

Operations Group passes baton to new Commander

Story by

*Senior Airman Penny Snoozy,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore.-- The 173rd Fighter Wing Operations Group officially welcomed a new commander May 1, 2015. Lt. Col. Jeffrey Edwards took command of the group, replacing Col. Frederick French in an aerial change of command ceremony.

The aerial change of command was a first of its kind for Kingsley Field. French and Edwards piloted two F-15s over the outdoor ceremony where members of the 173rd OG were gathered and Edward's F-15 pulled ahead of French's aircraft as a symbol of taking command of the group.



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Jeffrey Edwards addresses assembled members of the wing during a unique 173rd Operations Group change of command ceremony at Kingsley Field, Ore., May 1, 2015. Edwards and French conducted an aerial change of command ceremony in which Edward's F-15 pulled ahead of Col. Frederick French's aircraft, the outgoing commander, symbolizing the leadership change from French to Edwards. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Penny Snoozy, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

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Sentry Eagle returns after 4-year hiatus

Story by

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

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore.
-- Col. Steve "Slick" Harper remembers the first Sentry Eagle which took place in 1986 when he was the base commander. After seeing another guard base do an open house Harper thought it would be a good idea to host



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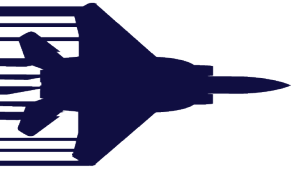
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Vice Commander's Corner



**By Col. Wes French,
173rd Fighter Wing
Vice Commander**

Greetings to all members of the 173rd Fighter Wing. I hope that your summer is in full swing and you are enjoying our beautiful weather and location, as well as the special feeling that summer always brings: kids graduating to the next grade level, family vacations, spending time outdoors, and the list goes on and on.

I would like to highlight a couple of topics that are near and dear to my heart.

When I say "all members of the 173rd" I truly mean ALL members. We only succeed as a team because of the people on this base; in my mind there is no difference between a Total Force Integration member, Active Guard Reserve, Technician, Drill Status Guardsman, State, government, or contract employee.

You are all a vital part to the team, and the minute one group gets treated differently we begin to fail. This base was built on a foundation of excellence and the excellence comes from the people that are here now and those that have gone before us.

Kingsley has always been a "get the job done efficiently and professionally"

kind of place; we have to remember that this mantra of "No Slack" is as important as anything we do.

Remember, if we decide we don't want to lean forward and take on new challenges, some other base or unit will. Attitude is everything in life; keep a good attitude and everything will fall in to place.

My second point may seem contrary to the first point. Take time out to recharge your batteries, spend time with family and friends, and generally just get away from work. These two thoughts are not mutually exclusive; you can work hard, have a great attitude, and get a ton of things accomplished for this base while still taking time off to travel or just relax around the house.

On the other hand, spending long hours at work without a specific need or goal just to show your dedication to the base doesn't help you or the base. You are only good to the base if you are recharged and ready to work when it's time to be at work.

Thanks for doing what you do every day for your country and your family or loved ones. I am proud to serve side by side with you each and every day!



... in my mind there is no difference between a Total Force Integration member, Active Guard Reserve, Technician, Drill Status Guardsman, State, government, or contract employee.

**-- Col. Wes "Pappy" French,
173rd Fighter Wing Vice Commander
on the Total Force Concept**

Flying change of command, first for Wing

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The two aircraft performed this exchange in passing over the ceremony where the pilots' in-flight communications were relayed through the speakers at the event. As the first aerial change of command event at Kingsley, the communications were hit and miss and the National Anthem would simply not play properly. In a fortunate turn of events military spouse Katy Ebner, a former Miss America and experienced vocalist, stepped out of the crowd when the audio failed and sang the National Anthem, allowing the ceremony to continue smoothly.

Edwards has served multiple roles at Kingsley Field. He was the commander for the maintenance squadron from 2009 to 2012, and he took command of the 114th Fighter Squadron in May of 2012. He was selected for a year as the Wings Special Projects Officer starting in November 2014 before he was selected as the Director of Operations (A3) for the Oregon Air National Guard. Edwards has been at Kingsley for 11 years, and has over 20 years of service starting with his graduation from the Air Force Academy in 1995. He was stationed in Alaska, Florida, and Korea before joining the Oregon Air National Guard.

Edwards says his emphasis is on a positive work environment that keeps the "most precious asset," the 173rd OG airmen and their families, happy and productive. The Airmen's hard work and dedication were honored when they were named Air Education and Training Command's Top Fighter Squadron for 2014.

