Mike Greg with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, who mentioned to him about a man in Virginia who was the leading expert in owl conservation. That man was David H. "DJ" Johnson, director of the Global Owl Project. In a 2019 Oregon Public Broadcasting interview, Johnson mentioned how it started for him here in Oregon.

"When I came to the depot to work on the burrowing owl project, there were three or four pairs and we knew that this was the last of them," Johnson recounts. "And it's really hard to recover from zero. So then the question is: what do you do?"

It was then that Gillis and Johnson devised a plan to make artificial tunnels for the owls to nest in, thus replacing the natural tunnels that other native animals usually created. From there, the project took off.

In a 2020 interview Gillis recounted, "One male owl waited on a perch watching them install one of the nesting tunnels," he explained, recalling the early

work man-made tunnels. "As soon as they finished and were walking away the owl flew down and took ownership of the nest."

As of today there are 84 burrows in total on land managed by the Oregon Military Department (OMD) and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).

Act (NEPA) environmental reviews and to evaluate operational and training activities in relation to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

Elizabeth Neipert, Research Wildlife Biologist and DoD AKN Program Director with ERDC, was onsite to help lead the course, remarked about the ongoing training.

and surveys into," said Neipert.

In a time where the federal government sometimes doesn't have transparency or always share data with other agencies, this is a positive step in the right direction where the individual departments can then share their avian data with whomever they wish.

Neipert explained further that, "for this situation here (at RTC), because you have so many partners with the tribes and the state, it would allow for data-sharing on any of the bird surveys where they partnered together."

"The AKN is not just for the DoD. The DoD got involved with a partnership of other federal agencies like US Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service and the National Park Service."

The AKN network even crosses into State, Federal and Non-government Organization (NGO) collaboration that the DoD has partnered with on other projects. The possibilities for conservation and management will greatly impact the wildlife future on all DoD installations, and beyond to help them make better decisions down the road to see what's working and not working.

"All of that data can be pulled together and queried, analyzed and looked at, at various levels. The power of the databases is really incredible," said Neipert.

The long term data collected during the 15 years of the owl monitoring at the former Umatilla Chemical Depot is one example how the data can be entered into the AKN system and shared across partners for long-term conservation of this Mission-sensitive Species. As part of the training, participants were able to get into the field to understand how bird data is collected. CTUIR staff were onsite to provide hands-on learning of how the owl trapping, banding and monitoring data is collected.



Lindsay Khiono (left), Habitat Ecologist of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Wildlife Program, assists a volunteer on how to hold a burrowing owl at the Rees Training Center in Umatilla, Oregon on May 24, 2023.

Most recently, from May 22-25, the RTC hosted valuable training conducted by the Department of Defense (DoD) Avian Knowledge Network (AKN) Program, which was brought together by the DoD, National Guard Bureau (NGB), and the OMD Environmental Branch with program partners US Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), Point Blue Conservation Science and Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO).

The AKN has progressed into the primary multi-agency repository for all avian monitoring and research data across the nation and is endorsed and mandated for use by all DoD military branches and installations via an Office of Secretary of Defense Memo signed June 2022. This collaborative program will enable the DoD to have readily available avian data to assist with National Environmental Policy

that data, let alone even at the installation level."

This is where the AKN database and the current training at RTC comes into play. Attendees will learn how the system is organized, how to create project metadata and input the data from various survey methods. Attendees will also learn how data sharing levels work, and how to visualize, analyze, and aggregate data for conservation management. They will leave with the capability to upload, archive, access, and use extensive avian data tools to support their environmental management of military training lands and to report information back to DoD.

"The AKN has a program structure setup for DoD, where we have a DoD-wide program, each military branch has a sub-program, and then each installation has their own project, that they can enter all of their data

# U.S. Air Force F-35 Lightning II training mission expected by 2025

Continued from Front Page

The F-35A Lightning II provides next-generation stealth capabilities to the U.S. and many U.S. ally and partner nations with its aerodynamic performance, advanced integrated avionics, enhanced situational awareness and increased survivability. The F-35A is considered the cornerstone of the future fighter fleet and guarantees the long-term viability of the 173rd Fighter Wing and continuation of its vital air superiority mission for many years to come.

"This decision validates the Wing's exceptional performance," said Bouma. "We have been in the training business since 1983, producing the best fighter pilots in the world for the U.S. Air Force. Team Kingsley's 'No Slack' attitude and commitment to excellence is a key factor in this decision."



Photo by Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Penny Snoozy, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs  
Two U.S. Air Force F-35A Lightning II aircraft assigned to Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, fly off the wing of a F-15C Eagle assigned to the 173rd Fighter Wing, May 17, 2023, in the skies above Southern Oregon.

The 173rd Fighter Wing has been the premiere F-15C Eagle training base for the United States Air Force since 1998. The single-seat F-15C and two-seat F-15D models entered the inventory beginning in 1979. The service is looking to replace the legacy fighters with state-of-the-art aircraft to better address future mission requirements.

"The Air Force continues to modernize the fleet to ensure a more lethal, resilient, sustainable, and agile force," said Bouma. "The Air Force recognizes that the 173rd Fighter Wing is essential to this future."

The decision to place the F-35A training squadron at Kingsley Field supersedes the previous announcement in 2020 that

placed the F-15EX Eagle II training base here.

"The Eagle II is a fantastic aircraft, and Team Kingsley was ready and willing to take on that mission," said Bouma. "However, our strategic focus has shifted since 2020; the Air Force needs F-35 squadrons available and fully mission capable to prevail against peer adversaries...that means they require more F-35 pilots. Team Kingsley's adaptability and excellence allows us to fill this Air Force need."

The F-35A basing includes 20 aircraft. The total number of personnel will remain the same.

With this basing decision, new construction or remodeling of existing facilities will occur; however, Kingsley Field already offers much of the infrastructure needed. Any construction would begin after the ROD is signed, expected in 2025 with first Lightning II aircraft to follow.

OREGON NATIONAL GUARD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND REGIONAL EVENTS

# The National Guard Marathon validates Guardsmen's endurance, conviction and valor

Continued from Front Page

Feature story and photos by John Hughel,  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

LINCOLN, Neb. – The origins of the present-day Marathon, the mythical and grueling 26.2-mile foot race, stems from Soldiers persevering on the field of combat, where Persian invaders were defeated in the Battle of Marathon by the Athenian Army in 490 B.C.E. In proclaiming the dramatic victory, Pheidippides, a Greek messenger, dutifully ran the 25 miles to an assembly in Athens and delivered the triumphant news of valor, before he collapsed and died. Historians and scholars have long debated the certainty, but the legend of Pheidippides and his fabled run still endures, in both courage and conviction.

In the pre-dawn hours of May 7, 2023, an imposing field of runners arrived at the campus of the University of Nebraska – just adjacent to Memorial Stadium, the renowned home of the five-time national football champions 'Cornhuskers.' For more than 200 competitors, coming from 54 states and U.S. territories, a chance to compete for a sought-after spot on the National Guard All-Marathon team.

Standing at the starting line for these Citizen-Soldiers, the moment represents months of preparation. They had expectations of this race during the countless hours of training, amidst the challenging weather conditions, and setbacks with injuries – all the while, balancing their workouts between full-time jobs, home life, and military obligations. The anticipation for the race to begin only served to prolong the anxiety for most – where eagerness and self-doubt can oftentimes be more trying than the race itself.



