

Official Magazine Newsletter of  
the Kansas Army National Guard

# KANSAS SENTINEL

August 2011

Volume 2, Issue 4



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## On the Cover

Soldiers of the Big Red 1, Ft. Riley practice securing a MOUT site in Salina at the Great Plains Joint Training Center. Kansas Guardsmen were helping the active component warriors get ready for an upcoming deployment.

Photo by Pfc. Robert Havens, 105th MPAD

The Kansas Sentinel is an authorized, official publication of the Kansas Army National Guard. The Kansas Sentinel is published to provide command and public information to specific audiences about the Kansas Army National Guard and its Soldiers at home and deployed abroad. It is published by the 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD) in Topeka, Kansas.

Views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official view of or is endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army. This publication does not supersede any information presented in any other official Army or Department of Defense publication.

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# *From the Commander:*

The end of the training year is on us already, 2011 is flying by as it seems like only a short time ago we started the year with funding coming along in small waves through Continuing Resolution Authority (CRAs) for the first half of the year. The impacts have been mitigated by great work from Soldiers at all levels to get us successfully through our planned individual and unit training events. I am sure we will be dealing with a similar situation next year as we don't, as I write this, have a final set of budget figures for our operations in TY 2012. While this will present us with some challenges and choices, it will also offer us some opportunities to really focus on building our Soldiers and units capabilities in those critical areas that will serve us well as we face what has become a routine response to natural disasters here in Kansas along with our continuing overseas deployment commitments. To filter through all of the requirements placed on each of you, both on a individual or unit basis, will require diligence, some time and discipline to differentiate those tasks that we want to do, in some cases the fun and easy tasks, from those that are true requirements allowing us to do our two primary missions; disaster response and overseas deployment.

As I have said before, each of you are a leader or potential leader so success in our missions will be determined by the choices you make in what and how you and your team from the smallest section to the largest units in the state conduct your training. To quote former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates "In order to succeed in the asymmetric battlefields of the 21st century — the dominant combat environment in the decades to come, in my view — our Army will require lead-



*Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, Commander,  
Joint Forces Land Component  
Kansas Army National Guard*

ers of uncommon agility, resourcefulness, and imagination; leaders willing and able to think and act creatively and decisively in a different kind of world and a different kind of conflict than we have prepared for over the last six decades.”

I am confident that each of you has, or is developing into the agile, resourceful and imaginative leader you will need to be as we become more challenged by resources and conditions, both here at home and in our deployments.

We have a tradition in the U.S. military to push decision making down to the lowest possible level. In Iraq, Afghanistan and here at home in disaster response, we rely on our junior and mid-level leaders to make tactical, strategic, cultural, and ethical judgments that more senior commanders would have made 30 years ago. I am depending on each of you to use the resources, most likely more limited resources of time, equipment and money, to build the skills in yourself and your fellow Soldiers that develop the capabilities to make effective decisions in what are usually less than ideal conditions. This will not result in giving you a playbook or a checklist but rather the experiences that allow you and your fellow Soldiers to correlate your training to decisions you will make while on operational missions.

Take care of yourself, your families and your communities and I look forward to talking to you about our challenges and our solution alternatives as we get out to visit you during Training or other mission activities.

# ADRL Returns to Topeka



*Kansas National Guard Soldiers pose with Kim Morrell, a Pro Extreme Motorcycle racer for the American Drag Racing League, and her crew during the Kansas National Guard Independence Drags V at Heartland Park Topeka, June 17.*

*Story and photos by Pfc. Robert Havens, 105th MPAD*

On a hot June day, hundreds of people watched in anticipation as Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, approached the microphone. "Gentleman, Start your engines!" Responding to his command, the beasts nestled just off the starting line greedily snorted in a deep breath of air and exhaled a loud lion like roar. Over the symphony of explosions the crowd howled in excitement. The races are once



*Staff Sgt. James "Jimmy" Hubbard makes an exhibition run at the ADRL Drag Races at Heartland Park, June 17. Hubbard, who is sponsored by the Kansas National Guard, is able to represent the Guard and speak with people about the mission, hard work and importance of the Guard.*

again upon Topeka.

After being rained out in 2010, the American Drag Racing League (ADRL), returned to Heartland Park Topeka on June 17 and 18 in conjunction with the Kansas National Guard.

