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The Daily Astorian — KARL MAASDAM  
Deborah Lee, left, assistant secretary of defense in charge of reserve forces shakes hand with a member of the 224th Combat Communications Squadron Tuesday afternoon at Camp Rilea in Warrenton.

## Defense official visits Rilea training

### *Air Guard, National Guard, U.S. Air Force train together*

By CATHY PETERSON  
Of The Daily Astorian

Eagle Strike '94, a 10-day Air National Guard annual field training exercise, wraps up this week at Camp Rilea.

The exercise, which was coordinated and directed by the 224th Combat Communications Squadron based in Portland, marks the first time that the Air National Guard, U.S. Air Force and Army National Guard personnel have trained together in a field environment.

More than 300 people have attended classes and participated in exercises on everything from fiber optics to chemical warfare since the training started last week. Camp Rilea staff have hosted people from 17 organizations nationwide and as far away as Puerto Rico.

Peter Harris, a captain with the 224th, said the squadron worked on the exercise for months before the soldiers took the Camp Rilea grounds last week. He described the exercise, with its 60-plus classes offered, as a "small college."

"We hope this will be emulated elsewhere," he said.

Trainees have taken some time to have fun as well as work, Harris said. Saturday was Family Day and a team from the 224th participated in the Hood to Coast Relay.

Tuesday brought another event to Camp Rilea: a visit from Deborah Lee, the assistant secretary of defense in charge of reserve forces. Lee and her traveling party touched down briefly during the exercise to tour the installation. She reports to Secretary of Defense William Perry and has overall responsibility for the National Guard and reserve forces.

Lee called the Eagle Strike '94 exercise and others like it "very important opportunities for hands-on training."

She said that although defense funding was uncertain, the Clinton administration stood firm on providing money for training and centers such as Camp Rilea. Weapons would be taken out of budgets before people, Lee said.

"Money in the defense arena is tight," she said. "I would say, in terms of readiness, that training dollars remain firm."



TSgt. Bruce Brunstead, 244th Combat Communications Squadron, welcomes Under Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Deborah Lee to Eagle Strike '94.

Photo by MSgt. Kenneth R. Graves

# Eagle Strike '94:

## A college for combat communicators

*"It was amazing how these people from all over the country were brought together to train as combat communicators,"*

-- CM Sgt. Ron Lamberton



Photo by Maj. Rick Rouse

Master Sergeants Jim Gotcher and Robert Kehler erect a TSSR wide band radio for ground telephone communications.

**By Capt. Mike Allegre**

*142nd PG Public Affairs Officer*

It was like a college campus when nearly 300 traditional guard members, federal technicians, and active duty combat communicators from 17 units converged on Camp Rilea Aug. 23. They were there to attend class—literally.

Chief Master Sgt. Ron Lamberton, 244th Combat Communications Squadron, had a vision to train members in his unit and others and share information. The result was the development of "Eagle Strike '94"—a school house, featuring 35 different courses, combined with a hands-on training scenario.

"It was amazing how these people from all over the country were brought together to train as combat communicators," Lamberton said.

With all the new "digital" communications equipment units are receiving, training for that equipment has been limited and no one knew how to get it. By combining the resources of many units who associate directly and indirectly with each other, training classes were established and course outlines were developed.

Some of the state-of-the-art equipment used included: satellite, wide band and high frequency systems, message distribution terminals, telephone switches, and system control units.

Lamberton said instructors for all the different courses were drawn from active duty and Air National Guard units, and everyone received a class schedule. The occasion provided a time to sharpen technical skills while sharing experiences and making new friends.

"It was like signing up for college courses. You picked the training you needed and you were assigned classes for one week, sort of like an intense course of study you might receive at a college without getting the college credits," he said.

The courses were all geared to "combat comm" needs with everything from switchboard and radio training to schooling on message processing and satellite uplinking. There were four phases of training: load, deploy and setup; classroom and hands-communication systems operations; and redeployment.

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EAGLE, page 3.

# EANGUS national conference lands in Portland

SrA. Matt Rabe

2nd PG Public Affairs

Portland was the site of the 23rd Annual Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States National Conference (EANGUS), August 28-31.

More than 1,200 people, including current and retired National Guard members and spouses, flocked to the Beaver State to take part in the festivities and important business that is part of the annual gathering.

Retired Army Sergeant Major Howard Palmer, chairman of this year's conference, said the event was a huge success.

"The people who were either volunteers or agreed to take over other people's positions of responsibility just did an outstanding job," Palmer acknowledged.

"There are 23 committees that are involved in a conference like this. I took those 23 and broke them up into four groups, which made it a little easier to control," he added. "I can't say enough what a great job the 150 volunteers did. I owe them a great deal of gratitude."



The conference began Sunday with state delegates and attendees arriving by military airlift and by car. The actual "kick-off" was not until Monday morning.

"We had a big picnic over at Vancouver Barracks on Sunday. Everyone in our geographic area (California, Washington, Idaho, Hawaii) helped with that," said Palmer. "We had barbecue, salmon, bluegrass music and an Indian dance group from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. It was a well planned event."

The rest of the time included touring the sights, a hospitality night where attendees

could mingle with members from other states and test their "native" cuisine's, and voting on resolutions to be delivered to Congress.

"There was also the voting in of new officers," Palmer added. "It happens every other year."

The conference ended with an all-states banquet.

"It's very formal. Everyone gets dressed up," he noted. "Everyone enjoys themselves."

A conference of this magnitude attracts VIPs. This year's honored guests included: Under Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Deborah Lee; Maj. Gen. Edward D. Baca, Director, National Guard Bureau; Cheryl Bowen, Executive Director for Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve; Maj. Gen. John R. D' Araujo Jr., Director, Army National Guard; Brig. Gen. Paul A. Weaver, Deputy Director, Air National Guard; and Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Oregon's Adjutant General.

Next year's EANGUS conference is scheduled to be held in Orlando, Fla.

## EAGLE: Event draws nearly 300

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Lamberton, an Air Guard member for 39 years, said once other units heard of Eagle Strike the numbers of those wanting to participate went from 80 to almost 300. He added that the comments he and other unit coordinators got back since the training have been tremendous.

It was college campus with field conditions, said TSgt. Mike Fitzgerald, 244th CBCS.

"I'm a refrigeration person who was released to go to courses. I learned how to measure the resistance for electricity in different types of soil to learn the proper placement of rods for grounding mobile units. Different soils have different electrical resistance values, so if you don't place them properly there may be an accident.

Staff Sgt. Judy Riley, 244th CBCS, said even as a unit cook, it was exciting.

"It was a challenge because of some varying diet requirements with vegetarians. We were also cooking off the Army's 14-day menu, which was interesting."

The training also drew the attention of dignitaries from the Pentagon too. Under Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Deborah Lee, was escorted on a tour by Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, the Oregon Adjutant General. Lee was in Oregon attending the EANGUS National Conference.

Other units involved in Eagle Strike included: Oregon's 104th and 116th Air Control Squadrons; 272nd CBCS; 242 CBCS from Spokane, Wash.; 143rd CBCS, Seattle; 256th CBCS and 173rd MSF, Camp

Murray, Wash.; 62nd LG, McChord AFB, Wash.; 105th ACS, Cheney, Wash.; 262nd CBCS, Bellingham, Wash.; 31st CBCS, Tinker AFB, Okla.; 141st ACS, Puerto Rico; 27th CS, Cannon AFB, N.M.; 141st Security Police Sq., Fairchild AFB, Wash.; and the 106th and 109th ACSs, Salt Lake City, Utah.

As the operations superintendent for Eagle Strike, Lamberton was not alone in the planning process. He said SMSgt. Gary Chandler, and Master Sergeants Vern Esty, Don MacAdams, Scott O'Neil, and Greg Wood deserve plenty of credit for their efforts.

"People really received some quality training, and these guys really worked to make it happen."



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## 244th runners go the distance

By Capt. Mike Allegre  
142nd FG Public Affairs Officer

Right in the middle of their unit's annual training period, 12 gutsy runners from the 244th Combat Communications Squadron (CBCS) at Portland Air Base teamed up to complete the 193 miles of the annual Hood to Coast Relay, Aug. 27-28.

