



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

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- A change of command took place January 13, 2013, at Kingsley Field. Colonel Jeremy "Weed" Baenen, who has over 21 years of military experience, took command of the 173rd Fighter Wing in an official ceremony.

Baenen has a wide range of experience, including 10 years with the active duty component before joining the Oregon Air National Guard in 2002. He most recently commanded the 173rd Operations Group and Baenen held numerous positions in the 142nd Fighter Wing, Portland Air National

Guard Base before joining Kingsley in 2010. Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon, said these assignments provide a strong experience base necessary for this key command position.

"I am confident (Colonel Baenen) will continue and surpass the expected level of excellence here at Kingsley," said Rees. "You inherit a great legacy of team work and can-do spirit. Thank you for accepting this challenge. No slack," he added.

The official ceremony included the passing of the Wing guidon from the outgoing commander to the

Oregon Air National Guard Commander addresses sequestration for members

Fellow Airmen -

Our Air Force has begun making the budget cuts required by sequestration.

Over the past few weeks we have seen reductions in our flying hour and training budgets, exercise and inspection cancellations, plans to reduce the

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued on page 8)

Commander's Corner

History: One of our greatest teachers

By Col. Jeremy O. Baenen, Commander 173rd Fighter Wing

"This week in 1781 at Guilford Courthouse, N.C., the American army (including militia units from North Carolina and Virginia) commanded by General Nathaniel Greene, battled the British army commanded by General Cornwallis. General Greene, who started his military career as a private in the Rhode Island militia, was one of General Washington's best field commanders. This battle contained some of the most desperate fighting of the American Revolutionary War, highlighted by the

American troops charging into British ranks to engage in hand-to-hand combat. In a desperate act to avoid being overrun, Cornwallis ordered his artillery to fire point blank into the intermixed ranks to stop the American advance. As a result, Cornwallis ended up killing a large number of his own men. The actions of the militia and General Greene created a 30 percent British casualty rate and delayed the British army from movement to a strategic location in Virginia. It is widely believed

these actions over 232 years ago cost Britain the war."

173 FW personnel—History is not only a valuable way of learning our heritage but can also teach us valuable lessons. I believe one important aspect of this battle was that General Greene, who eventually changed the history of America, began his military career as a private in the Rhode Island militia. Who was the first leader or commander to recognize his talents or ability? This story highlights the importance of each and every Airman in our wing.

Every Airman in the 173rd FW is critical to the successful accomplishment of our mission. Our commander's first responsibility is to take care of our Airman and their families. This must remain our wing priority especially during tumultuous times. I am gravely concerned about



the effects of a potential furlough of civilian employees and your wing leadership is taking this seriously. Although the road ahead will be challenging, I believe that the 173rd FW's best days are yet to come.

Our mission at Kingsley Field is strong and the USAF is proposing to expand our flight training operations despite sequestration and the continue resolution authority dilemma. We must continue to stay focused on teamwork and safely accomplishing our mission with the resources we are provided. Furthermore, we will not compromise our standards of excellence. I challenge every Airman in the wing to meet these challenges and let the history books show that 232 years from now Kingsley Field was the place "where America's air superiority began".



The Battle of Guilford Courthouse, March 15, 1781. General Nathaniel Greene observed as the veteran 1st Maryland Regiment threw back a British attack and countered with a bayonet charge. As they reformed their line, William Washington's Light Dragoons raced by to rescue raw troops of the 5th Maryland Regiment who had buckled under a furious assault of British Grenadiers and Guards. Images courtesy National Park Service.

173rd adds brand new intelligence class to its repertoire

*By Master Sgt. Jennifer Shirar,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. -- The 173rd Fighter Wing embodies the culture of training, and Jan. 7 it increased its scope with the establishment of the F-15C Intelligence Formal Training Unit (IFTU) course at Kingsley Field.

"The IFTU course is designed to prepare Intel analysts to support F-15C operations," said Maj. William Wilkinson, 173rd Operations Group F-15C IFTU course chief. "Our mission is to conduct initial qualification training for students new to the Eagle community." Much like the fighter pilots who come to Kingsley Field to learn to fly the F-15C, both enlisted and commissioned intelligence specialist who will work at an F-15C base spend approximately 30 days here learning the specifics of intelligence operations and mission planning for the Eagle.

Wilkinson explained that students come straight to the IFTU after arriving at their first duty station with very little to no military experience.

"We introduce the Intel analysts to the F-15C systems, tactical employment and lessons learned from current and historical operations," said Wilkinson. "This course provides the fundamentals for mission planning for the full realm of Eagle operations both in combat and in support of homeland defense."

The first class of six, three Active Duty and three Air National Guard, graduated Feb. 1, on the 30th anniversary of the first F-4 fighter pilot graduation at Kingsley Field. Their feedback is helping to shape the syllabus for future classes.

