

# A look back at Kingsley Field's ORANG history

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

**KLAMATH FALLS, Ore.** -- World War II thrust a number of seminal changes upon the United States. Its economy leapt from the stagnation of the Great Depression to a wartime footing, fighting to produce adequate military hardware to win the war. Its citizenry signed up for the draft in droves, and women flocked to roles in factories, in military training capacities, and in the medical field. The sea of change stretched from coast to coast and a small, logging community in Southern Oregon was caught in the swirl.

Klamath Falls, Ore., found itself at the center of an effort to produce a large number of fighter pilots in close proximity to the Pacific Theater. Thus, the Department of the Navy gave birth to Klamath Naval Air Station in 1943. The hurry was so great the DoD actually shipped in the largest building, the base hangar, from Alaska.

*(Continues on page 4)*



A graduating class and their instructor pilots stand before an F-4 Phantom in 1985. Among the instructor pilots were Col. Robert Cox (second from left) and to the immediate right Col. Bill Morris; both were base commanders at Kingsley Field. (Historical photo courtesy 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office)

## 25 years ago: Operation Desert Storm begins in Kuwait



USAF aircraft of the 4th Fighter Wing (F-16, F-15C and F-15E) fly over Kuwaiti oil fires set by the retreating Iraqi army during Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

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

**KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore.** -- Operation Desert Storm began 25 years ago—I remember it like it was yesterday. I was ten years old sitting in front of the TV with my parents as the skies above Baghdad lit up like the 4th of July. Until that moment, war was an intangible concept—something that happened in text books and old John Wayne movies.

When Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, the rumblings of war filled the adult conversations around me. My uncle, an Air Force F-16 crew chief, deployed and couldn't tell us where he was going; all of the adults seemed

to understand what it meant. Still, the belief that war would be a part of the world I lived in did not settle in until I watched the sheer dominance of American airpower obliterate the buildings below. That was a pivotal moment; one that would ultimately lead me seven years later to raise my right hand and swear to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.

For those on the front lines of Operation Desert Storm, it was also a moment of transition. Col. (ret.) Thomas

*(Continues on page 3)*



### Retirement

*(Click here)*

**New  
Retirement  
System arrives**



**BLUE ZONES  
PROJECT**

### Lifestyle

*(Click here)*

**Blue Zones  
helps Klamath  
residents**



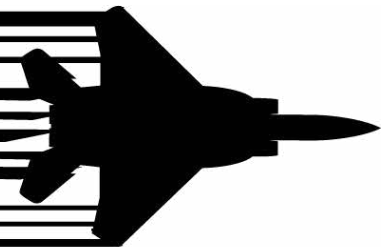
### B-Course Series

*(Click here)*

**Airman's unique  
path to training**



# Commander's Corner



## 173rd Fighter Wing Commander change of command announced

**Letter from  
Brig. Gen. Jeffrey M. Silver,  
Oregon Air National Guard  
Commander**

I am pleased to announce the following Field Grade Officer Assignments:

Effective April 3, 2016, Colonel Jeffrey S. Smith is assigned, Commander, 173rd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard. Col. Smith brings extensive leadership experience across the total force spectrum, to include assignments at Kadena Air Base, Japan, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, Nellis AFB, Nevada, and Langley AFB, Virginia. Additionally, during his career he has seen multiple deployments to include Operations SOUTHERN and NORTHERN WATCH. In 2005, Col. Smith joined the Oregon Air National Guard where he has served as the Chief of Academics, Chief of Syllabus Development, Chief of Scheduling, Functional Check Flight Pilot, Assistant Director of Operations, Chief of F-15

Student Training, Director of Operations, 173rd Maintenance Squadron Commander, 173rd Deputy Maintenance Group Commander and the 173rd Maintenance Group Commander.

Upon relinquishing command of the 173rd Fighter Wing, Colonel Kirk S. Pierce will be assigned a staff tour. While serving in Oregon, Col. Pierce was instrumental in successful mission accomplishment at Kingsley Field while simultaneously caring for Airmen and their families during a period of unprecedented growth. His strategic foresight and higher headquarters engagement led to an innovative alternative energy initiative, a 20-percent increase in sortie production and significant infrastructure and housing improvements. Please join me in thanking Col. Pierce for his dedicated service, sacrifice and contributions to Oregon.

Please join me in congratulating these fine officers and wishing them the best as they assume their new leadership roles.



### Sunday Drill April 3, 2016

### Change of Command Ceremony

A change of command ceremony is scheduled for Sunday of the April UTA. It will take place in the main hangar, Bld. 219.



Col. Jeffrey Smith joined the 173rd Fighter Wing as an F-15 Flight Instructor in 2007, coming from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., where he was an F-15 instructor pilot and chief of wing weapons and tactics. Smith is a command pilot with more than 2,800 flying hours under his belt between the F-15 A/B/C/D, the T-37 and T-38. (Historic photo courtesy 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



## Where were you 25 years ago? 173rd Airmen remember the Gulf War



*(Continued from front page)*

Schiess, former 173rd Fighter Wing commander, was an Air Force Captain flying F-16s out of Hill Air Force Base. After the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, Schiess's squadron immediately deployed to the Middle East. "We went not knowing if we were going to go to war that day, or how long it was going to take."

Schiess talked about how this changed his mindset about the reality of war. "It is very different than today. For those signing up today I think they know the chances of going to combat are very high; and when I signed up you felt like, gosh, we haven't been at war in so long, the thought of it was kind of surreal; that you didn't think it was really going to happen. Then we deployed and there was the realization that it was not if it was going to happen, but a matter of when."

After 25 years, many of the Airmen involved in the campaign agree that it is one of the times in their lives that stand out and they are quick to share their stories.

