

KANSAS SENTINEL

McKinley impressed with Crisis City

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Wheeler
retires
after 36
years**

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On the cover:

Gen. Craig McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, talks with Master Sgt. Greg Kober, the Operations and Exercise Master Sgt. at Crisis City about rubble pile activities.

*Photo by Sharon Watson, State Public Affairs,
Cover design by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD*



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Commander's Call!

I would like to let all of you know that the members of the Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) continue to show our fellow Kansans and the people of the nations where we serve overseas our capabilities, dedication and professionalism.

We all need to remember that though we have been supporting missions for over eight years, we continue to be successful doing extraordinary things on behalf of our nation.

KSARNG units today are conducting pre-mobilization and reset operations throughout Kansas while we meet our commitments overseas.

Our second Agribusiness Development Team (ADT) mission is successfully under way in Afghanistan. Soldiers supporting the Regional Corps Advisory Group mission and Ground Liaison Office mission have returned to Kansas. The 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry, is conducting pre-mobilization training in preparation for operations in the Horn of Africa.

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, are exceeding requirements for the Multi-Force Observer mission in the Sinai. The 35th Infantry Division performed extremely well during the Key Resolve exercise in Korea.

All units in the reset, training, or ready phases need to maintain and improve their individual soldier readiness through weapons qualification, Army Warrior Training, and Army Physical Fitness training. I had the opportunity to meet with



***Brig. Gen. John Davoren
Assistant Adjutant General,
Kansas Land Component***

all the senior leaders this last weekend to review the 2011 Yearly Training Briefs.

One item that continues to concern me is the number of personnel who are eligible for but aren't preparing themselves for future opportunities because they aren't enrolled in the Non-Commissioned Officer Education System (NCOES). We are finding that completing NCOES course while deployed is very difficult to accomplish.

Our level of training continues to be very high. MOS qualification numbers are as high as they have ever been in the state. Unit strength numbers are my top concern and are of critical importance for the future of the Kansas Army National Guard.

We are currently about 100 soldiers below our strength goal of 5,365 KSARNG soldiers for the end of this current fiscal year.

We will see some changes in KSARNG leadership over the next three to six months. While there will be changes, we will continue to set and enforce standards in our units and demonstrate that we follow the Army values.

The recent First Army Inspector General team visit identified supply and logistics areas where we still need to improve. We have made progress during this year through the efforts of many of you, we are getting better, but still have to continue to improve.

All of us must be committed to doing our best every day and looking for ways to improve every day in the future.

I am proud that we have Kansas soldiers who continue to meet the needs of Kansas and nation.

Sergeants Time...



**Command Sgt. Maj.
Glenn Peterson
State Command Sergeant Major,
Joint Force Headquarters—
Land Component**

I would like to take this opportunity to inform the Soldiers of the Kansas Army National Guard that we have established a Kansas Army National Guard Noncommissioned Officer Hall of Fame in Salina, Kan. On April 18, 2010, the inaugural induction ceremony will be held and the first inductees will be the ten Fallen Heroes that we have lost to combat operations since 9/11.

It is only fitting that our first NCO's to be inducted are those heroes who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their fellow Soldiers, State and Country. A special thanks, goes out to Col. Robert

Windham, Command Sgt. Maj. John Ryan and the Soldiers of the 235th Regiment.

They have provided a place of honor in their Headquarters to display the plaques of the NCO's that are inducted into the Kansas Army National Guard Noncommissioned Officer Hall of Fame. 2009 was the Year of the Non-commissioned Officer, 2010 and beyond will be known as the Years of the Kansas Army National Guard Noncommissioned Officers.

I challenge all of you to nominate each year, those NCO's that have made contributions to the Kansas Army National Guard and made it what it is today.

ATTENTION:

**All Readiness, Training,
And PS NCO's!**

If you are not sending this publication out to your Soldiers in your unit—then you are wrong. Don't cheat them on their Army

news!

Send this out to all of your
Soldiers, Today!

Command Sgt. Maj. Glenn Peterson

Chief of National Guard Bureau Visits New Kansas Training Site

Photos and Story by Sharon Watson, State Public Affairs

Gen. Craig McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, visited the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, Kan., on Friday, March 26. He took an aerial and ground tour of



Gen. Craig McKinley and Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting tour the Crisis City headquarters building.

parts of the recently developed 160-acre site where military and civilian first responders train together for state disaster response.

“This is a world treasure out here, very impressed,” McKinley said.

McKinley was invited by Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas Adjutant General, to view the site developed over the past couple of years and opened for training last summer.

The training venue includes Crisis City, a replica of a small city that allows responders a more realistic training scenario. It includes a

rubble pile for a building collapse and actual overturned rail cars for a hazardous chemical spill. Additional venues are being added.

“We designed the site after getting input from our civilian first responders on what they need,” Bunting said.

McKinley expressed appreciation for Bunting’s vision and ability to make the site a reality.

“With Fort Riley, this facility can bring so much training space to this part of the country,” McKinley noted.

The first joint civilian-military training at the Great Plains Joint Training Center and Crisis City was in June 2009 when the field portion of the Vigilant Guard exercise involved a train derailment and building collapse.

During his visit, McKinley toured the Crisis City headquarters building, which is nearing completion. It will provide a second-story observation room for

emergency planners and leaders to watch the various components of an exercise unfold. It will also provide classroom instruction.

A group of firefighters involved in a search and rescue exercise greeted McKinley as he got a close-up view of the rubble pile. He thanked them for their efforts.

McKinley told reporters there are potential opportunities where the Great Plains Joint Training Center might provide the best venue for national training needs and said he would ask some of his team to come visit the site to determine the possibilities.

“I can’t think of a better venue than this facility right here, right in the heartland of America,” said McKinley.



Gen. Craig McKinley and Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting tour the train derailment site at Crisis City.

KA CHI GAP SI DA – “We go together”

By Cadet Sherridan M. Franklin
35th Infantry Division Public Affairs

The mantra for U.S. and Republic of Korea (ROK) military forces training together is Ka Chi Gap Si Da, “We go together,” and signifies a very deep commitment to each other. Approximately 135 Soldiers from the 35th Infantry Division Headquarters, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. (35th ID) recently gained great appreciation for this mantra when they deployed to Camp Long, South Korea March 4, 2010 to conduct joint military exercises with the First Republic of Korea Army (FROKA).

35th ID Soldiers participated in Operation Key Resolve, an annual exercise held by the U.S. and ROK militaries to strengthen the alliance between the two countries.

Key Resolve is an annual, high-profile exercise designed to enhance readiness and the ability to defend the Republic of Korea (ROK). The exercise provided valuable training to FROKA and 35th ID service members and improved upon the ability of allied forces outside of Korea to quickly integrate into the Combined Forces Command (CFC) should an incident occur that threatens the ROK. As a combined/joint exercise, Key Resolve involved all branches of the United States and ROK militaries.

