



OREGON ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
641ST MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION
1921 TURNER ROAD SE
SALEM, OREGON 97302-2099

1) **Unit Identification:**

- a. Dated 23 May 1972, following federally recognized unit REORGANIZED, REDESIGNATED, AND CONVERTED. New Unit - 1042nd Avn Co. (Surveillance Airplane) WTNOAA. Old Unit 1042nd Med. Det (Hel Amb) WTDBAA. Station and Federal recognition date - Salem, Oregon on 15 Sep 1971. MTOE and date - 1-128NG02 on 01 Jun 1972.
- b. Dated 01 April 1973, 1042nd Aviation Company (Surveillance Airplane) was REORGANIZED, AND REDESIGNATED the 1042nd Military Intelligence Company (Aerial Surveillance), or 1042nd MICAS.
- c. Dated 01 Sept 1982, 1042nd Military Intelligence Company (Aerial Surveillance), or 1042nd MICAS was REORGANIZED, AND REDESIGNATED the 641st Military Intelligence Battalion (Aerial Exploitation). The new Battalion was authorized 26 Officers, 13 Warrant Officers and 212 Enlisted Personnel in a Headquarters Headquarters and Service Company and Company A. Detachment 3 3rd Squadron 116th Armored Cavalry was attached for administration and logistical support.
- d. Dated 01 Aug 1985, 1042nd Military Intelligence Battalion (Aerial Exploitation) was REORGANIZED, AND REDESIGNATED the 641st Military Intelligence Battalion (CEWI Aerial Exploitation). MTOE and DATE: 34-145 JNH01, CCNUM: NGO185, Prep Date 841215. Station and Federal recognition date: Salem, OR 97302, 01 AUG 1985.

2) **Headquarters Location:**

Army Aviation Support Facility
Salem Airport
1921 Turner Road SE
Salem, Oregon 97302-2099

3) **How organized (TOE number, etc.).**

641ST MI BN (CEWI Aerial Exploitation) WVOYAA
Salem, OR 97302-2099
34-145 JNH01; CCNUM: NGO186
Prep Date: 841215

4) **Type of Aircraft utilized:**

Grumman OV-1 Aircraft.

Models used: OV-1B, OV-1 SHORT WING C, OV-1C, AND OV-1D

Surveillance Equipment used: AAS-14/ and AAS-24 Infrared Scanning

Cameras

APS-94 Side-looking Airborne Radar

Still picture Cameras: KA-76 and 30 Belly Cameras

KA-60C Panoramic Nose &
Belly Cameras.

Modified Air force: Fairchild KC-1 High altitude
Camera. 9" X 9" format.

5) **Memorable Missions:**

With only two years of training and more training, the 1042nd MI Company's training year of 1975 would prove to be the commencement of a 23 year love of intelligence gathering for Military and Civilian agency's.

A) The 1975 training year produced a large variety of programs and exercises. The unit at that time had obtained a full company of personnel, aircraft, surveillance systems/and maintenance test equipment. The year began in March from 2nd thru 16th, and again on April 12th thru 26th with two OV-1 aircraft and 15 personnel supporting the 9th Infantry Division at Yakima, Washington. Complete Photo and IR coverage was provided.

From the 10th thru the 24th of May the 1042nd supported a large exercise with the 4th

B) Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado. Complete Photo, IR, and SLAR were utilized. A 8 person maintenance and imagery interpretation team was deployed to Fort Carson in support of the aircraft. Following the exercise (7 days), the aircraft and support crew were flown to Fresno, California to support the California National Guard for six days in various types of photo support.

C) From 31 May thru 14 June 1975, the unit deployed six OV-1 aircraft, a complete photo lab, TKQ-2 ground sensor terminal, aircraft support equipment, and 85 personnel to Calgary Alberta Canada in support of HQ 1st Combat Group Canadian Armed Forces "WAINCON - 75". The exercise involved all the capabilities of the OV-1 Surveillance systems. The maintenance and electronic support was based at Cold Lake Air Base, Canada, approximately 100 miles north of Fort Wainwright, Canada, where the operation and imagery interpretation section were operating. An un-improved hard surface airstrip.

