



Col. Garry Dean stands next to an Air National Guard fighter jet.

## Air Guard Commander

continued ▲ from Front

tage of the things you have control over," Dean said. "Sometimes that means not going to a party."

Dean has logged over 4,000 hours flying military aircraft and has earned many awards and decorations.

He said flying jets is exhilarating, but also a tricky business.

"We're so focused on our missions," he explained. "Half a second in our business can mean the difference between life and death."

The F-15 is a single-pilot airplane. The jet's fliers are said to possess a "perishable skill."

The profession is very tough, but Dean says, "There's a lot of teamwork and camaraderie."

Dean often talks to youth, inspired by his story, that want to become pilots themselves, but are overwhelmed with the perceived complexity of the job.

"You've got a hundred buttons in the jet's cockpit, but you're looking from the outside in. There will be training. One step at a time, that's what I tell kids, as you learn, it all comes together."

Integrity is also essential to the process.

"Be truthful and honest," Dean advises aspiring pilots, "I'd be scared if I cheated."

For a tough flying pilot and well-respected base commander, Dean remains approachable. He flashes a friendly smile with ease, and maintains a positive sense of humor. He is a man that has happily found himself and his identity through service to the community.

A self-described Christian, Dean says that helping people is his personal goal.

"This is what I'm supposed to be doing. I feel that spiritually," Dean said.

Dean's schedule is hectic. In addition to base duties over 8 days a month, Dean tallies 14 days a month as a pilot for Delta Airlines, flying first officer on a MD-11.

To achieve this level of success, Dean says it is important to get outside the comfort zone. "Doing things you don't necessarily want to do, that's where real growth takes place," he said. "What you put into it is what you get out of it."

## Sept. 11 Tested Portland Fighter Pilots

continued ▲ from Front

path. A discrepancy between the pilot and air traffic controllers proved to be the problem. The passenger jet was escorted to a safe landing by the Portland-based F-15's in Vancouver B.C.

But the range of the air wing's mission extends worldwide.

Presidential orders have deployed local pilots more than once to the Middle East.

The wing was fired on by enemy artillery as part of "Southern

Watch," patrolling the no fly zone over southern Iraq.

Dean described the mission as "just a part of the business."

The base commander says the core and strength of the National Guard lies in being "community based".

He says today's guard is not the closed-door society of the 50s, 60s, and 70s.

He said the military service is becoming more diverse, citing Lt. Gen. Daniel James III, an African American commander who holds

the guard's highest rank.

"Increasing the diversity of the unit will make us stronger," Dean said.

He said the guard is also trying to take the lead with more women in command positions.

"Nobody here will pull you down," Dean said. "Here, we will tell you, you can do it. If you're willing to make the sacrifice, we will make you successful."

"What I have isn't for me, it's for sharing with people," Dean adds, "I feel I was put here for a reason."

## Slavery Compensation Called Long Overdue

Every other group has been compensated for the wrongs done against them. Africans in America — we are the only ones who haven't.

—Jaki Mungai

continued ▲ from Front

The reparations movement has gained momentum in the past year.

Earlier this year, a group of slave descendants sued three companies, claiming the companies — or their corporate predecessors — unjustly profited from slavery.

The Reparations Coordinating Committee, which includes many prominent attorneys and scholars, is working on a separate lawsuit against the federal government.

Those at the rally said it was time for action.

"They owe us. I want justice," said Antoinette Harrell-Miller, who drove 19 hours from New Orleans with her husband Dennis to attend. "They

built this country off the free labor of our ancestors."

Jaki Mungai of Philadelphia called the rally "a dream that's starting to come true."

"Every other group has been compensated for the wrongs done against them. Africans in America — we are the only ones who haven't," said Mungai, who heard about the rally on the radio and decided to join in.

Ken McDouall of Durham, N.C., one of a handful of whites at the rally, said the reparations issue "cuts to the core of the history of injustice of America."

"America likes to pretend there are equal rights for everyone but look at the history of black people," McDouall said.

## State Fair Displays September 11 Wreckage

Gnarled metal provides context to terrorist attacks

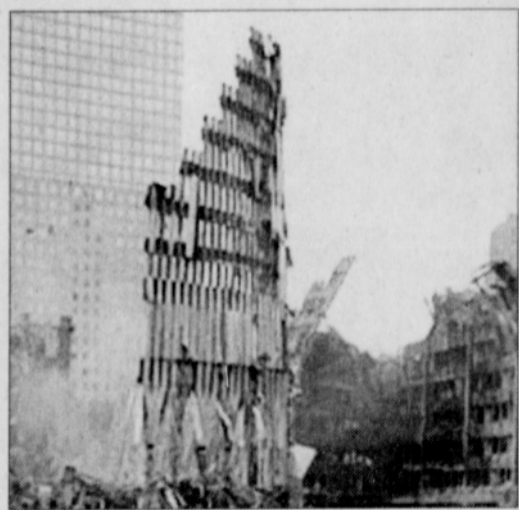
(AP) — Visitors at the Oregon State Fair in Salem will have an opportunity to touch wreckage from the World Trade Center and Pentagon at a hands-on memorial put together by several local fire districts.

A mass of metal gnarled by heat and destruction is the memorial's centerpiece, to be mounted on a trailer for better mobility. Additional features include art work and removable display panels providing context to the wreckage and the names of all of the victims.

Lt. Bill O'Neil of the Marion County Fire District No. 1 spearheaded the effort to make the memorial, raising about \$10,000 in cash and in-kind donations.

"People will be able to touch the wreckage, but they won't be able to walk away with it," O'Neil said. "They'll be able to see it from all angles and see all the pieces."

He drove cross-country in June with fellow



firefighters Gert Zoutendijk of the Lake Oswego Fire Department and Bob Hammer, a retired member of the Salem Fire Department, to pick up the salvaged steel.

In the weeks since their return, O'Neil and Hammer, along with Ron Rosgen of Marion County Fire District No. 1, have been welding, grinding, cutting and shaping the wreckage at a shop outside Salem.

"There are no projects that are as emotional as this," Hammer said.

After the fair, the memorial is scheduled to be displayed in Portland at Lloyd Center mall for a few weeks. Eventually it will be on permanent display at the firefighters Regional Training Facility in Brooks.

The firefighters were granted rights to the Ground Zero wreckage after agreeing to the conditions that the material not be used for personal profit or in a manner that is disrespectful, O'Neil said.

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