

# 173rd Fighter Wing makes historic visit to Finland

Story by

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

**RISSALA AIR BASE, Finland--** More than 100 Oregon Air National Guard Airmen from the 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field, Ore. traveled to Kuopio, Finland for a training opportunity between the two partner countries.

The exercise is part of Operation Atlantic Resolve, but differs from other deployments to the region called theater security packages in that it is solely a training opportunity between partner nations--Finland and the United States.

The 173rd Fighter Wing is the

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Five F-15 aircraft from the 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamath Falls made the hop across the Atlantic Ocean to participate in a week-long exercise called Sentry Lynx in Finland for two weeks in May. The visit is the first time the Oregon Air National Guard and the 173rd Fighter Wing have exercised there and the first time they have hosted U.S. F-15s since 1997. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

## Looking back: Kingsley's path to the modern mission

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

**KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. --** The Oregon Air National Guard was born 75 years ago and the fighter squadron at Kingsley Field became the 173rd Fighter Wing 20 years ago. Guardsmen from around the community, both past and present, gathered in a celebration ceremony in the main hangar commemorating the history that laid the groundwork for today's mission, June 27, 2016.

"The 173rd Fighter Wing," said former wing commander retired Col. Billy Cox, "is all about relationships and chronologically it actually starts in 1963 at the Air Force Academy."

Cox, in his remarks, mapped out

how this Air National Guard wing can trace its roots to a friendship between two cadets who met at the academy and subsequently served in a secret organization called the "Misty" FAST FACs during the Vietnam Conflict. There are too many turns on that map to detail them all, but he says Maj. Gen. Don Sheppard and Gen. Ronald Fogleman played an important part in the creation of the 173rd Fighter Wing. Cox met Sheppard very randomly

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**Det 2**

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**1st Change of  
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**218 mile  
run!**

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**16-ABK  
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# 20 years ago: the improbable path to becoming a Wing

(Continued from front page)

when he had to undergo centrifuge training before converting to the F-16 airframe in August of 1988. The only available centrifuge was in Pennsylvania and upon arrival he met another traveling pilot by the name of Don Sheppard. The two shared a moment where after watching pilots pull G-forces on closed-circuit TV they agreed the Gs weren't that scary but getting sick and vomiting in front of the troops sure was.

He leaves the story there and picks up at the point where the base was still a squadron and not a wing, and after a trip to Washington where he was told that Kingsley Field would never become a wing.

"I'm worried that it could be, in fact, the end of the organization," says Cox of his return to Klamath Falls. "I thought hard about what I might do and I took a chance and I wrote the guy I'd stood in line with at the centrifuge a personal letter."

That man, is now Maj. Gen. Don Sheppard, commander of the Air National Guard and his old "Misty" FAST FAC squadron mate Gen. Ronald Fogleman is Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force. Cox says that relationship was paying dividends making the Air National Guard more modern and more relevant.

"Old academy mates, old squadron mates from Vietnam," said Cox who then waited to hear some word from Sheppard.

"About two weeks later a staffer of his called and said the general is working on it... and a few months after that we became a wing," adds Cox. That was 20 years ago to the day and it was a turning point where Kingsley Field's future seemed

bleakest; Cox's remarks serve as a reminder that it was relationships that provided a last subtle nudge that kept the gates open.

Retired Brig. Gen. David Ward, a former Oregon Air National Guard Commander, recounted an earlier piece of Kingsley Field's history, describing how the Oregon Air Guard began its flying mission at this small, Southern Oregon base.

**The 173rd Fighter Wing is all about relationships and chronologically it actually starts in 1963 at the Air Force Academy.**

-- Former wing commander Col. (Ret.) Billy Cox, on the genesis of the 173rd Fighter Wing

"To me this is my oak tree," said Ward. "I'll explain." And he went on to recount a conversation he had in the late 70s when he was the chief of maintenance at Portland Air National Guard base. "I happened to be on the phone with my counterpart at the Guard Bureau and at the end of

the conversation he dropped a little nugget, 'By the way we're looking for a base to start a four-aircraft training detachment.'" Ward replied, "I think I know just the place."

That began a period in which idle buildings were reopened for the first time in a decade and the "Land of No Slack" was born. Base historian Maj. Ryan Bartholomew relates that Retired Lt. Col. Bill Morris, a former base commander, remembers driving a Bobcat tractor to remove years of accumulated bird droppings from the main hangar floor so it could house aircraft again.

"Every time I come down here I am absolutely amazed," said Ward of the current mission which now has more than 30 jets on the ramp and is poised to grow further. "So you can see why I call this my oak tree, that little acorn, that nugget of information that got planted by happenstance has resulted in all of this."

In summing up those years, Col. Jeff Smith, 173rd Fighter Wing Commander, addressed Ward and Cox saying "I can't tell you how much we've learned from what you've done, and how proud we are of what you've done." He went on to say that he follows their example and actively markets the good things that the wing is doing, he added that one of his primary focuses lies in identifying what will keep the base viable in years to come. "As we look at this aging air frame you have to ask yourself what is next," said Smith, "because of the foundation of excellence that these two gentlemen have given us ... we are in a position now where, if this airplane's in jeopardy, I'm not worried about this base." He explained that the last decades of excellence, of overcoming challenges, makes Kingsley valuable whether it be with a new aircraft, or an entirely different mission.