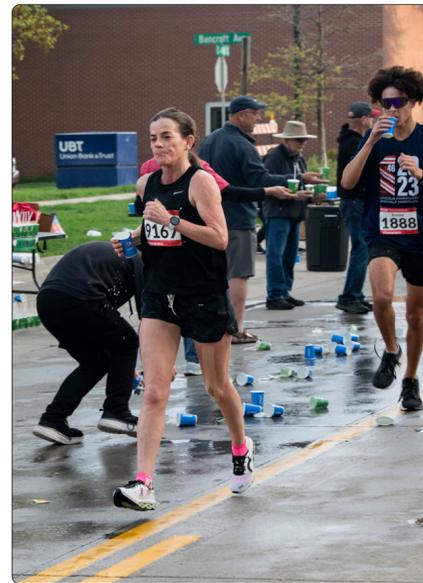
U.S. National Guard runners start the 46th Annual Lincoln Marathon, on May 7, 2023 in Lincoln, Nebraska. The race serves as the National Guard Team Trials as over 230 National Guard Airmen and Soldiers from across the country and U.S. territories to compete for spots on the "All Guard Marathon Team."

Responsibilities with work, training burnout, and injuries with surgical operations had limited her running for the past several years. "I feel like I am back from the dead," she said, excited about her 1:51:21 time while wearing her finisher medal, yet waiting for other Oregon runners to complete their race. "As the State Coordinate for the Oregon National Guard, I felt like I needed to come back and help lead this team, even if it meant doing the half marathon," she said, describing her approach to the race day. "I completed two marathons here and made the All-Guard team one year, but dropped out one year in the later miles with an injury – I am so glad just to have our [Oregon] team here this year and be part of this experience."

The Lincoln Marathon first became a showcase event for the "All Guard" team for distance runners in 1984, with the exception of the cancellation of the 2020 race due to the initial peak phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the program enhances the National Guard's recruitment and retention programs by promoting physical fitness goals, it was apparent thought-out the weekend of events, that a natural esprit de corps was present among the competitors.



U.S. National Guard Marathon Trials runners and workshop staff from the 54 States and Territories attend a H2F training class on May 6, 2023 in Lincoln, Neb. The race serves as that National Guard Team Trials for the "All-Guard Marathon Team."



Oregon Army National Guard Lt. Col. Billie Cartwright (number 9167) runs through the 5-mile mark water station during the 46th Annual Lincoln Marathon, on May 7, 2023 in Lincoln, Neb. This was her fourth trip to run with the Oregon National Guard Marathon team.

Guard members arrived two days before the race and took part in the Lincoln Marathon Expo and attended briefings on recruitment and the H2F program, which focuses on reducing injuries, increasing performance, and retaining healthy soldiers. The evening before the race, runners gather for the annual roll call where each state and territorial team introduced their team with interesting historical facts, blended in with jokes and trivia.

"Coming to this race, I really wanted to be an advocate for others to do the same, to come here and try out for the team," said Jung, who serves as the Holistic Health and Fitness Coordinator for the Oregon National Guard. "The H2F program is designed for Soldier Readiness – which includes the five domains of physical, mental, spiritual, sleep, and nutritional readiness. I highly commend the entire experience to anyone interested."

The nine-month journey that put him on the starting line would be called into action. Putting together these five H2F factors would be put to the test on race day, and soon, Jung would soon experience the highs and lows that encompass long-distance running during his initial marathon.

"Waking up on race day, I was groggy – the night before I was nervous, and couldn't sleep much," he said. "I was glad that I took some of the advice from Lieutenant Colonel Cartwright, especially about the later stages of the race course because around the 22 to the 23-mile mark, I hit 'The Wall'... that most marathoners are prone to experience. It was both a physical and mental challenge to push through."

Though his pace slowed in the later stages, he recalled, "feeling my energy drop" as the temperatures quickly climb into the 80s. He crossed the finish line at 3:36:31, garnering an 80th-place finish among National Guard runners. Arkansas Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Derek Yorek placed first overall in the male category at 2:39:05.

"I am ready for the next race, just not right away," Jung laughed, reflecting on the experience, while munching on post-race snacks. "But this is exactly what we want for our soldiers, to be the best version of themselves."

While Jung was feeling the euphoria of completing his first marathon, Capt. Amy Mireles, a liaison officer with the 10th Homeland Response Force, was nearing the finish, and writing her own 'first marathon' story. With an education background in Exercise Physiology, she put together a training plan in just four months based on research and relying on past preparations for other middle-distance racing events.

"In 2018 and 2019 I had wanted to run the Army 10-Miler in Washington D.C. but conflicts and then Covid kept me from running those years," she said. "The nutrition aspect was a big part of my training and I give a lot of credit for building that fuel base and watching my hydration to avoid 'hitting the wall.'"



Oregon Army National Guard Capt. Kevin Jung runs past the 17-mile point in the 46th Annual Lincoln Marathon, on May 7, 2023 in Lincoln, Neb. The race was his first completed full marathon.



Oregon Army National Guard Capt. Amy Mireles proudly shows off her finishers' medal after completing the National Guard Marathon, on May 7, in Lincoln, Neb.



Danielle Zemola, a member of the Washington Army National Guard and other runners cool off at the 17-mile water station as the afternoon temperatures rise during the 46th Annual Lincoln Marathon, on May 7, 2023 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

When she did start to feel her energy shift after the mid-point in the race, she said that the mental boost came from "trusting in the training."

"It started with callouses on my feet when I was about 15 miles in, then during that 18 to 20-mile point, I really needed to concentrate getting to the last turn-around point, that would begin the route back to the finish downtown, Mireles said, detailing the struggles in the final hour of running. "From there it was one mile at a time – staying hydrated and listening to my body."

With a mile to go, her mood and energy shift. "Almost immediately, when I saw that I was at the 25-mile mark, I remember thinking, "You can do it," as I knew I could finish the race."

With an official time of 4:02:28, Mireles finished in 20th place among female guard members, capturing a spot on the All-Guard Marathon Team. Ohio Army National Guard Capt. Brittany Downs placed first overall in the female division, with a finishing time of 3:15:14.

"In some ways, it's hard to believe I could qualify for this team running my first marathon," she said. "But I am also excited about building our Oregon team and running in some local events with others who might want to join too, there's a lot of camaraderie here."

That sense of solidarity was one of the key reasons why Sgt. 1st Class Louisa Brock, an Aviation Operations Specialist, returned to Lincoln to participate again. She ran her first full National Guard Marathon in 2008 and competed in two half-marathons.

"The self-discipline and sense of accomplishment that comes from the hours and miles of training was something I had missed, especially after taking a break from running over the past few years," she said, reflecting on the deeper symbolism of the race. "It wasn't at all about my finish time (4:52:06), it was exciting once again to feel this sparked sense of nostalgia,

and for being able to run here [in Lincoln] one more time."

This sense of identity in the running community that Brock rekindled is special to runners. It's what journalist Christopher McDougall, proclaims in his book "Born to Run," that 'running is the heart of what it means to be human.'

"The reason we race isn't so much to beat each other but to be with each other," McDougall writes.

In constructing a 15-week training plan, Brock used a Nike Running Club app to prepare for the race. As a traditional member of the National Guard, she could adjust workouts around her 'two-job' schedule.



Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Louisa Brock (left) celebrates after finishing the 46th Annual Lincoln Marathon with Lt. Col. Billie Cartwright (right), on May 7, 2023 in Lincoln, Neb.

"I was wondering how Lieutenant Colonel Cartwright picked this year's team," Brock said. "There was a sense of finding runners of various abilities, but finding individuals really committed to being runners first and foremost."

"I just want to grow the team back to where it was," Cartwright said, remarking on the past accomplishments of the squads coming to Lincoln to compete. "Oregon used to be such a big representation of running in the National Guard, and I am hoping with two brand new marathoners we got, and with runners like Sergeant Brock, who still demonstrate a love of the sport, we can recruit more members to the team."

With the first steps taken in re-building the Oregon National Guard Marathon Team, there is still more work to be done with recruiting additional runners – both with performance and passion for the sport. Yet it was hard to brush off the enthusiasm from the four Oregon runners, especially after watching Cartwright wholeheartedly embrace Brock in the finishers' area. "I just recently learned, the Oregon team won 4 team titles and 7 individual titles," said Mireles, reflecting on past state accomplishments. "We've been 'M.I.A.' and have not sent a team or representative in the past 7-8 years. Now, knowing the history of our team, I like to think of this year's Oregon National Guard team as "reviving the legacy," and using that motto moving forward."



