OREGON SENTINEL

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

234th Army Band amplifies U.S. Army Europe and Africa Band



Photo by Spc. Frank Ritchey, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Oregon Army National Guard 234th Army Band gather for a group photograph after a concert at Heidelberg Castle in Heidelberg, Germany on July 30, 2023. This performance is part of the 234th Oregon Army National Guard Band mission to Kaiserslautern, Germany, to cover down for the United States Army Europe and Africa Band. Story on Pages 8-9

173rd FW pilot selected as newest Thunderbird demo pilot

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

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore.-The United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, known as the "Thunderbirds", recently announced the latest addition to their team for the 2024-2025 season, and at the top of the list was Maj. Tyler Clark, a 173rd Fighter Wing Instructor Pilot and Chief of Scheduling.

Clark is the first Air National Guard fighter pilot selected to be a Thunderbird demonstration pilot.

"Being a Guardsman is an opportunity to represent the Total Force and the 'Land of No Slack'," says Clark. "I am extremely thankful for the 173rd Fighter Wing and my leadership who enabled me to pursue this opportunity."

'Land of No Slack' is the nickname given to the 173rd, which Clark has been a member of since early 2022.

Story continued on Page 13



Photo courtesy of 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

U.S. Air Force Major Lauren Schlichting, #4 Thunderbird for the U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Team, presents Major Tyler Clark, 173rd Fighter Wing F-15 Instructor Pilot, with a signed photo after his flight evaluation July 6, 2023 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. Clark was selected as one of the newest demonstration pilots for the U.S. Air Force Demonstration Squadron in the 2024-2025 season.

OREGON SENTINEL

The Oregon Military Department

State Commander-in-Chief Governor Tina Kotek

The Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel

Assistant Adjutant General - Air Brig. Gen. Jenifer E. Pardy

Joint Domestic Operations Commander Brig. Gen. Eric. J. Riley

> Air Component Commander Brig. Gen. David N. Unruh

Land Component Commander Col. Alan R. Gronewold

State Command Chief Warrant Chief Warrant Officer 5 Eric M. Boyles

Command Senior Enlisted Leader Command Sgt. Maj. Lee G. Smith

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COMMAND

Oregon National Guard is the "Service of Choice" for Oregonians

After several years supporting because we want to be a part major domestic operations, on of something that is enduring, top of our recurring federal successful and continuously mobilizations, we have gotten innovating. The Oregon National back to a more routine operational Guard does just that - every tempo. Our Soldiers and Airmen mission, every assignment, every have successfully completed multiple Annual Training exercises, Each of us has a desire to win and the Oregon Military Museum then better that win with further recognized the 80th anniversary accomplishments. The bar gets set of our 41st Division Soldiers in high, but to my amazement you Australia during WWII, we worked continue to raise it higher and higher. alongside our state partners in the Indo-Pacific region, conducted Oregon Youth Challenge classes but also produces its own unique making it known that the Oregon and STARBASE courses, while rewards. Noting that, we need our National Guard is the "Service of also supporting children at Camp Rosenbaum.

transition, as I have announced my something they cannot see. Over but doing that on top of our pending retirement in November. the past eight years as your Adjutant commitment as the operational Once the selection process is General I have seen firsthand the reserve of the Active Components. complete, my successor will be amazing stories you have created! announced by Governor Kotek. Please go out and tell your "Oregon create their stories alongside us This change in leadership, although significant, will be a smooth accomplishments, and experiences for all your hard work this summer and seamless transition. Our organization thrives because of our youth can see what service is all about. future. As we look to a busy training collective efforts to succeed.

We all joined this amazing team Land Component Commander, is

challenge is met with achievement.

Being a member of the National Guard presents distinct challenges, strength and numbers to increase. It's hard for potential future agree more. We are entrusted with This fall will also be one of Soldiers and Airmen to dream of not only serving our communities, Guard Story." Share your successes, and be part of our team. Thank you within your communities so our and your continued work into the Colonel Al Gronewold, our year in 2024, remain -





Maior General Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard

Choice" for Oregonians. I could not Go tell your story so others can

Always Ready, Always There!

Leadership takes time and an extreme amount of effort

Command Sergeant Major Lee G. be spent on the 90% of people Smith is the Command Senior Enlisted doing great work and rewarding Leader, Oregon. He is the principle them and making them feel like advisor to The Adjutant General, a part of a team. The remaining responsible for providing the State of time can go to dealing with the not Oregon and the United States with a so stellar individuals. Counsel and ready force of more than 8,100 Citizen- let them know what they need to Soldiers and Airmen equipped and improve on and teach them how to

Guard in 1993 as a Cannon Crew they may not. This could motivate Member with Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery.

In 2018, CSM Smith was selected to serve as the 82nd Brigade Command Sergeant Major and then as the Oregon Army National Guard Senior Enlisted Leader, State Command Sgt. Maj. in 2020. This is his first commentary as the CSEL for the Oregon National Guard.

I have always said, good leadership is easy, it's just we as humans make it difficult. Here are just a few of

trained to respond to any contingency. improve. Do not just expect them CSM Smith joined the Army National to know how to get better because them to do better because they see that you care.

If we do not deal with the problem employee, your good employees will see that, and they will potentially leave your organization. This happens all the time. However, of your troops. keep in mind, good employees need to receive much of the time and to important, this is a very small piece find that balance can be challenging of leadership. Please don't think but worth the effort.

you are trying to be a good leader. and they will respect you for it. but that's what the next issue is for.





Command Sergeant Major Lee G. Smith Command Senior Enlisted Leader, **Oregon National Guard**

Get your evaluations and quarterly counseling done on time to determine the goals and desires

Although those things are extremely because you get those things done When our employees see that we well, you are a great leader, there care for them and deal with issues is so much more to it. I wish I had the many things to consider when swiftly, this will create a team, more room to write so much more,

Have you ever heard the saying; When you have the respect of the Leadership takes time and "I spend 90% of my time on 10% of employees, this creates trust. When an extreme amount of effort. the force." The 10% of the force that your employees respect and trust I appreciate the leaders in our just seems to always do something you - you will have amazing morale. organization that manage to put in wrong or draw your attention. It When you have those three things, that time and effort, you are truly should be 90% of the time should you will see a very productive team. shaping our future. Thank you.

Army National Guard Change of Responsibility ceremony



ORARNG Col. Alan Gronewold, Oregon Army National Guard Land Component Commander (left), presided over the State Command Sgt. Maj. Change of Responsibility ceremony held in Salem on Sept. 8, 2023, honoring the transition between incoming Command Scott McCoy (right) and outgoing Sgt. Maj. Lee Smith.



ORARNG Col. Alan Gronewold, Oregon Army National Guard Land Component Commander (left), presents The Legion of Merit Medal to outgoing Oregon Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Lee Smith (right) during the Change of Responsibility ceremony held in Salem on Sept. 8, 2023. (Photos by Maj. Chris Clyne, OMD Public Affairs)

COMMAND

Oregon Air National Guard Col. Jenifer Pardy promoted to Brigadier General

Story by Master Sgt. Steph Sawyer & Photos by Maj. Chris Clyne, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

CLACKAMAS, Ore. - Oregon Air National Guard Colonel Jenifer E. Pardy was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the Oregon National Guard during a ceremony held in her honor on Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon on August 5, 2023. Major General Michael E. Stencel, the Adjutant General for Oregon, was the presiding officer for the event.

The ceremony included the traditional military honors of the promotion of Brig. Gen. Pardy. The official oath of office was administered, and Pardy's three children, Emma, Sarra, and Nick Pardy, assisted in pinning on her new rank. During the ceremony, Brig. Gen. (ret.) Donna Prigmore presented the general officer flag.

In her new role, Pardy will be the Assistant Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard. In this capacity, she will work to address strategic challenges faced by the Oregon Army and Air established work ethic and leadership abilities National Guard.

"I will continue my efforts to work with our federal and state agencies to secure funding and support, focus on recruitment and retention strategies, invest in training and technology, and adapt to emerging threats," Pardy said, commenting about her new responsibilities.



Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Jenifer E. Pardy's children Emma, Sara, and Nick Pardy place her new rank during a promotion ceremony held at Camp the Guard, she says, that has had a direct Withycombe, Clackamas, Oregon on August 5, 2023. influence on the leader she is today.



Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Jenifer E. Pardy is led in the Oath of Office by Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, Adjutant General for Oregon, during a promotion ceremony in Camp Withycombe, Clackamas, Oregon on Aug. 5, 2023.

Maj. Gen. Stencel remarked on Pardy's wellas he reflected on her military career.

"I am happy to be able to preside over this ceremony today. Your judgment, your knowledge, your breadth of experience, but even more importantly, your character makes you abundantly qualified for this promotion," he said.

General Pardy's military career began when she enlisted in the U.S. Air Force Reserve in 1984. She later joined the Oregon Air National Guard in 1993, and was commissioned through Officer Candidate School in 1998. She has since served in various leadership positions to included: Comptroller, Flight Commander, and as the 142nd Wing Mission Support Group Commander.

Pardy built much of her professional foundation at the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Wing where she gained experience serving at every level of leadership up through Group Command. It's this experience and the strong relationships she established there and throughout

During her speech, Pardy reflected on the caliber of people she's worked with over the years and how they helped her pave her career path.

"As I look out in the crowd and I see all of the faces, I am just so grateful to be surrounded by some of the most exceptional individuals that I've ever had the privilege to know," she said. "Each of you has contributed to my career, my growth, my development, and my success."

Pardy most recently served as the director of staff-air, acting as the senior advisor to the adjutant general on Air National Guard matters. Her military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

"I believe strong professional relationships contribute to a positive organizational culture," Pardy said. "They cultivate trust, respect, and camaraderie which increases collaboration and support."

The Oregon National Guard congratulates Brig. Gen. Jenifer Pardy on her promotion and wishes her continued success as she assumes her new duties leading in the Oregon National Guard as the new Assistant Adjutant General.



Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Jenifer E. Pardy with the help of Brig. Gen. (ret.) Donna Prigmore display a "One Star Flag" during her promotion ceremony.

Oregon Guard supports 2023 Wildland Fire operations across the state

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

SALEM, Ore. – The Oregon Army National Guard launched two CH-47 Chinook helicopters in support of the Tyee Ridge Complex, located 10-miles west of Sutherlin, in northwest Douglas County, Oregon on August 30, 2023. The two Chinook's dropped evacuations was an Oregon Army National Guard HH-60M Blackhawk helicopter, which was forward deployed to Roseburg to ensure a quick response time.

The CH-47 Chinook helicopters, based in Pendleton, Oregon, were notified on August 29, and moved to the Roseburg area on August 30 to provide support. The HH-60M Blackhawk helicopter had previously been forward positioned at the end of July in Medford, but were later moved north to Roseburg earlier on August 10, 2023.

Over the Labor Day weekend, the water bucket mission was called off and both Chinook's departed back to their home station in Pendleton. The only medical evacuation support in Roseburg. The Oregon Department of Forestry

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek's office released Executive Order No. 23-17 on August 2, qualified and ready to assist if called upon. declaring a "Statewide State of Emergency

due to the imminent and ongoing threat of in how they trained to fight fire. The lead wildfire." The order was verbally given several days earlier on July 28.

Earlier this March, the Oregon Military Department had made early preparations, having nearly 200 personnel conduct training from both the Army and Air to receive their Incident Qualification Card, known more commonly as a "red card." Training occurred nearly 105,000 gallons of water from their across the state at Camp Rilea, near Warrenton, water buckets in support of fire containment and also in Bly, and Klamath Falls. Oregon specifically sized pens in the river to prevent efforts. Also on standby for potential medical uses the National Wildfire Coordinating Group fish from entering the pens," requiring "suitably standards as their foundation.



active mission following the Chinook's An ORARNG CH-47 Chinook helicopter with Bravo Company, 1st Battaldeparture was a HH-60M Blackhawk ion, 168th Aviation Regiment fills a wildland fire water bucket while conhelicopter which continued to stand by for ducting training at Indian Lake, near Pilot Rock, Ore., on July 26, 2023.

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Bejan Rajaian, Joint Domestic Operations managed the Tyee Ridge Complex which Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge started on August 24, 2023 from lightning. indicated that between both the Land and Air components, more than 700 personnel were

Oregon Guard aviators saw changes this year and land use could be started.

regulatory agency, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), modified how water bucket training in the Columbia River would be conducted moving forward, in an effort to stop the possibility of scooping up salmon and steelhead. Oregon Military Department Environment Chief, Kelly Toynton indicated all future bucket training operations in the Columbia would have needed to "occur within sized boats, tow vehicles, and qualified boat

teams to install and manage the pens during bucket training operations, which were prohibitively expensive." "While other dip locations were reviewed,

many others were ruled out in both Oregon and Washington." Toynton said. Crews now will utilize Indian Lake, located outside of Pendleton, and a dip

pond that has been constructed at Rees Training Center near Hermiston for their annual qualification and refresher training. HH-60M Blackhawk helicopters had

also previously used a canal at Biak for their water bucket training, however it too was "ruled out because of multiple issues, including water rights limitations" and due to it being "managed within the national historic register regulations," Toynton said. "We cannot do anything that might disturb the canal and its rim and levee."

