



Oregon Defenders

Part 1: ANG F-15s and AFRC KC-135Rs

With one of the most diverse landscapes in the US, Oregon borders the Pacific Ocean, California, Washington, Idaho, and Nevada. It is well known for its tall, dense forests, mountains and its accessible, scenic Pacific coastline, while other areas include the semi-arid scrublands, prairies and deserts that cover approximately half the state in the eastern and north-central regions. As of 2005, Oregon had a population of well over 3.6 million and continues to grow rapidly. The state of Oregon is also home to two Air National Guard F-15 Eagle wings and one Air Force Reserve Command Air Refueling Wing flying the KC-135 Stratotanker.

With its history dating back to 1843, the Oregon Army National Guard provides the citizens of the State of Oregon and the United States with a ready force of citizen soldiers and airmen, equipped and trained to respond to any contingency, natural or man-made. With a total of 46 armories it has a presence in 37 communities, while on the aviation side it has a Medical Company operating the UH-60L Blackhawk and a detachment flying the CH-47D Chinook heavylift helicopter. Fixed-wing assets are represented by the C-23B Sherpa and C-12. The local RAID unit operates the OH-58C Kiowa as part of the

counter-drug programme, supporting law enforcement agencies throughout the state in their war against drugs.

The Oregon National Guard and the local Air Force Reserve wing have been encountering a number of challenges, from deployments and redeployments, response to natural disasters, BRAC, recruiting, operational readiness inspections and the necessary transformation efforts, but with dozens of airmen deployed around the world and nearly 1,000 soldiers on the ground between Afghanistan and Kuwait, Oregon's military have raised to the challenge and every day prove their worth.

142nd Fighter Wing

Home of the Fightin' Redhawks

Oregon is the only US state with two Air National Guard F-15 Eagle wings based on its soil, and with nearly 1,000 airmen supported by some 110 civilians, the 'Redhawks' of the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing (FW) represent an important component of the US military's total force and the nation's air defence.

Its current mission is to provide continuous air defence and air superiority capabilities to the

Pacific Northwest, provide federal augmentation in support of National Security Objectives, and response to state and local contingencies. As part of Air Combat Command (ACC) and the North American Air Defense System (NORAD), it is the 142nd that provides air defence to the Pacific Northwest, covering a vast area from northern California to the Canadian border on a 24-hour alert.

The homeland defence mission is evident with the wing's continued involvement in Operation Noble Eagle, while the unit is also a vital asset to Air Combat Command and Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) structures. It also supports drug interdiction, European Air Defense and contingency operations where needed. Unit members participated in deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the wing is fully integrated into the Total Force – Air Expeditionary Forces 9 and 10.

In peacetime, 142nd FW commander Colonel Steven D. Gregg reports to the Oregon Air National Guard commander, Brigadier General Daniel B. O'Hollaren, who from his headquarters at Salem has the overall responsibility for the organisation, training and equipment of two flying