Oregon Army National Guard Capt. Kevin Jung shows off his finishers' medal after completing the National Guard Marathon on May 7, in Lincoln, Neb.

FITNESS

# Oregon Soldiers test fortitude during 2023 Best Warrior competition

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

WARRENTON, Ore. – Some of the Oregon National Guard's finest junior enlisted and NCO Soldiers put their skills to the test with grit and determination during the 2023 Best Warrior competition, March 16-18 in Warrenton, Oregon. It appeared the only thing that made this year's competition easier was three days of March sunshine on the Oregon Coast, as competition planners and cadre ensured the 2023 rendition of Oregon National Guard Best Warrior was one of the best organized and demanding to date.

Events included a military board, written test, exam, land navigation, various weapons tests, grenade course, obstacle course, call for fire, ruck march, MOUT site, and more during three days with limited sleep. "It's been a couple of rough days, only a little sleep, but looking forward to what's next," said Sgt. Christian Galvez, with Charlie Company 186 Infantry Battalion of the 41st IBCT said after Zeroing his weapon on day two of the competition.

Galvez and others maintained a spirited camaraderie while competing against each other. The entire group completed all events, all three days, including a grueling race at the end where the group 'low crawled' out of the ocean before racing to the top of a hill on the beach and back.

The 2023 ORNG Best Warrior Competition set a high bar for future events proving the well organized and challenging competition is place where some of the Oregon National Guard's finest Soldiers can set an example as current and future enlisted leaders.

First Sgt. Les McCoy with Oregon Training Command said the competition is a multiple year effort for the planners.

"Drawing up everything from warrior tasks to how we're going to run the event, ammo, feed them, water them, and house them. There's a lot to it and I think it's very special, I'm honored to be a part of it," McCoy said.

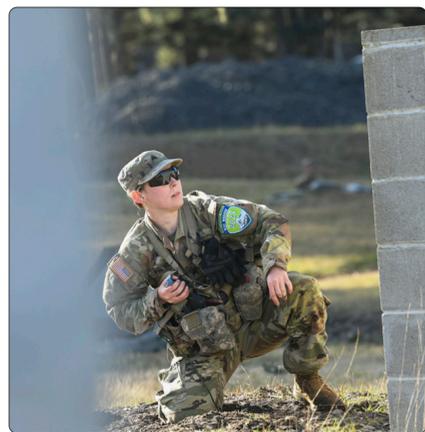


Photo by John Hughel, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard soldiers participating in the Best Warrior Competition, compete on the Grenade Range at the Camp Rilea Armed Forces Center, Warrenton, Oregon on March 17, 2023.

Sergeant Major of the Army (Ret.) Daniel Dailey, who is now the vice president for NCO and Soldier Programs for the Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA) visited to observe the competition with Oregon National Guard Sergeant Major (Ret.) Jerry Glesmann, the Region XI AUSA president.

Dailey said he was impressed with what he saw including how the competition was planned and executed, the cadre supporting, the Soldiers participating, and how challenging the competition was. Dailey gave a motivating speech during the closing ceremony that praised the Soldiers for stepping up to reap the reward of doing something difficult and leading by example.

"You all are doing things the right way here," said Dailey. During the competition Soldiers tested their physical and mental skills at one of the most challenging sites in the country, Camp Rilea, where past regional competitions have been held.

Oregon Army National Guard Command Sgt. Major Lee Smith and other Sergeants Majors from the Oregon National Guard were also at the competition to observe and encourage those competing to show support for what McCoy thinks is a very important event.

"I think this is important because these are the young men and women who are going to be the future leaders of this



Photo by Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Cory Grogan, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers compete at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) site at Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon during the 2023 Oregon National Guard Best Warrior Competition on March 18, 2023.

organization and to put them through this and see what they can achieve as individuals is very special. It speaks volumes to their leadership and the Oregon National Guard as a whole, and building the future," said McCoy.

### The results of the 2023 Oregon National Guard Best Warrior Competition:

- 2023 NCO of the Year
  - First Place – Sergeant John Shown
  - Second Place – Sergeant Dillon Vanorman
  - Third Place – Sergeant Joseph Malm

- 2023 Soldier of the Year
  - First Place – Corporal Ashton Dieli
  - Second Place – Private 1st Class Hunter Toyama
  - Third Place – Specialist Conner Nett

ORARNG Sergeant John Shown and Corporal Ashton Dieli advanced to compete at the regional Best Warrior competition in Fort Harrison in Helena, Montana, from May 15-21, 2023.



Photo by John Hughel, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard soldiers participating in the Best Warrior Competition, take on the Obstacle Course at the Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, Warrenton, Oregon on March 17, 2023. During the competition, the best enlisted soldiers and non-commissioned officers are tested for their aptitude through board interviews, physical fitness tests, written exams, urban warfare simulations and other key Soldier tasks relevant to the Army's operating environment.



Photo by Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Cory Grogan, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers low crawl out of the Pacific Ocean during the "Normandy Beach" event during the 2023 Oregon National Guard Best Warrior Competition at Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon on March 18, 2023.

FITNESS

# Oregon Airman finds inspiration and success on the Pickleball Court

Story and photo by Senior Airman Yuki Klein, 142nd Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. – Serving in the military requires discipline, perseverance, and the ability to adapt to new challenges. For one pickleball player and Oregon Air National Guard member, these traits have been the cornerstone of their success both on and off the court.

As the unit deployment manager for the 142nd Maintenance Operations Flight (MOF), Tech. Sgt. Nicole Cooper supports the overall readiness of the unit by ensuring members are deployable. Being able to set her flight up for success is something Cooper finds personally rewarding.

"My cup is always full when I get to serve others," said Cooper.

Outside of her military duties, Cooper enjoys spending time with her parents, and on one special occasion back in 2019, Cooper's parents introduced her to the game of pickleball.

"I had zero interest in this game the first couple of months," said Cooper. "There was no thrill! And to be very honest I was getting my tush kicked by much older athletes. I wasn't happy about losing. What kept me coming back for more was the insanely nice community I met."

The sport eventually grew on Cooper and within a year, she was hooked.

Now four years later, through a culmination of practice, dedication, and hard work, Cooper has won numerous competitions including the Margaritaville USA Pickleball National Championships. There she won two gold medals and one bronze medal.

"I feel alive when I play," said Cooper. "Like apart of my identity that was lost is found. When I'm competing at tournaments, battling alongside my teammates, I feel a great sense of freedom to be unapologetically fierce."

Cooper, who initially joined the military to obtain stability and direction in her life, was able to find that once again on the court.

The confidence she carries on the court stems from her mother who has been by her side through her journey in the military and now her pickleball career, and continues to be one of her biggest supporters.

"Without a doubt, all day, every day, since 1986, she has been my solid rock," Cooper said.

Cooper's support system extends to her father and sister. They have not only stood by her side through her journey to gold by taking care of her daughters while she's away at tournaments and training sessions, but also throughout her career in the military.

Alongside her family, Cooper has also received immense support from her military leadership.



ORANG Tech. Sgt. Nicole Cooper, assigned to the 142nd Maintenance Operations Flight, pauses for a photo with her pickleball medals at Portland ANG Base, Feb. 5, 2023. Both the military and pickleball has fulfilled Cooper by giving her stability and direction in her life.

"It's very reassuring to see the military giving back, being flexible, and supporting passions [and] goals," said Cooper. "Never a regret that I joined the best Air Force in the world."

Cooper is now at the 17-year mark in her Air Force career and has plans to retire at 21 years. Until then, she will continue to serve the mission where her leaders need her to be.

"I'm happy to show up in any way for my state [and] country," Cooper said. Outside of her military duties, playing pickleball has become more than just a game she plays with her parents. It is a way to build long-lasting relationships,

stay mentally and physically fit, and find a sense of purpose.