Currently there are no water bucket training locations on the west side of the state. Though the process to identify locations and work future agreements for water withdrawal FALL 2023 Page 4 FALL 2023 Page 5 **OREGON SENTINEL OREGON SENTINEL**

LEADERSHIP

Ribbon Cutting ceremony highlights land transfer at former Umatilla Depot

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

HERMISTON, **Ore**. – A ribbon cutting ceremony held at the Raymond F. Rees Training Center on July 12, 2023, highlighted the transfer of property from the former Umatilla Chemical Depot to the Columbia Development Authority (CDA). The redevelopment plans began over 30 years ago when the Depot was first slated for closure in 1988 under the Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC).

During a ceremony held in September of 2022, the depot was formerly renamed to honor retired Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, a Helix resident and former Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard. With the transfer of property from the U.S. Army, nearly 17,000 acres will be used for both Umatilla and Morrow counties in Eastern Oregon.

Guard Regional Training training purposes. Institute underscoring the historic transfer process of

multiple agencies. As the Executive Director of the Columbia Development Authority, Greg Smith discussed the lengthy process and introduced many of the key members that helped forge the transfer that officially took place in March. One of the most challenging aspects was the right to water usage.

"Through collaboration with the Oregon Military Department, over a number of meetings, we were able to reach an agreement -

Department had all the water they needed and the remaining involved over 4,000 acres of Department has a debt of to the CDA," Smith said. "I'll tell environmental issues for all of Development Authority as well you what — nobody thought that the key stakeholders. this could be done.'

Other significant agreements water, approximately 74.6 land for the Confederated Tribes gratitude and owe a substantial percent, would be transferred of Umatilla, which involve vital thank you including the Columbia

"One of the things we did to be said Jim Arnold, Oregon Military



National Guard training as well emonial ribbon to officially highlight the transfer of property to the CDA during an ceras industrial development in emony held at the Rees Training Center, near Hermiston, Oregon on July 12, 2023.

The counties and ports plan a good neighbor was to make sure storage mission in 1962 during to develop over 9,500 acres of we were protecting the habitat," the height of the Cold War. By Representatives from Colombia industrial areas that the CDA Smith detailed another important 2011, all of the munitions had Development Authority, along now owns, while the tribes aim collaboration process was been safely destroyed as the with other state and federal to restore wildlife habitat and conducted. "At the end of the day base closure operations were partners took part in the ribbon preserve cultural and historic an agreement was reached, where completed in late 2022, while cutting event after first making sites. The National Guard will each and every tribal council remarks at Oregon National use a large portion for multiple member and each CDA board people worked at the depot.



Jim Arnold, Deputy Director for the Installations Division Environmental Branch for the Oregon Military Department where the Oregon Military addresses those attending the Ribbon Cutting ceremony. support new missions.

members unanimously signed

off on the final agreement. the Pacific Northwest."

The CDA includes transfer agreements. five partners through

term projects that will

"The Oregon Military as tribal and other local leaders,"

> Department, Director of Installations. "The Rees Training Center began as a vision of the Oregon Military Department nearly three decades ago, with the intent to create the premier National Guard training center here on the former depot.'

The initial Construction of the Umatilla Chemical Depot began in January 1941, less than a year before the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor. There were 1,001 weapons storage igloos built to stock and safeguard ammunition as well as store other military supplies. The depot took on its chemical weapons

at its peak — more than 7,000

The spirit of collaboration and cooperation were sacrosanct This is some of the most in these Government-toprime industrial land in Government issues between all parties in forging the final

"We have a lot of ongoing an intergovernmental activities with the Confederated agreement, including the Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Port of Umatilla, Port Reservation at the Rees Training of Morrow, Umatilla and Center, which includes access Morrow counties, and the to the Coyote Coulee and the Confederated Tribes of the management of the Western Umatilla Indian Reservation. Burring Owl," Arnold said. "The With the final agreements Oregon Military Department in place, the Oregon looks forward to being a strong, National Guard can move positive and engaged presence forward on other long- in the local community well into the future and completing the final stages of the BRAC process.'

LEADERSHIP

A household success: Camp Rosenbaum's dynamic duo

Story by John Hughel, Oregon Military Department **Public Affairs**

WARRENTON, Ore. - For over 50 years and counting, the driving success of Camp Rosenbaum has been with the incalculable number of staff and volunteers that give up part of their summer to support the youth-citizenship camp.

Held annually at the Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center near Warrenton, Oregon, members of the Oregon Air National Guard, the Portland Police Bureau, and Home Forward work as counselors, cooks, bus drivers, arts and crafts instructors, and in dozens of other roles making the camp an exciting week for kids. They range in age from 9to 11 and come from low-income households and disadvantaged circumstances across Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Yet throughout the year, the efforts never stopped for fundraising, events, and building awareness for the camp, however on the day-to-day operations.

"(Camp name, "Spanky") Kroeller full-time as the 142nd Wing has been the full-time Camp Aircraft Maintenance Squadron the campers and basically took our Rosenbaum Program Director. For commander. They met in 2008, the past two years, her husband, Oregon Air National Guard Lt. Crystal worked in the Command Col. Brian (Camp name, "Rouge") Post, and were married several Director, an unpaid position, of their own children of elementary traditionally held for a three-year school age, so it's easy for them term. She has been volunteering to relate to kids in this age range, areas since overnight camps were President Dynamic." since 2001 with the camp in a variety of roles.

"Last year getting ready for



ORANG Lt. Col. Brian "Rouge" Kroeller acknowledges a camper during a group activity during the week-long youth summer camp. leading up to this year's camp and know what to expect."

an office or business address so the Kroeller household functions as that place. This includes a garage filled with countless items used future of the camp in jeopardy. for the summer camp season and other events.

there always seems to be 'Camp quickly becoming friends where giving them a seamless perspective still closed due to the Centers for on current trends too.

The magic of Camp Rosenbaum camp, after returning to in- is to provide life-enhancing person camp after COVID, Camp opportunities for young people Rosenbaum was all we talked about through a complete summer about the hours spent discussing programs and mentorship. The

choices."

Camp Rosenbaum was inspired materials in the backpacks." by the Oregon Air National Holocaust, Fred was forced to place from August 12-18. flee Austria as a child during the from a citizenship camp. The practice communicating!" camp was hosting over 150 kids Camp Rosenbaum doesn't have each summer at the time of Fred's passing in 2009.

After 49 years of in-person camps, the Coronavirus put the

"During COVID we weren't able to host Camp Rosenbaum for "We share an office at home, 2020 and 2021, so we had to think fast and came up with Operation Rosenbaum on the brain' or Lemonade in 2020, where we -two key members of Camp random ideas being shared back put together backpacks for the Rosenbaum share a unique perspective and forth on how to make camp campers," Crystal said, reflecting better, sometimes it's 24/7," said on the two years the camp was For the past two years Crystal Brian Kroeller, who also works closed as an in-person experience. "We put together backpacks for program we do here and delivered it to 1,000 kids in Oregon and Southwest Washington."

In 2021, campers who would camp were sponsored to attend local day camps in their local Disease pandemic restrictions.

of the technology and success Guard, the role of camp director stories," said Brian, as the volunteers has been a traditional three-year worked to bring a sense of the camp assignment. in the house," said Crystal, laughing camp experience offering athletic to campers due to social distancing. the details of the camp. "This year staff works tirelessly to instill we posted that had a lot of the Brian. "With that, to effectively it's easier because we have history positive citizenship skills with a characters and the volunteers of pass the reins on to a successor."

sense that "anything is possible Camp Rosenbaum, essentially through hard work, staying in doing everything they normally school, and making good life did but now at a remote location, lining up with the activities in the

This year, the camp is nearly back Guard Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Fred M. to full strength with 187 volunteers Rosenbaum. As a survivor of the supporting 125 campers, taking

"I think having us be a married Kindertransport to Great Britain couple, and both being directors in in 1938-1940. After two years, he different ways, allows us to make sure was reunited with his parents, everything is organized and followed and together they moved to the through without emails or phone United States in 1941. The idea for calls," said Crystal, highlighting the the camp first took place in 1970 benefit of being married. "We are as a way of him giving back to able to get to workable solutions other children who could benefit quicker...as we obviously have



Crystal "Spanky" Kroeller pauses for a photo with a camper as the kids prepare to head home on Aug 18, on the final day of camp

"My role is fairly ceremonial in nature," Brian said, noting a hint of humor, an attribute Kroeller has been the Camp years later. Together they have two normally attend the week-long that long-term married couples share. "She really does make the big decision...it's a President, Vice

As part of leadership opportunities to develop command experience "We really tried to leverage some within the Oregon Air National

"This is year two for me, so I "There were some YouTube videos hope to return next year," said

Governor Kotek host mobilization ceremony for Soldiers deploying to Africa

Story and photos by John Hughel, The unit will provide fixed-Oregon Military Department

Stencel, Adjutant General, During the ceremony held in 641st Aviation on July 14, 2023.



Oregon Governor Ting Kotek delivers her remarks so once again thank Iraqi Freedom in 2007 and later support Operation Enduring during the mobilization ceremony held in Salem, you," said Governor deploying to support Operation Freedom followed by Operation Oregon for the A (-) 641st Aviation on July 14, 2023. Kotek.

wing air capabilities in support of Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa and AFRICOM SALEM, Ore. — Governor from Djibouti and throughout the Tina Kotek and Maj. Gen. Michael AFRICOM Theater of operations.

Oregon hosted a mobilization the State Capital Library, Gov. ceremony held in Salem, Oregon Kotek emphasized their long for approximately 10 members of history of various missions the Oregon National Guard's A (-) with family and co-workers in attendance. "This group has

responded to active duty missions, for numerous wildfires, covid-19 response, they have found many stories to tell."

"It's an honor to be here with you - you



missing people, lost Oregon Governor Tina Kotek (center) and Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant hikers...they have General, Oregon (far right), pause for a group photo with members of the Oregon National Guard's A (-) 641st Aviation at the conclusion of their mobilization ceremony held at the Oregon State Capital, Salem, Oregon on July 14, 2023.

Unit members will first travel to some members of the unit are unwavering in Ft. Bliss, Texas for approximately deployed to Afghanistan to your commitment, two-weeks of training prior to support Operation Enduring I want you to know deploying overseas. The unit Freedom. Their most recent that I see that, and has a long history of deploying mobilization was in 2017 when all of Oregon does, overseas supporting Operation they deployed to Kuwait to New Dawn in Iraq in 2010 while Spartan Shield.

Kingsley Field 'Rising Six' hosts first term Airman's Course Story by Senior Master Sgt.

Jennifer Shirar, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. - Ten Airmen attended the First Term Airmen's Course hosted by the Rising Six over the August drill weekend at the Kingsley Field Fire Department.

"The feedback we received from the Airmen who attended was highly positive," said Tech. Sgt. Michael Daniel, the Rising Six president. "They appreciated that this wasn't just another briefing--it was interactive with group activities, and we had a highly engaged group."

The First Term Airmen's Course covered topics such as resiliency and stress management, foundational competencies. communication. intro to finance, as well as education and home buying benefits.

"The Rising Six is a professional the goal of providing the members of Kingsley Field with continuous base of the junior enlisted as cover a variety of topics."

for their members."



Photo courtesy of Tech. Sat. Daniel Reed. 173rd Fighter Wing ORANG Staff Sqt. Aidan Tumlinson, 173rd Maintenance Group, and Tech. Sat. Michael Daniel. 173rd LRS lead section would like to fill. a discussion during the First Term Airmen's Course hosted by the Kingsley Field Rising Six, Aug. 6, 2023. because, as a team, we All Team Kingsley members, E-1

Six hosts.

development organization with members have the same goals for between ALS [Airman Leadership organization and not a volunteer professional development, as a School], NCOA [Noncommissioned club," said Daniel. "Our members result, we don't try to offer a onelearning opportunities," said size-fits-all briefing overloaded with [Senior Noncommissioned Officer give up their free time. We are Daniel. "We focus on providing information," said Daniel. "Most of Academy], and unless members just a team who wants to better courses to expand the knowledge our courses are only one hour and pursue educational opportunities ourselves and those around us

with the information and tools SWOT analysis writing and Our goal is to help fill those gaps

of contact.

education," said Daniel. "For many the first Tuesday of every month. well as providing supervisors Previous classes include stagnation in professional growth. experiential learning."

needed to be effective resources promotion board prep, biography with our courses as well as provide and Memo for Record (MFR) opportunities to learn important writing, retirement point topics not taught in PME."

calculating, and accessing Daniel said the majority of education benefits as a the course topic are selected member and or supervisor. because one of our Rising Six These courses are team members has a topic they typically being offered would like to learn more about. monthly and will be "Instead of researching learning advertised prior to the and keeping the information to event. Signups for events themselves, they schedule a class are made through email or to share with the members of the phone to the course point wing with similar interests."