Tech. Sgt. Gary Langdon of the 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron was a 20-year-old Soldier in the 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment. His unit was one of the first with boots on the ground in Iraq and it was Langdon's first time in

combat. "I cannot believe it has been 25 years," he said. "I can remember like it was yesterday."

When asked what stands out in his mind the most, Langdon said, "I remember when we took our first objective and we were standing there on flat white sand, and a few miles in the distance all we could see was a black wall. It was the Iraqi soldiers running towards us wanting to surrender." Langdon speculates that it was the use of advanced military technologies that in part spurred

this mass surrender.

Desert Storm brought about many changes to the way the military approaches conflict. This campaign was the first conflict in history to make comprehensive use of stealth and space systems. Multiple new weapons made their debut on that battlefield, including stealth aircraft, global positioning devices, and precision guided technologies such as the MIM-104 Patriot surface-to-air missile system.

173rd FW F-15 crew chief Tech. Sgt. Michael Hernandez was an F-4G Wild Weasel crew chief during the conflict. He has a very distinct memory of the Patriot missile. "We had two Scud missiles come at us. And I remember I was on top of an F-4 working...and I thought it was low flying jets, but it was one of the Patriot missiles being launched, and next thing I knew I was on the ground running. I don't remember getting off the jet or anything. I just remember hightailing it into a shelter and looking up as the Patriot missile impacted the Scud. You know on the 4th of July when you see those big ones...that was exactly what it looked like," said Hernandez.

Technology employment during Desert Storm revolutionized the way we fight our wars today. However, as we look back at our history and the way modern combat has been shaped, it is important to remember that we need to continue moving technology forward.

Ironically, most of the pilots stepping through doors of the "Land of No Slack" today are younger than the F-15s they are learning to fly. "A lot of those airplanes we were flying in Desert Storm, we're still flying now," notes Schiess.

I imagine that for these young pilots, 9-11 stands out as the event in their lives that altered their perception of war and conflict and perhaps propelled them to serve their country. For many of us with a little more grey in our hair and a few lines on our faces, Desert Storm was that event.

***I don't remember getting off the jet or anything. I just remember hightailing it into a shelter and looking up as the Patriot missile impacted the Scud. You know on the 4th of July when you see those big ones...that was exactly what it looked like.***

-- Tech. Sgt. Michael Hernandez,  
F-4 Wild Weasel crew chief during Operation Desert Storm



# Kingsley Field, born as WWII training base, still training pilots



The 322nd Fighter Intercept Squadron stands before two F-101 Voodoo aircraft Sept. 27, 1962, during the years the active duty ran the base. Incidentally the base commander at the time was Col. Phil Rand (Center), the father of Gen. Robin Rand, currently the Air Force Global Strike Command commander. (Historical photo courtesy 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office)

*(Continued from front page)*

In short order, the base launched sortie after sortie to nearby ranges and target areas getting young men a degree of training before heading to the fleet for deadly combat primarily in the Pacific Theater.

Looking at a map one may wonder why the base wasn't located closer to the coast line, after all Klamath Falls is across the Cascade Mountains from the ocean and in drive time lies nearly four hours from the Pacific Shore. Maj. Ryan Bartholomew, the 173rd Fighter Wing Historian, says several qualities made the location an ideal place to train pilots.

"It has good flying weather, 95-percent of the time you can fly visual flight rules, and maybe most importantly it was close to several federally owned reservoirs used for torpedo bombing practice and strafing runs," he said.

After Victory in Europe and Victory in Japan came to pass the frantic war effort gave way to peace-time operations and the training mission of the base slowed considerably. The Navy closed the base and turned it over to the City of Klamath Falls in the years 1948-1954, but in those six years rising tension with the Soviet Union prompted the U.S. to bolster its perimeter defense and in 1956 the Air Force recommissioned the base.

"The Air Force was building a protective ring around the country and Klamath Falls was a strategic location between Portland and the Bay

Area to defend against Soviet strategic bombers," said Bartholomew. "It was 1959 before that squadron was fully operational."

The process of re-opening the base spurred its largest growth to date—construction of two large housing areas, renaming the base after the sole Army Air Corps recipient of the Medal of Honor from Oregon, Lt. David R. Kingsley, and bringing nearly 2,000 new employees aboard. From that point as the Cold War ground on, so named for its lack of actual hostilities, Kingsley Field once again saw operations pared back. In that environment it made sense to turn the operations over to a leaner organization and the Oregon Air National Guard began operations at Kingsley Field.

"The first presence was in 1971, it was the 104th Control Squadron, basically what we call Shadow Control today," Bartholomew said. "In 1981 the Air Force alert detachment left and turned everything over to the Oregon Air Guard."

A number of retired guardsmen who are still involved at Kingsley Field remember this time. Former base commander, Col. Billy Cox remembers his initial visits to the base in the early '80s when he was with the 142nd Fighter Wing out of Portland, Ore.

"It looked a lot like you might imagine after the busiest years of the base with many buildings standing vacant and most of the construction looked like it was from the World War II era," he said.

***It has good flying weather, 95-percent of the time you can fly visual flight rules, and maybe most importantly it was close to several federally owned reservoirs used for torpedo bombing practice and strafing runs.***

-- Maj. Ryan Bartholomew, 173rd Fighter Wing Historian  
On why a small, rural Oregon town became home to a WWII fighter pilot training center and eventually a modern F-15C schoolhouse.

Retired Lt. Col. Bill Morris, former base commander, remembers driving a bob cat tractor to remove years of accumulated bird droppings from the main hangar floor so it could house aircraft again.