Formerly called Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, and Integration (RSOI), the exercise was



Members of the 35th Infantry Division familiarize themselves with local terrain to be better able to quickly integrate into the Combined Forces Command.

Photo provided by 35th Infantry Division

renamed three years ago to reflect the transition to a ROK-led program that will be complete in 2012. Key Resolve focuses on crisis management, maneuver and sustainment of forward forces during wartime situations.

Eleven 35th ID Soldiers left ahead of the main body, as the Torch party, on Feb. 23 in order to set up life support services for the main body and to coordinate for the arrival of the advance party. Twenty-one Soldiers made up the advance party that left on Feb. 28 to receive and analyze the classified operations order from the FROKA headquarters. The advance party also prepared the exercise area in the command bunker so that the main body could hit the ground running. The main body assembled at 35th ID headquarters for final preparations on March 2, and deployed on March 4.

The division received notification to participate in Operation Key Resolve on Dec. 16, 2009. Normally, guard units plan two to three years out for overseas training. The 35th ID had just under three months to plan for this exercise. The division replaced January and February’s two-day drills with two four-day drills to complete all the required training and Soldier readiness processing in time.

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Members of the 35th Infantry Division meet with their counterparts in the Republic of Korea (ROK) to help plan Operation Key Resolve

Photo provided by 35th Infantry Division

WHEELER RETIRES AFTER 36 YEARS

By Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

Serving for more than 36 years in the military, Col. David 'Joe' Wheeler, the Kansas National Guard Joint Chief of Staff, retired and was awarded the Legion of Merit and given numerous other accolades for his achievements during a ceremony held for him by the Adjutant General of Kansas, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, at the Nickell Armory in Topeka on Saturday, April 10, 2010.

"We're losing one of the crutches that the Kansas National Guard has had for 36 years," said the Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting. "We are extremely lucky that Col. Wheeler put on this uniform 36 years ago, because he's left an indelible and impressionable mark in the Kansas National Guard."

By order of the President of the United States, Wheeler was awarded the Legion of Merit for his distinguished accomplishments throughout his career. According to the Secretary of the Army, Lt. Gen. Thomas G. Miller, Wheeler deserves the award for his character and energy that motivated his subordinates and established a reputation for excellence, Soldier care and mission accomplishment for all to emulate.

"His enforcement of standards and setting the example are the cornerstone of excellence and a legacy of his service," said Miller. "His outstanding performance, strength, integrity and dedication to duty are in keeping with the traditions of military service and reflect great credit on him, the U.S. Army and the Kansas National Guard."

Wheeler also received a certificate of appreciation from President Obama expressing thanks and appreciation for his commitment and dedication. President Barack Obama said that Wheeler has been an inspiration and thanked him for being part of the forces that helped keep America secure.

Kansas Governor Mark Parkinson sent a letter of acknowledgment and stated that he knew that Wheeler's family had also sacrificed much for the State and nation's security during Wheeler's 36-years of service. He thanked them and stated that they, and Wheeler, with their dedicated service and spirit, would leave a lasting impression with all those Wheeler served with.

Wheeler, in his known humble manner, spoke at the end of the ceremony. He commented on how things have worked out during his career.

"I was 'joint' before 'joint' was cool," Wheeler said, referring to the team relationships that the Kansas Army and Air National Guard now employ.

"But, I've been lucky. There's a secret I have to tell, I've never really worked, because I've always enjoyed what I've done—so it was never like having to work. I surrounded myself with good Non-Commissioned Officers and staff and listened to what they had to say."

"I look back on all the people I've trained and have a good feeling on seeing how many are doing great with their jobs and their careers," Wheeler continued. "Also, the Guard has been good to me—it's



(Above photo, from left) Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting affixes the Legion of Merit to Col. David 'Joe' Wheeler's uniform during the retirement ceremony.

Photo by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

paid for all my travel and education—I guess it was meant to be. My mom can tell you, when I was only eight-years-old, I was digging foxholes and playing Army, so I guess it was destiny."

The ceremony was attended by more than 300 well-wishers, family and friends. Among those present were Wheeler's wife, Candace; their daughter, Heidi; their son, Marcus; Wheeler's mother, Sally Furman; his sister Suzanne and her husband, Mike Kirk.

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During the ceremony, many organizations and individuals presented Wheeler with numerous mementos and awards. After the ceremony, cake and punch was served and attendees social-



Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting (right) awards the Kansas Medal of Excellence to Col. David 'Joe' Wheeler last month in Wichita during the annual Officer Development Conference for his numerous years of exemplary support to the Kansas National Guard.

Photo by Spc. Angie Mooneyham,
105th MPAD

ized with the family. The family plans on an informal retirement celebration at a later date.

The story of Joe Wheeler--

It was a winter day, Dec. 10, 1955, when Joe was born in Wichita, Kan., and held for the first time by his mother, Sally who hoped the future would be open for him—that he would carry on the honorable traditions and lessons that he would be taught, and serve for the common good of mankind.

History shows that Col. Wheeler has done that. Through his abilities and leadership skills, Joe has held numerous positions of great responsibility and done so in an exemplary manner. His last position, as the Chief of the Joint Staff for the Kansas National Guard and the Adjutant General of Kansas placed trust in his abilities and fidelity that few attain.

It was a long road for Joe to this pinnacle of success. He followed his father's footsteps for a military life by enlisting in the Army on Feb. 28, 1974, as a crawler tractor operator. A year and a half later, he decided that

he would become an officer, getting his commission from the Officer Candidate School on June 19, 1976, and accepted the position as Platoon Leader, Company D, 891st Engineer Battalion.

He served in numerous other positions over the years, such as platoon leader, executive officer, personnel staff officer, senior TAC officer, engineer equipment officer, assistant operations officer, commander, personnel officer, intelligence officer, deputy commander, joint operations officer and chief of staff for the land component, Kansas Army National Guard before his last assignment.

He was assigned to numerous units, too. He began at Company C, 1-137th Infantry Battalion, then served in the various positions in the 242nd and the 891st Engineer Company, the Kansas Military Academy, 69th Troop Command, and the Joint Staff.

Besides OCS, he attended many military schools—Engineer Officer Basic Course, Recruiting and Retention course, TAC Officer Training Program, Engineer Officer Advance Course, Com-

mand and General Staff College, nuclear/biological/chemical Officer's Course

(where he was the Honor Graduate), National Security Course, the United States Army War College and many others, while still earning a Bachelor's of Science degree and two Masters Degrees on the civilian side.

But Joe did not do this by himself. Being a National Guard Soldier, takes the support of a family. His family has supported him through the highs and the lows.