D) This was the first time that the OV-1 surveillance capabilities were ever used in a combined Joint Canadian exercise. A total of 280 aircraft flight hours were flown in this very successful training mission.

E) July 09 thru 23rd began for the 2nd year sending 2 OV-1 aircraft and fifteen personnel to Gowen Training Center, Boise, Idaho. This in support of the 20th Special Forces

Airborne operations. Primary mission were completed photo and IR coverage throughout the exercise.

- F) August 02 thru 16th started support of the 41st Infantry Brigade, Army National Guard in many locations within the State of Oregon and Fort Lewis, Washington. This mission was then shifted to Gowen Training Center, Boise, Idaho. In support of the 116th ARMD CAV REGT summer training program from August 16 thru the 30th.
- G) September 17th thru 25th was support to the 4th Infantry Division Fort Carson, Colorado. The primary mission support was 24 hour Photo and IR coverage.

As a results of the 1975 training year, the 1042nd effort to become the best in all area's was presented the 1) Army Aviation Association of America's top reserve aviation unit award. 2) The State of Oregon's top Army National Guard unit award the Eisenhower Trophy. 3) The US Army superior unit awards for reserve units that meet or exceed active Army unit standards. The receipt of so many major awards by a single unit may be unprecedented, but then so is the unit's use of its aircraft. None of the nation's other National Guard and active Army Mohawk units have managed to accomplish as much, according to National Guard and Army spokesmen.

The 1976 training year was a continuation of the above listed projects and supported agencies. The major project was the deployment and a tactical movement of the entire unit from Salem, Oregon to Klamath Falls, Oregon, Air Force Complex for a two week Annual Training Program. This project included packing and loading of all the unit's TOE equipment and 21 OV-1 aircraft, and a tactical convoy of 234 miles one way, unloading equipment and setting up a full 24 hour tactical operation. The unit worked against their assigned ARTEP, and was awarded as outstanding rating from the Fort Huachuca, Arizona evaluators.

- During the 1970's and early 1980's the 1042nd/641st MI BN was also involved in several projects for Federal, State and Local Agency's. One of which utilized the AAS-14 and 24 Infrared scanner system with the US Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry monitoring forest fire activity, and then providing the fire crews with the mapping results.
- Locating downed aircraft for the Oregon Bureau of Aeronautics.
- Monitor volcanic activity on Mount Baker and Mount St. Helens under the direction of the University of Washington Geophysics program and the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.
- Detect crop diseases and monitor coastal erosion under the direction of Oregon State University.
- Detect inactive mines made of new materials placed in known locations, throughout the seasons of the year by direction of the Federal Government. Using the AAS-24 Infrared system.

- Determine the extent of floods on behalf of soil and water conservation districts and emergency service agencies.
- Photograph Ice jams and ocean kelp beds for the Corps of Engineers.
- Locate geothermal activity areas at the request of the bureau of Land Management and other government agencies.
Locate fault areas along the Oregon coastal zone for use in land use planning
- By the direction of the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) monitor the mouth of the Columbia River at Astoria, Oregon for current and wave action at different tides for a one year period using Side Looking Airborne Radar (SLAR).
- As directed by the US Coast Guard and in conjunction with, fly SLAR along the coast at certain times and locations for possible intercept of drug traffic, locating feeder boats returning to shore from the mother ship at sea.

MOUNT ST. HELENS

As a result of continued aerial surveillance activity by the 1042nd MI Co. at the request of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, a sharp increase in the thermal activity in the crater area of Mount St. Helens was observed at 0530 on Sunday, May 18. An increased number of hot spots were noted on the "Boot" and in the bulge area which had been swelling at a rate of about 5ft per day since mid-April. However, just as the thermograph (IR) recording film was being developed, information was received that a passing aircraft had witnessed an explosive eruption at 0830.

The first of four day-time photo missions was launched from Salem. Two SLAR missions were launched as well. Initial report indicated that the top of the mountain had been lowered from the old elevation of 9,677ft to about the 8,300 ft level. The SLAR missions which were able to see through the giant plume of ash, which revealed the crater. This yielded the first measurement of the full dimensions of the explosion crater: 2.2 mi. in length from south to north and 1.1 mi. in width. Nearly a cubic mile of mountain was gone. Today the elevation of Mount St. Helens is 8,365 ft.