Once again Kingsley's good flying weather and proximity to large flying ranges pressed the little-used buildings back into service. In 1982 the U.S. Air Force announced the creation of an air defense schoolhouse for F-4 Phantoms at Kingsley Field, and the 114th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron was formed.

Cox sees the foundation of today's successful training mission in those early years as a combination of a supportive community, a strong work ethic and the quality of training provided.

"On a check ride for a student if there was any question of whether they passed or not then there really wasn't a question, and we made real sure they got the chance to do it again," Cox said.

Though the operation was challenging, it wasn't large consisting of three instructor pilots and four F-4 Phantom aircraft. In 1983, eleven brand new F-4 pilots graduated.

Through the ensuing years that

mission has grown. In 1988, the 114th TFTS transitioned to the F-16 airframe and boasted a complement of 18 aircraft.

As the growth continued, the unit at Kingsley Field earned new designation—the 173rd Fighter Wing was activated June 27, 1996. This transition brought the unit in line with other stand-alone ANG flying units. In an article from the local newspaper, then base commander Cox was quoted saying, "I think our future is bright and strong."

Nearly ten years after converting to the F-16 the wing moved into the air superiority business and began training F-15C pilots, and 2011 this small, southern Oregon base became the sole schoolhouse for F-15C training, as Tyndall Air Force Base converted to the F-22.

As a part of that progress the 173rd Fighter Wing has also added a detachment of active duty Airmen to bolster throughput of pilots.

Today the ramp holds 32 F-15 Eagles and flies more than 5,000 hours in a given year, one of the highest tallies for a fighter unit in the ANG.

*Maj. Ryan Bartholomew made significant contributions to this story*



# B-Course Series: student takes 'road less traveled' to Kingsley



U.S. Air Force Capt. Alex Frank is halfway to becoming an Eagle Driver, and today he demonstrates his ability to fly in bad weather using the aircraft instruments, Jan. 27, 2016. Frank's road to 16-ABK is anything but typical and here we profile his journey, which began at the United States Merchant Marine Academy on Long Island, N.Y., but ultimately led him to the F-15 cockpit. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)

Left: A fledgling pilot practices what will become second nature over the course of a career; greet the crewchief, check the status of the aircraft and see if maintenance Airman have flagged any items for him. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)

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

**KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore.** -- Capt. Alexander Frank, of class 16-ABK, finds his way to Kingsley Field in a much more indirect route than most. Like a river which flows through the lowest points in the terrain, Frank says he traveled the course of least resistance through school which found him with a mediocre grade-point-average going into his junior year of high school. He believed he didn't want to pursue higher education and he was smart enough to score well on tests without doing any homework, a combination that placed him in the C-average category.

"Then I visited the University of Colorado, Boulder and realized that I actually did want to go to college," Frank said.

He decided it wasn't just any college, but a service academy--one of the big three as he calls them: West Point, the Naval Academy, or the Air Force Academy. He knew he needed a strong finish to be competitive for a service academy, and Frank began

applying himself in his studies--taking all advanced placement courses, acing them, and choosing to do homework. It culminated in a graduating GPA of 3.4. Even with that, the big three said no thank you to his application.

Instead, Frank went to the Merchant Marine Academy. He continued to push hard toward an engineering degree, and a year later finally gained admission to the Air Force Academy. Another four years saw him earning a double major in mechanical engineering and engineering mechanics, as well as a lock on an undergraduate pilot program slot.

"At that time in my career all I wanted to do was go fly, and I was really excited to be headed for what I thought was just that," said Frank.

That was up until two days before graduation when he learned he was medically disqualified from the flying program.

He ended up far removed from the flying end of the Air Force in civil engineering and spent a deploy-

ment in Afghanistan designing building plans.

Several years passed by when Frank's father, an Air Force master sergeant, related a random conversation where he had learned that it was an administrative error citing childhood

the normal officer transfer board for reinstatement to the flying program.

The corrections board found that his removal from UPT was, in fact, an error.

He made his way back to flying, albeit in the unmanned aerial vehicle program, where he was learning to pilot an aircraft from a cubicle at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. He spent just over a year in the program and had just spent his first couple hours of actual unmanned flight when he got a phone call from Air Force Personnel Command.

"I was literally walking out of the gym and I got a phone call and a gentleman says, 'congratulations on your acceptance to UPT, how fast can you get to Laughlin?' and I said, 'I'll be there tomorrow.'"

That was nearly two years ago, and after his reinstatement he tracked to the F-15 Eagle, his first choice for an airframe.

"I would say the quality that brings me here is persistence, persistence, and ... luck," he says smiling.



asthma that dropped Frank from UPT, and therefore could be appealed. Frank applied to both the Board of Corrections of Military Records and to

# Historic new DoD retirement system arrives

Letter from  
Col. Kirk S. Pierce,  
173rd Fighter Wing  
Commander

Team Kingsley,  
As I discussed at the War-rior Calls, Congress has in-dicated they want to provide our military members with a modernized retirement plan that includes improved op-tions for retirement savings.

With the new 2016 Na-tional Defense Authorization Act and beginning in 2018, service members can get au-tomatic and matching Thrift Savings Plan contributions as well as mid-career compensa-tion incentives in addition to a monthly annuity for life.

It is important for me to emphasis the following: All service members under the current system are grandfa-thered into today's retirement system.

Please see the attached info-graphic provided by the Department of Defense.

Highlights:

1. All military personnel joining before 1 January 2006 will remain in the current retirement system.

2. Military personnel join-ing after 1 January 2006 but before January 1, 2018 will have a choice between enroll-ing in the new blended retire-ment system or remain in the current retirement system.

3. Military personnel join-ing after 1 January 2018 will be automatically enrolled in the new blended retirement system.

4. Personnel in groups 2 and 3 that are in the blended retirement system have three phases of the retirement, Con-tributions, Continuation Pay, and Full Retired Pay Annuity.