Daniel said the Rising Six wants to Daniel pointed out that know what the enlisted force would supervisors can also sign like to see in future classes. "If you their members up by name have a topic you want to learn more or by number of seats their about, come talk to us and we can work together to set up a class we "We hold these events can all learn from," he added.

The First Term Airmen's Course have identified that there is a gap to E-6, are eligible to join the Rising is one of many classes the Rising in enlisted professional military Six. Monthly meetings are held on

"We understand that not all members, it can be several years "We're a professional development Officer Academy], and SNCOA are not asked to raise money or on their own, there can be a through positive interactions and

NEWS

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ORARNG officer breaks Guinness World Record for chest-to-ground burpees

OREGON SENTINEL

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

getting 1,000 burpees today. energy," he said, "was incredible!" I'll see you in an hour."

Those were the final words Maj. Tommy Vu, Medical Command, Oregon Army National Guard, Salem, said to his crowd of supporters just moments before he attempted to set a Guinness World Record for the most chest-to-ground burpees in an hour.

As the clock ticked down, Vu found himself hitting a mental and physical wall. "The hour was long," he said. "I started out really strong and felt good, but right around the 300 mark, it started getting really hard and painful." However, after hitting 500 and hearing his crowd of over 50 supporters cheering, "I started to feed off that energy," he added, "and they carried me through."

When the one-hour buzzer sounded, Vu had surpassed 1,003 burpees. Vu attempted 27, 2023. After reviewing sique Fitness in Keizer, Ore., on March 27, 2023. out the previous record of 990.

Most of his supporters were fitness and health.

Public Affairs

he received. "Realistically," he said, "if it had just been me and the KEIZER, Ore. - "You guys are entire gym was packed, and "the that I didn't have to do any burpees strict burpee training, at least twice



his goal of 1,000, completing ORARNG Major Tommy Vu, assigned to the Oregon National Guard Medical Command, the record at Physique broke the Burpee Exercise Guinness World Re-Fitness in Keizer on Mar. cord performing 1,003 Burpees in an hour at Phy-

the video of Vu's record- Vu, who is thirty-five years this, inspired by my son, but the breaking attempt from a variety old, said when he told people he motivation is internal." of different angles, Guinness was going to try to break a world officially certified the record on record, the first question he a record in 2020 during Covid for his next attempt right now-June 30 at 1,002 burpees, beating normally received was, "Why?" Vu because all the gyms were closed the one-hour burpee-pushup replied that he wanted to inspire and work-out equipment was Guinness Record. He wants to

from his unit and civilian job "A lot of people have this his own body for resistance. He and is planning to attempt the at Hope Orthopedics, where misconception that fitness initially started with endurance record in the next year. Recently he works as a Sports Medicine and exercise have to be so running and competing in ultra- learning one of his co-workers Physician Assistant. However, he complicated," he said. However, marathons, but then he read a was diagnosed with a severe brain said his strongest supporters were working in sports medicine in news story about a Canadian who tumor, Vu hopes to dedicate the his girlfriend, Linda Luu, and orthopedics, he has found it had set the burpee world record. next record to her and use the his five-year-old son, Liam. Vu doesn't have to be complicated. After watching the video of his record-breaking attempt to raise said he thought maybe 10 people It is just important for people to record attempt, Vu said he was money for her medical bills. would show up, so when the crowd do something to have an active impressed, but thought, "I can Vu doesn't intend to stop there. far exceeded that to cheer him lifestyle. "The chest-to-ground beat that... I can do better." on, he was very thankful for the burpee is a very safe and effective Starting with only 100 burpees, for burpees or a burpee variation," tremendous amount of support exercise and workout," he said. Vu said he would work out most he said, "I'm coming for it!"

cameras that day, it would have he said, "I was definitely happy it was avoid injuries and build up stamina been very difficult." Instead, the over: happy for myself, and happy and endurance. He moved up to for a while!" However, in the days a week, three months prior to his and weeks that followed, he heard record-breaking attempts. The first multiple stories about children, time he had ever timed himself for parents they now want to go to the but with persistence, he continued gym and exercise, and the parents to build speed and endurance. go with them. He also said his Prior to his second attempt, he now congratulate him, and he feels embarrass myself," he said. as though they are more receptive Vu said the best way to improve to his recommendations for diet is to be consistent with training. and exercise.

Though inspiring others toward go on a diet; train to perform" he fitness was one of his motivations said. "Whether that be for your for attempting to break the ACFT or a world record, set an record, the original motivation attainable goal." was his son. "I thought it would be really cool for him to see his quality of life and just happiness dad in the Guinness Book of in life, you don't need to set a World Records," Vu said.

the record was on his son's fifth appropriately is huge." birthday, Dec. 11, 2022. That Vu learned to say, "I'm doing for the record!"

Vu first made the decision to set very long. He is already training not available, so he had to use reach a minimum of 1,000 again

"There's a very low risk of injury." days of the month by doing a lot of After he beat the original record, bodyweight resistance exercises to who saw him compete, telling their burpees, he did 100 in six minutes, patients, who were very excited for made sure he had broken 1,000 him throughout the whole process, burpees three times, "so I wouldn't

"Don't just train to look good or

"In my opinion, I think that for world record," Vu said, "but being His first attempt at setting active and being able to age

For Vu, the burpee was a very time, he only had a small group simple movement-just getting of supporters in attendance, and off the ground. However, he he hadn't even broken 1,000 said, "If I can do an hour work burpees during training. On the of burpees to achieve a world day of the event, he thought he record, maybe others can go for a would just feed off the energy five or ten-minute walk or go take and go for it, but, he said, "I failed a cycling class...or if they find they miserably." Through that failure, are really good at burpees, come

However, if someone does beat Vu's world record, it may not last

"If you have a one-hour world record

Team Kingsley moves operations on airfield when taxiway "fails"

Story and photo by Senior Master Sqt. Jennifer Shirar, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. - In the morning, one of the first orders of business for the Supervisor flying mission in custody and of Flying is to inspect the ramp, taxiways, and runway ensuring the surface is safe for aircraft to operate on. On June 7, 2023, Col. Jason Nalepa, 173rd Operations Group commander and Supervisor of Flying for that day, completed this task, noting minor wear and damage on Taxiway "F", which was expected as the taxiway was scheduled for repairs the next year.

However, a few hours later, that assessment had dramatically altered.

"I had been watching Taxiway "F" for several months prior to the date of asphalt failure," said Nalepa. "After the jets taxied, I noticed that the rutting had become more pronounced, and when the jets landed, the south side of Taxiway "F" had developed several potholes, rendering that portion of the taxiway unusable."

He consulted with his Airfield Management team, Engineering, and the Airport Director of Operations and they decided to attempt operations utilizing only the north portion of the taxiway.

"That lasted for one more launch before the north side showed the

currently the only useable taxiway aircraft tows were all required," said team to makes things like this taxiway, the F-15s were landlocked.

"Ultimately, it held our daily threatened our student training," Maintenance Group commander.



ORANG 1st. Lt. Philip Chu, 173rd Fighter Wing F-15C Eagle pilot, adjusts his helmet while Staff Sgt. Benjamin Stuckey, a access to gas up the was completed, creating a route to dedicated crew chief, adjusts his headset as they prepare to aircraft. launch the Eagles from the Northeast ramp of the airfield at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore., on June 15, 2023. with a Multi-Capable day of flying throughout any of this

With that in mind, leadership Airman mentality," said Gaudinski. gathered to brainstorm a solution.

to the Northeast civilian ramp, was ready to operate in under 12 On top of that, all other groups solvable immediately.' hours from initial notification of chipped in to some extent to make the problem.

"Equipment and temporary same trend of failure," said Nalepa. facilities had to be setup, grounding Fighter Wing, Col. Lee Bouma, Airmen. There is no other team Because of construction across rods anchored into the ground, the airfield, Taxiway "F" was taxiway striping, and additional

for the aircraft to go from the Air Gaudinski. "Countless members happen...and Kingsley Field has National Guard ramp to the end of across the wing enabled the flying an amazing team." the runway for takeoff. Without that mission to continue, all due to their selfless work ethic."

Though technically on the a quick turn was the Crater Lake same airfield, logistics of people, supplies and equipment had to be Gaudinski noted that none of this said Col. Adam Gaudinski, 173rd coordinated. Multiple maintenance would have been possible without

> Security Forces the security of the aircraft parked in needed trucks

"It takes a team

this happen overnight."

Another member of the "team" that made this happen on such

Klamath Regional airport. shops-including Weapons, Avionics, the partnerships and strong and the Airframe relationship the wing has in place Powerplant General with the City of Klamath Falls (otherwise leadership and airport managers.

"We need to thank our local chiefs) moved their airport leaders and managers who entire operation to worked feverishly to permit us to fly temporary shelters off of the civilian forest fire fighting with the aircraft. ramp," said Gaudinski. "They are always ready to support us, and that had to provide a is something we never forget. They patrol to ensure are truly one of our Wingmen.

Flight operations continued at the Northeast ramp through June non-standard 23, and aircraft were able to return Fuel to the Air National Guard ramp after construction on Taxiway "D" the end of the runway.

"We didn't even lose one single because of how flexible our people "The 270th (Air Traffic Control are and our ability to come up with Ultimately, aircraft were towed Squadron) and the 550th (Fighter solutions and implement them the Squadron) were instrumental in same day," said Bouma. "Yes, there typically used by wildland fire gaining deployable shelters to is a lot of challenges that came up fighting aircraft, and the team house Airmen and equipment. during this, but nothing that wasn't

Gaudinski echoed that sentiment "I am always overwhelmed by Commander of the 173rd this team and the tenacity of our agrees. "Really, what it comes that I would rather stand side by down to is it takes the entire side with when adversity is present.

Joint Training response in Eugene

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

EUGENE, Ore. — Various local and state agencies came together for a joint training exercise to enhance emergency preparedness in Eugene and regional communities on August 16, 2023.

The annual event called a Joint Hazard Assessment Team (J-HAT) training, involved members from the Oregon National Guard's 102nd Civil Support Team, Eugene Police Department, Eugene Fire Department, partner organizations.

Oregon National Guard 1st Sgt. Robert McCree of the 102nd on simulated scenarios involving The training ensures that Oregon weapons of mass destruction

you can imagine, they all have jobs Trials held in Eugene. and responsibilities outside of the city," said McCree. "So today we're with the Oregon National Guard, just getting them reacquainted and working on targets."

Department's bomb squad, partnership," San Miguel said. emphasized the importance By conducting joint exercises and of the annual J-HAT training bringing together specialized skills in building relationships and from across the agencies, the annual capabilities between the agencies. J-HAT training fosters collaboration

ORNGs 102nd Civil Support Team, Eugene Police Department, Eugene Fire Depart-

ment, Federal Protective Service, and other local agencies gather for a group photo. Federal Protective Service and other friendship with all these different agencies," said San Miguel. "We want to make sure that we train them so when they're making decisions, explained that the training focused they're making the right decisions."

has "one of the best functioning incidents that would require a the nation," according to McCree. coordinated, multi agency response. It prepares the teams to provide "Trying to get all those people critical support for major events together and working at one time on that could be potential targets, like the same target is really difficult. As the U.S. Olympic Track & Field

"Our partnership that we have specifically the 102nd Civil Support Team, they've been supporting us for Police Sgt. Damian San Miguel, the past five U.S. Olympic trials and commander of the Eugene Police World Games. And it is an excellent

"It only reinforces our capabilities and enhances emergency of working together, strengthening preparedness to keep Eugene and our partnership and developing our the surrounding community safe.

249th Sniper Team earn high praise

Courtesy story by Lt. Col. Tim Merritt, 249th Regional Training Institute

HERMISTON, Ore. - A sniper team representing Oregon's 249 Regional Training Institute (RTI) has earned praise from the Special Forces Sniper Course for their hard work, dedication, and achievements in multiple competitions over the past three years. Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sergeants Ieremy Rowley and Robert at the 52nd annual Winston P. Wilson Dixson consistently placed well in numerous competitions, Armed Forces Skill at Arms Meeting. including the Winston Cup, Staff Sergeant Dixson are heavily Mammoth Sniper Challenge, Real involved in this community... World Sniper Challenge, Vortex They are seen as peers and fellow Sniper Challenge, Bushnell Sniper snipers who have contributed Challenge, and Burris Team tremendously." The RTI team Challenge. They impressed their placed third overall, losing only to peers and have earned praise for teams who had better equipment. their hard work, dedication, and Both Rowley and Dixson willingness to teach other teams have excelled in competitions and share their knowledge.