The festivities included five all-professional, eighth-mile drag racing classes; a police interceptor jet car; Summit Motorsport's "Bigfoot" monster truck; pit tours and an opportunity to meet the men and women who race the cars; and a full acre display by the National Guard of vehicles, a rock-climbing wall and "uniform experience" where participants could see what they would look like in the Army uniform, all with free admission.

"Our sponsors make it possible to make this event free and available to the public. Our whole model is to get the community involved," said Jeff Fortune, the executive vice president of the ADRL. "This is a way for the National Guard to reach the community and be visible and also gives the community an opportunity

"This raises awareness of the Kansas National Guard..."

- Staff Sgt. James Hubbard



Staff Sgt. James "Jimmy" Hubbard bows his head during the benediction at the ADRL Drag Races at Heartland Park, June 17.

***“ADRL” continued from page 4***

to thank the service members for their service.

"We've also had several drivers go to bases and show the cars and talk with the service members," Fortune continued.

Staff Sgt. James "Jimmy" Hubbard, the marketing and advertising non-commissioned officer for the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, Kansas Army National Guard, also agrees with Fortune.

"This raises awareness of the Kansas National Guard and allows for people to have a greater understanding of what we do," said Hubbard.

Cale Aronson, a Pro Stock racer sponsored by the Kansas National Guard, spoke about the importance of including the community in ADRL events.

"Making people part of it is something that drag

racing has the ability to do over almost any other sport. We are mobile advertising. We can touch the person. We can put kids in the cars and explain things," said Aronson.

"This is a chance for the public to remember the Guard and put service members in the front of their mind," Cale continued. "Seeing the men and women in uniform at an event like this helps them remember the hard work they do."

And hard work is exactly what they did when overnight winds swept through Shawnee County, destroying displays, wreaking havoc on tents and even causing damage to some race trailers.

"When I arrived there was a pile of scrapped tents and tipped over port-a-johns," said Ken Cotzin, Powersports manager for Motul USA. "Luckily, mine had not been nailed down and National Guard racecar driver Cale Aronson saved it for me. The only damage I had was some waste oil in my tent area that the Guardsmen were working with the track officials to clean up."



Members of the Kansas National Guard watch a drag racer make a pass at the Kansas National Guard Independence Drags V at Heartland Park Topeka, June 17. Members of the Guard were allowed access to the starting line to watch from the best view that day.

# Professional Racers Speak on Safety

Story and photos by Pfc. Robert Havens, 105th MPAD

On the top of a professional drag-racing car is an American flag that is proudly displaying signatures of America's wounded warriors and servicemembers. This subtle symbol speaks volumes to the dedication its driver has to his mission.

Cale Aronson, a Pro Stock driver who raced during the Kansas National Guard Independence Drags V, represents the Kansas National Guard, said this is his way to give recognition to servicemembers.

"I knew by the sponsorship we would be getting a lot of time to go and meet the troops and it gives them a way to be part of the experience," Cale said. "This gives me a chance to go out talk to the troops."

Cale and Staff Sgt. James "Jimmy" Hubbard, who is a professional motorcycle racer, have been working for the last two years together to raise awareness of the mission of the National Guard by getting the word out about it.

"Cale spent thousands of dollars putting the Kansas National Guard on his car to represent them. When that kind of guy has the drive like that, he is the best candidate in the world you have to represent the fine men and women of the Armed Forces," said Hubbard, also the marketing and advertising non-commissioned

officer for the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, Kansas National Guard.

Hubbard and Cale not only want to represent the Kansas National Guard, but to also bring the awareness of safety to Servicemembers.

"If you look at today's statistics about the Soldiers coming home from deployment,, a lot of them have money in their pockets and they want to go buy a sport bike or something that is cool. This gives me a way to promote motorcycle safety and to try to prevent motorcycle accidents," Hubbard said.

"We can teach people to go out, spend the \$25 so you can get into the racetrack to race, not get hurt, and if something does happen to you, there is emergency personnel five seconds away from you. You also won't get a ticket," Hubbard said. "There are tools out there to make sure you are safe. Take a motorcycle safety course and wear your helmet."

Hubbard continued on the importance of safety equipment while riding a motorcycle.