As we learn more about this new system, we will be sure to update you.



## The U.S. Uniformed Services Blended Retirement System

### At a Glance

### Saving with the New Blended Retirement System

The Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act provides our military force with a modernized retirement plan built for retirement savings. Beginning in 2018, our service members can get **automatic and matching Thrift Savings Plan contributions** as well as mid-career **compensation incentives** in addition to a monthly **annuity for life**. All service members under the current system are grandfathered into today's retirement system.

#### Today's Retirement System:



**2.5% x Years Served x Retired Pay Base**  
after completing 20 years of service

#### 1 Automatic and Matching Contributions

Automatic contributions are seen immediately



You Contribute	DoD Auto Contribution	DoD Matches	Total
0%	1%	0%	1%
1%	1%	1%	3%
2%	1%	2%	5%
3%	1%	3%	7%
4%	1%	3.5%	8.5%
5%	1%	4%	10%

The DoD automatically contributes **1%** of your basic pay to your **Thrift Savings Plan** after **60 days of service**.

You'll see matching contributions at the start of 3 through the completion 26 years of service, and...

**You're fully vested—it's yours to keep—as of the beginning of 3 years of service and goes with you when you leave.**

#### 2 Continuation Pay

Received at the mid-career point



You may receive a **cash payment** in exchange for additional service.

#### 3 Full Retired Pay Annuity

Received after completing 20 years of service



Calculate your **retired pay base** by **averaging the highest 36 months of basic pay**. You'll gain this monthly annuity for life after completing 20 years of service.

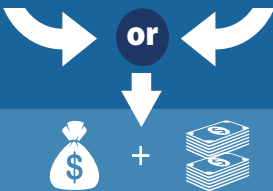
### Options for Collecting Your Retired Pay

#### Active Component

Full retired pay annuity

#### Reserve Component

Full retired pay annuity beginning at age 60\*



#### Lump sum with reduced retired pay

50% or 25% of monthly retired pay annuity bumps back up to 100% at full retirement age (67 in most cases).

\* Could be earlier based on credited active/inactive service



### Effective Date of the New System

**Your Retirement System**  
If you joined the service...

- **After January 1, 2018**  
You'll be automatically enrolled in the Blended Retirement System.
- **After January 1, 2006 but before January 1, 2018**  
You'll have the choice to enroll in the Blended Retirement System or remain in today's current retirement system.
- **Before January 1, 2006**  
You'll be grandfathered and remain in today's current retirement system.

Additional information coming soon.

Sources: Sections 631, 632, 633, 634, and 635 of the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act.



# Kingsley prepares for upcoming deployments



Master Sgt. Michelle Kelly, 173rd Fighter Wing Logistics Manager takes a selfie with Chaplain (Maj.) Kraig Kroeker once they donned all of thier gear designed to let them function in a contaminated environment, Feb. 6, 2015. The base is preparing to deploy more people than it has in recent memory as a part of increased support for the active component. (Photo courtesy Master Sgt. Michelle Kelly)

**Story by**  
**Tech. Sgt. Jason van Mourik,**  
**173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs**  
**KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. --** Nearly 90 members of the 173rd fighter wing took part in pre-deployment training at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore., Feb. 6, 2016.

The citizen airmen are preparing for a possible deployment in the next year during the reserve component period five or RCP5. This new system is a departure from the old tempo bands used for deployments in the past and part of the new program is—more deployments.

In fact, this is the first time in recent history the 173rd has deployed this many support personnel at one time.

“We trained up 100 folks with our skills rodeo where they leaned to use the new M-50 mask and their ground crew ensemble, basically their chem suit, so they can survive and defend and do their job in a contaminated environment,” said Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Aubut, the 173rd Fighter Wing Emergency Services Manager.

Pre-deployment training is an integral part of the overall mission, starting with the basics of Self Aid and Buddy Care, understanding the rules of engagement, basic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives response tactics and other required training. Organizers say the idea is to provide the building blocks for a successful deployment.

After completing the several hours of classroom training, affectionately referred to as mandatory death by power point, each group had the opportunity to try on and test out the new chemical protection gear they may be issued while deployed.

“Training went




great,” said Aubut. “A lot of people got some education out of it, and did something they haven’t done for a number of years. One lieutenant said she had never worn chem gear and so it was really good for her.”

Once the Airmen suited up what may at first have seemed easy proved more challenging while communicating through sealed masks and wearing thick suits, gloves and overboots. One way the training works to overcome these issues is by pairing group members up so they can assist each other don the gear and once on inspect it for proper wear, just the way it’s done in an actual contaminated environment.

Once suited up they headed outside to practice clearing an area following a CBRNE attack. The group divided into three teams and each made a sweep of the affected area, posting tape designed to detect chemicals or biological agents in strategic places and communicating with a base command.

The training is required two more AEF Skills Rodeo’s are planned for the March and May drill weekends. If you are in a UTC tasked position please work with your unit deployment manager to make sure you attend one of them.

**See the Facebook Video story:** [Kingsley Field CBRNE Training \(Click Here\)](#)



## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

MARCH 2016

Working to Form a More Perfect Union:  
Honoring Women in Public Service and Government.



# Former Kingsley Airman promoted to brigadier general



Oregon Air National Guard Col. Daniel Bunch, the Air National Guard (ANG) assistant to the deputy judge advocate general (DJAG) of the United States Air Force, stands between his wife (left) and daughter (right) as they pin on his new rank of brigadier general during his promotion ceremony at the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center in Clackamas, Ore., Feb. 19. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jason van Mourik, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)

**Story by Christopher Ingersoll,  
Oregon National Guard  
Public Affairs Office**

**CLACKAMAS, Ore.** – Oregon Air National Guard Col. W. Daniel Bunch was promoted to

the rank of brigadier general in a ceremony Feb. 19 at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon.