Team "Dic Quando Et Ubi" turned in a time of 30 hours, 15 minutes and 22 seconds running in the men's corporate open class during the annual trek from Timberline Lodge to Seaside.

With permission from their commander, Lt. Col. Wayne Green, the runners and four drivers exited their training, competed at the two-day race, and then returned to complete their two-week commitment at Camp Rilea. This was the second consecutive year the 244th CBCS entered a team.

"We were dedicated to the run as a team and we turned in a decent time, so we're pleased," said team captain, SrA. Bonny Sandy. "We'll be even better next year."

Each member ran three legs of the race ranging from 3.6 to 7.1 miles in length. Staff Sergeants Dave Bartlett and Mike Steffi averaged the fastest team times per mile with at 7:21 and 8:36 respectively.



Photo by Garry Brown

**Hood to Coast Relay Team Dic Quando Et Ubi:** (Front row) Staff Sergeants Teresa Whalen and Judy Riley, 1st Lt. Joel Oren, 2nd Lt. Wesley Risher, and SSgt. Dave Bartlett. (Back row) Senior Airmen Ted Steffan and Bonny Sandy, Bob Connors, Staff Sergeants Russell Fay and Mike Steffi, and SrA. Marcus Rowley. Capt. John Peterson was not available for the team photo.

The team name is also the unit's motto, which is from the Latin meaning "When and Where."

"Not only are these airmen committed to our unit, they're also committed as a team to a goal," said Lt. Col. Green. "I'm very proud of their efforts and for their achievement."

Sandy said all team members contributed to their success. Other runners included: Capt. John Peterson; 1st Lt. Joel

Oren; 2nd Lt. Wes Risher; Staff Sergeants Russell Fay, Mike Steffi, Judy Riley, and Teresa Whalen; Senior Airmen Marcus Rowley and Ted Steffan, and Mr. Bob Connors.

Sandy also gave credit to a host of volunteers and four team drivers: Master Sergeants Vern Esty and Conrad Spens, TSgt. Dennis Rose and SSgt. Jack Read. "These people and the support of the entire 244th really made it all happen for us," she said.

## Race Walkers dominate local races

By Capt. Mike Allegre  
142nd FG Public Affairs Officer

You see them racing and you may wonder — how do they walk, er... run like that?

Couple a long stride with a focused heel-toe step, add a little speed and you are race walking.

While the racers appear to be going nowhere real fast, the exertion and competition involved is tremendous, according to MSgt. Jerry Ford, 142nd Maintenance Squadron (MXS). Ford captains the unit's race walk team, the "Eagle Striders" and the group has already made a dominant impression on other local competitors.

The Striders have won their last two team races in convincing fashion. They were second in the grueling Portland to Coast walk, which is part of the annual Hood

to Coast Relay.

In July, the Striders completed the 100 miles between Tenino and Ocean Shores, Wash., in the Rainier to Pacific race with a total time of 18 hours, 16 minutes. They finished 10 minutes ahead of the second place team, the Northwest Race Walkers, and over two and-one-half hours ahead of last year's champions. Team members raced three legs of varying distances from 3 to 7.4 miles.

"This team is a competitive team. We train all year round and want to work out. We keep getting better," Ford said, "and each of us have roles on the team. We race well together."

During the Portland to Coast race, Aug. 27-28, the Striders got out of the blocks first and lead most of the way. They set the pace for all 120 teams and pulled away at the end.

In Seaside, Ford broke the tape first with a team time of 22:54. That was two minutes faster than last year's second place finish, even though the course was three miles longer.

The race was gratifying for the team, but for Ford in particular.

"I passed and beat, John Hanan, the guy who's my race walk mentor, down the stretch in that one," he said smiling. Hanan captains the Northwest Race Walkers team.

"We also had to replace two team members the day before the race because of illness. Staff Sgt. Jeanne Saxton came in the last minute and raced in the hottest part of the day and did a wonderful job. Keith Shannon took a fall that ended up being a forward body roll. He never lost stride."

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RACE WALK, page 5.