"I'm passionate about performing to the best of my ability, the process it takes to get there, and the support it takes to continue the journey," Cooper said.

A sport that initially brought her no joy, pickleball is now a vital part of her life. From the cultivation of lifelong friends to what gives her life further meaning, Cooper's passion for the sport serves as a source of inspiration for others, while her commitment to giving back helps to strengthen the bonds of camaraderie among her fellow service members.

# National Guard Fitness Challenge continues with Team Building

Story by Master Sgt. Erich Smith, National Guard Bureau Public Affairs Office

ARLINGTON, Va. – National Guard Soldiers and Airmen working as a team can do far more than when working alone.

That's why team building is April's theme for the National Guard Holistic Wellness Challenge. Driven by Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson, chief, National Guard Bureau, wellness experts at the Army National Guard Professional Education Center (PEC) designated April's emphasis. Teamwork directly supports CNGB's priority on readiness.

Fresh off its launch in March, which emphasized sleep enhancement, the challenge focuses on a different holistic health and fitness topic each month.

"Combat is the ultimate team sport. We all work on a team made up of teams," said Hokanson. "And it's the team – no matter how large or small – that provides an extra layer of resilience."

Army Maj. Benjamin L. Seims, a human performance optimization coordinator at the PEC, said increased demand for Guard capabilities requires more physical stamina from Soldiers and Airmen.

That demand, he added, has created "an even greater need to be agile and resilient," especially "due to the competitive advantage the Guard gives our military – the health and fitness of our formations play an integral role in the National Defense Strategy."

For Army Maj. Robert Killian, a plans and project coordinator at NGB's command, control, communications and computers directorate, and team fitness activities are about more than just achieving optimal fitness.



Courtesy photo by the Nebraska National Guard Public Affairs Department

Oregon National Guard Marathon Team members (L-R) ARNG Sgt. 1st Class Louisa Brock, Capt. Kevin Jung, Lt. Col. Billie Cartwright and Capt. Army Mireles have their team photo taken on May 6, 2023, the day before the Lincoln Marathon during a H2F training workshop. Team building has become a vital part of building individual readiness and resiliency for members of the military; fostering cohesiveness, camaraderie and trust in a "team-driven world."

"The most important thing about a team concept is accountability," said Killian, who was part of the first Army National Guard team that won the Best Ranger competition in 2016. "Whether it's ensuring that team members don't leave each other behind or

showing up for a workout on time, team exercises keep individuals motivated."

But for the "sake of competition," he said, team activities help improve individual performance.

"You just can't get to a level of going past your threshold unless you're competing," said Killian, adding the team concept inspires others to "gravitate toward someone who's going to push them and make them stronger."

Some team fitness activities range from contemporary military exercises, such as medical ball slams and air squats, to the Dynamic Duo, where one group running in place determines how long another group exercises. Even the traditional ruck march is encouraged, Seims said.

Whatever the activity, he said, the benefits highlight the interpersonal skills of trust, cohesion, diversity and leadership – all critical elements in a "teamwork-driven world."

"We are constantly surrounded by the challenge and satisfaction of working with diverse, uniquely organized groups of individuals that require the mastery of interpersonal skills to navigate successfully," he said.

Hokanson said team building in physical fitness activities creates good spirits and inspiration.

"Be dedicated, be disciplined, measure your progress and try to have fun," Hokanson said. "But you don't always have to go it alone. Inspire others, and be inspired by others, as a team."

TRAINING

## 1249th Engineers assist Centennial High School with new stadium field

Story and photo by John Hughe, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

GRESHAM, Ore. – Over two dozen members of the Oregon Army National Guard's 1249th Engineer Battalion concluded two weeks of community construction while providing equipment and manpower for a new athletic field and other renovations at Centennial High School, from May 15-26, 2023.

The long overdue upgrades to the old domed-style football field are part of the Army National Guard's Innovative Readiness Training (IRT), which provides incidental benefits to local communities through infrastructure construction and maintenance improvements.

The 1249th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Salem, Oregon, provided equipment and construction-skilled Soldiers and worked for 10 days to remove the existing soil while facilitating the ground for a new 21st-century mixed-use athletic field. The official groundbreaking took place on May 12, with several school district members, teachers and students, along with project service providers on hand.

"Here we are today, breaking ground on phase one of this project," said Centennial School District Superintendent James Owens during remarks at the ceremony. "There will be roughly 8,500 yards of soil that will be removed, and I want to thank the Oregon Army National Guard for their support – and thanks to them, we will have the dirt removed at a minor cost to the [school] district."

Centennial High School is one of the last schools in their region that does not have an all-weather turf field. This is the initial phase of construction that will improve the entire stadium, which includes seating and bathroom improvements to the stadium, along with seismic and safety upgrades, and finally resurfacing the track and field facilities. "These upgrades are exciting and as many

of you know, long overdue. Centennial High School field and stadium has been in need of improvements for many years," Owens said. "The wear on the grass field during high peak sports seasons decreases the opportunity for field use purposes, such as P.E. classes, and other athletic sport uses. This is a real disadvantage to our student-athletes who have to compete against other athletes that play on turf fields."



Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 1249th Engineer Battalion work with excavators, graders and front-end loaders to relocate the over 8,500 cubic yards of soil, rocks and grass from the Centennial High School football field during their two-weeks of Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) on May 23, 2023.

This is where the IRT program is vital to communities looking to make every dollar count when it comes to funding, but also looking to partner with resources that the National Guard can assist with.

"After the last few years of emergency response roles within the community, we are so grateful to also provide this type of assistance to our community," said Lt. Col. Jeff Sagen, 1249th Engineer Battalion Commander. "These soldiers are Oregon's own and anytime we can engage with the community, work together on projects like these, and leave a lasting impact – then that's a good day."

The National Guard covered the cost of the project, with an estimated saving to the school district of more than \$100,000. The Guard members are highly trained heavy

equipment operators, similar to many civilian skilled jobs, and a majority of the 28 Soldiers who worked on the project serve part-time in the military, employed in construction trade fields throughout Oregon.

"Almost all of the soldiers working on this project are traditional members of the National Guard," said Maj. Raymond Jones, 1249th Engineer Battalion (S-3) Operations Officer for the project. "They are so happy that they get to do this because this is what they signed up for, and they're having a lot of fun just operating the heavy equipment and moving dirt around."

To make way for the new all-weather turf, the Soldiers were responsible for removing the 8,500 cubic yards of dirt, rock, grass, and material from the infield of the track. With excavators, graders, and front-end loaders working throughout the field, as their 5-ton Medium Tactical Vehicles (MTV) were frequently being loaded, relocating the materials as the project neared completion. The material to be removed is being taken to a commercial site, less than a mile from the stadium area and will be reused.

"We have several different MOSs (Military Occupational Skill) on-site, but a majority are our '12 November's' – that's the heavy equipment operators, they are using a variety of vehicles that are organic to the 224th Engineer Company," Jones said. "To this point, all our equipment has been running superbly."

Part of the challenge is working alongside their civilian counterparts on this project, who are tackling other parts of the stadium with structural upgrades and supporting the Guardsmen.

"They have been really accommodating for the items we need to get the project done, and really – just letting us do the project," Jones said. "One of the really neat things about this project is that this is something that is making a mark on this community, and they know they are making a difference with their efforts," Jones said.

## Airmen prepare for looming wildland fire season in Southern Oregon

Story and photo by Airman 1st Class Adriana Scott, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. – Airmen from the 173rd Fighter Wing spent five days preparing to fight wildland fires and be ready if the Oregon Governor needs to call upon them this summer. The Oregon Department of Forestry trained 20 Airmen in the Red Card certification process May 3-7, 2023.

"One of our missions at the 173rd Fighter Wing is to serve Oregon," said Col. Lee Bouma, 173rd Fighter Wing commander. "This means our Airmen are ready to assist the State during emergencies and natural disasters, and one of the common emergencies in the Pacific Northwest is wild fires."