Chaffee from Dec. 2-9, 2022.

Sgt. BJ Underkofler of the Special Civilian shooters in the country." Forces Sniper School explained, The ability to teach and and Staff Sergeant Rowley and lethality of RTI students.



Staff Sergeants Robert Dixson and Jer emy Rowley representing the 249th RTI

and were recognized for their The two snipers from the RTI roles as mentors and teachers. team scored the third highest At the Wilson Championships, during the Extreme Long-Range they not only competed but stage in the 52nd annual Winston also "taught newer SOF sniper P. Wilson Sniper Championship team's techniques and tricks," and the 32nd Armed Forces Skill Underkoflersaid. The sniperteams at Arms Meeting held at Fort "can always bring back learning and knowledge from these They earned praise from competitions and symposiums." the Special Forces community The amount of knowledge present for their performance. As at these events is incredible. We Marksmanship Instructor Staff constantly interact with the top

"The SOF Sniper community is train will go a long way toward a tight-knit, small community, increasing the ability and

Oregon Army Nat'l Guard launches drill weekend child care program Story and photo by Maj. Chris Clyne, "support retention, readiness, and The one-year pilot was Soldiers can contact their Oregon Military Department balancing military and parental announced by Gen. Daniel regional Youth Outreach

SALEM, Ore. — The Oregon Guard Child and Youth Program. childcare because our National Army National Guard has started Soldiers must meet specific Guard families matter, a new pilot program to assist criteria to be eligible. "To qualify, Hokanson said. "They are soldiers with child care during a soldier must be assigned to an another reason we serve." weekend drills.

> goes to school during determine if it will drills; have Defense continue. A similar Enrollment Eligibility program already Reporting System exists for Oregon Air (DEERS) enrolled National Guard units. dependent children between the ages of 6 serve and stand ready weeks to 12 years old," to execute our state

the flyer states. Once enrolled, said Col. Alan soldiers can reserve Gronewold, Oregon's care quarterly by email. National Guard "Reservations must Land Component be made no later than Commander. "We are the first of the month active in supporting before the drill month, our communities for example, no later when called on and are

flyer from the Oregon National Guard Bureau. "We prioritize assistance:

Oregon Army National Guard unit; After the pilot period, the The Weekend Drill Child be a single soldier, dual military, program will be evaluated on

Care (WDCC) program aims to or have a spouse who works or utilization rates to

"We are proud to and federal missions," for Oregonians."

responsibilities," according to a Hokanson, Chief of the National Coordinator for enrollment Northern Oregon: Crystal Bohm 9/1-355-3081 crystal.c.bohm.ctr@army.mil Southern Oregon: Marissa Cook 541-880-2529

marissa.c.cook.ctr@army.mil



ORARNG Sgt. 1st Class Casey Johnson helps his son Tabor down from an M1126 Stryker Combat Vehicle during the Armed Forces Day event at than May I for the June the service of choice the State Capitol Mall in Salem, Ore., May 17, 2023. drill," it says.

FALL 2023 **OREGON SENTINEL**

OREGON NATIONAL GUARD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND REGIONAL EVENTS

Oregon Army National Guard: Bringing harmony from homeland to Deutschland

Continued from Front Page

Story and photos by Spc. Frank Ritchey, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

WIESBADEN, Germany - When most people imagine members of the military, they most often think of Soldiers brandishing weapons ready to defend the United States. When you see that familiar camouflage pattern, it's easy to think of the countless men and women who laid down their lives on the battlefield. Every Soldier goes through Basic Combat Training and is expected to maintain readiness to engage the enemy. However, it is essential to remember that the military is not exclusively a fighting force. In fact, only about 10% of soldiers who join fire their weapons in combat throughout their careers. The other 90% have unique support duties and responsibilities that serve the United States. This is no different for the Oregon Army National National Guard Band.



Oregon Army National Guard Soldier Staff Sgt. Duane Reno sings during a performance at Pulaski Park for the U.S. Army around the state of Oregon, From formal ceremonies to Biergarten Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz Organizational Day, July 28, 2023. they would be performing performances,' their music reached



Guard's "Oregon's Own" 234th Army Members of "Withycombe Winds", a music performance team with the Oregon Army National Guard 234th Army Band perform during the Summer Night Music Concert in Otterbach, Germany on July 29, 2023.

The 234th falls under overseas in Germany. the 821st Troop Command "Our mission...in Germany is Clackamas, and confidence in America's is community relations. Being able to Army and its readiness thank the community for their support to conduct operations in and what they do in terms of recognition peacetime, conflict, and war. and interaction with the military."

Battalion and is based out multifaceted," said Staff Sgt. Duane Reno, of Camp Withycombe, the 234's vocalist, explaining the overseas Oregon. mission, "One is to backfill the USAREUR-Their mission is to AF [United States Army Europe and promote the Army and its Africa] Band so they can go on block national interests, enable leave, to give them the ability to take commanders to shape the some rest from all the missions that they environment to accomplish do," Reno explained, "Our ability to fall their mission, and set the on that accomplishes one portion of the conditions that lead to trust mission. Another portion of the mission

On July 23, 2023, the 234th The 234th conducted 10 separate set out to do just that; this performances during 15 days on and off time, instead of performing military installations around Germany.

> many people in and out of uniform.

They even had the opportunity to perform at Heidelberg Castle for tourists and locals alike. This was especially impactful to members of the units; it was the first time the full band had performed together since August of 2019 due to the constraints of the Coronavirus outbreak.

Another significant performance was for the reactivation ceremony of the 7th Engineer Brigade. The 7th Engineer Brigade was originally formed in 1948 and deactivated in 1991. The brigade is the only European-based Engineer Brigade and they served in both World War II and Operation Desert Shield/Storm. Members of the unit, led by Chief Warrant Officer Ashley Alexander,

commander of the 234th Army Band, provided musical support for the ceremony.

"Since we have been here, we have done a reactivation ceremony for the 7th Engineers, which was a very highprofile gig," said Sgt. Thomas Richards, a member of 234th, "That particular (brigade) has a very storied history, so it was very important for us to go and support that job and commemorate that brigade coming back."

When unit members aren't performing as their full concert band, they are divided into Musical Performance Teams. These include "45 Away," the band's pop group; "Foxhole," the band's country group; "No Brass, No Ammo," the band's brass group; and "Withycombe Winds," the band's wind ensemble. Each of these groups' unique talents and sounds ensure that the 234th could reach a large variety of people.

"The whole band has performed admirably, not just as (the concert performance teams," Alexander said.



ORARNG Staff Sqt. Duane Reno receives a coin from the U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Rheinland-Pfalz Commander during a performance at Pulaski Park for the USAG Rheinland-Pfalz Organizational Day, July 28, 2023. just amazing.



band) but in their individual music tle in Heidelberg, Germany, on July 30, 2023. This performance is part of the 234th Army Band mission to Kaiserslautern, Germany, to cover down for the U.S. Army Europe and Africa Band

This mission is important to the 234th because of how long it has been "in the books." Talk and planning about this mission has been ongoing for about a decade.

"We've been working toward a mission like this for years," Reno said, "I was floored when we finally got the approval... and it was like. 'alright, it's full go!' Being able to



actually being here, der conducts members of the 234th Army Band during the 7th Engineer Briis something that's gade's reactivation ceremony at Katterbach Kaserne, Ansbach, Germany July 27, 2023. This performance is part of the 234th Army Band mission to Kaiserslautern, Germany to cover down for the U.S. Army Europe and Africa Band.



Oregon Army National Guard Soldier Staff Sgt. Shannon Michael plays her flute during the 7th Engineer Brigade's reactivation ceremony at Katterbach Kaserne, Ansbach, Germany on July 27, 2023. This performance is part of the 234th Army Band mission to Kaiserslautern, Germany to cover down for the U.S. Army Europe and Africa Band. military presence to the German public.

The 234th Army Band has a large age range, providing this opportunity to older and vounger Soldiers alike. For some of the younger service members, this was their first overseas mission with the Army and even their first time out of the country in general—one of the youngest soldiers, Spc. Ricky Mesa had this to say about the mission.

"I've gotten to do a lot of stuff that a suburban-raised kid like me wouldn't be able to do otherwise." he said, "You get a lot of small, unique experiences, a lot of opportunities to do good things with the Guard which is one of my favorite parts about it. I think one of the coolest parts about this mission is that you get to experience and live in a whole different country for two weeks. Work in it, experience the differences, and experience how people view the United States Army in other places."

He explained that the importance of this mission was not lost on him and that he believed it was valuable that the unit could give a positive, outward-facing



"Fox Hole," a subsection of the 234th Army Band, performs at Pulaski Park for the U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz Organizational Day July 28, 2023. This performance is part of the unit's mission to Kaiserslautern, Germany to cover down for the U.S. Army Europe and Africa Band.

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TRAINING

Mission Ready: 102nd CERFP completes their first evaluation of 2023

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Tyler Meister, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

WARRENTON, Ore. - The 102nd Oregon Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN), Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), completed and passed their first joint evaluation of 2023 at Camp Rilea Training Center in Warrenton, Oregon on July 13, 2023.

Oregon Army and Air National Guardsmen conducted a collective training exercise (CTE) from July 9-14, 2023 to train and prepare for this successful achievement. They proved they have the capability to identify, assess, advise and assist during a CBRN and allhazard incident.

The 102nd CERFP includes units from Oregon Army National Guard (ORARNG) 821th Troop Command Battalion, 1249th Engineer Battalion and Oregon Air National Guard (ORANG) 142nd Wing.

from Washington and Oregon Department (DPSST) out of Salem.

Guard Bureau every two years and next management. year, the 102nd is slated to conduct that certification. This was the first time in 50 ORARNG with a mission to coordinate over two years the entire 102nd CERFP CBRN victim and casualty search, rescue, has conducted an exercise as a unit due to and extraction. restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This combined training exercise provided of 75 ORARNG personnel with a mission us the opportunity to refine our process as a to conduct large-scale decontamination of unit and better understand the training and CBRN for patients, personnel, and mission evaluation requirements," said Maj. Andrew essential equipment. Schaal, CERFP Commander.

"Currently, over half of the CERFP members with a mission to provide medical care in are new to the mission. Over the past few years a mass casualty incident with the ability to with COVID restrictions it has been difficult to stabilize & treat 60 patients per hour. train as an organization," Schaal said.

Oregon CERFP is staffed by 208 Army and (FSRT), consisting of 11 ORANG personnel Air National Guard personnel from units with a mission to provide mortuary throughout Oregon. They are designed to operations via collect, recover, store, support the Incident Commander in response prepare, and ship remains of casualties. to a man-made or natural disaster.

support their local communities in the event civilian/National Guard Units. of a disaster," Schaal said.

1186th Military Police Company, 821th TCB. Emergency Response to Terrorism.



Oregon Army National Guard Fatality Search and Recovery Teams, or FSRT, with 224th Engineers, recover a simulated casualty during a disaster response scenario as part of a CERFP, joint training exercise with Air and Army Oregon National Guard units, July 13, 2023, at Camp Rilea Training Center, Warrenton, Oregon.

The CERFP is fully modular and highly mobile; each section can mobilize and equipped 27 National Guard CERFP to Additional training support was provided independently based on the needs of the by the 10th Homeland Response Force (HRF) Incident Commander. These sections include:

- Command and Control (C2) consisting of Public Safety Standards and Training of 19 Oregon Army and Air Guard personnel with a mission to support local, state, and Units need to be certified by the National federal agencies in conducting consequence

- Decontamination (DECON), consisting

- Medical, consisting of 47 ANG personnel

-Fatality Search & Recovery Team

an opportunity to learn another skill, but ORANG personnel with a mission to provide it allows them and their unit the chance to critical communications capabilities to

Oregon CERFP has the ability to respond "I think that we are going to be able to to a homeland incident to conduct crisis and effectively deal with any real-world situations consequence management operations in due to such good training, and it's rewarding support of civil and federal authorities. All Spc. Colby Wilkie, a military policeman with Operations, ICS 100, 200, 700, 800 and

"When real world disasters happen, state and federal entities can't do everything and sometimes need help, so being able to partner with fellow Oregon Guardsmen in the Air Guard is extremely beneficial to providing aid," said 2nd Lt. Miguel Mendoza, CERFP DECON Commander.

"Creating and fostering working and training relationships opens opportunities to further provide humanitarian/community assistance," Mendoza said. "It's a huge benefit for our Soldiers to receive this CERFP training because, if something were to happen, the citizens would feel more comfortable knowing that the National Guard responders are fellow Oregonians who care and are familiar with the area," he continued.