Edwards believes that Kingsley has been on the leading edge of



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Jeffrey Edwards and Col. Frederick French prepare to exit their F-15s during a unique change of command ceremony for the 173rd Operations Group at Kingsley Field, Ore., May 1, 2015. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Penny Snoozy)

training innovations for the last decade. In regards to his expectations, Edwards quotes a former 173rd OG commander Col. Rick Wedan, and challenged the 173rd OG to continue "...to 'blaze a new trail' in the areas of F-15 training and the intelligence Formal Training Unit....to increase the combat capability of our F-15 and IFTU graduates."

Along with retaining and recruiting outstanding Airmen to continue the great work in the 173rd OG, Edwards added that looking beyond recent accomplishments and "...[con-

tinuing] to be humble professionals who uphold the highest standards and aggressively strive for continual improvement," will continue the group's success.

"I am fully confident that [the 173rd OG] will successfully accomplish the mission of graduating the best F-15 pilots and Intelligence Officers for the combat air forces," said Edwards.

French took command of the 173rd OG in January 2013 and accepted the 173rd FW Vice Command in May 2015.



Lt. Col. Edwards and Col. French conduct an aerial change of command ceremony in which Edward's F-15 pulls ahead of French's aircraft while overflying the spectators gathered on the flightline, a visual symbol of the passing of command. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Penny Snoozy)

Looking back: 30-years of Sentry Eagle at Kingsley

(Continued from front page)

one at Kingsley Field.

Simultaneously, one of his fellow instructor pilots pointed out that the Klamath Basin provided every opportunity to host a large number of fighter aircraft because there was enough space and enough people to pull it off.

Harper quotes Capt. Jesse James, one of his instructor pilots, saying, “besides that, we’re all getting stale just writing out grade sheets and we want to go fight somebody.”

Harper agreed to allow the multi aircraft exercise with the stipulation that he be able to open the front gates to the families and the community. Among his reasons, the Air National Guard’s tenure at Kingsley was very young and he felt they needed to make a name for themselves.

“We were new, just a couple years old and we wanted to build our street cred among the fighter community,” said Harper. “We knew we were good but we needed to show everybody else—and we did.”

He goes on to temper that just a bit saying, “We just wanted somebody to see our stuff and take it home; we weren’t really showing off on purpose.”

On that week in June, 37 aircraft convened for more than 80 separate sorties to practice Dissimilar Air Combat Training, or put another way to control the airspace in scenarios ranging from bomber sweeps to air interdiction and maybe even a dog-fight or two. In those days Sentry Eagle drew a large variety of aircraft: F-106s, F-4s, A-7s, F-16s and F-15s, all of which refueled from a loitering KC-135 tanker. Today units still fly in from around the country but only



Top: An F-106 Delta Dart takes to the air in front of iconic Mt. Stukel during Sentry Eagle June 22, 1986. This initial exercise featured 37 visiting fighter aircraft and has endured until the present when Sentry Eagle 2015 Kicks off at the end of the month. (U.S. Air National Guard photo courtesy 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Right: A formation of four F-4 Phantom II aircraft roar across the flightline during a demonstration at the inaugural Sentry Eagle in 1986. In the modern era jets are very loud, but the noise generated by these fighters was both heard and felt for miles. (U.S. Air National Guard photo courtesy 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



F-16s, F-15s and the KC-135 are still a part of the line-up. Future plans include fifth generation fighters but it remains to be seen when they will actually participate.

In any event, the things the inaugural exercise showcased are still true today; every participant would see that the range space is large and convenient to the base, and enjoy some of the 300+ days of sunshine, also known as good flying weather, the area boasts every year.

These early years for the ANG at Kingsley catalyzed a piece of culture that endures today. Col. Billy “Rogue” Cox, a former base commander, remembers how the base earned its moniker.

“An early class in the F-4 named us the Land of No Slack,” said Cox. “We were very thorough in our job, if

a student had any deficiency or issue on a ride we made real sure they got a chance to do it again.”

Visiting Airmen could take the name back to their home units and to this day every Kingsley pilot wears the orange “No-Slack” patch on their left arm.

Cox reflects back from those early years when Sentry Eagle was brand new to today where it is a fixture for the base and the community and says what began as an exercise has endeared itself to the local community and become a fixture.