This training falls under Operation Plan Smokey, a state mission utilized by the Governor to provide National Guard resources when wildland fires exceed the capacity of ODF's personnel and resources, according to the interagency agreement between the Oregon Military Department and the ODF.

This initial training consists of 32 hours of in-class and hands-on instruction.

"What we're doing with them...is teaching them the basics to become an entry-level firefighter," said Jake Barnett, the protection supervisor for

ODF in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Barnett noted that wildland firefighting is a very physical job that presents many opportunities for injury, and like most military trainings Operations Plan Smokey started out with a focus on safety first. Airmen are taught the importance of foot care and other potential medical concerns that could affect the individual's health and safety.

To help reduce the risk of injury guardsmen are educated on fire behavior, tool handling, and communication.

Basic fire behavior is taught to the Airmen in a classroom setting where they learn about



Oregon Department of Forestry firefighters set a controlled blaze during training for 173rd Fighter Wing Airmen while training took place on May 7, 2023 near Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore.

environmental components such as fuels, weather, and topography.

Outside, ODF instructors demonstrated the uses of various tools and the "do's and don'ts" of tool handling. Additionally, they teach good communications practices to keep members aware of possible dangers such as the safe area around someone wielding an axe, or avoiding an area where burning trees could fall.

The last day of training tested the Airmen on the skills they learned the days prior during a live-fire exercise. A field with sagebrush and tall grass was set ablaze and the team worked to contain it while coping with heat, smoke, and fatigue.

"It's really cool to do a live burn," said Senior Airman Alana McBride, assigned to 173rd Maintenance Group. "It definitely gets you more into it and realize the actual hard work that firefighters have to put in."

With the wrap-up of this training, Oregon has 22 new Red Card holders ready to help fight wildland fires for the state of Oregon.

"To ensure your Oregon Guardsmen are 'Always Ready, Always There', we have trained three additional 22-person teams this year, creating a larger pool of individuals to pull from to meet our state's needs," Bouma said.

TRAINING

## 'Ready Redhawk' Cyber Exercise integrates multi-state partnership

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

PORTLAND, Ore. – A cyber exercise called "Ready Redhawk" was conducted from Feb. 27 through March 16 at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Oregon. The exercise was planned and led by the 142nd Wing Inspector General office.

The three-week exercise tested the 142nd Wing's ability to meet mission requirements in a technologically degraded environment. Additionally, the exercise served to identify unknown vulnerabilities the wing may have for both physical and cyber security.

Participants in the "Ready Redhawk" Exercise included the Western Air Defense Sector (WADS) at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, and the 262nd Cyber Operations Squadron (COS) out of Camp Murray, Washington, the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center (AFOTEC) from Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, the 177th Information Aggressor Squadron (IAS) out of McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas.

During the exercise, the 177th IAS acted as the adversary, or "red force," staging attacks on the 142nd Wing's network and installation, while the 262nd COS, the "blue force," worked to hunt and clear the nefarious cyber effects.

The 177th IAS studies, replicates, and teaches adversarial cyber tactics, techniques, and procedures on live networks and Air Force installations across the nation. By exposing airmen to tactics used by adversaries, they gain an understanding of how to identify enemy activity and report it correctly.

Conversely, the 262nd leads the Air National Guard in conducting Industrial Control Systems Defense Cyber Operations (DCO) and Cyber Protection Team (CPT) missions.

Kansas Air National Guard Lt. Col. David Carpenter, 177 IAS commander, explained that his Airmen's role in this exercise was to act as a nation-state level threat with the objective of gaining close access to base facilities and networks.

"With physical and cyber access, [they could] collect operationally relevant data in order to impact operational effectiveness of blue forces," Carpenter said.



Distinguished visitors from the 262nd Cyber Operations Squadron based at Camp Murray, Wash., and the 177th Information Aggressor Squadron from McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., along with 142nd Wing leadership, tour the flightline during the final day of a multi state/multi-unit cyber exercise known as 'Ready Redhawk,' on March 16, 2023.

Throughout "Ready Redhawk," the 262nd COS played the role of a quick-turn Incident Response Team (IRT), where they worked to identify (hunt), resolve, deny adversary re-attack, and provide recommendations to increase overall security posture.

"Our primary objectives centered around restoring capability to the 142nd Wing and working with local defenders to keep the 142nd in an operational state," said Tech. Sgt. Christopher Felix, a cyber-intelligence analyst with the 262nd COS.

This exercise was the first multi-state/multi-unit exercise to incorporate both cyber aggressors (the 177th) and a Cyber Protection Team (the 262nd), on a live network, focused on the critical missions of the Oregon and Washington Air National Guard.

Oregon Air National Guard Lt. Col. Kari Armstrong, 142nd Wing Inspector General, led the planning and execution of the Ready Redhawk Exercise. She stated that this exercise was unique because it played out on the wing's actual network. This provided an opportunity for Airmen to respond to real effects while executing their missions, versus responding to simulated effects via an inject card or inspector input.

For the 262nd, operating on the 142nd Wing's network brought with it several challenges.

"When met with a network as large as a full installation we're starting to talk about

thousands of workstations with tons of users, all operating in different ways," Felix said. "These issues and many others gave us a ton of tactical problems to solve even before we began hunting."

Airmen of the 142nd Wing experienced the effects of the exercise as they might play out in a real-world scenario, demanding high levels of awareness, quick thinking, and applying problem-solving skills.

"In this exercise, Airmen got to experience seeing their computers, phones, and radios fail first-hand and then go through the steps of identifying and reporting it, as well as forcing them to use their backup communication methods," Armstrong said.

Another factor which served to further challenge participants was the fact that Ready Redhawk is one of the first cyber exercises to incorporate a "fight to get in the air" scenario. Essentially, the adversary's goal was to prevent the wing from being able to perform one of its core missions: protecting the skies of the Pacific Northwest.

Oregon Air National Guard Col. Todd Hofford, 142nd Wing commander, emphasized the need to test the wing's capabilities to meet the U.S. Air Force's operational imperative number seven, which is the readiness of the Department of the Air Force to transition to a wartime posture against a peer competitor.

"In short, [it's] our ability to mobilize, deploy, and fight," Hofford said.

Testing the wing's ability to launch in degraded conditions is paramount to this concept. "If we ever go to war, the adversary is going to likely try to stop us from even launching," he said.

The scenarios that surfaced throughout Ready Redhawk provided difficult and unpredictable challenges to Airmen, driving the emphasis on the need to be ready to meet the mission no matter what.

"What I hope the wing takes away from this exercise is that we need to always be vigilant," Armstrong said. "We have become accustomed to equating being at home to 'peacetime,' and being deployed to 'combat.' We need to pivot our mind-set to being 'in combat' at our home base on a day-to-day basis."

## 173rd Fighter Wing conduct live-fire missile training in Florida

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

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – Nearly 120 Airmen and six F-15C Eagles from the 173rd Fighter Wing traveled to Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida to train with live missiles over the Gulf of Mexico, from March 9-23, 2023. Called the Weapons Systems Evaluation Program, or WSEP, Air Force fighter units from around the country make the trip for the valuable training.

"WSEP provides our pilots an opportunity to fire live missiles, and most importantly it lets us train all of our capabilities leading up to that moment," said Lt. Col. Tyler Cox, the 114th Fighter Squadron commander.

Senior Master Sgt. Ryan Manfull, the production superintendent for the trip, ensured the aircraft arrived on-time and were ready to fly; and with is a team of maintainers, made sure they stayed that way for the duration of the trip.

"There are a lot of moving pieces to make this TDY happen," he said. "Having limited resources, parts, and equipment, it takes everyone working together in an 'all-hands-on-deck' work environment to make the mission happen off-station."

The most visible piece of the mission is, "ready, ready, fox," – the moment a pilot touches off an air-to-air missile and communicates it over the radio.

"That moment represents the efforts of 118 Kingsley Airmen getting the jets here, building and loading the missiles and keeping the jets flying for the two-week duration, something they did exceptionally well," Cox said.