The National Guard has organized, trained, provide specialized capabilities that may be requested by local, state, or federal authorities.

The National Guard CERFP is comprised of fulltime and traditional Guard personnel that are trained and equipped to perform the functions of Patient Decontamination, Medical Triage, Medical Treatment, and Casualty Search - Search and Extraction (S&E), consisting of and Extraction during a catastrophic event.



Oregon National Guard soldiers with 1186th Military Police Com-- Joint Incident Site Communications pany, 821st Troop Command Battalion, check for contaminants "102nd CERFP not only provides Soldiers Capability (JISCC), consisting of 6 on a simulated casualty during a disaster response exercise.

"It's motivating to see how well the Soldiers are performing as they take on the CERFP mission on top of their normal jobs, all while maintaining such high moral," said Sergeant First Class Patrick Gonzalez, a military policeman with 1186th Military Police Company. "So many Soldiers have told me they appreciate knowing that we make such a big impact," said CERFP responders are trained in Hazmat this opportunity and even one of our seniorenlisted Soldiers told me that being able to do training like this keeps him re-enlisting."

The 41st IBCT commences Combined Arms Rehearsals as part of XCTC

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

start of their intense Field Training Exercise (FTX). As an integral part of their extended eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) annual training, this comprehensive exercise brings enhanced training resources to the brigade, surpassing the scope of a typical National Guard annual training.

Under the leadership of Col. Philip DeMontigny, Commander of the 41st IBCT, the brigade's leaders engaged in the CAR, fine-tuning their tactics, coordinating maneuver and fire support, optimizing intelligence and logistics, and enhancing their communication. The CAR serves as a vital rehearsal for the major operations that

of the CAR DeMontingny said, "Most of us Arms Rehearsals at Camp Roberts, Calif., June 22, 2023. Jungleers strengthen their cohesion,

questions and refine our plan is important." IBCT will demonstrate their commitment to serving their community and state. **CAMPROBERTS, Calif.** - The Oregon Army becoming a more cohesive and lethal fighting The FTX is a critical component of the 41st National Guard's 41st Infantry Brigade Combat force. Through this intensive training, the IBCT's XCTC annual training, designed to Team (IBCT) embarked on their Combined brigade aims to strengthen the units readiness Arms Rehearsals (CAR) today, marking the to engage and defeat any enemy threatening



The 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment Commander, Lt. will take place during the upcoming FTX. Col. Jared Carpenter, briefs his units plan for the upcom- or operational challenge that lies ahead. When commenting on the importance ing Field Training Exercise during the 41st IBCT Combined Through this immersive training, the

are visual learners, some of us are not and can the freedoms of the American people. As refine their combat skills, and enhance their learn just by reading, but I think seeing it in citizen soldiers and proud members of the overall readiness, reinforcing their position sequence and then having the ability to ask Jungleers, they embody the Oregon National as a capable and lethal force.

Guard's motto, "Always Ready, Always There," With the FTX as the focal point, the 41st dedicating themselves to protecting and

> provide a heightened level of training resources beyond the traditional National Guard annual

training. This comprehensive exercise offers realistic and challenging scenarios, simulating combat conditions and fostering a unified, battle-ready force. Over the next three days, the Jungleers will face demanding situations, putting their combat skills, teamwork, and operational capabilities to the test.

The Oregon Army National Guard's 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team remains steadfast in maximizing their training experience during the FTX as part of their XCTC annual training. Their dedication to excellence ensures they are always prepared to confront any mission

TRAINING

Agile Combat Employment Exercise marks success for the 116th ACS

Story by Steven Conklin, 142nd Wing Public Affairs

WARRENTON, Ore. - The 116th Air Control Squadron (call sign LONGRACKS) of the Oregon Air National Guard (ORANG) in collaboration with the 109th Air Control Squadron (ACS) of the Utah Air National Guard (UTANG) who assisted with planning and equipment, along with the Western Area Defense Sector have completed the Washington where they set-up command and aptly named ORANGUTANG Agile Combat Employment (ACE) 2023 exercise.

This joint force exercise tested multiple units' abilities to conduct air battle management in a simulated contested environment in a way that more accurately aligns with how ACS units would operate in war time scenarios. During this exercise aircraft from the U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, and the Royal Canadian Air Force were controlled by ACS operators.

An ACS is comprised of two main deployment packages; 1) a Deployed Radar (DR) which includes a long-range ground based radar system, a tactical radio suite, a tactical data link node, a Theater Deployable Communications package and a satellite communication long-haul system and 2) an Air Battle Element (ABE) that hosts the Command and Control (C2) equipment and air battle managers that communicate with eye perspective of the battle space, managing the air and ground war to ensure the safety of friendly forces while enhancing the lethality conducting air battle management. of America's air power.

packages to the bare minimum equipment and locations," said Brawley.

organically transport the ABE to the deployed airmen involved and their efficiency to affect exercise location at Joint Base Lewis-McCord the fight. (JBLM). In doing so, the unit avoided tens of thousands of contracted transportation costs.

The exercise called for the DR package to deploy to Training Area 2 on Camp Rilea in frames. It's impressive because it demonstrates Warrenton, Oregon, overlooking the Pacific Ocean, with the assistance of Airmen from If NORAD, USNORTHCOM or any combatant the 51st Combat Communications Squadron, while the ABE was sent 150 miles north into control operations on JBLM.



Two Oregon Air National Guard F-15 Eagle fighter jets fly over the 116th Air Control Squadron's deployed radar at Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon on June 21, 2023.

1st Lieutenant Luke Brawley, a Cyber pilots in contested airspace to provide a birds- Operations Officer with the 116th ACS, explained that this geographically separated deployment has specific advantages for

"The deployable radar is going to more of ORANGUTANG ACE marks first time the a field environment where the radar is going 116th ACS had deployed both the DR and to have the range to watch on the scopes what ABE packages simultaneously in nearly two the controller needs to see. The ABE is going

unit to take excess vehicles from DR package to Middlemore was extremely proud of all the just the sum of their individual parts."

"What was most impressive was the ability for them to pack, transport, and set-up all the equipment well within the mandated time the ability to have a more immediate impact. commander had a request, they can count on our airmen to have everything up and running when called upon.

ACSs have a requirement to be fully mission capable within 72 hours of deployment. Of note, both the DR and ABE were impressively fully mission capable within 24 hours of start exercise at each site. This enabled controllers to begin supporting flying missions while being inspected by the 142nd Wing's Inspector General team as they evaluated the unit's ability to perform it's assigned Mission Essential Tasks, some of which occurred during simulated enemy attacks. Additionally, the ABE team and WADS personnel exchanged facility tours, attended joint mission briefs, shared lessons learned, and discussed future integration between the two command and control agencies.

Over the course of the two-week exercise, the combined effort of the units led to a robust set of accomplishments. 116th ACS Assistant Director of Operations, Major Morgan Sawyer, expressed how impressed he was by the teamwork of all the Airmen.

"ACS Airmen demonstrated that flexibility is the key to air power in that they embraced the Agile Airman concept and the One Team One Fight concept as the LONGRACKS worked as a team to solve problems outside of their primary [Air Force Specialty Code], decades. To accomplish this, the unit relied to a more controlled site, however, the package said Sawyer. "They were not just operators on ACE tactics to lean out both deployment we currently have can also be set up in remote or maintainers, they were Airmen. This execution-focused team effort allowed the supplies to effectively operate. This allowed the The 116th ACS Commander Lt. Col. John team to accomplish a much greater effect than

Tankers 'Fire Up' Orchard Combat Training Center during annual training

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

BOISE, Idaho — The Oregon Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, recently sharpened its combat skills during annual training at Orchard Combat Training Center in Idaho during July. The battalion focused on qualifying tank and Bradley Fighting Vehicle crews through intensive live-fire gunnery.

"The battalion came out to Orchard Combat Training Center to qualify primarily on our tanks and Bradley's and also with our mortars. Nursing Assistant (CNA) Sgt. Sarah Being proficient on our weapons and vehicles is essential to mission success," said battalion commander Maj. Christopher Miller.



A 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment M1A2 SEPv2 Abrams Tank crew loads their tank with ammunition for Table VI Gunnery Qualification at Orchard Combat Training Center, near Boise, Idaho July 23, 2023.

battalion, the 3-116th Cavalry trains to expertly employ the crushing firepower of M1A2 SEPv2 of M2A3 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles.

meters with the tank's 120mm main gun Brigade Combat Team.

during the pivotal Table VI qualification. 25mm cannons and coaxial machine guns.

satisfies my passion for being a tanker." Maintaining vehicles for live-fire operations main gun rounds."

was vital. "Our mission is keeping these combat vehicles rolling forward to complete the mission," said wheeledvehicle mechanic and civilian Certified Bennett. The fleet of vehicles is like nonverbal patients, requiring individual care and expertise to run smoothly."

These Citizen-Soldiers train one weekend per month with annual training being the pinnacle of their year. Balancing service with civilian life and family requires commitment but brings camaraderie and personal growth.

that's given me so much," said Sgt. Bennett.

Iank crew tires their 120min main gain at range terr as part that's given me so much," said Sgt. Bennett.

of the battalion's table VI qualification on July 23, 2023. The 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry

Regiment, offered its soldiers multiple options for fulfilling their annual training deployments together," said Maj. Miller. In requirements, and this year's event at Orchard Combat Training Center was one of those choices, according to Maj. Christopher Miller, "Of 442 assigned soldiers, more than 220 were present for this specific exercise. The others had opportunities to participate in different training events earlier in the year, including As Oregon's only armored combined arms deployments to Bangladesh and Morocco."

The validation of the 3-116th's core competencies during this training is timely, Abrams Tanks and the rapid maneuverability as a company from the battalion will soon deploy to the Joint Readiness Training Center During the day and night gunnery exercises, (JRTC) at Fort Polk, Louisiana, to support the Abrams crews engaged targets out to 2,000 Oregon Army National Guard's 41st Infantry like their Battalion moto, Sine Mora (Latin

Battalion Master Gunner Master Sgt. Joe Bradley crews also tested their skills with their Carson said, "This annual training was very challenging, OCTC was very dry, and we had "Table VI allows crews to perform as a to pause training for high winds and multiple cohesive team in simulated combat," said fires from high volumes of fire from our Staff Sgt. Joaquin Murillo III, a seasoned tank armored vehicles. Ultimately, we overcame platoon sergeant. "Operating the Abrams these obstacles and met our goal of qualifying essential crews while shooting over 100, 120mm



"I serve to give back to the organization A 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment M1A2 SEPv2 Abrams

"We're like an extended family after so many remote eastern Oregon, soldiers' friendships often extend beyond drills into hunting, camping, and riding ATVs together."

This dynamic was displayed during annual training, with mentoring between seasoned NCOs and new privates, crews sharing firing table solutions, and maintainers passing down technical knowledge.

By dedicating themselves to serving the community and country as Citizen-Soldiers, with tough, realistic training, the soldiers of the 3-116th Cavalry Regiment are ready to deploy and defeat any adversary quickly, meaning "without delay.")

FEATURES

Pacific Partnership 2023 unites nations, fosters enduring friendships

Story and photos by Sqt. 1st Class Amy Elker, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

and National Guard military branches from made disasters." around the globe, gathered in Tuy Hoa in the Phu Yen Province of Vietnam, Aug. 9-18, 2023 of Research Administration & International for Pacific Partnership 2023 (PP23). Now, in Cooperation, MUCE, said she believes this its 18th year, Pacific Partnership is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance for MUCE. and disaster relief mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific.

During the opening ceremony, Đào Mỹ, Vice Chairman of the Phu Yen People's Committee, provided MUCE with some examples in and head of the organizing committee for PP23 in Phu Yen Province, quoted President Lvndon Johnson who said, "Peace is a journey of a thousand miles, and it must be taken one research and policy-making," Tu said. step at a time."

"builds trust among nations to work efficiently the exchange. together, and is critical to maintaining peace and stability in the region."

audience during the opening ceremony. through lecturers or students' exchange Also focusing on the journey, she quoted and cooperation in research and practices in American author Ursula LeGuin

who wrote, "It is good to have an end to journey toward, but it is the journey that matters in the end."

"Pacific Partnership is our journey," Caluori said.

Each year the PP23 mission team works with host and partner nations to enhance regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities, increase security and stability, and foster new and enduring friendships in the Indo-Pacific. PP23 activities are coordinated with the host nation and are conducted based on host nations' requirements and requests.