His father, the late Col. Donald Wheeler, who served a combat tour in Korea and two combat tours in Vietnam, was there the day Joe entered the military, proudly standing next to his son as his prodigy took his steps to a military life. His mother has been there for Joe, even as he worked his way through promotions, pinning new ranks to his shoulders and reflecting how much a man her son has become. Joe's sister, Suzanne, is still supporting her brother, even though she moved to Rogers, Ark., and married Mike Kirk.

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CABINET MEMBERS THANK KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS

*Photos and Story by
Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD*

Secretary of Defense Dr. Robert Gates, was in Topeka recently to accept his Distinguished Kansan of the Year award. During the ceremony, he gave special recognition to members of the 35th Infantry Division Band and members of the Honor Guard in the Kansas Army National Guard.

They've been nationally recognized before for their exemplary manner when they perform their duties, but this is the highest praise yet—a U.S. Cabinet member.

The members of the band, 'the Brass Five' were Sgt. Todd Hollis (trumpet), Sgt. Audria Osborn (French horn), Spc. Joseph Felton (tuba), Staff Sgt. Joseph Worthington (trombone) and Spc. Rachael Adame (trumpet). They played opening music to the evening's festivities



Spc. Joseph Felton is the tuba player for the Brass Five.



(above photo from left) Sgt. Roger Lively (U.S. Marine Corps), Airman 1st Class Joshua Epperly (U.S. Air Force), Sgt. Chase Taylor and Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Lucas of the Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) with Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, then Corpsman 1st Class Joel Adams (U.S. Navy), Spc. Kyle Simmons and Spc. Joe Swann (KSARNG and Petty Officer 3rd Class Brian Prowker (U.S. Coast Guard) take a moment for a photo. Sebelius recognized the high standards the Honor Guard shows at all functions. (Not pictured, Master Sgt. Rodney Moyer)

and later played the lead when the Kansas State song, 'Home on the Range' was played as a sing-a-long for the night's attendees that included Gates, his wife, his mother; Kathleen Sebelius, Kansas's former governor and current Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services; Kansas Governor Mark Parkinson; U.S. Senator Sam Brownback; U.S. Congressman Todd Tiahrt and many other civilian and military dignitaries.

Posting the colors were members of all branches of the military, to include Master Sgt. Rodney Moyer, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Lucas, Spc. Kyle Sim-

mons and Spc. Joe Swann of the Kansas Army National Guard.

Gates listened to the band and said, "they are really good. I think they are just as good as any band we have in Washington, D.C." He was so impressed, that he personally awarded each of the band members his personal 'Challenge' coin, which is a prestigious award in the military from high-ranking dignitaries. He also awarded the Color Guard members his 'Challenge' coin for the professional manner they presented the colors and executed their duties.

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(left photo) Members of the Honor Guard ready to present the colors. (right photo) Staff Sgt. Joseph Worthington (trombone) and Spc. Rachael Adame (trumpet) perform 'Home on the Range.'



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“National Guard and Reservist members are unique persons,” said Gates. “Not only are they a Soldier, Sailor or Airman, but they are versatile and talented people because of their civilian background. They bring their background and experiences to what they do for their branch of the service. This is why they do so well at the tasks they are assigned.”

Interviews with the band members--

Staff Sgt. Joseph Worthington, of Cummings, Kan., directs the ‘Brass Five’ and has been around in the band approximately 25 years. He doesn’t have to be told that his group is a shining example of true professionalism.

“Being in this band is a commitment of considerable time. Each member devotes a lot of their personal life to see the perfection that we strive to attain

here. To be a member, each instrumentalist must have tremendous ability,” he said. “We are a great tool for community relations as well as for Soldier events.”

Spc. Rachael Adame of Topeka, recently joined the group permanently after being a substitute. She will admit that the audition for the permanent position in the band was difficult and that she had to be pretty competent as a musician to join the group. “But being in this group is worth it,” she said. “Because of the size of the group, we get to go to a lot of smaller functions, such as churches and such that larger military bands cannot fit into.”

Spc. Joseph Felton is working on his Masters degree in music and sees that his experience on the civilian side benefits his military career. “Basic training gets you to think differently, so when faced with difficult decisions, you can reason them out by assigning priorities, won’t get frustrated, tend to better understand how things work and how they happen, how to be part of the solution,” Felton said. “Then you can join your experiences from military and civilian life together, and come up with a more perfect solution, that’s why we National

Guard members are able to accomplish so much more than a standard Soldier.”

Topeka resident Sgt. Audria Osborn, formerly of Hoyt, is a nurse who has been in the band for three years with five years in the Kansas Army National Guard. It may seem odd that a person with a Music Education degree should end up nursing, but, as she worked on her degree, she noticed that nurses love music, so it seemed second nature to take up nursing and stay in the band. She readily admits that her experience and education in more than one career field helps her more in life.

“The National Guard benefits the public,” she said. “This band is a small group, that fits into smaller forums, and we come from many backgrounds—teaching, nursing, cabinet making—so when we interact with the local populations, they find out that we aren’t just cold Soldiers, but warm and understanding human beings that have a lot with each of them. It’s a wonderful thing to see them extend a hand of friendship to us.”

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“I think it is a benefit to have the

MAYOR OF WICHITA GIVES INSPIRATIONAL SPEECHES

*Photos and Story by
Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD*

Wichita Mayor Carl Brewer, was the guest speaker during the opening of the annual Kansas National Guard Career Development Seminar held at the Wichita Hyatt on March 27, 2010, where he gave inspirational words to the military attendees and their families.

“It is very important to me for our local and state governments to support the Kansas National Guard,” he said. “For instance, in Wichita, if anything bad happens, like a tornado, fires, floods, explosions or any other myriad of things—I’m the first line of defense for the community. It’s my job to have our system ready to support our community—but, sometimes something will happen that calls in our final line of defense, and that’s the Guard. I’m comfortable with them on our team and can sleep better at night knowing that they are always ready for any emergency.”

Earlier in the year in January, Brewer spoke during the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery’s Annual Field Artillery Ball and Saint Barbara’s Celebration held at the Broadview Hotel in Wichita, Kansas.

Brewer, a retired captain from the Kansas Army National Guard, expressed his appreciation for the Kansas National Guard and its members and told everyone that it was an honor to be present at the function, where The Order of Saint Barbara, a military honor society of the United States for both the U.S.

Army and U.S. Marine Corps, and named for Saint Barbara, patron saint of artillerymen, was being presented to Soldiers that deserved special recognition for their values and practices in life.

“You have demonstrated that time and time again when you have been asked to serve in numerous locations around the world, that you will do so,” said Brewer. “Yes you have demonstrated that you will make the ultimate sacrifice.”

“So I understand the courage, the commitment and the character required to serve in this elite group, which plays an important role in the safety and security of our state and nation,” he said.

Brewer explained the importance that he, as mayor of Wichita, realizes the National Guard plays for local communities, Kansas, and the United States, when challenges to the community’s security comes into question.