He goes on to say that as the base’s longevity increases it has added key audiences. This includes a

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Iron Owl: a “fun” way to test your mettle

Story and photos by
Senior Airman Penny Snoozy,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- Four members of the 173rd Fighter Wing joined together to participate in this year's Iron Owl Challenge held in Klamath County, Ore., May 15–17.

The Iron Owl tests any willing participants in the rigorous, demanding challenges that typify military Special Operations training. Kingsley Field participated with three other teams from across the United States.

2nd Lt. Adrian Mateos-Chavarria, Master Sgt. Ross Hawkins, Tech. Sgt. Clinton Wells, and Staff Sgt. Chris Hernandez made up team

Kings-

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U.S. Air National Guard 2nd Lt. Adrian Mateos-Chavarria and Master Sgt. Ross Hawkins, 173rd Fighter Wing, participate in a Crossfit event during this year's Iron Owl Challenge held in Klamath County, Ore. May 15, 2015. Events included a broad range of activities; multiple ruck marches, water survival tasks wearing full gear, two consecutive Crossfit workouts, academic and attention-to-detail testing, night-time and day-time land navigation, a five-mile special forces course, open lake swimming, two Marine Corps physical fitness tests, an Army PFT, and a full day of small arms courses on the last day. The first two days of the event feature sleep deprivation and very limited food. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Penny Snoozy)



Sentry Eagle closes in on 30-years, after 4-year break



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younger generation, some of which have joined the ranks of 173rd Fighter Wing Airmen including Cox's own son who is currently an instructor pilot at the "Land of No Slack." He describes Sentry Eagle as "more of a family-plus-public-plus-the training the aircrews get out of it."

Initially Kingsley Field hosted Sentry Eagle every year

but at some point it became an every-other-year event. This time around it's been four years as sequestration cut funding for a 2013 Sentry Eagle.

One thing that hasn't changed was best expressed in the lead-up to the very first Sentry Eagle in the local paper June 19, 1986, "Continual training is a requirement, even if it is a lot of fun!" said then Lt. Col. Steven "Slick" Harper.

Non-drill weekends proving valuable to Wing Maintenance

Story by

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

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. --

Klamath Falls, Ore., is home to a busy fighter trainer unit which routinely logs more flying hours than any other fighter wing in the Air National Guard.

With an average of 300 days of sun-per-calendar-year and 32 aircraft assigned, you can hear F-15s thunder past traveling to and from the training ranges almost daily.

That robust operations tempo requires intense and focused efforts from organizations across the 173rd Fighter Wing, and the one that feels it first is the 173rd Maintenance Group.

Because the flying schedule is so full, maintainers rarely work jets when they aren't simultaneously preparing to fly, but if it were possible they say it would be an incredible opportunity to improve the overall fleet, have fewer aircraft grounded, and remove some of the urgency to fix jets when problems crop up right before take-off.

As it turns out there are a few days a year when jets don't fly—non-drill weekends. The maintenance group has decided to take advantage of a few of these weekends.

"The split UTA (SUTA) provides an opportunity for our maintainers to work on aircraft and equipment during a non-fly period, which allows for a more focused maintenance effort," says Col. Jeff Smith, the 173rd Maintenance Group Commander.

The way the maintenance group plans to structure these weekends is primarily through pre-identified AF-SCs required for the maintenance to



Tech. Sgt. Jeff Childs, 173rd Fighter Wing Sheet Metal shop, removes very thin successive layers of titanium from the skin covering the wing spar on an F-15C aircraft. Time intensive maintenance like this could potentially benefit from a split UTA without the pressure of an active flying schedule. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)

be performed. Therefore, volunteers who will work the SUTA as opposed to the standard UTA. Members are not required to work both but are required to attend a regular UTA every three months.

Although the main benefit is to increase the health of the fleet there is an added benefit of reducing the overcrowding that is typical on a drill weekend.

"The SUTA relieves pressure in some of the smaller work centers that don't have sufficient chairs, desks, computers, et cetera, for all of our

full-time members, the Detachment 2 members, and the drill status guardsmen at the same time," says Smith.

Provided there are enough volunteers, SUTAs are scheduled for August through the end of the year.

Smith also notes that participation in these SUTAs means that most base organizations are closed. Volunteers won't have support from places like force support flight or finance, in addition the dining facility will not be open, but guard members who qualify will receive meal chits for local restaurants.

Team Oregon, Kingsley partner for motorcycle safety

**Story and photos by
Senior Airman Penny Snoozy,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs**

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. -- The Air Force's 101 Critical Days of Summer fall between May 25 and Sept. 7. This time period is so named because long days and beautiful weather increase the amount of time members spend outdoors and on the road, and that means more accidents. This year the 173rd Fighter Wing wants to put motorcycle safety front and center in an effort to reduce the risks inherent to riding.