Bunch is currently serving as the Air National Guard (ANG) assistant to the deputy

judge advocate general (DJAG) of the United States Air Force and a senior member of the Judge Advocate General's ANG Council.

Bunch assists with legal oversight functions pertaining to the Air National Guard. He provides leadership and planning for all ANG legal offices, including some 440 judge advocates and paralegals throughout the nation. As the DJAG's assistant, he advises on all Air National Guard (ANG) matters and works closely with the ANG assistant to The Judge Advocate General (TJAG) concerning the leadership and management of ANG judge advocates and paralegals worldwide.

"Dan's selection to the rank of brigadier general is a direct result to the excellence in leadership and his professional qualifications," said Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, adjutant general, Oregon. "Col. Bunch's work as the deputy staff judge advocate general recognizes his skill and character and we, the Oregon National Guard, are proud to call him one of ours."

Bunch has served in numerous legal positions throughout his military career. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1990 to 1994, the U.S. Air Force from 1994 to 1998, the Reserve and then the Oregon Air National Guard. He was the

Staff Judge Advocate for the Oregon Air National Guard's 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field. In 2007, he deployed to Baghdad in support of the Law and Order Task Force, in which he commanded a joint force of military and civilian legal specialists in an effort to establish an Iraqi judicial system. Bunch has also served as the ANG assistant to the staff judge advocate for Air Force Space Command and in the National Additional Duty Program.

Bunch received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Hampden-Sydney College in 1987 and his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Virginia in 1990.

In his civilian career, Bunch is a state court judge in Klamath County, Oregon, having general jurisdiction over all civil and criminal matters. Throughout his legal career, Bunch has worked as a prosecutor in the state of Alaska, as a private practice attorney in Oregon, and as County Counsel of Klamath County, Oregon.

Additionally, he was an adjunct professor for the Oregon Institute of Technology for several years before taking the bench. He has participated in several boards, including Citizens for Safe Schools and was a founding board member of Klamath County's first charter school, Eagle Ridge.

## 173rd Operations Group commander promoted



Col. Jeff Edwards, 173rd Operations Group Commander, enlisted the help of his mother and father to help pin on his the eagles that symbolize the rank of colonel in the United States Air Force, Feb. 26, 2016.

His three daughters stand on the stage to the right. His parents came from Hazen, N.D. as did his two brothers, in addition to a number of people from the local community.

His promotion ceremony also featured an acapella version of the National Anthem sung by members of his family's church choir.

His eligibility began when he assumed command of the operations group more than a year ago, however due to circumstances outside the wing's control he had to wait until now. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



# Blue Zones targets basin for improved longevity, health

## Blue Zones Project

FOR A HEALTHIER KLAMATH FALLS



**Saturday, March 12**  
**Ross Ragland Theater • 2 p.m.**

**LIVE  
LONGER  
BETTER**

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

**KLAMATH FALLS, Ore.** -- The term Blue Zone has been floating around the Klamath Falls community lately. The city is the first in Oregon selected to implement the Blue Zone project and new ventures are kicking-off throughout the community.

A piece of the project is happening right here at Kingsley Field; the base will soon have a new designation—a Blue Zone Project Approved worksite. What exactly does this mean?

According to Erin Cox, the Klamath Falls Blue Zone Organization Lead, “A Blue Zones Project Approved worksite is one that creates an environment that supports employee wellness, which in turn improves productivity, decreases turnover, and reduces healthcare costs.”

Blue Zone approved worksites focus on their employees overall well-being. The first step of this process was to create a wellness committee, which Kingsley Field has done.

Over the next few months there will be a focus on healthy eating, physical fitness, and safe work-place practices.

You might be saying, “Wait a minute...we do those things already,” and you would be correct.

“Quite honestly, the base is already doing 95-percent of what it takes to be a certified Blue Zones worksite so most

people won’t see a huge change like you might at a downtown business that was just embracing a culture of health and fitness for the first time,” said Col. Wes French, 173rd Fighter Wing Vice Commander.

The military culture is one that already encourages individual comprehensive fitness, and this allows Kingsley Field to be a leader for the community in this area.

Other local worksites that have committed to become Blue Zone approved include Sky Lakes Medical Center, JELD-WEN, Klamath County, Klamath Tribes, Fred Meyer, the Running Y Ranch, and Oregon Tech.

“The first changes will be informational mainly; things like formalizing a walking group that you may already walk with regularly, formalizing a ‘lunch workout’ that again, you probably already do anyway,” says French. “What we as a base need to do initially is document the good things we are already doing.”

French added that future changes could include healthy cooking classes, smoking cessation classes, and fitness instruction.

There will be a community kickoff event on March 12th from 2:00-5:30 p.m. at the Ross Ragland that everyone is invited to. The author of the Blue Zones book, Dan Buettner, will be the keynote speaker.