**Above:** Retired Airmen, community members, and current members of the Oregon Air National Guard gathered to celebrate 75 years of the ORANG and 20 years as a wing during a ceremony at Kingsley Field, June 27, 2016. The ceremony featured the F-15 in the background which was repainted to commemorate that history and will remain that way for one year.

**Right:** 173rd Fighter Wing Commander Col. Jeffrey Smith thanks two retired Airmen for their contributions to both the 75th Anniversary of the Oregon National Guard and the 20th Anniversary of the 173rd Fighter Wing, June 27, 2016. Smith said the contributions of former wing commander Col. (Ret.) Billy Cox (2nd from right) and former Oregon Air National Guard Commander Brig. Gen. (ret.) David Ward (3rd from right) laid the groundwork for the mission that thrives today. For the occasion the wing was granted permission to repaint the F-15 in the background to commemorate the event for one year.





# Finnish Deployment marks first for ORANG, 173rd FW

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premier F-15C training unit for the United States Air Force, and one of its main missions is to introduce Airmen to the F-15C for the first time or requalify pilots from non-flying positions or other airframes. 173rd Fighter Wing Commander Col. Jeff Smith said that expertise proved valuable in this environment.

“At home with our students we use a building block approach beginning with one-verses-one scenarios and progressing to two-verses-two and so on, and that format is how we are conducting this exercise beginning with the smallest block, getting familiar with each other’s tactics and working to cross the language barrier,” he said. “By the end of next week we’ll be training in large force exercises, possibly as many as eight-verses-eight.”

Lt. Col. Alaric Michaelis, 173rd FW F-15 instructor pilot, says that in more than 15 years of flying the F-15 this training experience is near the top.

“The fighter pilots from Finland are the best international fighter pilots that I, in my career, have flown with,” he said. “It’s not just their ability, but their want, their tenacity, and their grit to get better.”

Another high point the American pilots are quick to point out is the first-class way the Finns have welcomed them.

“Personally this has been my fa-



At the conclusion of the first week the Finnish air force coordinated a group photo to commemorate the historic visit of U.S. Air Force F-15 Aircraft visiting Rissala Air Base near Kuopio, Finland for the first time since 1997. The visit is the first time the Oregon Air National Guard and the 173rd Fighter Wing has exercised in the country of Finland, May 13, 2016. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)

vorite trip I’ve ever been on,” said Maj. Kevin Welch, an instructor pilot with the 173rd Fighter Wing. “To see the work ethic of the younger guys--to see the intensity of the older guys to help make them better is amazing!”

Over the final week of the training exercise,

the Finns and the Americans will practice a large scale exercise against the Swedish air force; Welch says it will put to the test everything they have learned in the last 10 days.

***The fighter pilots from Finland are the best international fighter pilots that I, in my career, have flown with***

-- Lt. Col. Alaric Michaelis, F-15 Instructor Pilot



Lt. Col. Geoff Jensen (right), the 114th Fighter Squadron Commander, talks with his counterpart, the Finnish air force Fighter Squadron 31 Commander, Col. Jari Mikkonen, following a flight where the two flew in an F-15 Eagle from the 173rd Fighter Wing during the two-week exercise. (Photo courtesy Risto Hyvarinen, FiAF Public Affairs)



U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Curt Smith, a 141st Air Refueling Wing Boom Operator, explains to the U.S. Ambassador to Finland Charles C. Adams, Jr. how he refuels 173rd Fighter Wing F-15 aircraft during an Atlantic Resolve training exercise in Finland, May 18, 2016. The Ambassador traveled from the embassy in Helsinki specifically to observe the exercise and said it represented an opportunity to strengthen the existing partnership between Finland and the U.S. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)



# Kingsley active association undergoes first change of command

Story by

Tech. Sgt. Jason van Mourik,  
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore.** -- A change of command took place June 10, 2016 at Kingsley Field for the active-duty detachment here. Lt. Col. Brad Orgeron, who comes to Kingsley Field from his most recent duty station, Kadena Air Base, Japan, took command of Detachment 2, 56th Operations Group in an official ceremony.

Orgeron is a distinguished graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy and an F-15 Command Pilot with more than 2,600 flying hours. Orgeron has held operational assignments at Kadena AB, Japan; Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida; Columbus AFB, Mississippi; and Ramstein AB, Germany.

Detachment 2, 56th Operations Group is the active-duty association of the Total Force Integration that was activated Nov. 1, 2014, at

Kingsley Field. There are more than 80 active-duty Airmen now stationed here. The detachment functions as an integrated unit whose active-duty members serve alongside their Oregon Air National Guard counterparts and include rated F-15 instructor pilots, maintainers, and support personnel.