"Student feedback was very important from the first class," said Wilkinson. "It allowed us to see if



Maj. William Wilkinson, 173rd Operations Group F-15C Intelligence Formal Training Unit (IFTU) course chief, briefs students from the second class to attend the new course at Kingsley, March 12, 2013. This class recently moved from Tyndall AFB to Kingsley Field. (Oregon Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

we were hitting the mark with the execution of the new academics and syllabus."

He feels they did a good job based on the feedback, though they did modify some of the syllabus and are already seeing an improvement in the current class. In addition to many hours of classroom work and studying, students are given the opportunity to fly several missions in the state of the art F-15C simulator. Furthermore, each class member has the chance to fly in a real training sortie to his enhances their understanding of the pilot's needs and experiences.

"This will be an evolving syllabus that will change based on advancements in both U.S. and adversary systems and tactics," added Wilkinson. The IFTU course, which teaches both Active Duty Air Force and Air National Guard, was originally based out of Tyndall Air Force Base. The Wing could host as many as six to seven classes a year.

"It makes sense that as the sole F-15C schoolhouse, we would also "top-off" the Intel specialists that will be stationed at F-15C bases around the world," said Col. Frederick French, 173rd Operations Group commander. "We are super happy to have the IFTU mission at Kingsley Field. It speaks volumes for how much trust the active duty and Air National Guard place in this base."

Training has been interwoven in the history of Kingsley Field. In 1983, the first schoolhouse opened with the training of F-4 Phantom pilots. The last F-4 class graduated in November 1988 and the first Air Defense Fighter modified F-16 aircraft arrived March 1989, followed by the first F-16 student class on July 1989. In 1998, Kingsley said goodbye to the Falcon and welcomed the F-15 Eagle. As of 2010, the 173rd Fighter Wing is home to the sole F-15C training unit for the United States Air Force.

(See Legacy of Training, page 17)

ORANG News



OR ANG Commander addresses sequestration

Letter by Brig. Gen. Steven D. Gregg, Commander Oregon Air National Guard

(Continued from front page)

work schedules of our Federal Technicians, and an FAA proposal to close the tower at Kingsley Field.

While the budget situation should become more stable over time, in the near term we can expect more short-notice cuts which may not be evenly distributed across our missions or our workforce.

This is happening because the USAF, our gaining MAJCOMs, and the National Guard Bureau are faced with the need to quickly reduce spending rather than having the opportunity to phase the cuts in over time.

While the road ahead may be personally and professionally challenging, I believe the Oregon Air National Guard is ready to take it on.

Our missions are strong, enduring, and complementary- our Fighter Wings share a common platform and our missions fit well together- Air Dominance, Air Battle Management, Air Traffic Control,

Combat Control, Combat Weather- by working as one ORANG team, we are uniquely positioned to succeed through these times.

Looking for ways to synergize effort at the shop, unit, and functional level is the path to successfully preserving resources for mission readiness.

We must stay focused on safe mission accomplishment regardless of what is going on in Washington. Watch after each other and take the time to do things by the book.

If you see something that doesn't look right, say something- we will scale back operations as needed to appropriately manage risk. We must not compromise our standards or our approach to safety.

I could not be more proud to serve with you - regardless of how the budget shakes out, we will continue to set the standard of excellence for the Air National Guard and our Air Force.

One team - ready, reliable, relevant- now more than ever, a great value for our State and Nation!

ORANG kicks off range space expansion initiative

Story by

Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- The Oregon Air National Guard unveiled a plan to expand its range space for flying operations to a group of public officials, Jan. 30, at Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Ore.

The meeting included stakeholders in the areas where the additional flying will take place. In addition to the meeting here at Kingsley, those members of the local government flew to Alkali Lake for an actual flying demonstration of F-15C noise levels at different altitudes.

The overall proposal is a modest increase to the range space that improves efficiency, and saves money for the State of Oregon's two fighter wings to the tune of about 10-percent a year; this is viewed as a proactive move in light of increased budget cuts and reduced flying hours seen in the current fiscal uncertainty.

Brig. Gen. Steven D. Gregg, the Oregon Air National Guard Commander, said there are other benefits including responsible stewardship of the airspace.

"One of our concerns is returning this airspace back to commercial traffic once we are done using it for training; this proposed expansion will cut the amount of time we need to hold that airspace before we turn it back."

This means when the ranges are not being used by the fighter wings, it's as if they don't exist and commercial and general aviation traffic can navigate them freely. These small increases in range space will allow



Top: 173rd Fighter Wing aircraft refuel over range space located in Eastern Oregon. (Stock photo courtesy James Hazeltine, High-G Productions.)

