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19 March 2015

ATTN: Representative John Lively  
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Services  
RE: HB 2428

**ORSDF Information & Relationships**

- 1. Relationships with City and County Emergency Managers**
  
- 2. AOR, (Area of Responsibility) as former Commander of the 162BN Eugene/Springfield**
  
- 3. Counties Served, Linn, Lane, Benton, Polk and Marion**
  
- 4. Monthly EMAC ( Emergency Management Advisory Council)**
  
- 5. Response and Support of Mission**
  
- 6. Training and Table Top and Field exercises.**

**Testimony before Oregon State Legislature  
Veterans & Emergency Preparedness Committee  
19 March 2015 @ 1300**

**Lineage of the Oregon State Defense Force**

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**- Pre 1900**

**- 1900/1945**

**- 1950/1953**

**- 1961/1968**

**- 1971/1983**

**-1989/2014**

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**Training & Participation**

**- Liaison Officer Program**

**- FEMA Courses**

**- Exercise Participation**

**- Actual events**

## **SDF 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Engineering Projects 2002 - 2007**

### **Camp Rilea**

- Surveying
  - Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Trail location
    - Including areas outside of Camp Rilea
- Engineering
  - Firing-Range upgrades

### **Biak Training Center (east of Redmond airport)**

- Surveying
  - Troop Field Exercise sites
  - Bailey Bridge training sites
- Engineering
  - Firing Range upgrades
  - Interior laser-based firearms training simulator
  - Exterior laser triggered range targets
    - Safety and cost effective
    - No live ammo

### **Boardman Bombing Range**

- Surveying
  - Locate (rediscover) survey points

### **Estimated Professional pro bona**

- \$ 400,000 (8000 hours @ \$50 per hour)
  - Supporting team member hours not included
  - 1st Battalion Engineering Projects (Rilea) not included
    - Surveying and aerial mapping

**Note: The SDF METL (Mission Essential Task List) changed in FY 2008 to radio communications.**

## **COMMUNICATIONS 2008 - 2015**

As DCS Signal, I was responsible for setting protocol and SOP for communications, both voice and digital. This included working with the DCS, Operations and Training to insure communications training was consistent throughout the ORSDF, and supervised monthly training and quarterly exercises.

I obtained a HAM license in 1963 and currently hold an Advanced Class Amateur license, MARS – Military Auxilliary Radio Service license as the Oregon Emergency Coordinator, CERT – Community Emergency Response Team certification, First Aid, CPR, and AED certification, plus certificates of achievement in over fifteen FEMA classes.

I ensured that the ORSDF trained in all modes of communication – telephone, internet, HF/VHF radio both voice and digital allowing a Microsoft Word document to be sent from a laptop over the radio using modes like MT63, Olivia, MMSSTV and received and printed by the receiving station.

In 2006 while on SAD, ORSDF demonstrated the value of Ham radio during the Vernonia Flood. ORSDF members were able to connect Vernonia with Washington county and ORSDF HQ, providing SIT-RPTS to the JOC.

In 2013, the ORSDF semi-annual training was cancelled by the Military Department due to lack of funding. A decision was made to use our existing coms plan, but have stations operate from their home location.

Camp Withycombe acted as HQ, members provided their own radio equipment for the HQ to use and we were able to contact and pass traffic with ORSDF stations in Ashland, Medford, Roseburg, Brookings, Coos Bay, Springfield, Salem, Warrenton, Portland metro, Bend, Hermiston and La Grande.

ORSDF used an old antenna technique called a NVIS (designed and built by a volunteer member) – Near Vertical Incident Sky wave, yielding a signal which radiates straight up and back to earth in a 400-600 mile radius. We had stations not part of ORSDF checking into our exercise because it was conducted in the open on amateur HAM frequencies, from Northern Washington, across to mid Idaho and down to N California.

Also in 2013, Gen Beach, commander of the 82<sup>nd</sup> RG, visited an ORSDF staff meeting and toured the coms room. He advised he would like ORSDF to assist in an exercise he was planning to run from Camp Rilea, but was uncertain of the reliability of his SAT phone capability.

Former ORSDF members are continuing to conduct weekly nets, monthly drills and quarterly exercises to insure all corners of Oregon are covered and equipment is working as expected. Those who are MARS members are also checking into the monthly Joint Operations Center (JOC) radio test using their MARS calls as per protocol.

Imagine you are in an EOC or the JOC and you receive a completed ICS 213 form stating the Salem Hospital has just been damaged by a 9-0 earthquake and the bottom two floors have pancaked. What image goes through your mind? It will be different for each of us.

Now consider the use of MMSSTV! It is a free download which can take a HD digital photo and transmit it in 8-1/2 x 11" format to the receiving station in 2-3 minutes. Meaning that you can hand the Battle Captain in the JOC a HD photo of the actual scene of the hospital?

That's what we do, that's who we are. Prior Service Military members just wanting to give back to the state ... much like you in the Oregon Legislature.

**James Meyers – served as a Major in the ORSDF as the Deputy Chief of Staff, Signal  
Joined the military in late 1969, obtaining a Federal commssion and leaving in 1976.**

## **STATE DEFENSE FORCES (MILITIA) 1787 to 2013**

Original 13 colonies reliance on state militias for defense.  
"Ultimate Guardians of Liberty". U.S. Constitution, Article 1, 1787.

During Civil War, Union Army mostly consisted of State militias.

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Militia Act, 1903, State militias were made units of National Guard.

Home Defense Act, 1917, authorized Home Defense Forces to provide internal security when State National Guard units sent to France, WW1. 100,000 State troops. Disbanded after armistice

Congress, 1940 authorized State Guards in peacetime in anticipation of WW2 to provide security, particularly for bridges, railroads, etc. 150,000 State troops. Federal equipment provided. Disbanded 1947.

Congress (1955) authorized State Defense Forces. The Army Total Force Concept would leave States without deployed National Guard units.

National Defense Act, 1983, authorized all states to maintain permanent SDFs. NGB enacted Reg. 10-4, 2011, authorizes SDF units to joint-train with their State National Guard units, with access to federal resources.

Title 32 US Code, § 109 (Revised), 2013, defines:  
State service for Homeland Defense and Emergency Preparedness.  
Support National Guard units as force multipliers.  
No federal pay or benefits.