For the Airmen of the weapons element it was a step closer to their mission in the battle space. "Attending the Weapons System Evaluation

Program gives the weapons element the ability to showcase what we train to do in a combat environment," said Chief Master Sgt. Michael Cooper, 173rd FW weapons manager. "It provides our load crews a chance to safe, inspect, and handle live, forward-firing munitions, an experience far different than handling inert training munitions."

WSEP is also an inspection, and Cooper's 16 Airmen passed 30 different specific inspections without a single write-up. They loaded nine missiles and each of them fired exactly as planned. Cooper added that the WSEP inspectors lauded the efficiency of Kingsley's weapons Airmen.

"Achieving a 100-percent missile fire rate not only shows the proficiency of our load crews, but the reliability and high standards we maintain on the aging F-15C/D weapons system," he added. Manfull explained that "as a team, we accomplished something that will be hard to duplicate; we were scheduled to fly 56 sorties but we were actually able to generate 60 sorties through line increases, even while battling a multitude of aircraft maintenance issues."

For the uninitiated, it seems perhaps anti-climactic that this mission went off without a hitch, observed Senior Master Sgt. Randy Stacey, the deployment maintenance chief. However, when one considers all the variables from airlift across the country, the effect of totally different weather on older airframes which transited the entire continental U.S. the day prior to the main contingent and the number of moving parts involved, it represents a cohesive effort on many fronts.

Stacey summed up the trip in retrospect saying, "The most satisfying part of the experience was watching everyone come together, motivated for Kingsley's success, and seeing them deliver."



Courtesy photo by Staff Sgt. Lucas Zoll ORANG Tech. Sgt. Aaron Spahn, tests a live missile prior to loading in the pre-dawn hours at Tyndall AFB, Fla., on March 23, 2023.

FEATURES

# Military social media influencer takes part in "Hope in the Trenches" podcast

Story by John Hughel,  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

CLACKAMAS, Ore. – It's an age-old question for Soldiers – it varies somewhat in mood and emotion, and it's often asked of oneself with an ironic degree of self-reflective ambiguity: "Why do I serve,"... and for career service members, "why do I continue to serve?"

And as timeless as the question is, each generation affirms a distinct way to answer it. For U.S. Army 1st Lt. Austin von Letkemann, it's through the escapades of 'Tim, Cory, and Blake,' along with other characters on his captivating social media channel, "Mandatory Fun Day."

In describing the success of his social media account, von Letkemann recently joined Oregon National Guard State Chaplain Jacob Scott for a podcast episode of "Hope in the Trenches."

"People join the military for purpose," von Letkemann said, describing the common bond that service members across all branches share. To illustrate the point for his own personal reasons, he referred to his 'WHY CARD,' after Sgt. 1st Class Zachary Holden, "Hope in the Trenches" producer, asked if he still carries it with him.

"I serve to have a positive impact on the world," he said, after pulling his card from a document protector full of other assorted intriguing keepsakes. "I wake up every morning and know my life has purpose... I serve for my family to provide for them, and to know the world they live in is a better place...and finally, I serve for personal development and education."

The purpose of the 'WHY CARD' is used in some ways like a 'Challenge Coin' with other Soldiers because it allows for a further level of interaction, and can often start a weightier dialogue. But in many ways, "Mandatory Fun Day" has provided thoughtful exchanges on the hundreds of postings done by von Letkemann as it grows in viewership.



Courtesy photo by Austin von Letkemann

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Austin von Letkemann, in civilian attire takes a 'selfie,' for his social media platform "Mandatory Fun Day. He was part of the podcast "Home in the Trenches" on March 13, 2023. Von Letkemann is a native of Tigard, Oregon.

The topics range from Army and military humor to shared accomplishments, fitness, personal insights, and the never-ending and always challenging exhortations of wearing the uniform. One particular post that resonated across a wide spectrum of viewers, and generated witty feedback from all directions was on the Defense Travel System.

"My favorite funny post I did was my DTS post...which is by far my most viewed post," he said, recalling the skit while enjoying a hearty laugh with the podcast host. "It's got like 15 million views across all my platforms at this point."



Photo by Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Austin von Letkemann (bottom) interacting over his mobile device with Sgt. 1st Class Zachary Holden (left) and Chaplain (Col.) Jacob Scott, during the podcast, "Hope in the Trenches" on March 13, 2023, as he discusses his popular social media platform "Mandatory Fun Day."

As often as he uses humor to bring issues, both large and small to life, von Letkemann also touches on more serious issues about military service, veterans' health issues, and suicide awareness.

"In terms of a more serious post, my 'Veteran Tim' skit where 'Blake' lost a friend, and they kind of work through that together," he said, describing the shock and the grieving process. "I think we've all been there, as anyone who's been in the military even a short time can tell you...we all know somebody who's taken their own life. It's so sad and so hard."

The characters created by von Letkemann hit home on many levels and with many generations due to their authenticity. Through his platform, Soldiers can often identify with difficult issues in life reflected in the themes and characters he uses.

"It illustrates that old adage that, "sorrow shared is sorrow divide, and joy shared is joy multiplied,"" said Chaplain Scott, describing the common bond of experiences between service members.

In discussing von Letkemann's background and how he first joined the Army, Scott took a page out of the book from Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston.

"Several years ago I heard Sergeant Major Grinston remark that he doesn't ask Soldiers where they are from anymore because it's normally a one or two-word answer...instead he asks "How did you grow up?"

"Well I am an Oregon Native, and I grew up in Tigard [a suburb of Portland] and played Lacrosse and baseball growing up," von Letkemann said, but with his trademark self-deprecating humor confessed that he, "joined the military literally because I didn't think I was capable of doing anything else. I didn't have a lot of confidence in myself."

He's grown both as a person and Soldier during his time in service, raising to the rank of Staff Sergeant before receiving his commission. During the recording of the podcast, he acknowledged that he had

just been promoted to 1st Lieutenant earlier in the day.

In his current military position, von Letkemann is an Intelligence Officer and has a Bachelor's degree in Sports and Health Sciences, and is an Elite Level 1 Certified Fitness trainer, yet is setting his sights on graduate school while aspiring to work in mental health and eventually becoming a counselor.

"I've learned during my military career to lead with empathy because it allows us to bridge that gap...especially with our younger generation (of service members)," he said. "We as leaders are in a deficit in trust right off the bat. I think that they don't trust us because we're in positions of authority, and because of that, we have to earn their trust."

Von Letkemann attributes most of this generational shift to younger members' ability to use the Internet and can decipher fact from fiction almost instantly. Where previous generations of Soldiers readily accepted the information and orders given, younger service members are conditioned to be more skeptical.

Which oftentimes, requires more in-depth conversations and explanations behind the decision, he said, because "Millennials are the generation of 'Why' and growing up, have had the tools to look up nearly everything being told to them."

This is part of the success of "Mandatory Fun Day," because it helps transcribe the 'Why' that emerges within the traditional Army and broader military structure.

"People deserve to have a place where they enjoy coming to work," von Letkemann said, as he reflected on a recent conversation he had with one of his mentors. "As leaders we have to have more than one tool in our leadership tool bag, we've gotta go that extra mile."

In terms of his platform with "Mandatory Fun Day," he knows it is working based on the quality and quantity of the feedback from his audience, and because Army Leadership is reaching out to him.

"The Army's Maneuver Center of Excellence has contacted me to work with them, and the office of the Chief of Staff for the Army has reached out too," he said. "What I am doing is working...the engagement is reaching 20 Million people a month so it's working...it's getting out of our comfort zones because the standard Army marketing isn't working anymore like it used to," he said.

And if you don't believe him, then you should probably take it up with 'Tim, Cory, or Blake' on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, or Youtube. They've got an answer for just about anything the U.S. Army can throw at them.

