

# Ukraine tensions underscore air combat training in Oregon

By GARY A. WARNER  
Oregon Capital Bureau

PORTLAND — Hornets and Eagles will battle for control of the skies over Oregon the next two weeks.

An Oregon Military Department statement Sunday, July 10, said air-to-air mock dogfights to train pilots will feature the F-15C Eagle interceptors of the Oregon Air National Guard's 123rd Fighter Squadron and the F/A-18E Super Hornets of Navy's Strike Fighter Squadron VFA-192.

The "dissimilar air combat training" exercises began July 11 and will run through July 15 before taking a weekend break and resuming next week.

The previously scheduled training comes amid heightened tensions over the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In coordination with allies in NATO, the Air Force and Navy jets are among the military options to respond to an expansion of the conflict into neighboring



Oregon Military Department/Contributed Photo  
An F/A-18E Super Hornet of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA)-192, launches off of the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson in January 2022. The squadron is training with Oregon National Guard F-15C jets in July.

countries or simultaneous incidents in Asia.

The Oregon training is meant to train pilots from different branches of the U.S. military on how to work together in a combat situation. The simulations also under-

score how pilots would both fight with and against aircraft with different capabilities and pilots with different training.

VFA-192, nicknamed "Golden Dragons," is one of the West Coast squadrons assigned to five nuclear-pow-

ered aircraft carriers, each of which can carry more than 64 planes and helicopters.

The squadron was most recently attached to the Nimitz-class carrier USS Carl Vinson, homeported in San Diego.

When not at sea, the squadrons are based at Naval Air Station Lemoore in central California. Straddling portions of Kings and Fresno counties, it is the Navy's largest Master Jet base in the world.

The Navy and Marine Corps are the only branches to fly variants of the F/A-18E Super Hornet, a two-seat version of the original single-seat Hornet, which entered service in 1978.

The Air National Guard squadron, nicknamed "Redhawks," flies F-15Cs whose primary role is to knock out enemy aircraft to establish "air superiority" over a battlefield on land or at sea.

The Air Force is the only branch of the American military that flies the F-15C. The 123rd Fighter Squadron is part of the Oregon National Guard's 142nd Wing, a reserve component of the Air Force.

Lt. Col. Joshua Hovanas, the 123rd Fighter Squadron commander, said in a state-

ment that the training provides realistic combat scenarios for pilots to hone advanced aerial tactics that may be used against potential adversaries.

"This training with the Golden Dragons is a unique opportunity for the Redhawks to refine and reinforce joint air-superiority tactics," Hovanas said.

The Air National Guard jets have the "F" designation for an air-to-air fighter. The Navy jets are designated F/A, meaning they are designed for the dual roles of air-to-air fighters and ground attacks.

The squadrons will take off and land from the Portland Air National Guard base at Portland International Airport. The jets will fly out over the Pacific Ocean for the actual high-speed maneuvering. Other sessions would be over designated airspace in Eastern Oregon.

In order to avoid noise disruption in the Portland area, the aircraft will wait until after 8 a.m. to launch and return by 4 p.m.

# Oregon commits virtually all funds for emergency rental aid

By PETER WONG  
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon has now committed virtually all of the \$389 million in federal and state money to provide emergency rental assistance to more than 60,000 households.

The program had a target of June 30, but some applications are still being processed. Tenants who gave proof of applications to their landlords — either to the state program

or others in several Oregon counties — will still have state protections against evictions for nonpayment through Sept. 30 or until their applications are closed, whichever comes soonest.

The protections do not forgive any rent owed.

Oregon Department of Housing and Community Services reported the money distributed during the past year helped keep more than 100,000 people from losing their housing during the coro-

navirus pandemic. The size of the average household was 2.2 persons — and according to a May 31 report by the agency, the average payment per household was \$6,400, which went directly to landlords.

Andrea Bell took over the agency April 1 after her predecessor, Margaret Salazar, became the regional administrator for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"A one-time payment

keeps a family in their home, and a landlord is made whole," Bell told lawmakers on the House Committee on Housing last month. "It saves the community three to four times the value of the rental assistance, if the family had become homeless."

As of June 30, the agency reported that it had committed \$386.66 million to 60,166 households.

Applications from Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties

accounted for 49.4% of the statewide total. The counties took up \$221.1 million of the \$386.7 million paid (57.2%), no surprise given that rents are more expensive in the metro area.

Of the total paid, 60% of the households were white, 12% Black, 2% Asian, and 5% two or more races. Hispanics, who can be of any race, accounted for 15% statewide. Some households chose not to state their race.

The agency distrib-

uted \$289 million in federal money, some if it from legislation that Donald Trump signed in the final weeks of his presidency, and the rest from the \$2.2 trillion American Rescue Plan Act that President Joe Biden signed in March 2021. The Oregon Legislature added \$100 million more from the 2021-23 state budget; another \$150 million in state funds were spent before the current budget cycle started in mid-2021.



## Junior GOLF Camps

Golf Swing Fundamentals • Chipping & Putting • Etiquette & Rules  
Parent & Junior Tournament • Awards Banquet & BBQ  
ACCREDITED PGA SPORTS ACADEMY

GOLF COURSE AT

# BIRCH CREEK

\$80 per 4-Day Session

Session 2 - July 19-22

Session 3 - August 8-11

Sign up at [birchcreekgolfcourse.com](http://birchcreekgolfcourse.com)



## WILDHORSE SPORTS BAR

Enjoy Live Music!

Every Friday & Saturday

8pm-Midnight | No Cover Charge

Visit [wildhorseresort.com](http://wildhorseresort.com) for weekly featured bands.

Enjoy Happy Hour 1/2 Priced Appetizers\*

Sunday-Thursday | 3-5pm

\*No to-go orders. Other discounts do not apply for Happy Hour.



## 9-PIN NO-TAP

Every Monday at 6:45pm

\$15 Per Bowler

Includes Mystery Doubles

Side pots available at bowling desk, must be 18+ to participate.

Sign up at Quaking Aspen Lanes  
or call 541.966.1690

CASINO • HOTEL • GOLF • CINEPLEX • RV  
MUSEUM • DINING • TRAVEL PLAZA • FUNPLEX

800.654.9453 • PENDLETON, OR • I-84, EXIT 216 • [wildhorseresort.com](http://wildhorseresort.com) • Owned and operated by CTUIR

Management reserves all rights to alter, suspend or withdraw promotions/offers at any time.



## WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO

CAT11698-4