For PP23 Vietnam requested engineering projects-including classrooms building renovating schools, performing band concerts, engaging the Cpt. Claudine Caluori, PP23 Mission community through outreach Commander and Royal Navy Capt. events, medical exchanges- Joseph Dransfield, PP23 Deputy Misincluding performing surgeries, sion Commander, pose on stage afand a subject matter expert ter receiving flowers from an official exchange on Humanitarian Aid

Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD).

The HA/DR team, led by Lt. Col. Evan Reserve, and a Coast Guardsman.

The HA/DR team was also joined by two very grateful for that as well." civilians from Oregon who conduct academic research and have an expertise in disaster

At the request of MUCE, students and faculty engaged in a symposium with the two civilians, Aug. 12. Dr. Cassandra Moseley, Research Professor, Institute for Resilient Organizations, Communities, and Environments, University of Oregon, discussed her research on "Building Community Resilience to Extreme Weather: Lessons from Wildfire," and Dr. Daniele Spirandelli, Senior Associate, Climate Resilience Specialist for Haley Aldrich, and adjunct university professor at Portland State University, shared her research on "Failure to Protect Beaches Under Slowly Rising Sea Level."

"When disaster strikes the time to prepare has passed," Caluori said. "Lt. Col. Hessel

between the Mien Trung University through Province through preparation, mitigation, TUY HOA, Vietnam – Active duty, Reserve, response and recovery from natural or man-

Dr. Le Dam Ngoc Tu, Head of Department type of intellectual exchange is important

"We want to improve the research capacity of lectures and students," she said.

HA/DR team's presentations disaster response, particularly wildfires and coastal zone management.

"We can apply these lessons into our

Tu and the students and faculty at the "The Pacific Partnership mission," Mỹ said, MUCE symposium were very pleased with

> "The team is very friendly, and the presentations are professional and gave us Pacific Partnership 2023 (PP23) Humanitarian Assis-

disaster response." It's important to have like this," Moseley after sharing said her gratitude for the opportunity to share her research during "Even though I work mostly in the U.S., collaborate with people from other parts of the world. feel like it's really important to work together, and research collaboration important part of peacemaking around

the world." Because Moseley's research related to wildfires, she pays attention to fire response and has

experiences

symposium.

always been impressed and Disaster Relief (HA/DR) at Mien Trung with the Oregon National Guard's work in that University of Civil Engineering (MUCE) area. Despite her observations of the Guard's information exchange sessions." and at the Phu Yen Province Department of wildfire response efforts, she said she has never seen the Guard in action.

at Yen University on Aug. 11, 2023.

Hessel, Joint Force Headquarters, Oregon PP23, and the time here in Vietnam, is starting people; working with other branches of the Army National Guard, included members of to see a little more about how the Guard works military-it's a Navy led event and they have the Oregon Air and Army National Guard, - how they're connected to the larger military done a great job of bringing us in and making members of the 440th Civil Affairs Battalion, system, and how they all work together and us feel like equal members of the team; and 364th Civil Affairs Brigade, Colorado Army collaborate," Moseley said. "I've really felt working with civilians and members of the valued and appreciated by all of them, and I'm Coast Guard and Air Force-all sorts of different



PP23 members gather on stage at Phu Yen University, Aug. 11 to celebrate the end of a successful music exchange with the stuand the men and women from the Oregon dents at the university. Now in its 18th year, Pacific Partnership is team will conduct missions National Guard constructed this event as a the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and dilaunching point for a long-term partnership saster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific. the South Pacific Islands.

Spirindelli has also really enjoyed her first collaboration that can enhance disaster time working with the Guard in Vietnam for preparedness and resilience for the Phu Yen the subject matter expert exchange. "So far, what I've really enjoyed is understanding what the Guard's priorities are and what their role is in disaster, waste reduction and emergency management. I think there's so much opportunity to expand upon that."



U.S. Navy Capt. Claudine Caluori, PP23 some take-away lessons," Tu said. "We also tance Disaster Relief (HA/DR) team and the Phu Yen Demission commander, also addressed the want to extend the cooperation in the future, partment of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) visit a protective sea wall near An Chan, Aug. 16. 2023.

> Spirindelli also said she enjoyed meeting the MUCE professors and faculty and hopes to collaborate with them again in the future.

> "I am so incredibly impressed," she said, "with the value in terms of the relationships that are being built and nurtured here. There's such care involved in being able to continue those relationships on all levels."

> The HA/DR team engaged in a similar subject matter expert exchange at DARD, Aug. 14-15, with a site visit to An Chan, Aug. 16, to view a sea wall that had been built to reduce erosion and protect lives and property from the sea.

> Lu Ngoc Lam, Deputy Director of DARD and vice chief of the PP23 organizing committee was thankful for the opportunity to exchange ideas and information on disaster response issues and capabilities.

"I believe all the Vietnamese delegates has always been a really have gained a deeper understanding of how to prevent and respond to wildfires, oil spill incidents, and coastline erosion," Lam said. "Personally, I feel this is a good opportunity for both sides to learn from each other, have experiences together and work closely to understand more about the effective measures to tackle natural disasters to make sure we can save more human lives and property. I hope it's not only limited to the seminar itself, but in the future, we will have more opportunities for

Hessel said the highlight of PP23 has been, "working with our Vietnamese hosts who "What's been really cool about the prep for are incredibly gracious, warm and friendly sectors of the military and civil society. It's

> been an unbelievable chance to bring people together, and I think that's the essence of Pacific Partnership."

Hessel also believes coming ogether for events like PP23 is incredibly important. "In terms of global geopolitics today, it's a fraught time," he said. "I think it's more important now, than maybe ever before, to strengthen our connections, strengthen our ties and strengthen our partnerships with our allied and partnered nations, not just across the Indo Pacific but around the world because we are all stronger together."

As part of PP23 the mission

FEATURES

Oregon National Guard Soldier recognized for heroic actions

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

BOISE, Idaho - National Guard Soldiers traditionally use their annual training to sharpen their military occupational skills, while updating their current capabilities and building on past successes. In many ways it is part of the Army's 'R2' foundation, helping to enhance personal readiness and resilience.

While visiting the Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment during their annual training at the Orchards Combat Operation Center, Idaho on July 21, 2023, Maj Gen. Michael E. Stencel, the Adjutant General for the Oregon National Guard, got an upclose look at the units training. He also used the occasion to recognize one of the Soldiers, whose readiness and resilience contributed to an extraordinary act of heroism.

On September 23, 2020, near Adair, Oregon, Sgt. Colton A. Church disregarded his own Sergeant Church's actions and immediate and way of life.' vehicle to evacuate a stranded passenger. He exposed himself to smoke inhalation and open flames and evacuated the individual

before the Adair Fire and Rescue team could arrive on scene.

"Oftentimes we ask ourselves, would we personally respond to the same situation the same way Sergeant Church did," Stencel said rhetorically, while addressing the unit member's gathered in formation after presenting, The U.S. Army Soldier's Medal to Sgt. Church. "But in



ORARNG Sgt. Colton A. Church, assigned to the 3-116th Cavalry Regiment is presented with the Army Solthis case, we know the dier's Medal and congratulated by Maj. Gen. Michael outcome - because of E. Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon on July 21, 2023. National Guard.

ORARNG Sgt. Colton A. Church, an Infantryman assigned to thing. Because honestly, you do the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, pauses for a photo- it because you want to protect graph following his presentation of the Army Soldier's Medal. your buddies, family, country,

personal safety when he entered a burning response, he ran toward the fire and saved a fellow Oregonian."

exceptionally rare. It was first introduced to a safe location. His quick thinking and in 1926, and is presented to a person who is daring action saved the life of the individual a member of the armed forces of the United

> States, while serving any capacity with the Army, themselves heroism in a noncombative event.

Sergeant Church has been a member of the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment for nearly 13 years, serving as an '11 Bravo,' Army Infantryman a Citizen-Soldier with

He grew up in Jackson, Michigan before eventually moving to his current residence in Salem, Oregon. In his civilian career he's been a metal worker for the past 24 years and recently joined the iron worker union in Portland.

"I am incredibly humbled by this award, but you don't do this for the benefits, you don't do it for pay - you do this because you believe in a higher purpose, a higher cause," Church said, reflecting on the actions that led to the award. "I don't think for a second – any of these guys would have hesitated either, and would have done the same

Church said that the medal, "stands for the spirit we all share and being here," while The awarding of the Soldier's Medal is spending time catching up with his coworkers and family members in attendance following the ceremony.

> With his three sons present at the ceremony. Church said that two of his sons are enlisted or currently preparing to join the National Guard. "My son Trace is already in, my son distinguishing Declan is about to join. They're both 11 Bravo's, but my youngest, still too young to join, wants to go in as well."

> > This tradition of serving in the military stems from generations of Church's family that have worn the uniform proudly before him, and now being carried forward with his sons.

"Both my Grandfathers served in World War II and their brothers, along with all of my uncles...nearly every male member of my family has served in some place," he said, noting for his entire career as that one of his grandmothers was a 'Rosie Riveter,' during WWII. "She was a machinist the Oregon Army and later went to work on the Apollo, Mercury and [Project] Orion projects for NASA."

Instructor pilot realizes dream as part of the Thunderbird Team

Continued from Front Page

Clark says his time flying at Kingsley Field will help him fulfill his mission as a future Thunderbird pilot.

"The 'Land of No Slack' creates top-notch fighter wingmen who earn the coveted 'Eagle well beyond the cockpit. We must possess of everything I love!" an ability to build a rapport and connect with the student across the table."

to flight school, ending up at Kingsley Field see the Thunderbirds and the Blue Angels.

as a student pilot where he learned to be an Eagle Driver. His time in Active Duty took him all over the world, serving in multiple leadership roles. In 2022 he decided to leave Active Duty and join the Air National Guard returning to Kingsley Field as Instructor Pilot.

"I look at the Thunderbirds as a unique Driver' patch," says Clark. "With that comes opportunity to fulfill my dreams and passion a tremendous responsibility to maintain and for motivating others while getting to fly constantly demonstrate a dedication to our high-performance jets in airshows across the mission and students...but it also extends United States," says Clark. "It's really a fusion

That passion started at a young age. "Going to airshows growing up sparked an interest Clark started his career in the Air Force in aviation that later led to fighter aviation," Academy, graduating in 2009. He went on he says. "Every year my family took me to

> That always left me with a huge 'WOW!' factor and were always exciting to watch."

those around him.

"I'm really looking the public, having a positive Clark says.



U.S. Air Force Maj. Tyler Clark, 173rd Fighter Wing F-15C Instructor Pilot, is seen as a young child sitting He adds that his the cockpit of an airplane during a visit to an airshow. passion in life to have Clark, who was just selected as a Thunderbird dema positive impact on onstration pilot, began his dream of being a pilot as a child while attending airshows with his family.

Seeing that dream realized wouldn't have forward to interacting with happened without support all around.

"I thank God for my amazing wife who's impact on communities, always pushed me to pursue this dream, and inspiring that young she's my rock and a truly inspiring woman kid - who used to be me," who's a critical part of this story," said Clark. "I'm incredibly grateful for my family, The path to Clark's friends, mentors, and leadership at Kingsley selection wasn't direct. Field for helping me achieve something I In fact, the first time thought would be unattainable."

he applied, he was Clark is not the first Team Kingsley not selected. "I don't member to be a part of the Thunderbirds. like taking 'no" for an In 1999, Tech. Sgt. Kim Long, a 173rd Fighter answer, so I continued Wing F-16 crew chief, was selected to be a



Photo courtesy of Maj. Tyler Clark

U.S. Air Force Major Tyler Clark, 173rd Fighter Wing F-15C Instructor Pilot, stands in front of the Thunderbird F-16s July 6, 2023 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. Clark was selected as one of the newest demonstration pi- pursing my dream!!" member of the maintenance team for the lots for the U.S. Air Force Demonstration Squadron in the 2024-2025 season. Clark says with a laugh. Thunderbirds, serving with them until 2002.

FEATURES

Oregon National Guard Counterdrug Program helps combat illicit drug trade

Story by John Hughel, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

SALEM, Ore. - Running through California, Oregon, and Washington; Interstate 5 links Mexico to Canada, making it an almost unrivaled route for drug tariffing linked across the country. Caught in the are being added to pills, getting those substance crosshairs, Oregon - notoriously, finds itself as identified is a huge help." one of the principal states for the production and supply of Marijuana, and a distribution axis point of methamphetamines, cocaine, heroin, and prescription drugs.

To help battle against the threats of illicit drugs and the damage associated to the wellbeing of the community and the economic impact on the state – the National Guard helps "bridge the gaps" between the Department of Defense and federal, state, and local agencies across a full range of counterdrug operations.

"The National Guard Counterdrug Program (CDP), that started in the late 80's, as part of the original "War on drugs"...the job was so help them with interdiction and the education pieces of the drug war," said Oregon Air National Guard Col. James Mitchell, counterdrug coordinator for Oregon since 2016. "The program can only work 'by, with or through,' so there has to be a law enforcement coalition that counterdrug can partner with."

In Oregon, nearly 25 National Guard Analysts combine their military skill-sets and civilian experience to help support the CDP. This provides direct support to law enforcement agencies, as well 2023, officers and agents from local, state and as community organizations – in turn, helping federal organizations, including members of disrupt and deter drug production and the drug the National Guard's counterdrug program, trafficking in the state and other regions.

approach, where various agencies work in concert together, benefiting from each area of expertise 1.8 pounds of powder containing fentanyl were combating illegal growing operations. and distinct agency contribution. Created by Congress in 1988, HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) coordinates and assists Federal, State, Local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies to address regional drug threats with the purpose drug dealing charges or weapons charges. of reducing drug trafficking and drug production in the United States.

"A HIDTA team has to have collaboration of enforcement agency, so at least four agencies may have multiple cities in that county, and they dealing in Downtown Portland." accumulate pretty quickly - so some of these teams have upwards to a dozen agency partners, and currently in Oregon there are roughly 14 designated HIDTA task forces counties."

For the past 17 years, Chris Gibson has been for a saved life somewhere." the director of the HIDTA for the Oregon-Idaho region. In assessing the impact made by 12-month period (Feb. of 2022 to Feb. of 2023), members of the National Guard, he said that he noted that, "across the country, we've lost they are critical to the mission as a whole.

of the task forces that have the luxury having looking for trends and treatment options." an analyst that's placed into the counter drug program makes them more effective and efficient in what they do."

On the tactical side the work includes computer checks, backgrounds on suspects, way out of the problem, two - we're never ties to other cases and then helping wrap up the entire package of data for prosecutions.

information they have in their files and that they can quickly recall is critical – being able to say that something that's happening in southern Oregon is the same or different in Hubel, a detective with the Pendleton Police Eastern Oregon plays a vital role in the overall mission," he said. "They increase the amount of Narcotics Team. He's seen the rise in the time that three to four investigators have to get back in the field by over 50 percent."

Having seen the rise in fentanyl and

the best place I've ever seen the program."

Integrating all forms of communication and technology is important. Remarking that is extremely high," Gibson stated, and that keeping abreast of the data and intelligence, "tells us how these cartels are communicating - technology is key to that, especially when - not only on the west coast but to other states we're talking about fentanyl and xylazine that



Photo courtesy of Portland Police Department

overwhelming that they needed to incorporate The Portland Police Bureau released this undated the National Guard in with law enforcement, to photo of blue pills and white powder, which officials said were seized during a two-day drug operation on Aug. 9 and 10, 2023 in downtown Portland, Oregon.

> Fentanyl is an extremely powerful opiate painkiller. It affects the brain's opioid receptors, changing the way your body experiences pain. Taken over long periods, it can be highly addictive. It's estimated that \$800 of chemicals can produce \$800,000 worth of product when trafficked.

During a recent multi-agency drug mission in Portland, Oregon on August 9 and 10, targeted organized fentanyl dealing in the This partnership resembles a 'Joint Task Force' city's downtown core. In just two nights, over at dispensaries. July and August are the 14,000 counterfeit oxycodone pills and nearly seized as evidence.

> Additionally, two illegally possessed firearms and a stolen vehicle were recovered. In total, nine adults and four juveniles were arrested for

"This is not possible without the strong partnerships and collaboration between Central Precinct and our local, state and federal at least a city, a county, a state, and a federal law partners," said Captain Christopher Lindsey of the Portland Police Department's central create a HIDTA Team," Mitchell explained. "Most precinct. "I would like to thank everyone who of our teams have many more than that, as you came to assist us with combating fentanyl

> These types of operations, from the sharing of Intel to combining resources, are vital to the health of the community, Gibson said. "Every unit of drug seized has the potential

In pointing to a recent CDC report over a 109,000 people to fentanyl, and it's why we're counties. The vast majority are on private land "The analysts are a force multiplier. Each working so much with public health and safety, and during a recent bust in late July in Jackson

> But there is not an easy fix or instant solutions, especially with the highly addictive rise in fentanyl and methamphetamines across the country.

"For one, we are never going to arrest our going to treat our way out of the problem, and three - we're never going to prevent our way "When it comes to the strategic side, the out of the problem, he said. "Yet by bringing all those resources together, we can come up with something that works."

These sentiments are also shared by Drew Department working on the Enforcement past two years of fentanyl trafficking and the impacts in the community.

"Some people say it's an unwinnable work but methamphetamines over the past several years, for me, it's some of the most fulfilling work I've Gibson said that the Counterdrug program has ever done," he said, explaining his perspective only seen improvement during the same period. for long term solutions. "For me, at the end of "There was a time when the Counterdrug the day, we are making our communities safer. program wasn't as involved and the case work. This includes helping people re-engage in law enforcement partners – combating the rise quality wasn't as high as it is right now. We're in their lives, finding treatment programs as they in illegal marijuana harvesting and trafficking. try and find a purpose again."

He credits the teamwork and support that comes with working with National Guard the "success of conviction from prosecutions members and their level of expertise, especially as larger drug supplies continue to push east across the country.

> "As these larger shipments move to other states, that's where these cartels start to make real money," Hubel said. "It is phenomenal working with National Guard analysts, they are an irreplaceable part of our team. In our line of work, there's a lot of balls in the air at the same time. Having a good analyst goes beyond file management and paperwork, anytime we've had analytical work done to build case investigations, it just lifts the pressure off the detectives for certain tasks that are detailed and time consuming."

> While fentanyl, heroin and cocaine stem from drug cartels production facilities in Mexico, marijuana production in Oregon creates its own problem. In late November of 2021, officers with the Oregon State Police (OSP) seized roughly 500,000 pounds of processed marijuana in during a large-scale bust in southern Oregon, which was one of the largest raids on illegal marijuana farms in U.S. history. OSP Troopers also detained more than 100 people who were involved with the production process.

"A large percentage of our drug enforcement work at OSP takes place in southwest Oregon because of the nexus of Interstate 5 and Highway 97," Lt. Brandon Boice of the Oregon State Police. "This is because producing and harvesting prime Marijuana is sought after all over the country. There is no better marijuana grown in the country than what's produced in southern Oregon and northern California."

The 'Big Three' uses of marijuana are produced for medical, recreational and hemp. Since October 1, 2015, marijuana became legal to recreational users when purchased biggest months for harvest and the busiest for



Two black-market cannabis grows were busted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office July 6, 2023 netting more than 6,000 illegal marijuana plants, located in 13 greenhouses.

Illegal cannabis growth has climbed sharply since 2014, especially in southern Oregon counties of Jackson, Josephine, Klamath and Deschutes County, three sites were all owned by one man from California, who bought the properties for illegal growing operations. Oregon State Police, the Southwest Region Drug Enforcement Team and Jackson County Sheriff's Office, and other agencies worked together, destroying over 7,500 marijuana plants.

Having served over 23 years with OSP, Boice said that the support from the Oregon Counterdrug program has made a tremendous impact on these and many other illegal marijuana growing operations.

"It is seamless because you have so many people within law enforcement that have served and are veterans," he said. "We might have some different 'jargon,' but for the most part what's critical is our communication and the relationships between all our law enforcement partners."

For the past five years, Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Daniel Radford has been a counterdrug analyst working in southern Oregon and has been working with multiple

Story continued on page 15

FEATURES

ORNG Counterdrug Program continued



Photo courtesy of Jackson County Sheriff's Offic Law enforcement seized a total of 11,416 cannabis plants and approximately 500-pounds of cannabis which was packaged for export, at an indoor cannabis growing operation in Jackson County, Oregon on Aug. 11, 2022.

"Marijuana is the 'gasoline that fuels the cars' of the cartels, Radford said. "It is still highly profitable to the cartels, even when we make large scale bust because it's grown in numerous areas around southern Oregon."

In his military profession Radford is a "35 Fox," Intelligence Analyst, working in intelligence collection, analysis and record keeping, which correlates well with his work in counterdrug.

"You don't have to have an Intel background to be a good counterdrug analyst, but you do have to have to be detail oriented and be a good teammate with the right personality."

During his time in counterdrug, he's become familiar with code enforcement county-by-county, property rights and environmental principles.

"In Josephine County, we can take down the 'Hoop houses' and plants, but in Jackson County we can only destroy the plants," Radford said.

"There is a lot of job satisfaction because I see first-hand the results and I feel like an important part of the law enforcement team."

Radford said that illegal marijuana growing operations also present environmental destruction issues that often go unnoticed by the public outside of southern Oregon.

"There are chemicals used to grow plants that are not legal in the U.S. and they get in the groundwater and streams," he said, describing the ecological issues of illegal marijuana operations. "These large scale grow operations use a substantial amount of water which is a big issue in this region of water rights. We also see issues with exposed power lines that are a threat to wildfires."

In many ways, National Guard counterdrug analysts leverage their unique military capabilities, playing a central role in shaping the nation's response to dangers associated with natural resources and transnational security threats.

"When you look at public safety, at least twothirds of the crimes, statistically that happen in a given area, are drug related," Mitchell said, describing the systemic magnitude of illegal drugs. "So you look at this objectively and ask, "Well how do I mitigate that?"...Instead of addressing the crimes themselves - the violent crime, the property crime, the theft, if you address the drug element, it would realistically diminish the subsequent crimes."

When it comes to selecting and hiring new counterdrug analysts, Col. Mitchell said that stability is a key concern to help build these long term relationships with law enforcement agencies and other key governmental partners.

"This is a very high skill-set that has to be developed over time as some cases are built over years," he said. "Then there are trust factors that show that we have the right type of personalities that can collaborate with our partners."

As Mitchell prepares to retire from the military later this year, he will hand over the program to Oregon Army National Guard Lt. Col. Travis Lee. He reflected on the growth of the counterdrug program over the past seven years.

"We've incrementally grown from about six people when I first started to twentyfive people, placing an emphasis on stability and really invest in the people we hire, and in the process – become so much more of a professional program, because we've been armed with both the military and civilian training to make them better analyst."

"This collaboration has become a real art-form," Mitchell said. "With finding the right people, we've been able to make a big impact with our law enforcement partners in counterdrug operations."

Army National Guard hero evoked and honored

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

ceremony held at the Col. James Nesmith ultimately saved his comrade's life. Readiness Center on Aug. 5, 2023 in Dallas, Oregon - family, friends, and members of the Oregon Army National Guard's 162nd Engineering Company gathered to pay tribute to a fallen hero, Spc. Mando Torres, and acknowledge how his bravery saved the life of another.

Among the attendees was Stephanie Torres, Spc. Torres's former wife, who lost him tragically in a car accident shortly after his return from a courageous combat deployment. It was during that deployment that Spc. Torres displayed exemplary valor, saving a fellow soldier's life while serving as a combat medic.

"I'm overwhelmed with joy and love," said Stephanie. "This ceremony means so much to me and our boys. To see all the support and honor Mando's memory in this way is truly amazing."

Reflecting on the man she knew, Stephanie praised Spc. Torres's unwavering dedication member. "He was the best husband and a great dad, but as a servicemember, I how passionately he pursued being the always remember." best combat medic he could be," she said, recalling her husband with pride.

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Maj. Robert Bertilson, who served with Torres, said that during his time in the Army, Spc. and commitment to his fellow soldiers. He tugged at my heartstrings," he said. was awarded The Army Commendation critical combat situation.

On a routine route clearance mission, his convoy encountered a devastating IED explosion, resulting in casualties.

One soldier in the convoy suffered severe injuries, losing his leg, and it was Specialist Mando Torres, who swiftly responded DALLAS, Ore. - In a heartwarming and provided life-saving measures that



In a heartwarming ceremony held at the Col. James Nesmith Readiness Center in Dallas, Oregon, family, friends, and members of the Oregon Army National Guard's 162nd Engineering Company gathered to pay tribute to a fallen hero, Spc. Mando Torres, and acnowledge how his bravery saved the life of another.

"Specialist Torres was a true soldier, a yes man who eagerly served and carried to his roles as a husband, father, and service out any mission without complaint," said Bertilson. "His positivity and dedication were unparalleled. He had an unwavering admired how much he loved his duty and commitment to service, and that's what I'll

> For Sgt. Maj. Bertilson, ensuring Spc. Torres was honored and recognized approximately ten years later was deeply personal.

"To see him being dedicated to service was a profound inspiration to us all. Learning Torres demonstrated exceptional courage that his family hadn't received this award

The ceremony served as a testament to the Medal with Valor for his actions during a bravery and sacrifice of service members like Torres. It also highlighted the crucial role that family members play in supporting their loved ones in uniform, enduring both the challenges of military life and the heartache of loss.