Right: Sheriff Phillip A. McDonald, Lake County Roadmaster Rick DuMilleu, Judge Steven E. Grasty, County Commissioners, Dan Nichols, Kenneth M. Kestner, Peter Runnels, Dennis Linthicum, Jim Bellet and Tom Mallams, State Senators Theodore M. Ferrioli and Doug Whitsett, and U.S. Senator Ron Wyden's Chief of Staff J. Wayne Kinney prepare to board a CH-47 Chinook Helicopter for transport to Alkali Lake for a demonstration of noise levels caused by F-15C training on a given flying range. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson.)



more jets the opportunity to safely train, thereby cutting the time needed to do so.

Wheeler County Judge Chris Perry, who attended a similar briefing, said the areas in question are sparsely populated, specifically one person in a given square mile, on average.

"The military has been using air space over Wheeler County since 1950, so this is nothing new to citizens," Perry said. "There really isn't a down side to this other than the fact a person might hear a jet once in a while. But even that isn't a problem when you think this is more training

time for a pilot that is providing protection for our citizens – how do you put a price on that?"

So far the price of this proposal is borne by the Air Guard, which is footing the bill for the environmental impact statement which has spanned two years at this point.

This meeting introduces the important step of seeking input from stakeholders.

Moving forward, the Oregon Guard will seek input from citizens in the affected areas with a series of meetings planned at various locations in the state.

Landing gear failure demonstrates teamwork



Kingsley Firefighters form a cordon around the jet with damaged left landing gear after the gear malfunctioned upon deployment, Feb. 25. The pilot immediately notified the Supervisor of Flying and that set into motion a series of steps to avert a potential disaster, including an arresting cable landing which went without incident. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Penny Hamilton, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Commentary by
Lt. Col. Alaric Michaelis,
173rd Fighter Wing Safety Officer

Kingsley Field emergency responders performed exceptionally well during a recent F-15 aircraft mishap, Feb. 25. On that Monday afternoon the pilot, whose identity we are withholding pending an investigation, declared an emergency with an inflight left main landing gear malfunction to the Supervisor of Flying (SOF).

This is the same kind of malfunction that we experienced in October when the gear collapsed upon landing. That mishap brought changes to the F-15C Emergency Checklist due to the great investigative work done by Kingsley Field. The new checklist directed the pilot to take the approach end cable.

Expecting the disabled aircraft to close the active runway, the SOF directed all other Eagles in the flight to land ahead of the mishap aircraft. As the pilot flew a barrier-cable-assisted landing, first responders on the ground reacted in their usual expeditious and professional manner. Fire Department and Security Forces personnel pre-positioned themselves at the south End of Runway, while notifications were made to key players, including Kingsley Field Commanders and Klam-

ath Falls airport personnel.

The runway cable engagement was routine, and the mishap pilot exited the disabled aircraft. Repair and Reclamation personnel responded to the aircraft, but were unable to pin and safe the left main landing gear due to major damage. Realizing a potential for a collapsed landing gear, personnel danger, and aircraft damage, the Fire Department Incident Commander cleared personnel away from the aircraft until it could be stabilized.

R&R personnel quickly installed aircraft jacks while other key personnel: Weapons, Crew Chiefs, Civil Engineering, and Safety, were dispatched to assist and perform where appropriate.

Under pressure to restore the runway to full operation, maintenance personnel quickly removed and replaced the damaged aircraft part. The aircraft was then towed backed to the aircraft flight line. Fire Department and Barrier Maintenance personnel restored the arresting cable and runway to operational condition. It truly took a team effort: the pilot, SOF, Interim Safety Board, Air Traffic Control, FD, R&R, Crew Chiefs, Hydraulics, weapons, a host of other maintainers, Security Forces, Civil Engineering, and Klamath airport personnel, to turn a potentially deadly mishap into a fairly routine event. Another job well done.

Gov. names next Adjutant General

Letter by
Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees,
The Adjutant General

SALEM, Ore. -- The Governor and I are pleased to announce the selection of Brig. Gen. Daniel Hokanson as the next Adjutant General, Oregon.

BG Hokanson has ably served the Oregon National Guard and the United States Army for more than 27 years. He comes to the position with great credentials and vision. He has achieved extraordinary success whether serving in Oregon or at national levels. He is a three time combat veteran serving in Panama, Afghanistan, and Iraq. He commanded the 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Iraq, 2009-2010.

Likewise, he has a complete grasp of domestic operations setting precedence for search and rescue operations here in Oregon, gaining national level experience working as the Deputy Director, J-5, North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command, and Assisting The Chief, NGB as the Director, Strategic Plans and Policy, at The Pentagon.

This letter is dated Jan. 23, 2013. ~Ed.

DoD expands combat roles to include women

Story courtesy

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- Following a unanimous recommendation by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta announced Thursday the end of the direct ground combat exclusion rule for female service members.

Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the Joint Chiefs chairman, joined Panetta at a Pentagon news conference in announcing the policy change.

The secretary also announced that the service branches will continue to move forward with a plan to eliminate all unnecessary gender-based barriers to service.

The change is intended to ensure that the best qualified and most capable service members, regardless of gender, are available to carry out the mission, Panetta said.

"If members of our military can meet the qualifications for a job, then they should have the right to serve, regardless of creed, color, gender or sexual orientation," he said.

In a statement released following the announcement, President Barack Obama praised the decision.

"This milestone reflects the courageous and patriotic service of women through more than two centuries of American history and the indispensable role of women in today's military," the president said.

The decision opens up about 237,000 positions to women – 184,000 in combat arms professions and 53,000 assignments that were closed based on unit type.

Women are an integral part of DoD's ability to fulfill its mission,

Panetta said. "Over more than a decade of war, they have demonstrated courage, skill and patriotism, and 152 women in uniform have died serving this nation in Iraq and Afghanistan," he said.

The new policy is the culmination of a process that began last year,



a senior defense official told reporters. More than 14,000 assignments in ground combat units or collocated with ground combat units were opened to women in February.

That extension of women's roles had a positive impact, Panetta said at the news conference.

"Every time I've visited the war zone, met with troops, reviewed military operations, talked to wounded warriors, I have been impressed with the fact that everyone is committed to doing the job," he said. "They are fighting and dying together. The time has come for our policies to recognize that reality."

The change ensured sufficient female mid-grade and senior enlisted and officers were in place to guarantee successful integration of junior personnel, a senior defense official said.

The secretary has directed the

military services to undertake an evaluation of all occupational performance standards to ensure they are up to date and gender-neutral. Specialty schools will be included in the evaluation, a senior defense official said. The results of this evaluation are to be submitted to the defense secretary by May 15, while the entire process is to be completed by Jan. 1, 2016.

"We are all committed to implementing this change without compromising readiness or morale or our war-fighting capabilities," Panetta said. "For this change in policy to succeed, it must be done in a responsible, measured and a coherent way."

Occupations and assignments will open incrementally, but "as expeditiously as possible," a senior defense official said. "We would fully expect that ... we will open positions throughout the year as we go forward," the official said.

Once the policy is fully implemented, military occupations will be closed to women only by exception, and only if approved by the defense secretary, a senior defense official said.

"I fundamentally believe that our military is more effective when success is based solely on ability, qualifications and on performance," Panetta said.

"In life, as we all know, there are no guarantees of success," he added. "Not everyone is going to be able to be a combat soldier. But everyone is entitled to a chance. By committing ourselves to that principle, we are renewing our commitment to the American values our service members fight and die to defend."

173rd SFS teams up with special forces

*Commentary by
Master Sgt. Marty Seamons,
173rd Security Forces Squad Leader*

RILEY, Ore. -- The 173rd Security Forces Squadron joined forces with the 304th Rescue Squadron, from Portland Air National Guard base, in a week-long training exercise in Riley, Ore., starting Jan. 17.

Working with the highly professional pararescue unit was an excellent opportunity to see how those operators work. It was a real treat for the men and women of the 173rd SFS. The Kingsley Field team integrated very well with the 304th and matched the professionalism, work ethic, and tempo of the operators.

The week-long exercise provided a high operations tempo with very intense training scenarios, including: rescuing pilots from downed aircraft, rescuing contractors being held captive by local insurgents, recovering aerial drones, and assisting with mass-

casualty accidents. The exercise missions started at approximately 1 p.m. and continued to about 4 a.m. the next morning. Kingsley's Security

Forces members endured subzero weather to provide security for the pararescue team on each mission. Most of the missions were conducted in vehicles enroute to each objective, with each team having to dismount and continue on foot to set up a secure perimeter around the areas the pararescue team was operating in.

We all had our skills tested each and every mission. However, morale remained at a high level for each member, even as fatigue was a prominent factor.

The joint forces training gave the 173rd troops valuable training and helped build more than a little unit cohesion, perhaps a direct result of shared suffering. Those of us in the 173rd SFS hope to be invited back in the future for this annual training exercise.



Pararescuemen are trained to provide emergency medical treatment in adverse terrain and conditions in combat or peacetime. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Daniel Hughes)

Wing changes hands

(Continued from front page)

incoming commander. According to Air Force protocol, this ceremony is rooted in military history, dating to the 18th Century. During this time, organizational flags were developed representing the individual units. When a change of command took place, the outgoing commander would pass the flag to the individual assuming command. This took place in front of the entire unit so that all could witness the new commander assuming his position.

Additionally, Baenen's name was revealed on the Wing flagship F-15 Eagle, as the commander of the 173rd Fighter Wing. Flowers were presented to the wives of both of the outgoing and incoming commander from the members of the 173rd Fighter Wing.