The wing has reached out to Team Oregon for a "Rider Skills Practice"

course. This course provides motorcyclists with additional training that is now required for guard members who choose to ride.

According to Senior Master Sgt. Pete Weigman, 173rd FW member and a Team Oregon Instructor, "Team Oregon can help you ride safer, smarter, and more skillfully."

Weigman says motorcycle safety is very important to him having lost friends and family to motorcycle crashes. "There are a lot of inherent risks associated with motorcycle riding and I hope my fellow Kingsley

riders are able to take something from this training in order to help keep them safe out there when they ride," says Weigman.

Team Oregon is a cooperative partnership with the Oregon Department of Transportation and Oregon State University that provides basic to advanced courses for motorcyclists.

"Team Oregon has worked with the base to provide discounted training in a local setting. They have been very flexible and have offered our members top-notch training," says

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Right: Oregon Air National Guard Master Sgt. Laduska Wright, 270th Air Traffic Controller and 1st Sgt., receives instruction from Senior Master Sgt. Pete Weigman, 173rd Fighter Wing Airfield Manager, during an exercise at a "Rider Skills Practice" course offered by Team Oregon at Klamath Falls, Ore., May 2, 2015. Team Oregon's RSP course provides motorcyclists with additional training exercises that build critical crash-avoidance skills such as stopping quickly, swerving effectively, and cornering skillfully.

Below: Riders prepare to run a course set up at Klamath Community College in a partnership between the 173rd Fighter Wing and Team Oregon, May 2.



Team Oregon helps teach motorcycle safety

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Senior Master Sgt. John Carter, 173rd FW Safety Office.

“Team Oregon has always had an excellent community outreach program to meet the needs of agencies like ours. We’ve been working much closer with them since the enactment of more stringent AFI training requirements,” says Weigman.

Professional instructors supervise the “on-cycle” half-day session where they test the riders’ knowledge from the first exercise to the last. Exercises build critical crash-avoidance skills such as stopping quickly, swerving effectively, and cornering skillfully. Airmen complete a timed riding circuit at the beginning and end of the course to measure their improvement throughout the course.

Carter says the course is for experienced riders, practicing more advanced skills than a basic riding course and is “a valuable part of our mishap prevention.”

Team Oregon’s Pat Hahn says that they “are not a military organization, but [this course] is a way for us to serve the people who serve our country.”

Chief Warrant Officer Joe Zeiner, Safety Specialist, ORARNG State Safety Office, says they “are proud of their motorcycle safety record... and all [reported accidents] were minor.” Zeiner attributed this success to their partnership with Team Oregon.

There are new requirements for motorcyclists. If you are a motorcyclist at Kingsley Field and have not taken this course, or have any other requirements for your motorcycle safety training please contact the 173rd FW Ground Safety Office.

JENC efforts felt in the community



The Kingsley Junior Enlisted Council sponsors the Adopt-A-Highway program just west of Klamath Falls on Route 140 as it runs past the southwest end of Klamath Lake. A group of individuals including Tech. Sgt. Angela Langfield, Tech. Sgt. Carrie Deboer, Tech. Sgt. Shawna Damrow, Senior Airman Cassandra Schacht, Senior Airman Jared Boyer, Airman 1st Class Patrick Schacht, Crystalynn Judkins, Airman 1st Class Ashlyn Hartman, Airman Clayton Berrian, Airman William Monahan, Airman David Arloa and Airman Scharlottie Corley traveled to the area June 6, 2015 in order to keep that section of highway pristine. (Photo courtesy Airman 1st Class Ashlyn Hartman)

Starbase offers summer fun, education



Starbase Kingsley Field is busy this summer providing opportunities to explore math, science and technology with an emphasis on fun and interaction. Among the activities a week-long camp for students of base personnel where they learned how to launch water balloons, well, in later iterations.... June 16, 2015. (Photo courtesy Starbase Kingsley)

Changes coming for claiming inactive training

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

Beginning this October, Airmen at Kingsley Field will use the Air National Guard Reserve Order Writing System (AROWS) to process inactive duty requests including RUTAs.