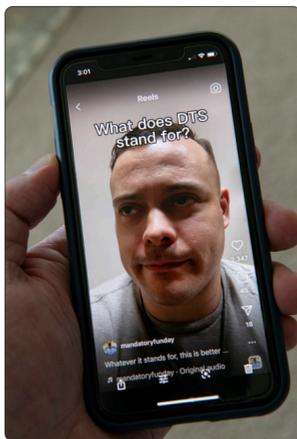


Photo by Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Austin von Letkemann uses a variety of social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Tiktok and Youtube) for his publishing "Mandatory Fun Day," his daily military video skits.

FEATURES

# Building strong and ready teams: rallying units, marriages and families

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

STEVENSON, Wash. - Deployments, annual trainings, military education, and even drill weekends result in a significant amount of time a Soldier spends away from their spouse and children, and an increased amount of time spent with the members of their unit. The sacrifices military members and their families make to serve may put these relationships to the test.

As a result of this potential strain, the Oregon Army National Guard (ORARNG) offers an event to strengthen these relational bonds. Formerly known as Strong Bonds, the program's name was changed to Building Strong and Ready Teams (BSRT), effective Oct. 1, 2022. The name change is significant, as it is now team centric – with a dual focus on strengthening the relationships not only between Soldiers and their families, but the working relationships between Soldiers, Commanders, and Community Partners as well.

Maj. Chris Shull, 82nd Tactical Support Detachment, ORARNG, attended a BSRT event held at Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, Washington on Nov. 18-20, 2022 with his wife of 14 years, M'Chelene. Chris has served in the military for 18 years.

Chris said the best thing about this event is, "It directs couples to sit down and have constructive conversations about how to handle the challenges of family life. It can be too easy to try to avoid those hard discussions. BSRT provides a structured, constructive format for that."

Another thing he greatly appreciates is, "It is really the only place where the Army gives something to my family versus taking away from my family," he said. "My family gets to be the priority for a change, rather than the Army taking priority over them."

BSRT is a command-directed, chaplain-led, community-partnered effort for building and maintaining a healthy Soldier and family structure. It is one of many Unit Ministry Team activities that support the local Commander's Religious Support Plan through training that strengthens spiritual readiness and holistic wellness. Though the program is led by the chaplain's office and facilitated by Chaplain Corps personnel, the curriculum is not explicitly faith-based in order to make it approachable to people of all faith backgrounds.

Oregon State Chaplain (Col.) Jacob Scott, who coordinates and often leads the BSRT events, explained the significance of the program. "When we talk about the resiliency of the people serving in the military and the common features of what makes any human being resilient, one of the primary factors

is the quality of your relationships," he said. "Strong and healthy family relationships are vitally important to us as human beings, not just because it makes us better Soldiers and leaders, though that is 100 percent true, but because it's part of making whole and healthy human beings."

Scott said he has had overwhelmingly positive feedback regarding the BSRT events. He can't count the number of times Soldiers and leaders have approached him and asked when he is going to do another one.



Photo courtesy of Chaplain (Col.) Jacob Scott

An Oregon Army National Guard family works to create a vision board with their family mission statement on it during a Building Strong and Ready Teams (BSRT) event Nov. 18-20, 2022 at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Wash. Vu is holding their infant daughter, Alyssa. The event was led by Oregon National Guard State Chaplain, Col. Jacob Scott and Chaplain Cpt. Jason Dong, 141st Brigade Support Battalion, Oregon Army National Guard.

One of the couples who had a positive experience at the November BSRT event is Master Sgt. Jeff Timshel, 821st Troop Command, ORARNG, and Sgt. Misti Timshel, 1249th Engineer Battalion, ORARNG. Misti served for eight years but got out in 2014 to spend more time at home with their son, while Jeff is in his 35th year of service. Jeff said he believed this event is "one of the best things the Guard could sponsor."

The Timshel's have been married 27 years and were recognized as the longest-married couple at the event. "I felt proud," Jeff said, "because I am completely dedicated to family first." The couple credits their longevity to the following things: putting family first, being flexible, attentive to each other's needs, and spending time together doing things they enjoy.

"There have been times in our marriage where the Guard felt like an extension of family," Misti said. "That kind of support is like no other, and that is true whether we've been on the giving end or the receiving end of support."

Though the couple had attended a Strong Bonds event about 10 years ago, they decided to attend the BSRT event last November because "I'd been feeling like our connection had been slowly slipping away for a while," Misti said. "It was already on my mind that we needed to work on our relationship with intention."

This type of event is important for married couples in the Guard to attend because "It's not about rank or responsibility," Jeff said. "You are there to better the family. The backbone of the Guard is the family. When Soldiers have strong family relationships, they're better Soldiers."

Misti also said attending events like this holds great value. "This event provides information that can be easily applied to all relationships in your life, including the one with yourself," she said. "You absolutely cannot go wrong by attending this event; although, it's important to show up with an

open mind and a willingness to be vulnerable."

Just a month after attending the BSRT event, Misti was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer. She said she saw the diagnosis as a "wake-up call" to make meaningful changes in her life, the very types of changes she learned about during BSRT. Some of those changes, she said, include better and intentional prioritization of spouse and family, effective self-care, and authentic connection, among others.

"The timing of the BSRT event was kismet for me," Misti said. "It was just what I needed to be reminded of these things, and just when I needed it."

In addition to the retreats for married couples, Scott has also held BSRT events in the workplace. Last September, he conducted a four-hour BSRT Appreciation in the Workplace Seminar for full-time Joint Force Headquarters staff, utilizing the book "Five Languages of Appreciation in the Workplace" by Dr. Paul White and Gary Chapman. Last December, Scott conducted a half-day seminar with CERF-P full-time staff and spent three hours discussing the Steven Covey book, "The Speech of Trust." "Covey calls trust the one thing that changes everything," Scott said. "Trust is essential to marriages, but also fundamental to the Army profession: trust between peers and colleagues, and trust up and down the chain."

The next BSRT married couple's event will be August 18-20 at Mount Hood in Welches, Oregon. The ultimate goal of this event is for Soldiers and their spouses to benefit from relationship education and skills training in a setting that inspires hope, fosters fellowship, and rekindles intimacy. Registration opens online June 26 at <https://bsrt.army.mil>. Soldiers (sponsors) must create a profile in order to register. All participants must be authorized family members enrolled in DEERS.



Photo courtesy of Chaplain (Col.) Jacob Scott

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers and their spouses attend a Building Strong and Ready Teams (BSRT) event Nov. 18-20 at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Wash. The event was led by Oregon National Guard State Chaplain, Col. Jacob Scott and Chaplain Cpt. Jason Dong, 141st Brigade Support Battalion, Oregon Army National Guard.

Commanders are authorized to approve SUTA for IDT or AT; or, Retirement Points orders. There is no funding for Pay and Allowances for participants for this event. Transportation is not provided. Meals and lodging (2 nights) are provided. Childcare is also provided. In addition, the Soldier and his/her spouse will each receive a copy of the curriculum that will be used during the event titled "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Marriage" by Jane, Sandra and Stephen Covey.

For more information regarding the event, contact Sgt. John Nowacki, 971-355-3091, [john.a.nowacki4.mil@army.mil](mailto:john.a.nowacki4.mil@army.mil) or Chaplain (Col.) Jacob Scott, 971-355-3090 (Office) or 503-932-2186 (Cell), [jacob.a.scott.mil@army.mil](mailto:jacob.a.scott.mil@army.mil).



## AZUWUR

## 'LIVING HISTORY DAY,' DENOTES A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE OREGON MILITARY MUSEUM

# AZUWUR

*Oregon & Military History*

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

**CLACKAMAS, Ore.** – Veterans, visitors, and history buffs took advantage of an unseasonably warm afternoon to attend the Oregon Military Museum's "Living History Day," experiencing firsthand a collection of historical reenactments, dynamic displays, and interactive engagements on May 20, 2023.