In just under two years Lt. Col. Chris Clark, the former detachment 2 commander, set up the unit and brought it to a point that this total force initiative has increased sortie generation, all the while fostering relationships both on-base and outside the gates. On a normal flying day Kingsley Field launches 12 jets in the morning and 10 of them in the afternoon.

"Lt. Col. Orgeron will need to sustain the relationships with the outside agencies," said Col. Jeff Smith, the 173rd Fighter Wing Commander, "but his fresh look at the detachment will undoubtedly reveal some areas of concern that we've been blind to

while getting the unit up and running."

Smith added, "Lt. Col. Clark did some amazing work to get the detachment established, manned, and functional. Those tasks were not at all easy and took a great deal of coordination with outside entities."

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

assuming his position.

The integration of active-duty Air Force members on an Air National Guard installation has presented challenges. Whether getting medical care on the economy or getting paid through an Oregon Air National Guard finance office, both the wing and the detachment have invested tremendous energy into making processes like these work.

"I am very proud of the efforts we've made to integrate our regular Airforce Airmen into the Kingsley family," Smith said. "We are being showcased as a positive example of an active association, and it's because of the pride, professionalism, and excellence at Kingsley Field."

Orgeron replaced Lt. Col. Chris Clark, who commanded Detachment 2, 56th Operations Group since its activation Nov. 1, 2014.



Col. William Bailey, Commander (left), 56th Operations Group passes the guidon to Lt. Col. Brad Orgeron the incoming commander for the Total Force Integration (TFI) located at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore., June 10, 2016. Lt. Col. Chris Clark (right) relinquished command after nearly two years of breaking new ground in the first active association between the Oregon Air National Guard and the active component. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)

## B-Course finale: They all graduate!

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

**KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore.** -- In some respects Class 16-ABK ended like it started—with a flurry of activity.

Maybe the best indicator of that is the fact that nearly all six graduates of this class graduated on a different day. That is unusual and it reflects a number of things: the fast pace of fighter pilot training in general, the exceptionally high need for trained pilots in the active Air Force, and the fact that these students—to one degree or another—put their personal lives on hold to successfully navigate this training. All six graduated, earning the coveted Eagle Driver patch over the last seven months.

Upon being asked to reflect on that 1st Lt. Brock McGehee said "seven months .... to be honest it's really been 14 years."

That may be the untold story of becoming an Eagle Drive; while we see these students arrive, their training began long ago.

There is an unofficial syllabus on just getting to F-15C pilot training. For many pilots it begins with admission to the U.S. Air Force Academy which can increase their chances of getting into the cockpit of a fighter aircraft, because in the past the academy had a

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1st Lt. Brock McGehee poses while wearing his brand new Eagle Driver patch for the first time, June 3, 2016. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)



# Class of six students earn their Eagle Driver patches

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larger share of pilot accessions.

A quick visit to the Air Force Academy admissions website details extensive preparation beginning in the sixth grade.

For Air National Guard accessions, they should have a private pilot's license in hand while competing against as many as 100 other applicants. It can be difficult to distinguish oneself, and for that reason many who pursue this training opt for the academy.

Moving past these hurdles is good training, McGehee says it's a refining process and at each step a person grows, one hopes in proportion to the next challenge.

At Kingsley Field the challenge can be summed up as a mountain of work. Students arrive here and receive a load of manuals that would stack three feet high. In them are all the numerous systems that comprise the jet and the

rules for use of the airspace and the airfield.

These students know how to absorb information quickly, but here they synthesize it and keep it ready for any eventuality—especially while flying.

As it turns out, each of the six student pilots of class 16-ABK rose to the challenge and they are headed to either RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom or to Kadena Air Base, Japan. 1st Lt. Scott McGowen, the lone Air National Guard pilot, will return to Barnes Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts.

Upon his graduation Capt. Alex Frank is headed to Kadena Air Base but that will follow Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape training for both he and 1st Lt. Garrett Womack. Of the last seven months at Kingsley Frank says, "it was fun... but I'm glad it's over."

"It doesn't really get any easier, the last ride is the hardest one," said Maj. Ryan Reeves,

Class 16-ABK flight lead. "There's not really much room for a mistake; I'm happy for those guys and I think they'll do well."

Now that they wear the Eagle Driver patch, the attitude toward them shifts. They are no longer students, they are now part of the brotherhood.

"The feedback that we usually get is that we have a high standard here and we are proud of the product we send out to the combat units," said Reeves.

In the meantime, the schoolhouse has more new students than at any point in its history. Many more will arrive to see if their preparation until now is adequate for the job that lies ahead. One thing is for sure, with the increasing demand for well-trained pilots, this schoolhouse will remain busy shepherding students just like this class through the toughest training in the Air Force.

## Kingsley Pilot notches 2,000 hours

Story by

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

**KUOPIO, Finland --** The flight from Klamath Falls to Kuopio, Finland is nearly 5,000 miles as the crow flies, and ferrying five F-15 aircraft took roughly 12 hours. Incidentally, those flying hours meant one pilot crossed the 2,000 mark on his next sortie.