Baenen thanked those in attendance and his family. "The greatest thank you goes to the members of the 173rd Fighter Wing, who day in and day out do an exceptional job," he added.

He continued saying, "It is an exceptional privilege to be selected as the commander to both represent and serve this great organization. Our reputation for high standards is renowned throughout the nation, and I am very optimistic about the future of this Wing."

Baenen replaced Col. Jeffrey "Hi-Ho" Silver, who commanded the 173rd Fighter Wing since September 11, 2011.

Rees thanked Silver for his work during his time as commander. "You have been a great steward and we wish you well," he said.

Yellow Ribbon Program hosts reintegration event

Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt.

Jefferson Thompson,
173rd Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

GLENEDEN BEACH, Ore--
“A lot of people don’t know I was suicidal twice in my life,” but after deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan several times Army Staff Sgt. Eddie Black found himself homeless, living out of his truck.

Today his life is radically different, he stands before a group of Yellow Ribbon Program participants; service members and their families who are either preparing to deploy or have returned from overseas combat zones. Black is the Oregon Army Guard Resiliency Program Coordinator and he is using his experiences in ‘bouncing back’ from personal lows to help others who have followed in his footsteps. Among his audience are members of the 173rd Fighter Wing’s Security Forces Squadron who performed the first outside-the-wire tasking for six months in 2012. Not that other Air Force Security Forces haven’t performed outside the wire but this mission was exclusively so, and that is a first for Oregon Air National Guard Security Forces troops.

Members who have deployed for 90 days or more are required to attend YRP training once they return home. Now it might sound like work but the program goes out of its way to make the experience enjoyable and relaxing in some people’s eyes.



Top: Brigitte Lamont leads attendees in an exercise designed to help differing personalities communicate effectively, Feb. 24.

Right: Airman 1st Class Andrew Atkinson volunteers for a demonstration as a white board during a breakout session for massage therapy to reduce stress and anxiety for deployers, Feb. 24.

The Oregon Air National Guard YRP Coordinator negotiates with quality venues, in this case Salishan Lodge, to house attendees at the government rate over an event weekend. The program foots the bill and those attending are encouraged to bring their families, who are a significant part of the program’s focus. It’s common to hear speakers thank service members for their sacrifice and in the next breath extend that thanks to their families, in direct acknowledgement that these missions require a family’s contribution and sacrifice as well.

Among the many tables in the main meeting room sit six women. Their children are in the provided day camp and their husbands are all deployed

(Continued on next page)



Oregon Guard members meet for reintegration effort

(Continued from previous page)

overseas in a combat zone with the 142nd Security Forces Squadron. The ORANG YRP Coordinator Amy Schmid refers to them as mid-deployers, and says it's important to have them here.

"We realized a few years ago we weren't reaching the spouses and loved ones who might be geographically separated," Schmid said. "Loved Ones are entitled to attend a mid-deployment event on invitational orders. This provides us a tangible way to connect directly with them. When Yellow Ribbon takes care of loved ones, loved ones are better able to support and care for their service member. Service members are, in turn; better able to serve our state and our Nation."

The six women acknowledge how welcome the weekend is and Kelly Roper, wife of Tech. Sgt. Grant Roper says it's the first time they've been able to make their busy schedules coincide. The obvious problem being that supporting a deployed family member and taking care of a household keeps them very busy.

Around the room sit an additional 170 service members and their invited guests, including Marine Reservists. These troops converged from around the state and were greeted by Brig. Gen. Michael Stencil and Keynote speaker Sporty King who together set the tone for the weekend.

In the Keynote, "We need to acknowledge how we may have grown and changed from our experiences," King said, and he continued by saying that old friendships may have changed



Top: Tech. Sgt. Michael James, 173rd Security Forces, helps his pregnant wife, Jennifer up after a learning about stress and anxiety relief through massage therapy, Feb. 24, 2013, at Salishan Lodge in Gleneden Beach, Ore.

Right: Lt. Col. Alaric Michaelis, a pilot for the 173rd Fighter Wing and his wife listen to a briefing on reintegration. Michaelis recently returned from a deployment to Al Dhafra, in the United Arab Emirates.



and that it may not be possible to pick up where one left off. King stressed family health and open communication with spouses and loved ones are essential. After the official welcome, a review of the agenda, and an introduction to long list of service providers on site, participants were released to breakout sessions ranging in subject matter: marriage enrichment, financial counseling, managing stress and resiliency to name a few.

Reenter Black guiding his listeners through the psychology of PTSD and why a person's brain may need some retraining for life back home away from the rigors of the front line. When asked he says he's seeking to give permission to returning deployers to acknowledge they may be having some issues with reintegration. His approach is to detail

through the Yellow Ribbon Program he left his suicidal thoughts in the rearview mirror.