"The track temperatures are about 140 degrees and we are sweating out there, but I would rather sweat a little bit and walk away alive, than look cool and die," Hubbard said. "Cale and I are always out there trying to raise awareness. He drives the car -- I ride a bike."

As an example of racing safety, during the races at

Heartland Park Topeka, June 17 and 18, a driver's car had lit on fire shortly after leaving the starting line. His vehicle, engulfed in flames, slammed into the wall while approaching speeds of up to 180 mph. The safety measures on his vehicle allowed him to not only live, but to simply walk away from the accident. "Without his safety gear, he absolutely would have been severely injured if not killed," Hubbard said.



Cale Aronson's crew makes final adjustments to his Ford Mustang before making a pass at the Kansas National Guard Independence V drag races held at Heartland Park, June 17. Aronson, who chose to be sponsored by the Kansas National Guard over more lucrative sponsors, said he is proud to give Guardsmen the recognition they deserve.

# A Lesson in 'Cycle' Safety

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

Twenty-one Army National Guard Soldiers were killed or seriously injured in motorcycle accidents in the past year. As of June 20, 2011, an additional 10 Soldiers have been added to the list of accidental motorcycle fatalities. Safety reports of non-duty and duty-related fatalities have found that in many of these tragic instances, both new and experienced riders displayed a lack of training and skill.

"The National Guard is an organization committed to the safety of personnel," stated Master Sgt. Jeffery Arnold, State Safety Specialist. "We strive to save lives and to maintain a safer environment for our Soldiers."

Since 2008, the Army National Guard has been combating the lack of motorcycle skill amid Soldiers by providing funding and mandating compliance for motorcycle training. It is required that Army National Guard personnel operating a motorcycle in any military status, comply with Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 6055.4, Army Regulation (AR) 385

-10 and complete a Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) approved motorcycle rider basic safety course.

To help minimize the risk of motorcycle fatalities and injuries, Kansas offers 23 MSF Basic Rider Courses (BRC) across the state. Participants of BRCs are guided upon the requirements of the MSF, designed as a 20-hour curriculum, and are typically conducted evenings and weekends. The classes must be

"...the course...made me a more confident rider."

- 2nd Lt. Ronald Marshal

attended in a military duty status. The MSF BRC is offered free of charge to military personnel if the course is completed satisfactory. Each course covers the basic motorcycle fundamentals and provides an

opportunity for one to learn the physical and mental skills important for operating a motorcycle. There is no skill set required to participate in this course. It is available to all motorcyclists, new or experienced.

"As an experienced rider, the course helped me to learn to use my own judgment and made me a more confident rider," stated 2nd Lt. Ronald Marshal, Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ), Kansas Army National

Guard.

According to Arnold, the BRC is a learning opportunity for both seasoned riders and new motorcyclists.

"If you are an experienced rider, the course acts as a refresher course. If you are a beginning rider, it gives you the basic fundamentals," he said. "It teaches the basic principles of motorcycling."



Students participate in Harley-Davidson Rider's Edge Motorcycle Training on June 26, 2011, in Topeka, Kan.

**"Safety"**  
*continued on*  
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## “Safety” continued from page 7

Harley-Davidson’s MSF BRC, Rider’s Edge, is one of the available courses provided to the Kansas National Guard Soldiers. In their classroom, participants learn ways to minimize risk and handle special riding situations by means of an interactive seminar, discussions, and audiovisual support.

After the classroom, the participants are introduced to the range – a controlled environment designed for real road experiences. One at a time, participants

students take a written motorcycle knowledge test on traffic signs, motor vehicle laws and safe driving techniques. With satisfactory completion of each, one will receive a DE-99 form. Once this form is presented to the Kansas Department of Motor Vehicles, the participant will qualify for a Kansas Motorcycle license. All participants will receive a Motorcycle Safety Foundation Rider Course completion card once they have completed the Rider’s Edge Course.

Steve Roth, Director of Harley-Davidson Rider’s Edge Motorcycle Training, discussed the benefits of



Linda Geiger, a Harley-Davidson Rider's Edge Instructor, demonstrates what the students will be performing for the skills exam during the Rider's Edge Motorcycle Training on June 26, in Topeka, Kan. Riders had to complete 18 range exercises, and a written test on traffic signs, motor vehicle laws and safe driving techniques.

started out slowly, becoming familiar with the motorcycle. Then an introduction was given for the physical skills of basic control, including: clutch/throttle control, straight line riding, stopping, turning and shifting. Then participants moved on to more advanced skills in stopping quickly, cornering and swerving.