“On Oct. 1, the system used to process inactive duty performance [UTAs, RUTAs, PT, AFTP, etc.] is being discontinued,” said Maj. Shana Stroh, 173rd Fighter Wing Comptroller. “All members will be required to request duty performance for any inactive duty training through AROWS once that happens.” AROWS is accessible at the following link: <https://arows.sscno.nmci.navy.mil/arows/>

One result of the change is the transition of this aspect of military pay from the finance office to the force support flight, but that should be transparent to the user, Stroh adds. She anticipates the most visible change will be the adjustment from forms like the 105 to the AROWS system.

“We have not received all the details as the test bases are starting this process this month, but this will be a significant change for drill status guardmembers who will need to ensure before they leave after a drill they request payment for that duty performed.”

Stroh says there are some growing pains expected with any change, but that much of the needed work was accomplished last year.

“All DSGs have AROWS access already,” she said. “It was required when the transition occurred to have the members do their statement of duty certifications through the system.”

She went on to say that this new process saves the time needed for three people to process, audit, and certify orders and that as a result payment turnaround should be faster.

The power of a story, your story

Commentary by Senior Master Sgt. Jennifer Haire,
173rd Fighter Wing 1st Sergeant

Telling my story: Many of you see me on drill weekend performing first sergeant duties. No one on this base really knows my story. I want to share my story with you today in the hopes that you may find it helpful in fostering resilience—as I’ve had a lot of practice.

The things I wish to share are personal. Please understand that I am sharing these things to paint a picture of my life. Try to view these challenges I describe through lenses of strength and not pity; every one of them has made me stronger. I want to share my challenges, my accomplishments—in a nutshell, my story.

My name is Senior Master Sgt. Jennifer Haire. I was born in 1975 in rural Upper East Tennessee. I was raised below poverty level. If you have ever seen the commercials for “Feed the Children in Appalachia”, that is how we lived. My grandparents raised tobacco and ran moonshine.

At the age of four, my seven year old brother and I stayed with our aunt while momma was at work. I was playing outside the basement when I heard a scream. My brother and cousin were in the basement and somehow a piece of sheetrock had fallen on my brother and as he lay there, I remember trying to get the sheetrock off of him. I remember the ambulance coming.

And later I remember momma coming to tell me he had gone to Heaven.

After the passing of my brother, momma struggled. Who wouldn’t? I tried to do everything right in order to not cause stress and worry for her. From this point on, I suffered extreme abuse at the hands of caretakers. There were times we had to move in with my grandmother because we had nowhere else to go. I remember the same milk jug being in the refrigerator with a date from forever ago. My mom would refill it with powdered milk, because it was given to us through commodities. Commodities are given to poverty level families in my region. We would stand in line at local churches for food. I remember having nothing more than cold water in the refrigerator. I remember thinking it was normal to be hungry.

When I was 16 years old, I found myself feeling so unsure of everything (like most teenagers). I found myself the focus of a boy, who made me feel loved. I became a mother at the age of 16 to my amazing son. What did I know about raising a baby? What did I know about how to care for



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Telling your story: 'what brought you to Kingsley Field?'

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myself even? The father of my son was physically, mentally and emotionally abusive to me.

After 2.5 years I decided enough was enough. I wanted more for my son- more for myself! I went to the Active Duty Recruiter and joined the Air Force! My recruiter was such a blessing to me! The night before I went to MEPS, I was beaten in my face with a clothes iron by my son's father, but when I returned there was never another physical incident! It was hinted that somehow my recruiter and some Marine recruiters had "words of prayer" with him! Thank you so much! With an undying determination, I made it out of that situation but I still experience the effects of the abuse; I have a brain injury from the trauma.

The next few years were very busy raising a son and working full time on an Active Duty base. I met someone and had three more amazing children; my children were always my driving force. They were the reason I

was able to get up every day.

I went back to school and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. I could not have been more elated! Here is this East Tennessee "Hillbilly" who was told she would not graduate from High School, with a Bachelor's Degree (Cum Laude)! Now don't get me wrong, I am proud to be a Hillbilly, but I wanted more for myself and my family.

Because I was told I couldn't get an education and would never amount to anything, I knew I had to prove them all wrong. I now have a Master's Degree in Community Counseling and work as family therapist and program director of a non-profit for two counties in Oregon. I am the Wing First Sergeant for the 173rd Fighter Wing. I have an amazing husband and recently gave birth to my fifth child. It is quite a balancing act to be a parent, wife, therapist, and traditional guardsman and I wouldn't have it any other way.

I don't know if you have heard that Brad Paisley song if I could write

a letter, but my version would sound like this! "You will be happy! You will be loved! You will be protected! You will be successful! Hang in there; push a little harder every day! You will make it! Never let anyone tell you that you can't do something! Never let anyone's opinion of you define who you truly are."