Several hundred hours of flight time have been flown prior to and after the eruption, using all of the OV-1's sensor equipment.

GALLANT EAGLE "80" & "82"—NELLIS AFB, NEVADA

The training years of 1980 and 1982 was a continuation of some of the above mentioned projects and supported agencies. However the major mission was the deployment and a tactical movement to Nellis Air Force Base (AFB), Nevada. This project included packing and loading of all the unit's TOE equipment and tactical convoy to Nellis AFB which consisted of miles one way. Unloading equipment and setting up a full 24 hour

tactical operation. The Gallant Eagle exercise was a joint exercise which tasks each participating services, ground and air, to meet the challenges of air space control, communications, and utilizing the time to meet the challenge tasked. The 1042nd was able to use all of it's surveillance equipment during the time frame, working with both sides of the mock war. Assisting the ground commander utilize the asset of a ground station which the 1042nd supplied with a 96H Technical Observer, and 96B Imagery analysts for the exercise.

KOREA FERRY FLIGHTS 1983, 1984, 1988

1983 began a project which supported the Active Army at Pyongyang, Korea. Because of the 24 hour mission and a shortage of air crews, the 1042nd was tasked to meet the challenge of Ferrying OV-1 Mohawk aircraft from Pyongyang, Korea to Stuart, Florida the Grumman Aircraft facility, and Stuart, FL to Pyongyang Korea or Camp Humphry.

- 1) Stuart, FL to Pyongyang Korea - 03 MAR - 20 APR 1983/ 3 Aircraft
- 2) Pyongyang Korea to Stuart, FL - 10 NOV - 24 DEC 1983/ 3 Aircraft
- 3) Stuart, FL to Pyongyang Korea - 01 APR - 16 MAY 1984/ 5 Aircraft
- 4) Pyongyang Korea to Stuart, FL - 28 JUL - 13 SEP 1984/ 2 Aircraft
- 5) Stuart, FL to Pyongyang Korea - 10 JAN - 18 FEB 1988/ 3 Aircraft

Many feel that these trips were just a vacation, but I can tell you that each day often times was grueling, days filled with drastic temperature changes and continued maintenance to keep the mission on a critical time schedule. The route of the flight is as follows from Stuart, FL: Andrews AFB, MD; Pease AFB, NH; Goose Bay, NFLD; Sondrestrom AB, GNLD; Keflavik, ICLND; Prestwick, SCTLND; Stuttgart or Wiesbaden, GE; Aviano AB, IT; Hellenikon AB, Athens Greece; Cairo, EG; Jeddah, SA; Bahrain, OBBI; Karachi, PA; Bombay, IN; Calcutta, IN; Bangkok, TH; Paya Leber, Singapore; Brunei, WBSB; Clark AFB, PI; Kadena AB, OK; Pyongyang, Korea.

NORTH ISLAND NAVAL AIR STATION, SAN DIEGO, CA. 3 years

The 641st MI BN (SEWI) spent three Annual Training periods beginning in 1987 and continuing through 1988 and 1989. This was the high light of the 641st training and service to the United States. All three Annual Training Periods allowed the unit to surpass their past history. Working with a joint command set in place by the President of the United States called NIMBUS

6) Names of former Commanders

Beginning with the first commander in 1971 ascending:
1042nd Avn Co.

Major Richard L. Johnson June 1971 – February 1973

1042nd Avn Co. (Surveillance Airplane)

Major William J. Gottlieb	March 1973 – July 1973
Major Loren W. Franke	July 1973 – September 1977
Major Leonard A. Kauffman	September 1977 – January 1978
Major James Murphy	January 1978 – September 1980
Major Steve Hammons	September 1980 –

Attwood

641st MI BN COMMANDERS

COL Loren W. Franke	August 1985 – July 1987
COL Richard P. Wolfe	August 1987 – July 1991
COL Ronald Rende	August 1991 – March 1993
LTC Lauran B. Paine	March 1993 – June 1994

7) Brief narrative:

8) Any other comment of historical note: