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A historical photo from 1945 shows black paratroopers from an elite unit of the Army which was deployed to fight forest fires in the Pacific Northwest.

## Sharing the story of black paratroopers in Oregon

In 1945, an elite unit of the Army's best trained paratroopers arrived at Pendleton Field in Oregon as part of a highly classified mission, Operation Firefly.

The all-black unit spent the next several months jumping and fighting forest fires throughout the Pacific Northwest. Called the "Triple Nickles," the 555th Parachute Infantry group gained military fame for their work as firefighters.

The unit's unique story of patriotism, race and service will be shared during a free and open "history pub"

# Jumping into the Fire



Robert Bartlett

series event at McMenemy's Kennedy School in northeast Portland. The presentation, on Monday, Nov. 28 at

7 p.m., will be led Robert Bartlett, a Vietnam War veteran and son of Walter Bartlett Sr., who served in the Army Air Corps during the World War II period.

Robert Bartlett has 30 years of teaching experience and is a senior lecturer at Eastern Washington University.