The program wasn't limited to lecture style breakout sessions. On-demand counseling, Legal support and Chaplain Services were made available over the duration of the weekend. Organizations geared to a vast range of veteran and family member needs came from around the state and even further to support, everything from the American Red Cross to USAA to Tricare were on-hand.

These events are scheduled every quarter through the end of 2013. For more information on the national program visit www.yellowribbon.mil or to register for an event in Oregon visit: www.jointservicesupport.org

Kingsley wishes Fire Chief well as he transfers to the Arizona Guard

**Commentary by Howard Owens,
173rd FW Deputy Fire Chief**

The 173rd Fighter Wing said 'farewell and good luck in Tucson' to Chief Master Sgt. Leslie Tyree, Friday March 8. Family, firefighters, community partners and military members gathered at Trappers to celebrate his new position as Fire Chief of the 162nd Fighter Wing in Tucson, Ariz., and to say thank you for his exemplary service with Kingsley Field.

Chief Tyree's time in Klamath Falls was filled with many successes on base and in the community; as the first Federal Technician Fire Chief, he initiated the Air Force model for Fire Protection, getting the firefighters trained and experienced on the ACES program, getting updated Fire Apparatus and getting the International Fire Service Accreditation on line.

As a community member, Chief Tyree was active in: County Fire Defense Board, Klamath County Radio Interoperability Group, Klamath Type 3 Incident Management Team,



County Museum volunteer, Gospel Mission, Hosanna School volunteer and his local church. Chief Tyree's leadership and professional attitude were significant reasons that Kingsley Fire & Emergency Services was selected as the Air National Guard Fire Department of the Year for 2007 and 2010.

Chief Tyree's new position with Tucson is closer to his original home

of Oklahoma; his daughter Kristin will be able to pursue her love of history at the local college and his wife Donna is looking forward to getting near family and enjoying the warm weather.

Teamwork and dedication to the Fire Department and military, are staples of Chief Tyree's 37 years of military and fire service. While he will be missed by the base and the community, the positive programs he implemented will help keep the Fire Department stable and professional in his absence.

Maj. Tim Bruner, the Civil Engineering commander, presented Chief Tyree with a Meritorious Service Medal for his tremendous accomplishments at his farewell. As Chief Tyree gave his final words, he talked about the support he has received from his family, Donna and Kristin, as well as his military family. And, as is his nature of service before self, he said he is only an e-mail or phone call away to help Kingsley and the Fire Department stay successful.

173rd Airmen support 57th U.S. Presidential Inauguration



**Story by Staff Sgt. Jesse Searls,
D.C. National Guard**

WASHINGTON -- A public affairs detachment of Oregon Air National Guardsmen from the 173rd Fighter Wing joined approximately 50 other public affairs professionals from 17 states in providing media relations, photographic and video support to the 57th Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C. Jan. 21, 2013.

The Oregon Airmen were called upon to tell the story and document

(Continued on next page)

'High' visibility construction evident at Kingsley Field

**Commentary by
Airman 1st Class Andrew Atkinson,
173rd Communications Flight**

Have you seen the many changes that have happened to Kingsley Field over the last two years? One hard to miss change is the addition of the three 70-foot towers.

One tower is located at the new Security Forces building, the second is located at the remodeled edition of the Operations Group and the third is located just beyond our favorite 1.5 mile running loops next to the trap and skeet range.

The 70-foot, 2,718 pound galvanized steel towers host the capacity for our current radio communications needs, and they are also designed to surpass our future needs as well.

The 173rd Communications Flight decided to upgrade the base's previous radio tower capability with these towers to dramatically improve radio frequency communications. This upgrade allows emergency responders enhanced radio communication with

the F-15 aircraft. Because all three towers now have line of sight to one another and because the Supervisor of Flying (SOF) frequency can be cross-banded onto our base Land Mobile Radio network, any first responder on base has the capability to speak to our F-15s and leadership has the ability to listen to our pilot-to-SOF communications.

Shadow Control which operates out of the remodeled portion of building 243 (Operations Group) now has a tower double the size of their previous tower. Although not critical for the F-15 "WARS" fought in Eastern Oregon, this tower does allow for increased capability with FDL (Fighter Data Link) and when the jets are within 70 miles of the base.

With the installation of the tower outside of the Security Forces building, our BDOC can communicate with their patrols and other first responders without the loss of capability. Having tower dedication like this is highly imperative for predicaments and real



A tower is erected near the trap and skeet range on the south end of Kingsley Field. Three towers like this one have been installed at the base and ensure enhanced radio communications now and in the future. (Photo by Chief Master Sgt. Todd Berndt, 173rd Communications Flight.)

world situations that may arise.

So the next time you see one of the three 70-foot towers, take a second to check out what is a key instrument in the training of the... greatest F-15 fighter pilots in the world!