"With today being Armed Forces Day, we also wanted to show Living History Day as a representation of what we are becoming," said Katrina O'Brien, Director of Programs Services for the Oregon Military Museum. "We've brought together a range of reenactments and organizations that show the depth and breadth of Oregon's military history – as well as engaging present-day military units continuing on Oregon's military legacy."

The Oregon Military Museum (OMM) has been closed for over 15 years but during this time, work has continued, including renovations to its new home, the former Clackamas Armory. OMM plans to fully open its doors and unveil a suite of new exhibits in 2024.

The 13,000-square-foot main exhibit gallery, located in the building's former Drill Floor, will feature a timeline of Oregon history. Visitors will travel through regional and global events highlighted by the Oregonians and artifacts that were there. The Weapons Gallery will showcase a selection from OMM's renowned firearms collection, one of the largest publicly available small arms collections west of the Mississippi River. There will also be a temporary gallery with rotating exhibits.

In addition to displays and programming featuring members of all branches of service, the Museum also houses The Thomas E. Withycombe Library, a research library with over 30,000 military-related publications, a photo collection, archives, and multimedia, where people can do research on-site.

"Over the course of the next few years, we hope to have our collections catalog available to the public online, making the collections and the stories and histories they hold accessible alongside our exhibits, which can only hold a finite number of objects and stories at any one time," O'Brien said, explaining a multi-use approach once the museum is opened. "We hope to engage more field trips to the museum, connecting those of all ages to Oregon's history through exhibits and programming, while continuing to connect additional outreach to our veteran communities and other groups."

There were several reenactment groups set up for Living History Day, representing the Vietnam War era, all the way back to the American Civil War. Visitors were also able to tour a traveling exhibit featuring former U.S. Senator and Governor Mark O. Hatfield. The exhibit, "The Call of Public Service: The Life and Legacy of Mark O. Hatfield," is on display at OMM through Sept. 30, 2023.



Kathleen Sligar, Oregon Military Museum Director and Curator (left) and Katrina O'Brien, Director of Programs Services for the Oregon Military Museum (right), pause for a photo during "Living History Day."



Veterans, visitors and history buffs spend time touring the Historic Park during "Living History Day," while enjoying many of the displays at the Oregon Military Museum at Camp Withycombe, Oregon on May 20, 2023.

"In addition to the traveling exhibit, we have two historic buildings original to Camp Withycombe that are open to the public for the summer months," said Kathleen Sligar, Museum Director, and Curator. "One of these buildings highlights the history of logistics in Oregon, while the other showcases a collection of Japanese and American artillery pieces from the American Civil War to WWII. When we open fully to the public next year, there will also be three dedicated gallery spaces, as well as the Hall of Valor, honoring Oregon's Medal of Honor recipients."

Sligar said that admission to the Oregon Military Museum, its Historic Park, and all programming is free to the public. With many touring the Quartermaster Storehouse and the Battery 'A' Field Artillery Horse Barn, she was happy to see such a good turnout of visitors.

"Having people here is exciting, and seeing the grounds become a living, breathing space is so amazing," she said, as people toured the Historic Park, filled with tabling heritage and military-related organizations from around the region, which included several historic vehicles as well as the Museum's own permanent outdoor display of armored tanks.

"We've been so busy getting the 'insides ready' [for the grand opening], so it's great to see how engaged people are today. It is reinvigorating and reminds me of why I do what I do," Sligar said.

A key to events like Living History Day is the volunteers – nearly a dozen Historic Park Attendants were on hand to give insights and stories behind many of the exhibits.

"We're in the best position we've ever been," said Mark Stevens, a museum volunteer and retired Oregon National Guardsman who first began to help the Oregon National Guard with the military museum in 1975. "This museum was somewhat of an afterthought by the Oregon Military Department, and for many years its existence was in doubt because funding and staffing was a problem."

Reflecting back to the early days of the Museum, Stevens said that it all transpired with the 3670th Maintenance Company under the command of Capt. Terry Aitken. "He basically started with a broom closet off the drill floor [at the Clackamas Armory, now Camp Withycombe] and had an interest in military history and was collecting interesting stuff from a variety of places."

By 1986, Stevens had left the Marine Corps Reserve and enlisted in the Oregon National Guard, where he joined the Museum Detachment, a position he would hold until he retired in 2011.

"We traveled all over the Western States. It's where we found the Japanese tank in Fallon, Nevada...the Sherman tank came from Gowen Field in Idaho...many of the cannons came from Fort Douglas (Utah)," Stevens said, recalling the places where many historic vehicles in the Oregon Military Museum were discovered. "Through Terry's foresight, he was able to acquire these items, which are nearly impossible to get today."

In many ways, it's been the volunteers and retired detachment members that have kept the Museum's collection of items growing and the interest in the project alive throughout the past four decades.



Visitors spend time touring the Historic Park during "Living History Day," at the Oregon Military Museum at Camp Withycombe, Oregon on May 20, 2023. Volunteers are an important part of the Museum's support staff, helping with a variety of roles to foster the Museum's long-term growth.

"Our volunteers are the ambassadors of the Museum," O'Brien said. "They are here to help and assist our visitors, but they also play a vital role in the care and accessibility of our collections. From restoration to digitization, our volunteers enable the Museum to honor, educate, and preserve – which are the cornerstones of our mission – and provide essential services to the Museum's growth."

OMM has three volunteer groups; Visitor Services (including Historic Park Attendants), Restoration Shop, and Collections and Archives, and is always looking for more volunteers to help in these essential areas.

"This Museum is a hidden gem, it's really going to be a resource and treasure for the State of Oregon," Sligar said. "Oregonians and other visitors alike will walk away with a new sense of pride and understanding for our Armed Forces, as well as be humbled by the actions and sacrifices made by so many. There is much to discover here, truly something for everyone."

## Unique WWII travel package helps support the Oregon Military Museum

Story by John Hughel, OMD Public Affairs

**CLACKAMAS, Ore.** – With the 80th Anniversary of D-Day approaching next summer in 2024, *Collette Travel* is offering a special nine-day WWII tour to commemorate the June 6, 1944 liberation of Europe. This is an opportunity to retrace the journey that our Allied troops embarked upon while helping the Oregon Military Museum Project (OMMP) raise money to support their ongoing work at the Museum.

The Oregon Military Museum Project is a 501(c)(3) Oregon non-profit corporation organized to raise funds necessary to complete the construction and exhibits, while also helping support future operations of the **Oregon Military Museum**. By partnering with *Collette Travel*, 10% of the proceeds from this travel

package will be donated to OMMP.

The tour dates for this package begin on June 24 in London, England and then crosses the English Channel to Caen, France on June 28, and finally to Paris where the tour concludes on July 3, 2024.

"This is a great way to experience some exciting places in Europe and help our **Oregon Military Museum** at the same time, said OMMP President Maj. Gen. (ret.) Dan O'Hollaren. "I've been to many of these locations and traveling in late June is a perfect time to see these historic sites."

By signing up before October 25, 2023, you can save an additional \$400 per person on the trip. The cut-off date for this package, which does include 12 meals (8 breakfasts and 4 dinners), will end on April 25, 2024.

"We're hoping to have about 20 or so couples sign up and take the tour together so that this can be a really enjoyable

experience," O'Hollaren said. "It will also help meet some of the goals for supporting projects at the Museum too."

Some of the highlights of the trip will include visiting the Normandy D-Day Landing sites of Omaha and Utah beaches, visits to the Normandy American Cemetery, then touring the Saint-Mère-Église, the first French town liberated from the Nazis. Visitors will learn about the paratroopers who parachuted at night into Normandy on June 5-6, 1944. The final part of the trip will include traveling to Paris - the "City of Light," visiting more historical sites and finishing with a lively dinner cruise along the Seine River.

For more information about this tour package contact Maj. Gen. (ret.) Dan O'Hollaren at (503) 780-4735 or his email: danoh@comcast.net. To learn more about OMMP, please visit <https://oregonmilitarymuseumproject.org/>