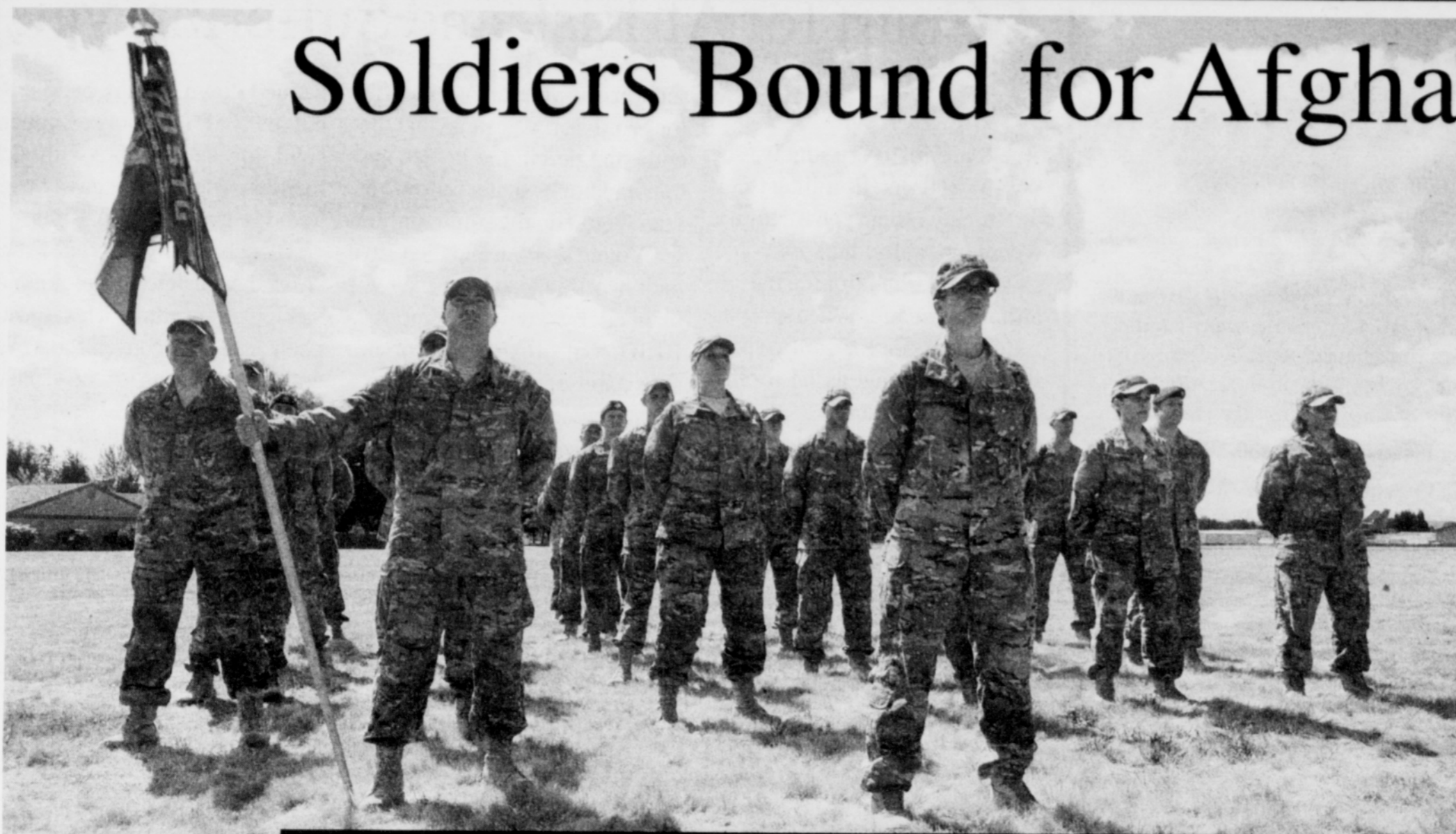


# Soldiers Bound for Afghanistan



Members of Oregon Air National guard's 125th Special tactics Squadron stand in formation during a change of command and mobilization ceremony last August at the Portland Air National Guard Base.

This fall, 30 or so members of the Oregon Air National Guard's 125th Special Tactics Squadron is deploying to Afghanistan for a 6-month rotation.

This is the first large deployment of the unit since it was formed in 2005. In the past, smaller groups of the squadron have dropped into war zones and worked on search-and-rescue operations.

Members are trained as combat drivers, parachutists and special operations weathermen.

## Public Housing Waiting Lists Open

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those who encounter barriers to housing, and to assure that people of the community are sheltered.

The waiting lists, said Marchesi, only become open when the wait time, which can be up to seven years, drops to a year or less. "It varies, but this typically happens once, maybe twice, a year," she said. "That is one reason we want folks to be aware of this because it doesn't happen very often."

She said, however, whenever the economy is in a challenging state the need for affordable housing increases. "It is an unmet need," she said. "We don't have enough housing that is affordable for everyone in the community."

Many challenges often arise for people who are a fixed income, including many senior citizens who survive on social security, she said. "That is not enough money to afford a market rent price. Also, if you have a limited income, it is very unlikely you will find an apartment that is affordable for you out in the open market."

Marchesi explained affordable housing is truly meant to help those who have limited income, and want to find a home that is affordable to those incomes. As a general rule, she said, no one should be paying more than 30 percent of your income because it makes it much harder to pay for basic needs, like food or childcare.

"Someone paying half of their

income towards rent is considered 'rent burdened,'" she said. "And they would have issues affording very basic and necessary things of life."

She said this is why the opening of the waiting list is such an important progression for people to be able to have access to rent they can afford. "If they are a senior or have a disability, this is a great opportunity for them to get on a waiting list for housing that is affordable," she said. "Most live on fixed incomes, and those are often really very low fixed incomes."

Home Forward, which is a public corporation governed by a nine-member citizen commission, serves all of Multnomah County, including the cities of Portland, Gresham, Fairview and Troutdale and other East County communities.

Applications for the waiting lists will be available at the individual apartment leasing offices during the dates of the opening and can be downloaded from the Home Forward website during the same timeframes.

Applicants for the second waiting list opening must have a head of household, spouse, or co-head of household who is 62 or older or who has a physical or mental disability.

During the dates of the openings, applications can be submitted in person at the apartment community, by fax, or can be mailed to the apartment community.

For more information, visit Home Forward's website [hapdx.org](http://hapdx.org).

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