Oregon contingent supports presidential inauguration

(Continued from previous page)

the participation of over 6,000 men and women of the National Guard providing myriad support to local and federal authorities. The National Guard has a proud history and tradition of supporting the inauguration dating back to the inauguration of President George Washington.

"Representing Oregon and the Air National Guard in Wash-

ington, D.C. was an unforgettable and rewarding experience," said public affairs officer 2nd Lt. Heather Bashor. "This was an incredible team effort from Guard units across the country in supporting the Commander in Chief on this historic day."

The Airmen documented a number of the National Guard's 32 states participating as they conducted operations around the

Nation's Capitol including traffic control, crowd management, communications, logistics, emergency readiness, and ceremonial support.

"This was an exciting lifetime opportunity, and I feel honored to be a part of it," said Master Sgt. Jennifer Shirar, 173rd Fighter Wing public affairs manager. "It felt great to represent Oregon in uniform."

Base Fire Dept. graduates two firefighters from training

*Story and photo courtesy
Chief Master Sgt. Les Tyree,
Fire Emergency Services Chief*

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. --

When the Kingsley Fire Department hires new firefighters, they are put through a 60-day firefighter academy. This academy was developed by Assistant Chief Craig Andresen, Assistant Chief Skip Fuller, Assistant Chief Russ Earnest, and Crew Chief Matt Chavarria to meet Air Force Fire Protection standards and Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training requirements.

The academy is run by Andresen and he is assisted by the rest of the department to ensure new firefighters receive the best possible training. This academy reviews their basic firefighter skills and helps develop more advanced skills. Each new firefighter is introduced to Air Guard base operation, the military function, aircraft familiarization, building familiarization, firefighting vehicle operations, aircraft egress procedures, munitions, and enhanced emergency medical

technician skills.

They get additional hands-on practice using firefighting tools, ropes, ladders, fire hose, nozzles, and other rescue tools. Each new firefighter and current firefighters attend live aircraft fire training annually. This year the training will be conducted at Travis AFB at their propane training area. Upon completion of the academy, each firefighter is assigned to one fire department shift. Each shift works two 24-hour days and is off four 24-hour days. Our firefighters respond to all airport aircraft incidents, medical emergencies, building incidents, motor vehicle accidents, and provide mutual aid assistance to the community.

Kevin Hamilton was hired in November as a firefighter for the Kingsley Fire Department. He is a Mazama High School graduate. Prior to joining the Fire Department, he worked for JELD-WEN Engineering for 8 1/2 years.

In 2010, Kevin decided he wanted to pursue another career path as a firefighter and medic. He attended night school at Klamath

Community College and earned his Emergency Medical Technician Basic certificate. He attended classes at the Bonanza Fire Department during this time and earned his Firefighter 1 certificate. He worked as a volunteer for Klamath County Fire District 5 and Bonanza Rural Fire District the last few years and gained experience and knowledge from both departments.

Ryan Barnes was also hired in November. He grew up in Central Oregon and joined the Air Force at the age of 18 and was stationed at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, N.M., assigned to the 377th Logistics Readiness Squadron as a 2T1X1. He deployed to Iraq twice from Kirtland and conducted convoy security and gun truck operator duty while in-country. He PCS'd to Kadena AFB, Okinawa, Japan in 2007, assigned to the 18 LRS. He held a special duty for a year while at Kadena, working in Protocol for the Wing Commander, Brig. Gen. Williams. He deployed to Manas AFB in 2008, supporting the war in Afghanistan, and separated from the U.S. Air Force in March 2011.

Ryan has been going to school fulltime at Central Oregon Community College, working on his degree in Fire Science. He completed his Emergency Medical Technician Basic last year through Central Oregon Community College.

Ryan has been a student/volunteer with Redmond Fire and Rescue for the last 18 months. He left Redmond Fire in November, when he was offered the job here at Kingsley Field.



Kingsley firefighters train for a real emergency with a propane fueled simulator in Elko, Nev., similar to the one they will use in May at Travis AFB.

WARRIOR SPOTLIGHT



Airman First Class Devin Guenther ***173rd Operations Group*** ***RF Transmission Systems***

Airman First Class Devin Guenther is a traditional guardsman and is responsible for maintaining the radio and computer network systems for Shadow Control. He joined the 173rd Fighter Wing in September 2011 and brings a wealth of knowledge as a mechanical engineering major at Oregon Institute of Technology. A self-motivator, he is using his time on a temporary AGR-tour to learn and better understand computer and server maintenance, having been originally trained in radio maintenance. Guenther's dedication and motivation has quickly earned him the respect of his supervisors and peers. He is a true asset to Team Kingsley.