Once students go through the 18 range exercises, they perform a motorcycle skills exam. The test requires a student to perform various basic motorcycle tasks on the motorcycle they have been practicing with. Upon completion of the physical skills test the

participating and completing the Rider’s Edge Course. “This training develops safe riding skills from trained and experienced instructors,” he said. “Some insurance companies will provide a discount on motorcycle insurance and military members receive the Motorcycle Safety Foundation completion card required to ride on military installations.”

As motorcycling continues to become an

increasingly popular mode of transportation and recreation, it is imperative that the readiness of the Kansas Army National Guard is not compromised by ill-prepared motorcyclists. MSF Basic Rider Courses allow for Soldiers to be aware of the educational and safety requirements of the operating motorcycles. With prepared and educated Soldiers, the National Guard can be *always ready, always there*.

For more information about BRC contact Master Sgt. Jeffery Arnold, State Safety Specialist, at [jeffrey.arnold1@ng.army.mil](mailto:jeffrey.arnold1@ng.army.mil) or (785) 861-3879.

# Soldiers, Airmen Train with New Technology

Story and photos by Pvt. Anna R. Laurin, 105th MPAD

The security forces from the Agribusiness Development Teams 4, 5 and the 284th Air Support Operation Squadron (ASOS), Kansas Air National Guard, trained with the XM153 Common Remotely Operated Weapons Station (CROWS) July 5-9, to become operationally certified, at the Kansas National Guard Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, Kan.

The XM156 CROWS is a three-axis stabilized mount that contains a sensor suite and fire control software, allowing on-the-move target acquisition and first-burst target engagement. The station provides Soldiers with the ability to do all this while inside a vehicle, protected by armor, instead of exposed on the top of a vehicle and vulnerable to enemy fire.

“The instruction consisted of 32 hours of classroom training, a handwritten exam, and a day out on the range,” said Staff Sgt. Derek Redenius, an observer controller trainer with the pre-mobilization training assistance and evaluation team with the KSNG Great Plains Regional Training Center.

Being out on the range gave the service members a chance to identify targets and fire 200 rounds per person with the station. The training ended with the service members receiving certificates after firing the station on July 9.

“It's just like a video game,” said John McQueen an instructor for the CROWS NET team.

To control the weapons station the gunner sits inside the Humvee and aims the armed weapon by a

control grip while looking at a display control panel. “Not only does it protect the gunner from unfriendly fire, but it provides the protection of the vehicle, if it were to pass over or near an Improvised Explosive Device, from shrapnel and the impact,” said Boyd Crist, instructor for the XM156 CROWS.

The CROW Station can adapt to four weapons, the .50-caliber M2 Machine-gun, MK 19 Grenade Machine-gun, M240B Machine-gun, and the M249

Squad Automatic Weapon. It can also hold up to one-thousand rounds at a time.

The station has a visual imaging module, a thermal imaging module and a laser range finder, that provide a higher level of accuracy, a longer range with weapons, and dual cameras provide day and



*Soldiers, Airmen and instructors get ready for the range training with the XM156 Common Remotely Operate Weapons Station (CROWS) at Great Plains Joint Training Center, Salina, Kan., July 7.*

night vision.

“CROWS will be used primary down range, and allow spotting and identifying targets without leaving the vehicle,” said Maj. Michael Arnold, 284th ASOS. He believes that CROWS will help protect Airmen and will allow for more missions off base for the unit.

The 284th ASOS deploys and coordinates with Army National Guard units to provide as a liaison for the Army units to the Air Force, calling in supporting air coverage for ground troops.

Maj. Arnold said his airmen enjoyed the joint service class and hopes that there will be more integrated training in the future. He and his airmen found the CROWS class instructive, useful and look forward to using the Station down range.