“You’ll go anyplace to meet those challenges—Western or South Central Kansas, Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo or some other hotspot—and you’ll accept any challenge—from civil disturbances, earthquakes, fires, storms and yes, even wars,” he said.

The commander for the 1-161 FA Battalion is Lt. Col. Thomas Burke was impressed with the genuine affection that Mayor



Mayor Brewer is a former Kansas Army National Guard Officer, and is adamant about the need for the Guard in Kansas.

Brewer had for the National Guard.

“I know that Mayor Brewer had a successful career of more than 20 years in the Kansas Army National Guard,” said Burke, “and am really pleased that the mayor of the largest city in Kansas understands the role, in time of need, of the Kansas National Guard. I am also pleased that that the Kansas National Guard is so highly respected and viewed in such a favorable light.”

Brewer closed his inspirational speech about values learned and practiced with, “I understood that it’s not about you; it’s about the people you serve and the ideals you’re sworn to protect. I hope that your time in the Guard provided you with your own set of lessons and values.”

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YOUTH PERFORMS NATIONAL ANTHEM FOR GUARD

*Photos and Story by
Spc. Angie M. Mooneyham,
105th MPAD*

Amanda E. Miller, the 10-year-old daughter of Tammy and Rick Miller of Wakarusa, Kan., and 4-H member for the Auburn Club in the Topeka area, was invited to perform the National Anthem at the Kansas 2010 Joint Conference held in Wichita, Kan., on Saturday, March 27, 2010.

Miller was chosen for her dedication to supporting a local 4-H leader and family friend, Lt. Col. Scott T. Henry during his recent deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Her mother said Amanda could sing as soon as she could talk. "When her brother Bradean (three years younger) was born, she would sing to him all the time," said Tammy.

In addition, Miller and her family found great joy in adopting 'Scott' during his deployment. "We would send him letters and draw hearts on pillow cases and sent suitcases full of 'care packages'," said Miller. The 4-H group is looking to adopt another Soldier,



Kansas Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting presents yellow tulips as a sign of friendship to Amanda Miller

for her performance of the National Anthem during the opening of the Kansas 2010 Joint Conference.

soon.

"Henry knows the Miller family through the 4-H organization. Both sets of parents are 4-H leaders. "The club was great during my deployment," said Henry. "They sent socks, Christmas cards—all sorts of stuff we needed and wanted. I would send emails to the club on what was going on in the country, what it was like, and everything, and they would read it to everyone during meetings back home. It was a good educational experience."

She reported only being a little nervous during her performance and had prior experience performing in front of crowds at her church. Singing is not a future aspiration for this young vocalist, though; she inspires to be an author when she grows up. Miller also likes to read, write, draw and play sports.

Photos of these events can be viewed at www.kansas.gov/ksadjutantgeneral on the Kansas Adjutant General's website.



Chansler takes 3rd in First Annual 5K Run

*Photo and story by
Spc. Angie Mooneyham,
105th MPAD*

Pushing against an unusually strong Kansas wind, Maj. Kyle Chandler 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Wichita, took third place in the first annual 5K race held at the National Guard Association of Kansas (NGAKS) Joint Conference held in Wichita, March 26-28.

Chansler and 40-plus runners participated in the event, which was an addition to the event schedule this year, held in lieu of the annual golf outing.

"Essentially, what happened was the NGAKS was unable to host the golf tournament this year, so why not do a 5K instead," said Maj. Jesse Sojka, 184th Intelligence Wing, Kansas Air National Guard, Wichita, Kan. and coordinator of the Fun Run.

Chansler posted a time of 23:32 to finish third. Air Guard Tech. Sgt. Mark A. Wall, 184th Intelligence Wing, Wichita, posted the winning time of 20:05.

VOLUNTEERS HONORED AT JOINT CONFERENCE

Story and photos by
Spc. Stephanie Hodges, 105th MPAD

The National Guard Association of Kansas, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kansas and the Kansas National Guard Family Programs Office combined their annual conferences this year. Joint State Conference events are a mixture of addresses from key speakers, workshops, awards presentations, memorials and social events.

Family Programs kicked off Saturday, March 27 with a social event luncheon at Tanganyika Wildlife Park. Lunch was preceded with a Runway Fashion Show supplied by Wild at Heart Boutique, stationed out of Wichita, Kan. The social gathering was opened to spouses, family members, and volunteers of Kansas Army National Guard members. This casual lunch and relaxed environment was intended for all attendees to mingle and associate as well as further their knowledge about Family Programs.

Immediately after the fashion show Hilari DeLaRosa, Air Guard Family Programs Coordinator, relayed experience and understanding of volunteerism within Family Programs, Family Readiness Groups (FRG) and the Kansas National Guard (KSNG) as a whole. She explained volunteers and their service to KSNG was pertinent to the structure and cohesion of units, FRG's, and families that would sequentially generate resilient guard members state side and during deployment. She additionally explained that volunteerism is an excellent way to

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Above: Beth Arpin receives the Horizon Award for completing a minimum of 500 volunteer service hours. Arpin is a member of the 287th Sustainment Brigade Family Support group and volunteered an exceptional amount of time during the brigades recent deployment. She received her award at the Family Program Award Ceremony .

Right: Family members went to Tanganyika Wildlife Park and had a visit from none other than the wildlife park animals which included a baby kangaroo and lemur. The attendees were allowed to pet and photograph each wild creature whilst the Assistant Director of Tanganyika, Sherri Souts, educated the audience about the animals.



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promote self worth and build a more successful sense of self.

"The National Guard Family Programs is a volunteer-based program," states DeLaRosa, "The volunteers within the KSNG are strong, confident, and willing to support the Guard members."

The afternoon ensued with the continued support of volunteerism and its importance with presentations from Barbara Bunting, wife of Kansas Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, and Marie Delong, 184th Intelligence Wing FRG Chairperson.

The afternoon at the Tanganyika concluded with a raffle and a visit from none other than the Wildlife Park animals which included a baby kangaroo and lemur. The attendees were allowed to pet and photograph each wild creature whilst the Assistant Director of Tanganyika Sherri Souts, educated the audience of the each animals habits, natural environment, and the care necessary for survival.

Far from being over, Family Programs included recognition of youth volunteers, training, along with amusing activities for the

young generations of KSNG and hosted the Youth Symposium organized by State Youth Coordinator Dezaree Harding.

"The state conference is an experience to reward the youth for their hard work throughout the year," stated Harding. "Furthermore, it provides a time for young leaders and volunteers to be honored for the time and efforts they have sacrificed for Kansas."

The Youth Symposium began

Flushed with redness to their cheeks, the children took a break for a snack and prepared for an adventure to the skating rink at the Carousel Skate Rink, Wichita, Kan. After gathering the children into small groups for more thorough accountability and an explanation of the rules, they were assembled into a line and marched onto buses for the voyage.