Maj. Michael Hiatt began flying the F-15 some 13 years ago and he summed up the experience saying, "2,000 hours was big as a personal goal," and after a long pause he laughs and says, "But really it just means that I'm old ..."

He goes on to say that really the mark that would mean much more to him is the 3,000 hour

mark, but he also concedes that it's rare for a pilot to hit that number. The last pilot at the 173rd Fighter Wing to reach that threshold was Col. Wes French who retired in April after 24 years of service. According to Tech. Sgt. Lisa Tysor, who tracks flying hours for the pilots, Col. Jeffrey Edwards, 173rd Operations Group commander, currently holds the wing's highest total hours at 2,960 and will likely be the next to reach the 3,000-hour mark.

But looking back Hiatt has many fond memories. "One of the coolest things was when I became a two-ship flight lead when I was still a lieutenant and then taking another lieutenant out on a flight; so two lieutenants and two thirty-million dollar aircraft," said Hiatt. "That was some fun." He says the part of his career that he likes the best is, "just getting to fly with a bunch of good friends, guys I've known since college."

When he climbed down to the tarmac, May 10, 2016 the pilots on the deployment gathered around for a group photo.

"It was a fun mission to get 2,000 on, [Maj. Vanbragt] did a good job leading the mission and we did some good work." Upon being asked specifically Hiatt did admit that his team won the dog-fighting scenario against the Finns.



U.S. Air Force Maj. Michael Hiatt (center), an instructor pilot at the 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamath Falls, Ore., stands with his fellow pilots immediately after crossing the 2,000 hour mark in the F-15 Eagle while deployed to Kuopio, Finland, May 10, 2016. The wing conducted training operations with partner nation Finland over two weeks in early May as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Pete Weigman)

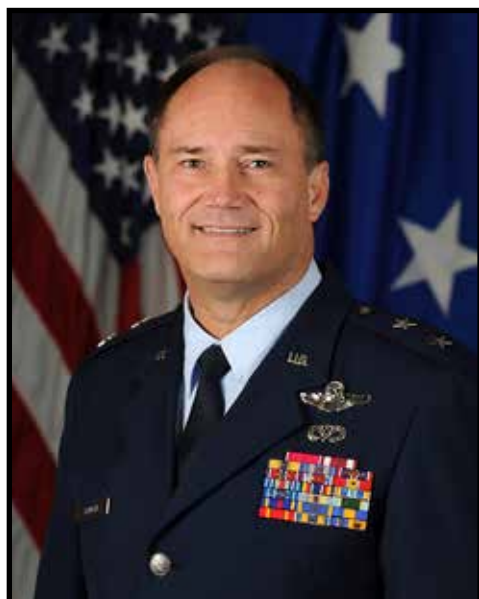
## 1,000 Eagle hours, after converting from the Raptor



U.S. Air Force Maj. Kurt Duffy, 173rd Fighter Wing Chief of Safety, is congratulated after reaching the 1,000 hour milestone in the F-15 Eagle at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore., June 21, 2016. Prior to flying the F-15 Eagle, Duffy flew the F-22 Raptor. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Jennifer Shirar)



# The Adjutant General: Be safe this Summer!



**Letter from  
Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel,  
The Adjutant General, Oregon**

To the Soldiers, Airmen and employees of the Oregon Military Department, State Command Sergeant Major Lake and I want you and your

families to have a great summer.

The summer months are a great time to be with family and friends. We urge you to take the opportunity to relax, travel and enjoy all that our great state has to offer. We also encourage you to keep safety at the forefront of your activities, both on and off duty.

Sadly, summer is also a period of risk. Last summer the majority of tragic accidents in Oregon were related to water sports and private motor vehicles. One such tragic event involved a teenage athlete who died after diving head first into murky river water. Please review safety rules for pools, rivers, lakes and the ocean with your family before engaging in water activities. If you are going to enjoy the water, make sure you wear a life jacket and use good judgment about the condition of the water.

When traveling this summer, think about how you can



reduce fatigue by using the Travel Risk Planning System. Make sure and adhere to proper personal protective equipment standards when riding a

motorcycle or bicycle. Tragically, motorcycle accidents continue to be the leading cause of death for our service members off duty.

To stay a ready force, we must be a safe force. Every day in the summer is critical in our fight against risk. We ask you to focus your risk management efforts for the summer months ahead during the National Safety Month of June. More information on seasonal safety and National Safety Month is available from the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center, <https://safetv.annv.mil> or the Air Force Safety center [www.afsec.af.mil/](http://www.afsec.af.mil/)

State Command Sergeant Major Lake and I want you to be safe this summer and always. Thank you for the incredible job you do every day for our state and nation. Have a memorable and safe summer!

## U.S. Senate confirms new NGB Chief, highest ranking officer in Guard

**Story by Sgt. 1st Class Jim Greenhill,  
National Guard Bureau**

**WASHINGTON** - Air Force Lt. Gen. Joseph Lengyel was confirmed [June 22, 2016] as the 28th chief of the National Guard Bureau by the U.S. Senate.