The next time you look at someone and think you know what they are about, try to see beyond the exterior and perceptions and try to consider their story. I am not defined by my challenges in life, but I do draw strength from them and choose to live my life on my own terms.

Everyone has a story—what is yours? Does it show perseverance? Determination? Tell us how your Air Force journey brought you to Kingsley Field and join the ranks of Airmen who are Air Force Storytellers. Contact the Public Affairs at (541) 885-6677 or e-mail me, Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson at jefferson.j.thompson2.mil@mail.mil for consideration in subsequent issues of the Kingsley Chronicle. ~Ed.



JENC duathlon organizers seek first-rate event

Story by

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

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- Members of the Kingsley Field Junior Enlisted Council are stepping forward to bring a new athletic event to the Klamath Basin. More than a year ago they asked the community if they would like an event to replace an annual 5K run which had dwindling interest. The answer was a professionally run, multi-sport event along the lines of a triathlon with all the national-level certifications that go along with it.

At the moment, JENC members are preparing the Kingsley Field Duathlon, a run-bike event and the first of its kind for the Basin.

"There are a lot of people doing running events so the timing is good...the opportunity wasn't just there, but really ripe for the picking," said Josh Nelson, Owner Asana Yoga and Sole.

And Zach Gilmour, manager of Hutches Bicycle Store agrees saying, "It's absolutely timely; the bicycle community is booming here, it was probably just a matter of needing someone to organize it and it seems like that is happening now."

The event will stage out of the Running Y Resort, a high-end golf resort nestled in the surrounding forest, and is sanctioned by USA Triathlon,

the national governing body for triathlon and duathlon rankings. The JENC has partnered with local businesses and a wide group of volunteers to establish an event suitable for all ability levels.

Senior Airman Jared Boyer, JENC Chairman, is the driving force behind the event. He has spent the last year turning an

"I'm trying to find ways for the junior enlisted to learn from a chief first-hand, to talk with a vendor first-hand, and to build relationships with this community first-hand."

He expresses some surprise at just how well this is working as his team of junior enlisted people marshal a vast array of critical elements toward completion.

"The original thought just keeps growing," he adds. "It's now becoming a larger, diverse group of people across the base, and not just the JENC who are doing this. I've got people coming up to me and asking what they can do to help including some of the student pilots and people all across Kingsley."

The work involved stretched well past the capabilities and resources of the JENC and is requiring the close coordination of local businesses, the chief's council, Running Y staff, and a broad group of volunteers. He notes that those things are all happening and the by-product is every member of the junior enlisted council is getting real leadership experience.

"The fact that we can sample some of the things that a chief or a commander or an officer does as a senior airman or an A1C is invaluable to our growth as leaders," said Boyer. "You know someone might only be dealing with T-shirts--but they are sending e-mails, working with the vendor and working with their chief."



idea into reality. Today, there are multiple committees comprised of JENC members each bringing their own part of the project toward the ultimate goal—a first-class race.

Boyer says the interesting aspect is that the idea didn't stem from a desire to host a great race, but rather as a vehicle for leadership training.

Kingsley members display warrior ethos

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ley. Mateos said he was proud of the fact that they had representation from across the wing.

"They demonstrated the high level of readiness and team work that characterizes Team Kingsley," he said.

Events included a broad range of activities like multiple ruck marches, water survival tasks while in full gear, two consecutive Crossfit workouts, academic and attention to detail testing, night-time and day-time land navigation, a five mile special operations course, open lake swimming, two Marine Corps physical fitness tests, an Army Physical Fitness Test, and a full day of small arms courses on the last day.

The first two days of the event feature sleep deprivation and hunger, among other pleasantries.

This event honors wounded warriors and fallen brothers-in-arms, as teams carry a "Fifth Man" throughout the entire grueling three day event.

This "Fifth Man" is a brick commemorating the life of an American Military member who made the ultimate sacrifice. It is represented as a cinder block with the details of their teams' veteran and his or her heroic actions printed, laminated, and fastened to the block.

"Iron Owl is a great opportunity ... for those willing to measure if they are fit to fight as it tests an individual's mental and physical capacity while integrating the vital portion of teamwork required to fight and win," said Mateos.

