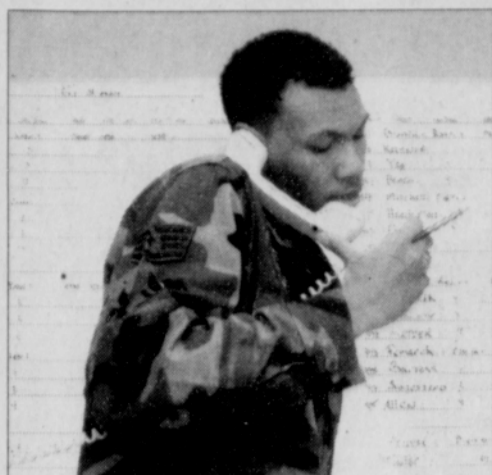


Portland Airman Tests Skills of Combat Pilots in NATO Exercise



Air Force Staff Sgt. Derrick D. Boss (left), a flight operations manager from Portland, double checks a fighter pilot's qualifications in support of a NATO exercise in Canada.



Airmen and aircraft (right) scurry during a NATO air drill in Canada. The ground crew's goal was to launch 100 aircraft twice a day for six weeks straight.

PHOTOS BY DERRICK C. GOODE

enced pilots. Teams of aggressors from Nellis Air Force Base, located outside of Las Vegas, serve as realistic adversaries against the young pilots and provide them training intended to save their lives in the early stages of real combat.

"There's a good chance that everyone flying here is going to see combat during Operation Enduring Freedom — I was sent back to North America just to prepare them," Boss said. "Not

too many people can say they do what I do."

The U.S. hosts, normally stationed near Las Vegas, have tagged high-priced resort hotel names such as 'Luxor,' 'Excalibur,' and 'Bellagio' to accommodations that range from rundown barracks to large cargo containers.

Boss and his fellow airmen are out to prove they're the best at what they do. And, for now, they've got the 'coolest' driveway in town.

Grant High grad prepares fighters for 'Operation Enduring Freedom'

By JOHN DENY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When the son of a Portland couple walks onto his driveway in this small town tucked into the middle of nowhere on the high plains of central Canada, it seems like the entire town comes out to greet him.

For Air Force Staff Sgt. Derrick D. Boss, son of Phillip and Marilyn Boss of northeast Portland, his driveway is actually a 12,000-foot runway, and the commotion that draws the locals to him is an annual NATO exercise dubbed 'Maple Flag.'

Boss was one of more than 4,000 pilots, maintenance crew members and support specialists from the U.S., Canada, Germany, England, France, Sweden and Singapore who recently converged on this Cold

Lake, Alberta, air base to test the skills of new pilots in a combat environment, simulating their first 10 hours of flying sorties over enemy territory.

Boss is a flight operations manager who is normally stationed in Japan with a front-line flying outfit known as the 67th Fighter Squadron 'Fighting Cocks.'

"I ensure people are current and qualified before each mission to ensure overall crew safety. My flight operations section is the first and last stop for all aircrew people before they fly a mission," explained the 1996 graduate of Grant High School.

American fighter units from as far away as Japan and Italy converge on this remote air base to insert their newer fighter pilots into formations with more experi-

"Smoking doesn't work in Oregon."

I remember walking out of our conference room and my eyes were literally stinging. My boss smoked, so everybody felt they had a right to light up whenever they felt like it. That was before the Oregon Smokefree Workplace Law.

Because now smoking doesn't work in Oregon. And I'm breathing a lot easier.

If you've got questions, please contact us:

Information About The Law

- Toll-free 1-866-621-6107
- www.healthoregon.org/tobacco
- Your county health department

Oregon Tobacco Quitline

- 1-877-270-STOP
- 1-877-2NO-FUME (Spanish)
- TTY: 1-877-777-6534

If you have a disability and need the material in an alternate format, call 503-731-4273 (TTY: 503-731-4031).



SMOKEFREE WORKPLACES. IT'S OREGON LAW.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Charles Jordan Speaks

continued ▲ from A4

Jordan: You and I may never see the end of it (racism) but that still doesn't take us off the hook. Continue to do all you can to eliminate any form of racism. There will be an end, perhaps four or five generations from now.

Yugen: Charles, I suppose in the short term, the race dilemma places your idea of legacy in jeopardy?

Jordan: For me legacy is a process, a healing we have to start, and somewhere down the road this place could become heaven on earth. Legacy isn't a product, it's a process. Legacy is when your grandson can say 'My papa helped lay the foundation, my uncle helped build the walls. Now its up to you and I to put the roof on the building.' So that is what I try to do: Redefine legacy.

NEW SEASONS MARKET



Hurry!

BEFORE IT MELTS

Frozen Dessert Tasting
Saturday & Sunday
11:00am-5:00pm

The friendliest store in town.

EASY & FUN TO SHOP • LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

CONCORDIA
NE 33rd & Killingsworth
Portland OR 97211
503.288.3838
Open 8am-10pm

ORENCO STATION
NE 61st & Cornell Rd.
Hillsboro OR 97124
503.648.6968
Open 8am-10pm

RALEIGH HILLS
7300 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy.
Portland OR 97225
503.292.6838
Open 8am-9pm

SELLWOOD
1214 SE Tacoma
Portland OR 97202
503.230.4949
Open 8am-10pm