Lengyel, who also will be a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will be promoted to four-star general, the highest-ranking officer in the nation's oldest military force.

The Senate action follows Lengyel's June 21 Senate Armed Services Committee hearing.

"Although we are proud of our heritage and our past, I am more excited about our future," Lengyel told the committee, adding that the skill and devotion of Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen since 9/11 has transformed the National Guard into an operational force at home and overseas."

"The development of our most important assets, our people, will be our foremost task," Lengyel told the committee. Among other priorities Lengyel mentioned during his testimony:

- \* Working seamlessly with the joint force.
- \* Nurturing the National Guard's enduring local, state, national and international partnerships.
- \* Effectively communicating, collaborating and coordinating with all the National Guard's stakeholders.
- \* Continuing to enhance the Guard's cyber capabilities.

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Air Force Lt. Gen. Joseph Lengyel testifies before the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services at a confirmation hearing for his appointment to the grade of general and to be chief of the National Guard Bureau on June 21, 2016. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle Gonzalez)



## Top Air Force officials remind Airmen, 'get ready for blended retirement system'



Deborah Lee James  
Secretary of the Air Force

On Jan. 1, 2018, the Department of Defense will implement the new Blended Retirement System (BRS) enacted by Congress in the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act.

As this implementation date gets closer, it's extremely important for



Mark A. Welsh III  
General, USAF  
Chief of Staff

Airmen at all levels to begin familiarizing themselves with the new BRS as it will impact everyone.

All Airmen accessed after Jan. 1, 2018 will automatically be enrolled in the new BRS and those Airmen with 12 or less years of service as of Dec. 31, 2017 will have an opportu-



James A. Cody  
Chief Master Sergeant  
of the Air Force

nity to "opt-in" to the new system if they choose. Whether you fall into one of these categories or supervise someone who does, education on the new system is paramount.

The first step will provide education for leaders at all levels on the basics of the BRS. This training

is now available through the Joint Knowledge Online (JKO) BRS Leader Training Course (<http://jko.jten.mil/>). We highly encourage all supervisors to take this 30-minute training to familiarize yourself with the BRS. Although geared towards leaders, the Leader Training course is available to all Airmen and we encourage anyone looking for additional information to take the course. Specific courses targeting newly accessed Airmen and Financial Counselors will be available in the future. A specialized course for Airmen eligible to opt-in to the BRS will be mandatory and will be available starting in 2017.

Airmen are our most important asset and preparing them for these impactful changes is a leadership priority. We are counting on and thank each of you for leading the way and taking care of our Airmen. For additional background information on BRS, please visit [www.militarypay.defense.gov](http://www.militarypay.defense.gov)

## Lengyel confirmed as NGB Chief, slated to receive 4th star

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\* Keeping deployments predictable.

Lengyel highlighted the challenging global environment and the need now, more than ever, for an operational and ready National Guard.

He also stressed the critical importance of the adjutants general. The adjutant general is the senior military officer of the National Guard in each of the 54 states, territories and the District of Columbia.

"My job ... is to know what they think, know what they need ... [and] blend that all together with the lens of the national picture of the whole National Guard, and make my best military advice to my bosses," he said.

Lengyel steps into a complex assignment.

"We are living in extraordinary times with incredible advances in technology, globalization and commerce that give great cause for optimism and hope for the future," he told the Senate Armed Services Committee. "This optimism is tempered by unprecedented challenges in our global security environment ... [that will] require a greater agility and inclusion of all elements of national power."

The chief of the National Guard Bureau serves as a military adviser to the president, the secretary of defense and the National Security Council. The chief is the Defense Department's official chan-

nel of communication to the governors and the adjutants general on National Guard matters. He is responsible for ensuring the accessibility, capability and readiness of Guard members to secure the homeland and to provide combat resources to the Army and the Air Force.

Like many Guard families, the Lengyel family continues a multi-generation tradition of military service, and the new chief has known the meaning of both the service and the sacrifice that military service entails since his earliest memories.

His father, Air Force Lt. Col. Lauren "Laurie" Lengyel, initially served in the Massachusetts National Guard, including a Guard deployment during the 1958-1961 Berlin Crisis, before switching to active duty and flying combat missions in Vietnam.

On his 40th combat mission on Aug. 9, 1967, Lt. Col. Lengyel was captured after ejecting from his aircraft.

He spent 2,044 days in captivity before his March 14, 1973, release and was one of only two former Vietnam prisoners of war to return to the country and resume combat missions, during the fall of Saigon.

Like his father, Lt. Gen. Lengyel served as a pilot, including deployments during Operations Desert Storm, Provide Comfort, Southern Watch and Enduring Freedom.

"I hope that, unlike your father and me, the number of landings have matched the number of takeoffs," said Sen. John McCain, also a former pilot and Vietnam POW, prompting laughter from other members of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Lengyel was the senior U.S. defense official in Egypt before he was appointed vice chief of the National Guard Bureau in 2012.

The position of vice chief was re-established and elevated to the three-star level by the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act. No nominee to succeed Lengyel in that position has yet been named.