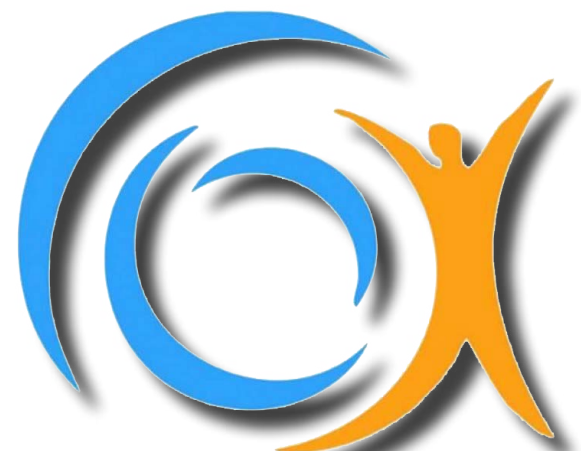
Additionally, the Kingsley Field wellness committee is looking for ways to



The Blue Zones project began as a study of areas where people live the longest. According to Dan Buettner, Blue Zones creator, those areas yielded the keys to living longer, healthier lives and he brings those ideas, like improved diet and exercise, to communities across the U.S. (Photo courtesy of Bluezones.com)

maximize base member’s benefit from the available programs, if you have an idea that you would like to see implemented, contact French or Senior Master Sgt. Meghan McMackin with your ideas.

“The Blue Zones Project in Klamath Falls is just getting started, and will last for three years,” added Cox. “We hope that the committees and shifts in wellness are long lasting!”



Kingsley Lifestyle: Culture of Wellness



# Air National Guard Director retires after more than 34 years of service



Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III listens while retired Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Mosley reflects on Clarke's career during the former's retirement ceremony at the Air National Guard Readiness Center, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, Dec. 18, 2015. Clarke is the 15th director of the Air National Guard. (Photo by Master Sgt. Marvin R. Preston)

*Story courtesy  
National Guard Bureau*

**JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md.** -- Air Force Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke, director of the Air National Guard and a strong advocate of the Total Force Continuum as well as the State Partnership Program, retired Dec. 18, after more than 34 years of military service.

During the ceremony at the Air National Guard Readiness Center at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, former Air Force Chief of Staff General T. Michael Mosley led the ceremony and complimented his friend and fellow Airman.

"You are in the lineage of American Airmen... that flew in the Lafayette Escadrille, that flew with Mitchell ... that flew with Chennault and the Flying Tigers, and that flew with the Tuskegee Airmen up the Italian peninsula into southern Germany," said Mosley. "You've left that legacy with [us] all... you're a pro and your family made this possible."

As the Air National Guard director, Clarke was responsible for formulating, developing and coordinating all policies, plans, and programs affecting the more than 105,700 Guard members and civilians in more than 89 flying wings and 175 geographically separated units across 213 locations throughout the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands.

The broad swath of responsibility was a burden Clarke took on with great appreciation. When he testified before Congress earlier in 2015, Clarke noted the Air Guard supports combatant commanders around the globe, and continues to be a "proven choice" for the war-fighting operations they support.

"We have ... consistently deployed members of the Air National Guard," Clarke said. "In fact, over 2,000 are deployed today across the globe doing a variety of operations."

During his tenure, he also pushed for continued security cooperation. "We have bilateral relationships that don't even exist inside the State Partnership Program that we support," he told Congress. "An example of that would be what we do for the air forces of Iraq -- we're doing the training for the C-130J's ... and the F-16 foreign training is all done at Tucson [Arizona] by the Air National Guard."

Members of Clarke's immediate staff said one of the most important legacies the director would want to be remembered

by is his commitment to the Total Force Continuum concept and his "Ready Airmen" initiatives.

To accomplish these goals, Clarke worked closely with Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and the Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Mark Welsh. During his retirement speech, Clarke thanked them both; "No component of any service, at any time in history, has had a better friend as a service secretary than Debbie James ... and you two are tremendous advocates of the Total Force."

Clarke began his Air Force career in 1981 when he was named a distinguished graduate of the University of Georgia ROTC program. He joined the Alabama Air National Guard in 1991, and went on to serve in multiple joint positions, including the senior defense official and defense attaché to Turkey and NORAD.

As he spoke about the high points of his career, Clarke recalled a few poignant moments in the air and on the ground.

"I always wanted to be a fighter pilot, I just wasn't sure someone would give me the chance," he said. "I can vividly recall flying at 100 feet over the swamps of Carolina in brand new A-10s, and squeezing the trigger on a 30mm cannon for the first time. And I can still play scenes in my head of avoiding anti-aircraft artillery over Iraq in F-16s."

The command pilot, who accumulated 4000 hours in various aircraft including the A-10 Thunderbolt II, the F-16 Fighting Falcon and the C-26 Metroliner, said he stayed in the service for multiple decades because he "loved the people of the Air Force and the Air National Guard."

"The Air Force took me places I would have

never had the opportunity to go otherwise," he said. "Not all the memories have been good ones ... I've touched the flag-draped caskets at Bagram, and I've been at Dover to watch them come home. However, the good memories outnumber the bad ... and (I have) too many blessings to count."

Gen. Mosley took time during his speech to share a powerful tale that he said highlights "the leadership and strength of the entire Clarke family."

"This story begins in the spring of 2002; I was told to put together what would be the decisive strike at the regime which would be the air campaign (in Iraq)," Mosley said. "I asked Sid to join us in this ... because he and I have had several experiences through weapons school and a variety of other places, and I trusted him."

He said then-Colonel Clarke led an effort to build a mock-up of the Iraq western front at Nellis Air Force Base ranges to meet the President's intent for the crucial mission.

"The SECDEF and president were happy with Sid's plan, which says a lot," Mosley said, "And then I told him he was going to command the effort. It was not a leap of faith for me. I knew, and Sid knew, what was at stake."

He explained that Clarke volunteered to deploy to finish the job, and set up a "beautifully executed piece of a very complicated campaign," which included flights across the Haditha dam and supporting special operations forces.

"The lives you've touched and the lives you've saved - some of them don't even know you saved them," Mosley told Clarke, "And some of them, as we enter the holidays and the Christmas season, in Australia and in the UK, some of those folks are with their families and their kids and their grandkids today because of you. And that's kind of a big deal."