Oregon National Guard strengthens bonds on historic trip to World War II Chapel in Australia

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

ROCKHAMPTON, Australia - This year marks the 80th anniversary of St. Christopher's Chapel near Rockhampton, Australia, a site

intimately connected to the storied history of the Oregon Army National Guard's 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT). Oregon National Guard representatives recently traveled to Australia to commemorate the milestone and participated in a ceremony at the small chapel built in 1943 by the famed WWII-era 41st Infantry Division.



Central Queensland Military Museum curator Graham Guth and president Barrie Harvey receive the 41st Division guidon from Maj. W. Chris Clyne and Oregon Military Museum director Kathleen Sligar on July 5, 2023.

As a member of the Oregon Military Australia. Department Public Affairs Office, I attending this special 80th anniversary ceremony this summer with Kathleen Sligar, Oregon an enduring connection. Much like St. Military Museum Director. During the Christopher's Chapelitself, the Oregon Guard's ceremonies, Sligar said, "This visit marks a steadfast relationship with Australia remains a humbling opportunity to stand in the place tangible link to the past and a monument to where Oregonians, my home state, and other the power of friendship between allies.

members of the 41st trained, preparing for their arduous and multi-year brutal campaign in the Pacific."

The 41st IBCT directly traces its lineage to the 41st Division, absorbing its history and honors. By honoring the service and sacrifice of 41st Division soldiers in WWII, the ceremonial events recalled Oregon's close ties to Australia forged in war.

The 41st "Sunset" Division, which included troops from Oregon, was stationed near Rockhampton for essential training and recuperation during WWII. Soldiers likely found solace and community while worshipping at St. Christopher's Chapel before deploying to fierce combat action in New Guinea.

Though the chapel fell into disrepair after the war ended, efforts by local residents and American veterans preserved it as an essential symbol of the U.S.-Australia friendship emerging from conflict.

Sligar also said, "By continuing to foster the connections and partnerships which began over 80 years ago, we are able to pay tribute to these men united by our shared commitment to preserve their stories."

The ceremony strengthened the bonds between allies old and new. The occasion underscored the Oregon Guard's crucial role in the Pacific theater during WWII and the continued alliance between the U.S. and

With camaraderie and reflection, the gathering at the humble chapel celebrated

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WINGS CLIPPED: A 'REDHAWK' F-51 MUSTANG PILOT CAPTURED IN KOREA WAR

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Oregon & Military History

Commentary by USAF (ret.) Lt. Col. Terrence Popravak, Jr., 142nd Wing / Historian's Office

PORTLAND, Ore. - Seventy years ago this summer, the guns went silent on the Korean Peninsula after three years of intense fighting as the Armistice took effect on July 27, 1953. Although combat had ceased, a number of actions resulted from this - one of which was the repatriation of prisoners of war. Of the 7, 140 American POWs held captive in northern Korea, one was an Oregon Air National Guard 123rd Fighter Squadron Redhawk pilot, 1st Lt. Orval H. Tandy.

September 15, 2023 is designated as National Prisoner of War / Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Recognition Day. On this day, the 142nd Wing remembers and salutes 35 unit-related personnel who were POWs or MIAs in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. This year we will examine the experience of this Redhawk

pilot whose wings were clipped in Korea.



Orval H. Tandy was born in Eugene, Oregon on August 11, 1921, and grew up in the Camas-Washougal, Washington area, and then was a resident of Multnomah County, Oregon. A high school graduate by the time World War II came, he was married and a carpenter, when he first entered military service on November 4, 1942. He later requested to become a pilot, and earned his wings and commission as an officer in 1944. He did not serve overseas before the war ended.

After the war he was discharged and in 1946 joined the Oregon Air National Guard, which operated the famous North American P-51D Mustang fighter plane (redesignated as F-51D in 1948). His home of record was then Camas, Washington.

Combat

The outbreak of the Korean War surprised many, including Air National Guard members called up in the first true test of the capability of the enhanced force structure of this reserve component. After the Chinese communist intervention in November of 1950, more help was needed and the Air National Guard answered the call. Lt. Tandy entered active duty again when he and his squadron were called up on February 1, 1951. The fighter pilots of the squadron internally "racked and stacked" their time in the service and experience to determine which ones would see combat over in Korea, and nine men were eventually sent overseas to augment existing U.S. Air Force units. (See "They Waived Everything but Goodbye: Oregon Air National Guard in the Korean War" for an overview of how the Korean War affected the Oregon Air National Guard).



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

A North American F-51D Mustang assigned to the 39th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron during the early part of the Korean War. The U.S. Air force expended many of the Mustang fighters during the Korean War from June 1950 to July 1953.

For Tandy and some others, that meant assignment to the 39th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, the "Cobra-in-the Clouds" squadron attached to the 18th Fighter-Bomber Wing. Although an air defense outfit by designation and pulled from occupation duty in Japan, the squadron flew the F-51D in combat in Korea, in a predominantly air-to ground role. Coming from the 123rd Fighter Squadron which served mostly in air defense of the Pacific Northwest, Tandy and the others had to adapt to the war situation. Most of the Oregon Air Guardsmen sent ultimately completed 100 combat missions and returned home. More details of their experience in Korea are recounted in "Remembering Redhawk Fighter Pilots who sacrificed during the Forgotten Korean War."

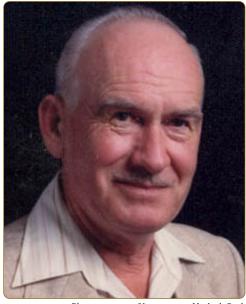


Photo courtesy of Legacy.com, Mr. Jack Cook

Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Orval H. Tandy in his later years. His miliary career spanned nearly three decades, from 1944 to 1972, including two years as a POW in North Korea.

shrapnel (which later caused a leg infection), he landed on a small hill, with enemy troops in the area.

Tandy wore a summer flight suit and flying boots and only had his sidearm and a knife. A Korean civilian happened along and took his parachute and some survival gear while he hid in a nearby ditch. The rest of his flight overhead kept the enemy at bay for about 15 to 20 minutes before they had to leave due to low fuel.

Other United Nations pilots rallied to defend him in hopes of a rescue. The South African Air Force's Flying Cheetahs of No. 2 Squadron helped provide a rescue combat air patrol. One of their pilots, Lieutenant Willem van den Bos, took a hit in the engine of his F-51D, serial number 44-74570, from enemy ground fire which emptied the coolant for the liquid-cooled engine, the bane of the Mustang in this kind of situation.

Lt. van den Bos' engine eventually seized up and quit, and he was forced to crash-land in a stream bed in a lonely place about 75 miles west of Wonsan. A successful search and rescue mission by a Navy helicopter based on a Japanese LST in Wonsan Harbor retrieved the South African pilot before the enemy could capture him. His and Tandy's were two of five F-51Ds lost in Korean operations on September 5, 1951.

But Tandy was out of luck in his individual circumstances and Chinese communist troops soon captured him. He was force-marched for four days to the north Korean capital, Pyongyang, and a POW camp known as 'The Brickyard,' where he was detained for over two months.

Around Thanksgiving time, he was force marched again, this time for 14 days, to a northern POW camp up near the border with China. For rations they had a watery cup of rice twice a day, and a baseball-sized ball of millet to eat while walking during the day. Three prisoners died on the way, and the snow of the ground chilled the prisoners. Tandy only had his summer flight suit and boots, but he was luckier than some who had no shoes although none of them had jackets. They marched to a place up near the Yalu River.

Camp 2 - Pyoktong

A declassified Central Intelligence Agency information report titled "The Pyoktong POW Camp" described the camp as it was in February, 1953: "(It)...comprised of a United Nations POW camp in 20 grass-roofed houses and 10 stone houses...and a ROK army POW camp in 30 grass-roofed houses, 15 stone houses, and 5 Korean tile-roofed houses..." near Pyoktong (N 40-38, E 125-26, YF-0600). About 1,000 prisoners were in the UN camp, mostly Americans, and about 2,000 in the ROK camp (200 officers, 1,600 enlisted men and 200 civilians).

Lt. Tandy and the other UN prisoners were guarded by 80 Chinese communist troops armed with automatic rifles, PPSh's and older Imperial Japanese Army rifles. Of note, the camp was not enclosed in barbed wire. Instead, 17 guard posts surrounded it spaced 50 meters apart. Thirty guards were present for duty and a three-man security team patrolled the camp twice in the day and hourly at night. In the event of trouble, three rifle shots signaled for all guards to respond.

Around the time that Lt. Tandy arrived in late-November of 1951, food conditions improved slightly. UN POWs changed from 300 grams of soybeans and 300 grams of corn per day (ROK prisoners received 300 grams of millet and 300 of corn) to 700 grams of grain; wheat flour replaced the corn for UN POWs due to their poor digestion and malnutrition. Every 15 days allotments of salt, turnips, radishes and dried vegetables were issued.

Once a week, the prisoners gathered their own firewood for cooking from the surrounding mountainsides.

Wings Clipped

But unlike his fellow Redhawks who reached the century mark, Tandy completed 56 and a half. His final combat mission in Korea took place on September 5, 1951, an interdiction mission up near the Yalu River and the border with China. He flew F-51D-30-NA serial number 44-74794 that fateful day. On return to home base from the assigned target, his flight attacked a target of opportunity, a train, and unfortunately his aircraft was hit in the engine by enemy fire which forced him to bail out at only 1,000 feet in altitude. Wounded by

Tandy was one of the 40 percent of POWs who still wore the clothing they were captured in. The rest were given khaki-colored Chinese-made cotton clothes. Straw sandals were the footwear for all. The Chinese communists prohibited any contact between the UN and ROK prisoners. Rapport between the Chinese guards and Korean POWs was rated as "good." However, UN captives and Chinese guards reportedly looked down on one another.

Their waking hours were mostly consumed with

communist indoctrination, though every other day music

and stag dancing parties were allowed. At the time of the

source's report on the camp, no medical facilities were

noted (Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Warrant Officer

(WO) Ronald Guthrie reported that although there were

some doctors were amongst the UN POWs, they had no

and 80 ROK). About four prisoners died each day, and

the death rate for UN prisoners was about two-percent

higher than the ROK POWs. For UN prisoners, five percent

suffered from typhoid, 80 percent had diarrhea and 15

percent some other ailment. In comparison, ROK POWs

had 10 percent typhoid, 70 percent diarrhea and 20

percent with other diseases.

On average, 130 prisoners became ill each day (50 UN

equipment or medical supplies to treat anyone with).

China

Chongin

Hyosanjin

Chosan

Cho

The Chinese communists' frequent indoctrination and self-criticism efforts paid them little dividend. The report estimated that two-percent of UN POWs became communists, and from five-to-ten percent of ROK prisoners did so.

Tandy was not one to be converted. In fact, he was singled out during one indoctrination session, as described by fellow UN POW, Royal Australian Air Force No. 77 Squadron Mustang pilot Warrant Officer Ronald D. Guthrie:

"The political Commissar was a fanatical Marxist who spoke reasonable English. This young Chinese, intense of manner and small of stature, was Comrade Sun. Typically, with the prisoners assembled in the lecture room, Sun would make his entrance, gazed disdainfully on the unruly student body and voice his high-pitched order "Keep silence!" The boring routine would commence. In spite of the most diligent effort of Ding, Sun, Wong and all of the Honshos, the daily dose of compulsory political lectures did not seem to be having the desired effect on the prisoners, many of whom liked to 'play up' during these sessions. Guards were stationed around the room in an effort to maintain control but disruption was usually the order of the day. An American officer named Orville (sic - Orval) Tandy, of "You on the end of the pipe fame' fame, was arrested. Orville had been carving chess pieces while sitting on the floor of the lecture room, hiding his activities behind the man in front. He was marched off for "Dirtying the Peoples' floor and not paying attention." The punishment for infractions was typically some time in solitary confinement in even more primitive conditions. (Colin G. King, Historical Anecdotes 77 Squadron RAAF In Korea 1950-1953)

His personal freedom wasn't the only thing the Chinese communists deprived him of. Connection to home and family was also denied. During his first year in captivity, no letters from home made it in or out of the camp. Back at home in Camas, Mrs. Dolores (Anderson) Tandy with her three small children knew that Lt. Tandy was alive as his picture was featured in a French communist newspaper. Tandy eventually received seven or eight letters from home during his two years of confinement. He sent six letters home, cut up badly by censors.

Freedom

Tandy survived this run-in with camp authorities and slim connection home to be repatriated during Operation Big Switch on September 10, 1953. He went into captivity weighing a healthy 170 pounds, and came out of it at 128 pounds, after some pre-armistice 'plumping-up' by the Chinese communists.

The POW experience didn't daunt him from continuing his military service, and he remained on active duty until he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel on June 30, 1972. He passed away in Lakewood, Washington on September 26, 2004 at the age of 83.