Lengyel will succeed Army Gen. Frank Grass, the first chief of the National Guard Bureau to serve a full term as a four-star general and member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The chief of the National Guard Bureau was elevated to a four-star position on the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 2012, during the tenure of Grass' predecessor, Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley.

The National Guard is a joint activity of the Department of Defense composed of the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard, which are reserve components of the Army and the Air Force. The Guard fights America's wars, secures the homeland and builds partnerships at home and around the world.



# 200 mile relay attracts nearly 30 runners from 173rd FW

Story by

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

**APPLEGATE, Ore.--** “Fit to fight” is a military phrase that essentially means you must maintain your level of fitness before you need it on a moment’s notice. In some ways, it’s a counter-culture message for service members designed to reverse a social trend toward inactivity. Recent studies show that many adults spend up to ten hours-a-day studying their smart phones—reading, texting, using social media and just sitting there.

It’s a stark contrast to a growing group of guardsmen who are pursuing fitness well beyond a few trips to the gym every week in order to pass their annual fitness test.

Approximately 30 Kingsley Field Airmen just completed the Wild Rogue Relay race in which teams of six or 12 members run consecutive legs, adding up to 218.3 miles in just over 30 hours.

This means each individual member could possibly run as many as 40 miles, catch catnaps in a vehicle between legs, for six to seven iterations in 30 hours or more.

“It’s a great way to decide if you like your coworkers or not because you spend two days stuck in a vehicle with their stinky carcasses...” says

Tech. Sgt. Rafe Pierce, with a wide grin on his face. This is his third year running the event and he and *Team MUS-dache* (a reference to the mustaches they grew for the event) came in second overall in the six-member, ultra-team category.

“We were 14.7 seconds from first place; last year we won, so we are hungry to get back to first next year,” he said.

Three years ago his team tried it for the first time but weren’t competitive in the top tier.

“Our first year team was a learning experience; we weren’t all able to finish our legs and we were just glad it was over at the finish line,” he said.

Pierce said that this inspired them to finish first in their second attempt. It’s of note that this year’s time was faster than their winning 2015 time by more than 20 minutes when adjusted for a shorter course.

Airman 1st Class Jeremy Wadkins ran the race for the first time this year, and his 12-person team finished all of their legs.

“It was amazing,” he said of his first try. “Having quality people makes for good company through all the suffering.”

Fellow teammate, Senior Master Sgt. Meghan McMackin, noticed a lot



**Top:** Tech. Sgt. Rafe Pierce runs past some of the scenery near the Applegate Valley during the Wild Rogue Relay which crosses rivers and mountain and ends at the Oregon Coast in Brookings after 218.3 miles. (Photo courtesy Team MUS-Dache)

**Right:** The overview of the 2016 course begins outside of Jacksonville, Ore., which is near Medford, Ore. (Map courtesy Wild Rogue Relay)

**Bottom:** *The Not So A Team* featured a number of members from the 173rd Fighter Wing including Senior Master Sgt. Meghan McMackin, Airman 1st Class Jeremy Wadkins, 1st Lt. Joe Young, Staff Sgt. Kyle O’Shea, Staff Sgt. Brandy Halverson, Airman 1st Class Fabian Pena, and Tech. Sgt. Tim Brady.



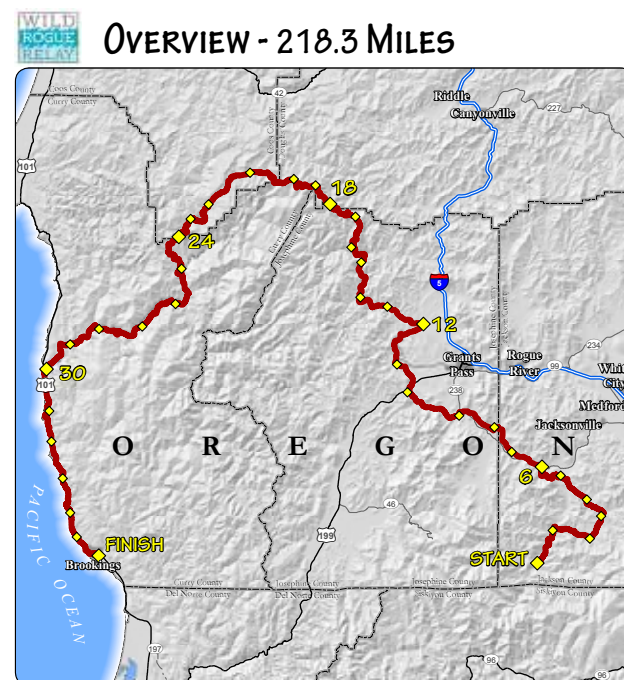
of familiar faces around the course saying, “I couldn’t believe how many people from Kingsley ran in this relay... I have never seen so many of us at one race. It was awesome!”

Their team, named *The Not SO A Team*, tallied an 8:48 minute-per-mile pace over the 218.3 mile course.

In all, Kingsley Field guardsmen represented five teams for the

2016 race. One ultra team had a last minute drop and was forced to complete the race with five runners instead of six.

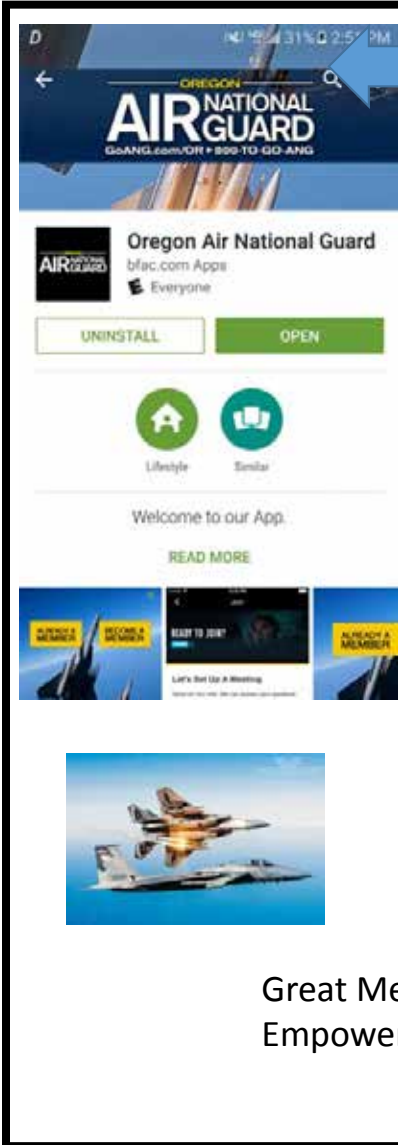
“As more people take on fitness as a lifestyle rather than a work requirement, events like this are more appealing to us, even though some people joke that we’re paying money to be that miserable,” said Pierce in summing up the event.



## Kingsley Lifestyle: Culture of Fitness





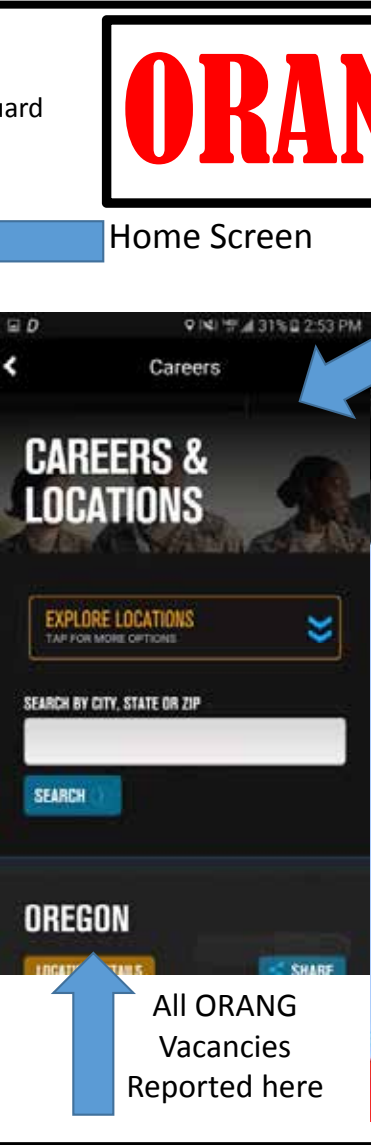


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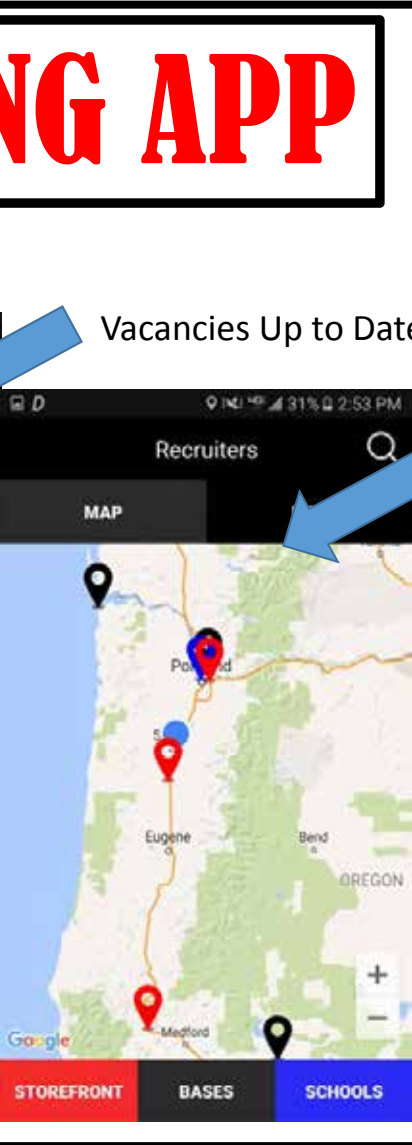
# ORANG APP