In total, more than 90 general officers, as well as hundreds of former coworkers and friends, attended the ceremony to show their gratitude for Clarke's years of leadership and mentorship.

"He is an insightful, thoughtful and very dynamic leader," Taheri, ANG Readiness Center Commander, said of Clarke. "He's often quiet, and you wouldn't know it but the wheels are always turning, so when he does speak, he speaks with the kind of measured thoughts that are always one step ahead of where I wish I could have been before I started talking to him."

Clarke's replacement has yet to be named; the new director will be recommended by the Secretary of the Air Force and approved by Congress. Until that person is selected, Maj. Gen. Brian Neal, previously appointed as the deputy director of the Air National Guard, will serve as the acting Air National Guard Director.





# AIRMAN SPOTLIGHT

## 173rd Fighter Wing



### **Senior Airman Steve Gross** **173rd Maintenance Squadron** **Maintenance Operations Flight**

**What brought you to Kingsley Field?** Tech. Sgt. Chuck Olson—he was able to do what many recruiters had failed to do; get my signature on that dotted line. I’ve always had the desire to serve but the fit was never right. With the encouragement of my wife, a little bit of luck, a month of communications with Olson, the pieces finally fell into place. Kingsley Field seemed like family and that was the primary factor that sold my family and me on it. We haven’t been disappointed yet. Plus, the outdoor opportunities in the area are hard to beat.

**What is your job?** All maintenance actions completed by the maintainers are entered into a central database (IMDS). As the Database Manager/Maintenance Analyst I ensure the database is secure and that the data going in is correct and accurate. This data is then extracted and analyzed to evaluate past and current deficiencies as well as predict future deficiencies in maintenance production. I also provide IMDS oversight and assistance for

ten other ANG and Active Duty units throughout Oregon and Washington but most people know me as the guy who resets their passwords. I recently added Man Power Analyst for the MXG to my duties which allows me to track the personnel movements and vacancies across the group.

**What are your favorite pastimes?** I enjoy the outdoors whether it be hiking, hunting, fishing, running, snowboarding, spelunking, or riding motorcycles.

**What is your professional background?** I’ve spent the last 10 years as a manufacturing optician working in, and managing, various optical labs. Along the way, I picked up my EMT License and graduated from Chico State with a degree in Mathematics.

**What type of volunteer activities do you do?** I’ve coached local youth soccer and I’m currently one of the 2016 Kingsley Field Duathlon directors.

The proceeds from this year’s event will benefit Citizen’s for Safe Schools, Klamath County 4H, Klamath Trail Alliance, and the David R. Kingsley Foundation. We are working on scholarships for local, Klamath and Lake County athletes.

**What book are you reading right now?** *Hanson’s Marathon Method*...running season is nearly upon us.

**Whose leadership is the most influential in your career?** My direct supervision, Master Sgt. James Whaling and Senior Master Sgt. Collin Grandy, has been the most influential. We are fortunate enough to have quality leaders throughout the ranks here. Every interaction, if you’re willing, is an opportunity to learn something new.

**What best piece of advice would you offer to a brand-new Airman?** To pass on the wisdom that my Tech school instructor, Master Sgt. Ciano, bestowed upon me. “Take ownership of your career. Don’t make the success (or failure) of your career depend solely on other people.” And remember, data integrity is the responsibility of every member of the unit!



# 173rd Fighter Wing



## AIRMAN SPOTLIGHT

### *Tech. Sgt. Kyle Tecmire* *173rd Communications Squadron*

**What brought you to Kingsley Field?** I came to Kingsley Field for two reasons. After 911, I felt a calling to serve our country. Second, I enjoyed working on computers, had taken many electronics courses and the communications flight seemed like a good place to work.

**How long have you been here?** 13 years, in the comm. squadron, I originally started here as a computer, network and cryptographic systems technician.

**What is your job?** As a Communications Flight Quality Assurance Inspector I perform three types of inspections. Equipment—Inspections to ensure repairs, preventative maintenance and other work orders are done properly. Managerial—Inspections to ensure that program managers follow the regulatory guidance in the execution of their additional duties. Personnel—Work with the NCOIC's of the different shops to develop performance standards and then test new journeyman and craftsman to ensure they possess the knowledge, skills and abilities to fulfill the requirements of their job.

**What are your favorite pastimes?** Spending time with family, boating, camping, water skiing, snow skiing, hiking and hunting, to name the ones that come to mind.

**What is your professional background?** The CNCS tech school was just under a year when I went through. After graduating I was hired by Jackson County's IT department as a computer technician and moved up the ranks eventually working as a network administrator. I took a full time civil service job working as the wing classified systems administrator in 2009. I deployed in 2011 and worked as the NCOIC of Theater Radio Support. We toured most of the AOR fixing communications systems that were down and or damaged. In 2012 I switched shops and took a position in the com flight as the QA inspector.

When my son was about three years old, I took him to the Phoenix Fire Department for a tour. I was surprised to only find two firefighters there. They said that they were a combination paid and volunteer staffed department. They asked if I would like to start volunteering. I agreed and it wasn't long before I realized that it was my true calling in life. I went back to school at night and on the weekends studying fire



science and emergency medicine. After several years volunteering and as a student firefighter I was hired by the Kingsley Field Fire Department in 2010.

I have my CCAF in Electronic Systems Technology and an AAS in Fire Science.

**What type of volunteer activities do you do?** Volunteer with my church, American Red Cross, habitat for humanity.

**What book are you reading right now?** I am currently not reading any novels. I am in my senior year with 6 classes remaining before I complete my B.S. in Fire Department Administration. Most of the time I spend in books is focused on completing this degree.