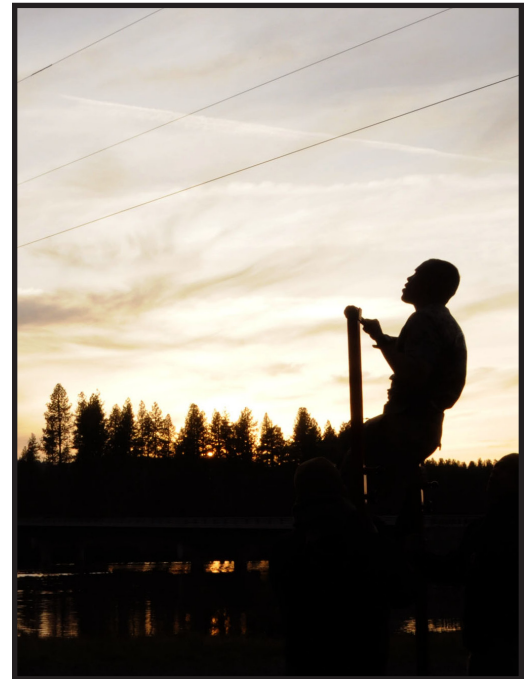
In addition to Team Kingsley, members of the Air Force, Army, and Navy Reserve Officers' Training Corps participated in the event.

Mateos said it was "...inspiring



to see the high level of performance and courtesy of the future generation of men and women that will be defending our country after graduating from the ROTC [program]."

The Iron Owl Challenge is partnered with Oregon Institute of Technology to honor the Veterans of our community. Events took place across Klamath County to include the Ella Redkey pool, Topsy Reservoir, and Klamath Sportsman's Park.



Top: Staff Sgt. Chris Hernandez, dives into a pool fully clothed and with a weapon during this year's Iron Owl Challenge held in Klamath County, Ore. May 15, 2015.

Right: U.S Air National Guard 2nd Lt. Adrian Mateos-Chavarria, of the 173rd Fighter Wing, does pull-ups in the early dawn light while completing a Marine Corps Physical Fitness Test. The Iron Owl features at different times the fitness tests for all of the armed services.

Left: Throughout the two-day event the participants carry their 5th Man, a cinder block with a servicemember who was slain in the line of duty. Organizers say the blocks serve as a reminder for everyone—participants and spectators—that despite a grueling, sleepless two-night event, many have sacrificed far more. Participants often reflect that they drew strength from their "5th man". The final aspect of the Iron Owl is that each team writes a letter to the family of the deceased servicemember. See the next page to ready the open letter from the Kingsley Team to the bereaved family.

Kingsley Iron Owl team pays respects to family of fallen warrior

The Kingsley Field Team penned the following letter to the family of a fallen Marine~ Ed.

Garcia-Schill Family,

We are Airmen from Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon and in May of 2015 we competed in Iron Owl, which is a grueling event that consists of multiple ruck marches, water survival tasks wearing full gear, night and day time land navigation, a 5-mile Special Forces course, and a full day of small arms employment.

The first two days of the event are completed under sleep deprivation and all challenges were accomplished with the team's "Fifth



Marine Lance Corporal Juan Manuel Garcia-Schill, was killed by small arms fire during combat operations in Anbar province in Iraq in July of 2007. Garcia-Schill grew up in Klamath Falls, Madras, and Grants Pass. Following his high school graduation, Manuel attended one term of college before following in his family's footsteps and enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Man" by our side, which is a brick commemorating the life of an American Military member who made the

ultimate sacrifice.

We were honored with the privilege of carrying a brick honoring Juan Garcia-Schill. His devotion to duty and legacy were an inspiration for us to not feel defeated during hard times while competing against prestigious institutions such as Annapolis and the Air Force Academy.

On behalf of the Kingsley Field Iron Owl team it was a sincere honor to commemorate Juan's life as a member of our team and we extend our infinite respect to your family.

Sincerely,

Staff Sgt. Christopher Hernandez, Tech. Sgt. Clint Wells, Master Sgt. Ross Hawkins, 2nd Lt. Adrian Mateos

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The following individuals served the 173rd Fighter Wing with distinction during 2014 and as such were named top member of the year in their respective categories. The categories include Airman through Senior NCO as well as Officer and Civilian of the year. Please congratulate them on their significant accomplishment!



***Senior Airman Mary Beth Ochoa
173rd Fighter Wing Airman of the Year***

Senior Airman Mary Beth Ochoa is a Production Recruiter for the Oregon Air National Guard, 173rd Fighter Wing, Kingsley Field ANGB, Klamath Falls, Ore.

Ochoa was selected as the Category I Airman of the Year for her work in the logistics readiness squadron prior to her transition to production recruiter for the Klamath Falls region.

Ochoa was born in California and relocated to Oregon in 1996 where she finished out her schooling at Henley High School in 2001. Airman Ochoa worked in various different careers until she decided to join the Air National Guard and



***Tech. Sgt. Michale Mabou
173rd Fighter Wing NCO of the Year***

Technical Sergeant Michale Mabou is assigned to the Inspection Element as a Phase Dock Mechanic, 173rd Fighter Wing, Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Ore. Mabou was born on Feb. 21, 1973 in Portland, Ore. In 1986, he moved to Klamath Falls and graduated from Mazama High School in 1991.

Sergeant Mabou began his military career in April of 2003. After completing basic training and technical training as an F-15 Aircraft Crew Chief, he was assigned to the 173FW Maintenance Squadron; Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Ore. In June 2004, Sergeant Mabou Received a full time position in the F-15 phase section at Kingsley Field.

173rd 2014 Airmen of the Year



Senior Master Sgt. Jason Witts

173rd Fighter Wing Senior NCO of the Year

Senior Master Sergeant Jason W. Witts is the Distribution Superintendent for the Oregon Air National Guard, 173rd Fighter Wing, Klamath Falls, Ore. After Graduating from Mazama High School in 1997 Witts enlisted into the Active Duty Air Force that December.

Witts Palace Chased to become a member of the 173rd Fighter Wing in March 2003. He served for two years in the maintenance squadron as an aerospace ground equipment craftsman before transitioning to the logistics readiness squadron in March of 2005.

In addition to representing the 173rd Fighter Wing as the Senior NCO of the Year he was selected as the top Category III Airman for the state of Oregon.



2nd Lt. Oscar Ayala

173rd Fighter Wing Officer of the Year

2nd Lt. Oscar Ayala is the Deputy Base Civil Engineer for the 173rd Fighter Wing, Kingsley Field, Ore. As deputy base civil engineer he is responsible for the acquisition, construction, maintenance, and repairs of real property facilities. In addition, he provides related management, planning and engineering technical guidance.

Ayala grew up in Tulelake, Calif., and graduated from Oregon Institute of Technology in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He then commissioned into the Oregon Air National Guard in December 2013.



Mr. Scott Stuart

173rd Fighter Wing Civilian of the Year

Mr. Scott Stuart is currently assigned as the Security Forces State Security Manager and Security Forces Investigations, 173rd Fighter Wing, Kingsley Field, Ore. Mr. Stuart was born at George Air Force Base, Victorville Calif., and grew up in Hesperia, Calif. He enlisted in the active air force in 1984 and joined the ranks of the 173rd Fighter Wing in 1994. He retired from the military in 2007 after 23 years-of-service.

Following his retirement he was selected as the state security manager.



Sentry Eagle 2015

The 173rd Fighter Wing's open house is
at Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Ore.

August 1, 2015 9:00am to
3:00pm



SENTRY EAGLE DINNER TICKETS



Sentry Eagle Dinner Tickets are for sale!
Contact your Section Chief or your
First Sgt. to purchase.

Tickets are:
\$15 individually
\$15 at the door
or \$40 for all 3 tickets

--- Ops Group Dinner: Thursday, July 30th --- MXG Dinner: Friday, July 31st ---
--- MSG Dinner: Saturday, Aug 1st --- All dinners will start at 1730 at Trappers ---



Col. Kirk "Tick" Pierce greets Oregon's Adjutant General, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson arrives via aircraft to Kingsley Field June 12, 2015 as part of an ongoing effort to visit units arrayed around the state that fall under his command. He was greeted by 173rd Fighter Wing and 270th Air Traffic Control leadership upon his arrival. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Penny Snoozy)

The views expressed, stated or implied in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Department of Defense, the U.S. Air Force or the Oregon Air National Guard. Circulation: 1,000. All photographs are U.S. Air Force or Air National Guard photographs unless otherwise indicated. Story submissions, letters to the editor or other comments are encouraged and may be directed to:



Editor, Kingsley Chronicle
173 FW/PA

231 Wagner Street, Ste. 21
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

Telephone: (541) 885-6677

DSN prefix: 830

E-mail: jefferson.j.thompson2.mil@mail.mil

Wing Commander:

Col. Kirk S. Pierce

Vice Wing Commander:

Col. Fredrick W. French

Wing Public Affairs Officer:

Capt. Nikki S. Jackson

State Public Affairs Officer:

Maj. Stephen S. Bomar