The skating rink provided speedy fun for the older children

and established new experiences for the younger ones. Skating, upbeat music and colorful, dancing lights fueled the fire of classic skating games such as limbo and the hokey-pokey. After skates were removed and carefully put away a hardy lunch was provided wrapping up the time spent at Carousel Skate Rink.

The buses were loaded and the children returned

safely to the hotel. Upon arrival training pursued that consisted of family cohesion and volunteerism. Harding discussed upcoming military youth events to include Kids Camp July 6-10 for ages 8-12 and Teen June 19-23 for ages 13-17. Additionally, she spoke about

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(Left to right) Jessica Herlinger, Aydan Wildman, and Skylar Dickey support each other while skating with the Youth Program hosted by Family Programs at Carousel Skate Rink.

Saturday morning with socializing and team building activities, which encouraged the children to meet new acquaintances and reconnect with old friends.

The team building events with an assortment of races that included but were not limited to the crab walk, alligator crawl, snake slither and bear walk.

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the available resources geared towards older participants such as college scholarships, college preparedness, and accessible money for extracurricular activities.

"KSNG child and youth programs takes a holistic approach to help military youth across the state. We not only provide physical activities to bond such as camp," said Harding, "We also have resources for mental and emotional health as well."

After a brief break with parents the Youth Dining Out commenced with a string of outstanding performers on the karaoke machine. Each singer tried with all their might to sing their favorite songs with as much conviction and justice one could give the artist. The show was followed by dinner and a dessert buffet that featured an assortment of pizza, soda, flavored ice cream, and sundae toppings. Each sundae creation ranged from a simple vanilla

ice cream cone to an elaborate triple stacked ice cream treat topped with whip cream, chocolate sprinkles and nuts. To each ice cream sundae his own. Children then swarmed the dance floor and danced to the lat-

**"The National Guard Family Programs is a volunteer-based program, volunteers within the KSNG are strong, confident, and willing to support the Guard members."
Hilari DeLaRosa, Air Family Programs Coordinator**

adolescent, not exceeding the age of 18, who has gone above and beyond the call of volunteerism for that year. Determination for these awards is through nomination and a voting process. Nominations are from any individual that is aware of the volunteer work that the nominated individual provided. The voting process is assembled of a board of at least three individuals outside of the Family Program office to vote on the nominated individuals in all categories. Each board member votes anonymously and will turn in their final results to the State Family Program Office.

est, crazed music. The evening came to a close with distribution of prizes to each young participant.

During the Youth Dining the prestigious youth awards were presented during the Joint Conference Banquet. The honorees were Ha-leigh Delong awarded the Air Youth Volunteer of the Year and Allyson White awarded the Army Youth Volunteer of the Year. These awards are presented annually to the youth individuals who displayed the most commitment to support Kansas Family Programs. It is awarded to an

The following morning was dedicated to the acknowledgment of the remaining outstanding youth volunteers. The Frontier Award was presented to volunteers that contributed significantly to the KSNG and required a 50-199 service volunteer hours. Recipients of the Frontier award included Skylar Dickey, Jessica Herlinger and Tyler Shaffer.

Herlinger stated, "I think it's really awesome when adults recognize all of our youth volunteers' hard work."

The Family Programs is a growing support entity and is sustained by the volunteer of all ages. This yearly conference allots time for appreciation of these humble heroes of the Kansas National Guard.



Left: Skylar Dickey receives a Pioneer Service award from Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Adjutant General. Dickey completed more than 50 hours of service as a youth volunteer.

Shooters battle elements in sixth annual competition

Story and Photos by
PFC Robert Havens, 105th MPAD



Lt. Col. Eric Blankenship chambers another round and begins scanning for his next target during the Adjutant General's Sixth Annual Skeet Shoot, held March 26, 2010.

A group of men load their weapons as the sun fights its way into the cold blue March sky. They are looking forward to its heat, but not to the wind that comes with it. The heat will make handling their weapons easier, but the wind will make their target nearly impossible. A lieutenant grips his shotgun, firmly plants butt stock into his shoulder and watches as his target begins to soar.

In an era of modern day communication, it is difficult for people to get to know the person who they are working with. The annual skeet shoot competition serves as a way to get to know fellow officers, take a moment away from the everyday grind, and build some rapport. Going strong for six years, the competition has never seen a day like this before.

Divided into four different teams, the Adjutant Generals annual sheet shoot had 17 officers, friends, and family members competing for a cash prize.

"It's good friendly competition" said Col. Cliff Silsby, a facilities and engineer officer at the National Guard headquarters.

"It is important to come out and have a good time with who you don't get to meet," Silsby continues.

The contestants shot at nine stations with about every possible scenario you could imagine in a shoot. Some stations would require the shooter to hit clays skipping across the water, before swinging the shotgun to the other side of the range and shoot-

ing one as it zipped away. Other stations required shooters to hit clays traveling at fastball speeds with mere seconds to spot, sweep, aim and shoot. There was even a station that had a clay pigeon skipping across the ground like a rabbit.

One thing is for certain; all shooters agreed this course is the toughest competition that has yet been held.

In spite of this, when the totals came in, there was a first for the competition. When the scores of the 17 shooters were totaled, the much anticipated announcement of the winner did not come.

"We have a tie," said Lt. Col. Les Gellhaus, the event organizer.

Two shooters, Mike Isaman and Lt. Jeremiah Johnson would have a shoot-off on the first station. Each shooter would get two shots each, the clays would come out in random order, and the shooter would not call for the clays, they would simply get fired. A coin is flipped; Johnson comes out the victor. He chooses to shoot second to get a taste for the event.

Mike Isaman steps up, loads his shotgun and raises it into his shoulder. In an instant, two clay birds are in the sky. Two shots are fired and one bird goes down. All things considered this is pretty good, seeing as the wind is now blowing 15 mph faster than it was when he had last shot at this station.

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Lt. Col. Les Gellhaus awards Mike Isaman with the First Place award for individual shooter at the Adjutant General's Sixth Annual Skeet Shoot, held March 26, 2010

From SHOOTERS

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With the targets traveling much faster, the shooter's skills were put to the test. Johnson steps up, again, two shots fired, one bird down. In a sudden death shoot-off, both shooters are very much alive.

Three times the men were at the station before Johnson relented to Isaman. The two men shook hands, exchanged jokes, and headed back to the clubhouse for the next event.

After a brief reprieve, the men gathered for the covey shoot. The covey shoot is as close to controlled chaos in a shotgun shoot-off as one could

imagine. Each team would be confronted with eight clay pigeons soaring through the sky from all angles within mere seconds of each other. Each pigeon would be worth five points, and there would be three rounds. With 23 points separating the first place team and the last place team, anything was possible. There was a catch though, there was a "poison bird" that was a different color from all the others, and was worth a whopping negative 35 points.

First team to shoot was Team Wannabees, the second placed team going into the covey shoot. A total of six birds were hit for 30 points, but a poison bird was shot, costing them 25 points. The first team had walked away with five points.

The second team to shoot was the Rowdy Renegades, the lowest scoring team. Again when the smoke had cleared six birds had been shot from the sky, another poison bird was shot. Rowdy Renegades would as well walk away with five points.

Team Sooners would shoot third, the team currently who was carrying the third most points. This time a total of seven birds were shot from the sky, and no poison birds fell. This gave the team an additional 35 points on the board. Team Sooners, walked away from the covey shoot with 35 points total.

The last team to shoot was Team Cats, the leading team. The men, who had been shooting well all day, shot a total of seven birds from the sky with no poison birds. Team Cats would as well walk away from the covey shoot with 35 points, which would solidify their win.



Above: Mike Isaman, a Topeka Police Officer, begins to scan and sweep for the pigeon that would ultimately win him the top individual shooter award.

Below: Col. Dereck Rodgers takes aim and fires at a clay pigeon during the Adjutant General's Sixth Annual Skeet Shoot, held March 26th, 2010



Awards were:

Mike Isaman for first place individual shooter with **35 points** total and winning the shoot-off.

Lt. Jeremiah Johnson for second place individual shooter with **35 points** total.

Lt. Col. Les Gellhaus for third place individual shooter with **34 points**.

Team Cats for first place with **148 points**.

Team Sooners for second place with **119 points**.

Team Wannabees for third place with **112 points**.

Know Your Benefits: GI Bill of Rights, Past and Present

*By Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke,
105th MPAD*

In almost every military recruiting message, regardless of service, money for college or education is typically listed within the top three reasons why someone should enlist in that particular branch of the Armed Forces.

Over the next several months, we will explore the history of the major educational aid programs, changes to the programs, what is available currently and how to apply to use the programs that are available to National Guardsmen and their family, both state and federal.

Perhaps the greatest area, in terms of the federal government's participation in education, was the GI Bill of Rights. The GI Bill, officially known as the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, was designed to provide greater opportunities to returning war veterans of World War II. The bill, signed by President Theodore Roosevelt on June 22, 1944, provided federal aid to help veterans adjust to civilian life in the areas of hospitalization, purchase of homes and businesses, and especially, education. This act provided tuition, subsistence, books and supplies, equipment, and counseling services for veterans to continue their education in school or college. The Servicemen's Readjustment Act included the following:

1. The Federal Government would subsidize tuition, fees, books, and educational materials for veterans and contribute to living expenses incurred while attending college or other approved institutions.

2. Veterans were free to attend the educational institution of their choice.

3. Colleges were free to admit those veterans who met their admissions requirements.

Within the following seven years, approximately eight million veterans received educational benefits. Of that number, approximately 2,300,000 attended colleges and universities, 3,500,000 received school training, and 3,400,000 received on-the-job training. By 1951, this act had cost the government a total cost of approximately \$14 billion.

The effects of increased enrollment to higher education were significant. Higher educational opportunities opened enrollment to a varied socioeconomic group than in the years past. Engineers and technicians needed for the technological economy were prepared from the ranks of returning veterans. Also, education served as a social safety valve that eased the traumas and tensions of adjustment from wartime to peace. For the American colleges and universities, the effects were transforming. In almost all institutions, classes were overcrowded. Institutions required more classrooms, laboratories, greater numbers of faculties, and more resources. House facilities became inadequate and new building programs were established. New vocational courses were also added. This new student population called for differential courses in advanced training in education, commerce,

agriculture, mining, fisheries, and other vocational fields that were previously taught informally. Teaching staffs enlarged and summer and extension courses thrived. Further, the student population was no longer limited to those between the ages of 18 and 23. The veterans were eager to learn and had a greater sense of maturity, in comparison to the usual student stereotype. Finally, the idea that higher education was the privilege of well-born elite was finally shattered.

Changes in the Bill

By the end of the initial period prescribed by the original legislation in 1957, the bill had been stripped in the Veterans Adjustment Act of 1952. Under the new law, the government no longer paid tuition directly to institutions of higher learning; veterans instead received a flat fee of \$110 which was to go toward their education. Korean Veterans returned home only to find that the benefits they believed they were entitled to had been slashed.

By the time that the Viet Nam War rolled around, benefits had been diminished to almost non-existence and the price of a college education had skyrocketed. Some nine years after the end of the Vietnam War, in 1984, Mississippi Congressman Gillespie V. "Sonny" Montgomery revamped and reintroduced the GI Bill. Adopted, this bill has since been known as the Montgomery GI Bill, but those earlier provisions wouldn't last long as the cost of education continued to escalate, making it obsolete within a few years.

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Politicians speak on Guard Support

The 2010 Professional Career Development Convention held in Wichita in March, was for the Kansas Army and Air National Guard leaders to meet and jointly develop their skills and communicate their needs for the next year.

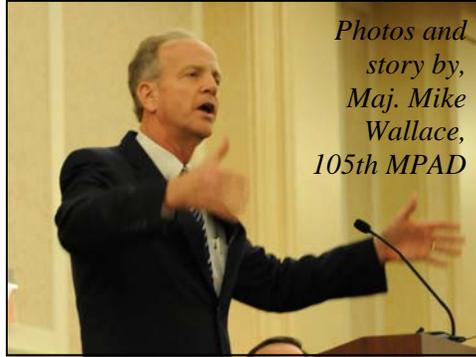
The event was visited by Gen. Craig McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, U.S. Congressmen Jerry Moran (R-Kansas 1st district) and Todd Tiaht (R-Kansas 4th District).

Moran talked about the efforts that revolve around making sure that benefits (such as retirement and health care benefits) are accessible to National Guard members no matter where they live.

“Kansas is a place the Guard is welcome and it has a bright future,” he said.

“Just look at our Joint Training Center in Salina, it brings people from across the country into our state to work and have exercises out there.”

“It’s important to be prepared for any emer-



Photos and story by, Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

U.S. Representatives Jerry Moran (left) and Todd Tiaht (right) speak about what Congress owes the National Guard.



gency,” said Moran. “I think we all have the desire to see freedom and liberty for Americans and our future generations.”

Tiaht said it was Congress’s responsibility to provide the Guard with the proper tools and equipment they need.

“We’ve increased the budget by \$125 million from last year,” said Tiaht. “We’re also investigating other incentives for Guard members, their employers and families (such as tax incentives for employers of Guard members, increase of GI Bill) and we want to make sure that all Guard members can return to civilian life after serving in Kansas.

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While federal assistance programs provided some relief for the general student population, the Montgomery GI Bill was failing to provide adequately for veterans. This, coupled with the large influx of personnel following the heinous acts of Sept. 11, 2001, only exacerbated the problem.

To compensate, Congress adopted the Post 9/11 Montgomery GI Bill, which came into effect recently. The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after Sept. 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after

30 days. You must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

As of Aug. 1, 2009, the Post-9/11 GI Bill is effective for training. Approved training under the Post-9/11 GI Bill includes graduate and undergraduate degrees, and vocational/technical training. All training programs must be offered by an institution of higher learning (IHL) and approved for GI Bill benefits. Additionally, tutorial assistance, and licensing and certification test reimbursement are approved under the Post- 9/11 GI Bill.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill will pay your tuition based upon the highest in-state tuition charged by a public educational institution in the state where the school is located. The

amount of support that an individual may qualify for depends on where they live and what type of degree they are pursuing.

Next month we will delve into the application process to activate your benefits and take a look at some of the programs available outside the Montgomery GI Bill and Post 9/11 GI Bill.

Of course, when there are questions about your educational benefits you should always defer to the experts in the State Education Office. Their information can be found on the Kansas Knowledge Online website at www.ks.ng.mil

***From CABINET THANKS,
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“I think it is a benefit to have the band playing at these functions,” said Sgt. Todd Hollis. “It gives the public a different view of the Army, because they generally think of the Army as a bunch of infantry, tanks and destruction. This is the artistic side.”

Hollis is a school teacher in Augusta, Kan., where he teaches high school and beginning band. He thinks that being in the military is the best training a teacher can have in a mentorship position. “I’ve gone to numerous Army leadership schools and I use that knowledge to teach,” he said.

Time spent with the Honor Guard--

The Honor Guard has members committed to community



Sgt. Todd Hollis (trumpet) and Sgt. Audria Osborn (French horn) have played at many formal and informal functions the smaller band group fits in with better than the larger 35th Division Band can. The ‘Brass five’ has a deep and full sound that is surprising.

involvement and service. While each member that was coined by Gates didn’t have much to say, the Honor Guard leader, Master Sgt. Rodney Moyer reflected on the mentality of each of the team’s members.

“We try to stay in the background as much as possible,” Moyer said. “We don’t want to be the center of attention be-

cause we feel that the colors and the reverence given to them is what is important at the time. It is an honor and a privilege to serve in this way, and it is nice to get recognition from a cabinet member on our professional bearing when we perform our duties.”

***From Mayor,
Page 11***

“I hope that you carry those lessons and values with you after your time in the Guard. They’ll serve you, your family and friends and your community whatever field you choose to go into. In closing, I hope you know how much your service is appreciated, not just by the people in this room, but also your fellow Americans.”

Photos of these events can be viewed at www.kansas.gov/ksadjutantgeneral on the Kansas Adjutant General’s website.

***From WHEELER,
Page 8***

Joe married the former Candace Macy in Belle Plain, Kan. on Sept. 16, 1978. From this union, they received their daughter Heidi and their son, Marcus. His family has stood by him, attending many functions with him and showing their support of their father, as he earned his higher education, promotions, better positions of leadership in the Kansas National Guard, and numerous awards that include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medals, Army Commendation Medals, the Army Achievement Medals, the Kansas Medal of Excellence, Kansas Army National Guard Meritorious Service Ribbons, Kansas Army National Guard Emergency Deployment Service Ribbons and numerous others.

Retirement is not stopping or slowing down Wheeler. His hobbies include golf, water and snow skiing, boating, hiking and biking, but he plans on committing his time to other endeavors in the future.

From KEY RESOLVE

Page 6

Lt. Col. Dave Johnson, division operations officer, said “Starting with notification on Dec. 16, 2010, it was a non-stop process that the staff worked on every day.” A small team conducted a one-week site survey in Korea in January. “The site survey was critical to the success we experienced preparing for this deployment,” said Johnson. “We actually walked the ground we would use during the exercise and met the people we’d be working with.”

Communication in multi-national operations can be challenging. Korean Augmentees to the U.S. Army (KATUSA) are used as interpreters to facilitate communication between the U.S. units they are assigned to, the ROK Army, and Korean civilians. Eight KATUSAs were assigned to the 35th ID and were crucial to the success of the division.

“One of the differences of working with another army is that they don’t always understand what is written or said, so the interpreters are needed,” said Lt. Col. Eric J. Ford, a 35th operations officer. “The KATUSAS did an excellent job, that’s why they’re there; they did it well.”

Sgt. Youngsuk Jung, KATUSA with the Army Liaison Team, said despite having occasional minor issues, joint forces in Korea get along well because they truly care about each other.

“Sometimes it’s not that easy to get along with Americans because we have some differences in our cultures,” Jung said. “But I think the forces in Korea care about each other and even though there are differences, we make a great team.”

Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, the commanding general for the 35th ID said the exercise is essential to ROK national security and demonstrates a deep commitment to a U.S. ally.

“The Koreans live under the constant threat of aggression from the north. To the FROKA this exercise is about protecting the lives of their families and the existence of their country. To us, it is a demonstration of our deep commitment to a very close ally to help them protect their families and their country,” Pierson said.

The 35th ID is also the subject of a ROK government documentary film. Chosun Illbo, the Korean Daily News, is producing a four-part documentary



Master Sgt. Roy Cummins is interviewed by Korean journalists on the importance of Key Resolve between ROK and the United States.

Photo by 35th Infantry Division

featuring the U.S. National Guard, and the Israeli Reserves in an effort to change the ROK’s reserve system. The Korean film team visited Kansas to capture 35th ID’s preparations for the Key Resolve deployment, and also filmed the division participating in Key Resolve in Korea.

Brig. Gen. Alex. E. Duckworth, the 35th ID Deputy Commanding General said overall the exercise was a success; not only did the division accomplish its goals and expand its capabilities, the real world exercise gave all the Soldiers who participated a chance to hone their Soldier skills outside of the armory.

“Anytime we get out of the armory, get away from our comfort zone and get put in new environments where we have to adapt is great. NCOs need to know how to move live formations instead of icons,” Duckworth said. “Going through the thought process of what to do with weapons, personal hygiene, feeding plans, sleep plans and movement plans; all those things you don’t get when you move icons.”

Soldiers from the 35th ID made the 15 hour flight back home and were reunited with their families March 21.

Mayor's Cell provides foundation for division's success

By 1st Lt. Jason Boothe
35th Infantry Division Public Affairs

In today's Army, having an efficient Mayor's Cell is an integral part of running an operation successfully. The Mayor's Cell mission is often underappreciated and even more often, misunderstood. Great Mayor's Cells receive little attention.

The Mayor's Cell functions as a nerve center to the non-maneuver side of the division in wartime and during exercises like Key Resolve. The Mayor's Cell provided essential support functions during the division's recent deployment to Korea for Operation Key Resolve March 4 to 21, 2010. The Mayor's Cell mission included medical, staff duty and personnel accountability as well as non-essential tasks such as arranging transportation for troops on Morale Welfare and Recreation trips to Seoul, Korea. Key Resolve is a U.S.-Republic of Korea joint exercise held annually on the Korean Peninsula involving all branches of the military.

The mission of the Mayor's Cell appears simple on the surface but is actually wide-ranging and complex when viewed from the inside.

"The Mayor's Cell is the life support for the division that provides crucial logistics for mail services, food, housing, etc. However, most of the time is spent taking care of Soldier issues and 'putting out fires,'" said Sgt. 1st Class Ron Sutton, Non-commissioned Officer in Charge of the Mayor's Cell.

One of the Mayor's Cell's key functions was to provide medical aid and support to the 35th ID Soldiers and Korean Augmentees to the U.S. Army (KATUSAS) at Camp Long.

Maj. Cristal Horsch, a 35th ID Physician's Assistant attached to the Mayor's Cell for Key Resolve said there were very few medical situations during the division's time at Camp Long.

"Luckily we had no injuries and nothing more serious than an ear-infection," Horsch said.



Maj. Cristal Horsch, a 35th Infantry Division Physician's Assistant, checks a patient's throat for infections.

Photo provided by 35th Infantry Division

The Mayor's Cell also provided transportation when needed for emergency services. During the exercise, two Soldiers received Red Cross messages that resulted in an early departure for emergency leave from Korea. The Mayor's Cell successfully coordinated efforts and provided transportation to get these Soldiers to the airport and back home to be with family.

Getting the 35th ID to Korea and back home took a huge effort. Plans had to be made for transportation to and from Korea, the basic necessities of food and shelter and a myriad of other details that allowed the operation to run smoothly. Part of that effort rested on the shoulders of the advance party.

The advance party was a group of soldiers that traveled to Korea prior to the rest of the unit to arrange for basic necessities to be met. They set the groundwork so the rest of the unit had a place to eat, sleep and operate upon their arrival.



Crucial supplies being loaded to disseminate to the Soldiers on the exercise is part of the Mayor's Cell responsibilities.

Photo provided by 35th Infantry Division

From MAYOR'S CELL
Page 23

Swann Garners Guardsman of the Year Honors

Story and Photo by
Staff Sgt. Greg Zuercher, 105th MPAD

He had no idea that as a boy taking music lessons he would be following a trail that would lead him to the highest award possible for an Army Guardsman. Spc. Joseph Swann, from Topeka, has followed just such a path. Swann was named the Outstanding Guardsman at the 2010 Joint Confer-

ence held at the Wichita Hyatt this March.

Enlisting in the Kansas Army National Guard as a member of the 35th Infantry Division (ID) Army Band in March 2005 after his freshman year at Washburn, Swann's decision was influenced by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Stephen Patterson, who happened to be the commander of the 35th ID Army Band as well as Swann's music lesson teacher.

Equating him like a proud father witnessing his own son succeed, Swann said Patterson is "very happy, excited, and proud of me."

Serving full-time as a soldier and bugler in the Honor Guard - the Kansas National Guard Military Funerals program since July 2008, Swann credits Patterson and Rodney Moyer, the state coordinator of military funerals honor program, for much of his success. "I served a long time as an M-day (traditional) soldier with the band," said Swann. "It was through Chief Patterson that I became involved full time in the honor guard as a bugler.

"All I've tried to do is to be the best I can possibly be," said Swann. "I just do my job - I wasn't even looking for this award - it came to me."

Swann is the son of James and Katherine Swann of Topeka.



Spc. Joseph Swann (center) receives Outstanding Guardsman of the year from (from left) Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth, Kansas Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, Assistant Adjutant General Land Component, Brig. Gen. John Davoren and Command Sgt. Maj. Glenn Peterson.

From MAYOR'S CELL

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"The advance party arranged for barracks, cots to sleep on, cell phones and vehicles. (We) also set up the medical clinic and coordinated with the dining facility to set up hours for Soldiers to eat," said 1st Lt. Jessica Aguinaga.

Any sergeant major or first sergeant in the Army will tell you that feeding troops in the field is one of the unit's highest priorities. Due to the continuous 24 hour operation that Key Resolve demanded, the Mayor's Cell also had two soldiers whose sole focus was to provide food for the night shift. These Soldiers regularly ensured that a hot meal was made and delivered to those soldiers who did not have the opportunity to eat during the regular dining facility hours.

"We prepared 60 meals a night and took it over to them. After we served them, we waited about two hours to make sure everyone had a chance to eat before we brought the food back and cleaned up," said Spc. Kevin Kirkwood, a cook for the 35th Division.

Making sure the Mayor's Cell staff had what they needed to perform their jobs was the responsibility of Capt. Todd Lavery, Mayor's Cell Officer in Charge.

"Our job in the Mayor's Cell is to support the Soldiers so they don't have anything to worry about but the mission," said Lavery. "If we can do that, then



A Mayor's Cell worker takes calls that people phone in to make requests of needed supplies or services.

Photo provided by 35th Infantry Division

184th Logistics hosts conference

The second Kansas National Guard (KSNG) Joint forces Supply (J4) sponsored Sustainment Conference, hosted by the 184th Logistics Readiness Squadron, was conducted Feb. 9 to 11 at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Kan. This conference brought logisticians and operations soldiers and airmen together to discuss and develop plans and procedures for conducting joint sustainment functions in domestic operations.

Military subject matter experts and civilian warriors from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, delivered several presentations. These presentations were focused toward sharing management systems between our Air and Army Guard sustainment professionals, and providing the tools for efficiently directing and managing domestic missions to support the governor and Adjutant General's Department in times of domestic emergency.

In addition, three working groups were formed to develop a more efficient and encompassing reporting and asset tracking system for decision makers; for developing a joint standard operating procedure for conducting reception, staging, and onward movement operations for large scale events; and for further developing pre-planned "capabilities packages" for most anticipated support events from the Kansas Na-



Lt. Col. Chet Wilson leads a working group on developing a more comprehensive reports system.

Photo Provided

tional Guard.

Included with the programmed events in this conference is the opportunity for the Kansas National Guard logistics community to develop relationships and friendships. This will provide for a more efficient and rapid level of response for our future missions.

After action comments indicate this conference to be very valuable for the participants. As a result, the sustainment community will continue its efforts to develop "jointness" for the citizens of Kansas.



What's Coming Next Edition?

- ◆ More on the Annual Professional Development Conference!
- ◆ How tough is Air Assault School?
- ◆ 105th MPAD charging forward.
- ◆ NCO Hall of Fame Inductees.
- ◆ Fishing Tourney winners.



Capt. Kelly Martin and 1st Sgt. Randy Rice discuss communications systems.

Photo Provided