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TWO RETURN FROM PERSIAN GULF TO JOYOUS REUNION WITH FAMILIES**Oregonian, The (Portland, OR) - Monday, March 11, 1991****Author: JANET GOETZE - of the Oregonian Staff**

Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Tower greeted his father and brother with a big grin Sunday at Portland International Airport, where the Air Force veteran of Operation Desert Storm arrived for a three-day reunion with family and friends.

Tower, 37, who joined the Air Force after his graduation from Tigard High School 18 years ago, was among the first Oregonians to return to the state after Persian Gulf duty.

"It's great," he said of his return to home ground.

Army Cpl. Matthew Badeau, 21, arrived Saturday at his father's Molalla home, where more than 50 friends and family members greeted him at a party.

He continued to recuperate Sunday from bruises and contusions he sustained Feb. 24 during night action about 8 miles inside the Iraq border. His wife, Jennifer Badeau, 20, said a crane backed into him, pinning him to the front of a truck.

Badeau will travel to Fort Lewis near Tacoma in about two weeks, when doctors will determine if he needs more physical therapy, said Jennifer Badeau.

In the meantime, he was getting reacquainted with sons Brandon, 3, and Alex, 1. He hadn't seen them since Dec. 16, when he was sent to Saudi Arabia from his former post in Germany.

Badeau also visited with his mother, Margie McMains of Oregon City, and his father and stepmother, Ernie and Teri Badeau of Molalla.

The Badeaus, coincidentally, attend the same church as Eunice and Bob Yates of Molalla, whose son arrived Friday in the United States.

Eunice Yates said she and her husband will visit Air Force Capt. Rodney Yates, 33, next week in Maine where he was stationed before his Persian Gulf duty. His wife, Jeannette, and three children remained at Loring Air Force Base at Limestone, Maine, while he was in Saudi Arabia.

For Tower, the trip to Portland was a second arrival. He met his wife, Sandra, and three youngest children March 3 in Salt Lake City after a 42-hour flight from Saudi Arabia. They remained at Hill Air Force Base near Ogden, Utah, after he left for the Persian Gulf in August.

Tower expected to see his oldest daughter, LaDena Pope, 18, at his father's Tigard home. She was married shortly before he left for gulf duty and lives in St. Helens.

"For the next couple days, we're going to get everybody here," said the sergeant's father, Loren Tower, who was a Portland policeman for 30 years until his retirement in 1981.

The family's last reunion was a year ago at the funeral of Loren Tower's wife.

Loren Tower said not knowing precisely where his son was stationed in the Middle East intensified his fears. He also worried that a Scud missile or chemical weapons might injure his son.

When he got word that his son was returning, Loren Tower said, "It was such a relief."

Sunday night, Thomas Tower remained mum about his assignment, but he noted his cap bore the insignia of the 388th Tactical Air Command fighter wing, which flew F16s into Iraq and Kuwait.

Earlier, Loren Tower had said his son directed an aircraft maintenance crew. But Thomas Tower said he also was a courier for classified information, traveling in Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

For the entire six months, he said, he carried a miniature American flag with him. After greeting his brother, Roger, 30, Thomas Tower offered him the flag.

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