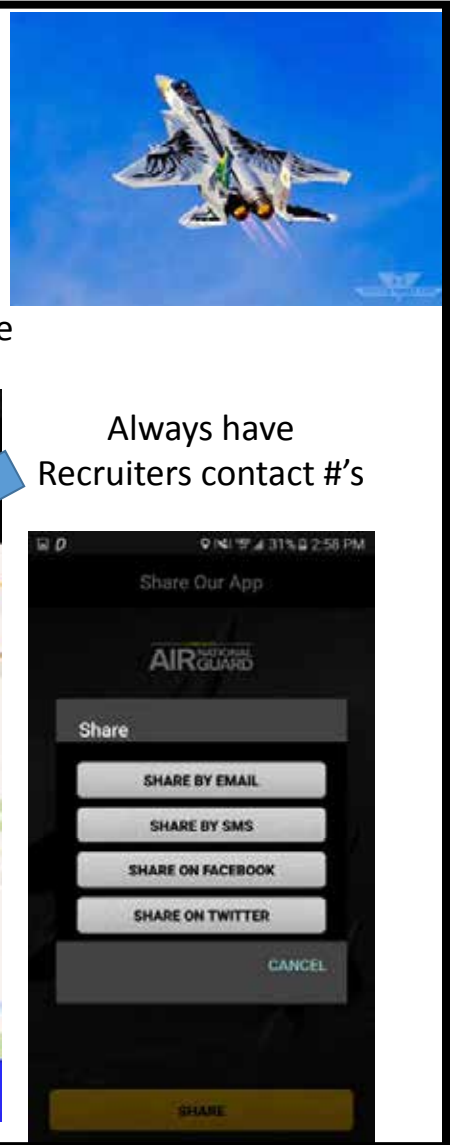
Home Screen

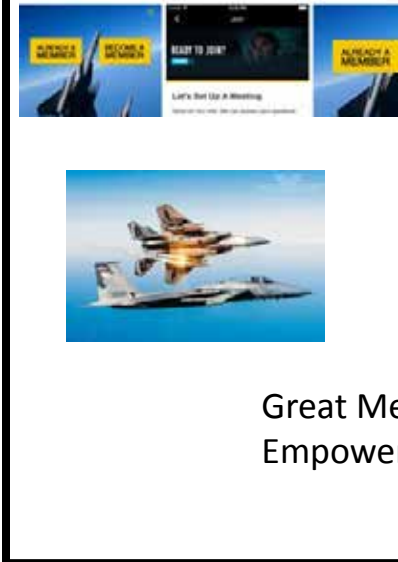


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# 173rd FW returns from Finland

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Ever wonder what  
it's like to be a  
Security Forces  
troop? Watch this!

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U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Steven Hansen, a 173rd Fighter Wing Security Forces member, stands guard over the five U.S. Air Force aircraft deployed to Finland for a two-week exercise that is part of Operation Atlantic Resolve, May 19. Security forces members are required to keep aircraft secure from the moment they touch down until their eventual departure with around-the-clock operations. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)



# Wing Commander throws first pitch



Col. Jeff Smith, 173rd Fighter Wing Commander, throws out a ceremonial first pitch at the Klamath Falls Gems opening season home game, June 10, in Klamath Falls, Ore. The Gems are a local baseball team that is part of the Golden State Collegiate Baseball League. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Jennifer Shirar)

## July Drill weekend lunch menu

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

### Saturday

- Beef Tri-Tip**
- Barbecue Chicken**
- Rice Pilaf**
- Mashed Potatoes**
- Herbed Green Beans**
- Broccoli Combo**
- Dinner Rolls**
- Salad Bar**
- Macaroni Salad**
- Assorted Desserts**

### Sunday

- Cheeseburger**
- Hot Dogs**
- Savory Beans**
- Mac 'N Cheese**
- Corn Kernels**
- Baked French Fries**
- Macaroni Salad**
- Dinner Rolls**
- Assorted Desserts**

## Mental Health Resource The Strong Seek Help

**Kingsley's Director of Psychological Health  
Mariana Peoples**



- \* Available to Support You
- \* Consultation
- \* Referral
- \* Free
- \* Dedicated to the Wing
- \* Confidential

**For mental health needs please call:  
(541) 885-6644; this number reaches my cell phone**




### Freedom Cuts Barber Shop

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Learn the Truth  
Community support  
Respect  
Protection united  
Information  
Caring

Together  
Self Protection  
No Means No  
anti-oppression  
Well informed  
Strategy  
Friends  
Power  
Sense  
Get Consent





SLACK

**The 173rd Fighter Wing**

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Governor Kate Brown

The Adjutant General  
Maj. Gen. Michael Stencil

ORANG Commander  
Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Silver

173rd Fighter Wing Commander  
Col. Jeff S. Smith

Wing Command Chief  
Chief Master Sgt. Mark McDaniel

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The Oregon Air National Guard 75th Anniversary jet flies over a cloudscape during a training sortie. The unique paint scheme commemorates that anniversary as well as the 20 years that have passed since Kingsley Field became the 173rd Fighter Wing and will remain painted this way for one year. (Photo courtesy Jim "Hazy" Haseltine, HIGH-G Productions)