**Whose leadership is the most influential in your career?** My dad taught me to be truthful, honest and he taught me to work extremely hard.



# 173rd Fighter Wing



## AIRMAN SPOTLIGHT

### **Master Sgt. Rob Broyhill** **270th Air Traffic Control Squadron**

**What brought you to Kingsley Field?** My wife Julie, finished Medical School and began her Family Medicine Residency Program at Cascade East Medical Center in 1998. While getting settled in Klamath Falls, I met Rod Ayers. Rod, was a Title 5 Air Traffic Controller at Kingsley. He spoke highly of the Air Traffic Control Career field and it struck my interest. I had previously served eight years in the Army and Oregon Army National Guard. I was intrigued with the Air Traffic Control Career Field and thought it would be a great way to continue my military career. Watching the F15's fly around town helped as well. I had a feeling that I wanted to be a part of that.

**How long have you been here?** I have been affiliated with the 270 Air Traffic Squadron and Kingsley Field since 2000. The next six years took me to the active duty for AFSC Training, upgrade training, and Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom deployments in both Jacobabad, Pakistan and Baghdad, Iraq. We moved to Silverton, Ore. in 2005.

**What is your job?** I am currently the 270 ATCS Chief of Operations. Ensuring all training, operation needs and readiness requirements are met for our Air Traffic Control personnel, on the expeditionary side of our organization. I held positions as controller, watch supervisor, air space manager, chief controller and flight chief in the squadron. My civilian occupation: air traffic manager at Salem Air Traffic Control Tower in Salem, Ore.

**What are your favorite pastimes?** Julie and I are the parents of very active girls, ages 9 and 14. Tournament volleyball, soccer, swim team, track and dance are a part of every week. We spend majority of our free time supporting their activities. We enjoy this very much and we also make time for travel, biking and snow skiing.

**What type of volunteer activities do you do?** Our volunteer time is spent mostly supporting our local Parish St. Paul, Silverton schools and the kid's sports programs.

**What book are you reading right now?** I just finished *Rigged* by Ben Mezrich and started *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch. I always have an audio book to accompany me on my commute to Klamath Falls for Drill weekends. *Fearless* by Eric



Blehm will be on the agenda for the next trip.

**Whose leadership is the most influential in your career?** Chief Master Sgt. Paul Zarring. (243 ATCS/COG/270 ATCS) Zarring, has been a long-time mentor and subject matter expert in our career field.

**What advice would you give a New Airman?** Seek out several mentors in your career. Take those best practices and traits they display and make them your own. Listen to personal experiences. Learn, know your job and train your replacement. Complete your education early in your career. This will provide you with opportunities to grow and develop personally and professionally. For those that are career/retirement minded, you will more than likely hit a point when separating may look enticing. This is normal. Stay the course. It will pass. Thank your family for supporting you.



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Date:	12 March 2016, Saturday	
Time:	1800 – 2300	
Location:	Salem Convention Center 200 Commercial Street SE, Salem, OR 97301	
Dress:	Military:	Service Dress (Class A)
	Civilian:	Semi-Formal
Cost:	E1-E6 and Guests:	\$25.00 Per Person
	E7-O3, and Guests:	\$35.00 Per Person
	O4 & Above and Guests :	\$45.00 Per Person
	Civilians (non-affiliated only):	\$35.00 Per Person

## Menu:

### Rib Eye Steak (gluten free)

Smoked Rogue Bleu Butter  
Charred Scallion Mashed Potatoes  
& Marsala Mushrooms

### Italian Stuffed Chicken

Stuffed with Italian Sausage &  
Telligano, Creamy Polenta &  
Seasonal Vegetables

### Vegetarian Option – Pesto Bucatini

Bucatini with Sun Dried Tomato  
Pesto, Oil Cured Olives, Roasted  
Artichokes, Seasonal Roasted  
Vegetables, Grated Parmesan & Pine  
nuts on a Bed of Grilled Radicchio

## All Ranks Welcome!

1800-1845 No Host Cocktails

1845-1900 Opening Ceremony / ORANG 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Cake Cutting

1900-2000 Dinner

2000-2130 Awards

2130-2300 No Host Cocktails



## For More Information call:

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(Table Reservation \$10/table w/10 paid registrations)



# ORNG Paris Train Hero honored by OR Gov.



Maj. Gen. Michael Sten- cel, The Adjutant General, Oregon, speaks with Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Aleksander Skarlatos, and his father, Emanuel Skarlatos, before an award ceremony where Governor Kate Brown presented Spc. Skarlatos with the Oregon State Meritorious Service Award at the state capitol building in Salem, Oregon, Feb. 17. Skarlatos and two of his friends subdued an armed assailant on a train in Europe in August 2015, potentially saving hundreds of lives. (Photo by Christopher L. Ingersoll, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)

## March Drill weekend lunch menu

Meal cost for all Officers, AGRs, and Civilians \$5.55, Holiday Meal \$9.05

### Saturday, Mar. 5

- Corned Beef
- Herb Baked Chicken
- Roasted Red Potatoes
- Rice
- Green Beans
- Peas and Carrots
- Split Pea Soup
- Salad Bar
- Assorted Desserts

### Sunday, Mar. 6

- Asian-Style Beef
- Teriyaki Chicken
- White Rice
- Pork Fried Rice
- Veggie Stir Fry With Noodles
- Chuckwagon Corn
- Egg Drop Soup
- Beef Stew
- Salad Bar
- Assorted Desserts

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Strategy

Power

Friends

Sense





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ORANG Commander  
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U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Peter Hubah, an aerospace propulsion craftsman with the 56th Operations Group, Det. 2, works on an F-15 engine at Kingsley Field Air National Guard base, Feb. 7, 2016. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Amber Powell)