Master Sgt. Tonia Brown ***173rd Civil Engineering Squadron*** ***Operations Management***

Master Sgt. Tonia Brown is the focal point for all on-base civil engineering work. She is responsible for coordinating both the smaller maintenance tasks and larger projects needed around the base. Additionally, Sgt. Brown is in charge of purchasing materials and supplies needed to complete the projects and maintain the CE equipment. In addition to her administrative duties, Brown is also the squadron unit training manager and fitness manager. Sgt. Brown began her career in 1986 as an Active Duty Security Forces member. In August 2001 she joined the Oregon Air National Guard as Security Forces and moved to CE in March 2003. Her positive attitude and attention to detail make her an invaluable member of Team Kingsley.

Technical Sgt. Matthew Rhoades *173rd Logistics Readiness Flight MICAP NCOIC*

Technical Sgt. Matthew Rhoades joined the 173rd Fighter Wing in 2003 as a traditional guardsman in the supply section. Rhoades has a great amount of experience, having held numerous positions in the logistics squadron. In 2006, he accepted a full-time AGR position and works as the NCOIC of the MICAP section in supply. Rhoades facilitates the acquisition of high-priority aircraft maintenance parts and is the customer service liaison between the maintenance and logistics squadrons. He recently returned from the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, earning the honor of Distinguished Graduate. Rhoades is a top-notch performer and a key member of Team Kingsley.



WARRIOR SPOTLIGHT



Technical Sgt. Ryan Delong *173rd Maintenance Squadron Munitions Accountability*

Technical Sgt. Ryan Delong has been a part of the 173rd Fighter Wing munitions shop since 2002, when he joined as a traditional guardsman. He started his career in the equipment maintenance section, repairing and maintaining the many pieces of equipment used in the munitions shop. Since then, Delong has been able to move around the shop, working in all aspects involved in the munitions career field, including: conventional munitions which involves building chaff and flare and loading missiles, missile maintenance, and now his current position as the accountability specialist. Delong is the focal point for tracking and overseeing the entire munitions inventory, a job that demands a 0% failure rate. A full-time technician since 2007, Delong is a top performer and an invaluable member of Team Kingsley.

Announcements



New Members Welcome to Kingsley Field!

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| LtCol Henry M. Hochberg | SrA Michael R. Simons |
| Maj Miguel Chabolla | SrA Brian D. Smith |
| Maj Raymond T. Henschel | A1C Dwayne D. Cooper |
| SSgt Jarrod E. Maynard | A1C Caymen A. Graham |
| SSgt Michael P. Murphy | A1C Zachariah D. Hamilton |
| SrA Patrick M. Alderson | A1C Manuel A. Hernandez |
| SrA Casey D. Kelly | A1C Paul K. Kostenko |
| SrA Christopher J. Oconner | A1C Cassandra C. Pierce |
| SrA Michael L. Sellers | A1C Jacob A. Stutzer |

Recent Promotions!

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Col Frederick W. French | SrA Caleb J. Coaty |
| MSgt Casey M. Grimes | SrA Aaron E. Spahn |
| MSgt Brad M. Hammack | A1C Cassandra C. Pierce |
| MSgt Duncan L. McFarlane | A1C Manuel Hernandez |
| MSgt James E. Moffett | |

Protestant and Catholic Services Sunday, March 17

Protestant Service:

7:30 a.m. in the Family Readiness Area

Catholic Service:

7:30 a.m. in the LRS conference room

Craylene's Family Haircare

Haircuts for Men, Women and Children
Basic Haircut \$10.95 - Style Cut \$13

Open Mon. through Fri. 9-3
Closed Down Mondays

*Located in the Barber
Shop next to the BX*

Questions? Call 885-6370

Retiree Corner

Retirees and their families who need information or assistance with a "Retiree Issue" please contact the Oregon National Guard Retiree Service Office. (Air & Army)
Located at: Room 231, Anderson Readiness Center
3225 State Street, Salem OR 97309
Office Hours: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Every Thursday
Phone: (503) 584-2891
E-mail: NGOR.J1.RSO@ng.army.mil
Web site: www.orng-smfs.org

**173d Fighter Wing SARC,
Lt Col Martin Balakas**
**Call: (541) 885-6198 or
(541) 205-2305**

**You
are
not
alone**



LEGACY OF TRAINING



Kingsley Field has a long history in the world of training. In the early 1980s, Kingsley Field began the training mission as a school house for F-4 pilots and weapons systems officers under the title of the 114th Technical Fighter Training Squadron. Present day, the 173rd Fighter Wing is the sole F-15C School house for the United States Air Force and now the home of the F-15C Intelligence Formal Training Unit. Ironically, the first IFTU class graduated on the same day, 30 years later, as the first F-4 Basic Course students to come through Kingsley Field, pictured above.

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Vice Wing Commander:

Col. Curtis Waite

Wing Public Affairs Officer:

2nd Lt. Heather Bashor

State Public Affairs Officer:

Capt. Stephen S. Bomar