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Two AT sites Classes, exercise hone skills

PORTLAND—For annual training this year, the 244th Combat Communications Squadron and Flight, Oregon Air National Guard here, honed its skills at two locations.

Part of the group traveled to Camp Rilea for two weeks of basic communications training and practice. Classes, conducted by unit personnel, were held in maintenance and communications operations, as well as cardio-pulmonary resuscitation training and a combat communications readiness course.

"It was academic training," said a unit spokesman. "In the morning we went to classrooms; in the afternoon we applied what we learned."

Heading south to a Brave Shield exercise in the southern Nevada-California area were 26 members of the squadron and flight, hand-picked for their journeyman-level skills, said Major Keith Hallmark.

Brave Shield was conducted over 642,000 acres, 38 miles southeast of Barstow, Calif. More than 23,000 reserve and active duty people from 14 bases in 11 states took part.

The squadron and flight provided communications for the opposing forces headquarters.

A convoy of 64 vehicles traveled 168,000 miles with no major breakdowns, said Hallmark.