# Candidates Graduate, Commission, Pin on Bars of Gold



Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class William McGinnis, 105th MPAD

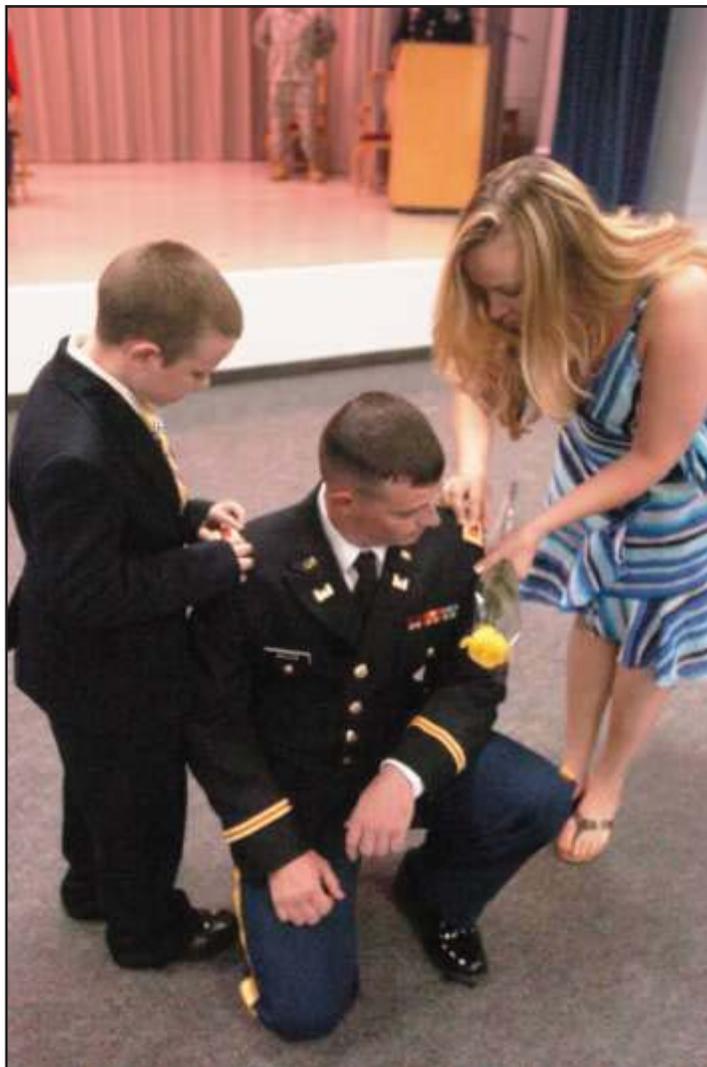
The Officer Candidate School (OCS) graduation, commissioning, and Hall of Fame Induction ceremonies were held Saturday, Aug. 13, at the Great Plains Joint Training Center (Kansas Regional Training Institute), Salina, Kan. Nine Kansas National Guard officer candidates received their commission: Joshua Bralley, Manhattan; Merlin Hollis, Topeka; David Isaac, Overland Park; Angie Mooneyham, Conway Springs; Lucas Osborn, Topeka; Sarah Patterson, Augusta; Brian Rogers, Topeka; Joseph Swann, Topeka; and Andrew Wolfe, Topeka.

Officer Candidate Joseph Cowan, Coffeyville, will receive his commission at a later date. The graduates of the Accelerated Officer Candidate School were also recognized, but could not be present due to them being at their Officer Basic Course and Flag School. These graduates were: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Christopher Kessler,

*See "COMMISSION" page 11*

*Top: 2nd Lt. Sarah Patterson has her new 'butter bars' attached to her uniform by her husband, Sgt. Andrew Patterson. Also assisting are her parents, Arlin and Deborah Smith.*

*Left: 2nd Lt. Andrew Wolfe has his new rank attached to his uniform by Kathleen Bullard and Clayton Wolfe.*





*Officer Candidate Lucas Osborne receives the Noble W. Drake Academic Achievement Award from Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, commander of the Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas – Land Component.*

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Lenexa; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Kathleen Nece, Hutchinson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Clarence Schreiber, Augusta; and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Thomas Winford, Olathe. The official party that administered the Oaths of Office and handed out the diplomas consisted of Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, commander of the Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas – Land Component; Col. Robert Windham, commander of the 235th Training Regiment; and Lt. Col. Judith Martin, commander 1st Battalion (OCS), 235th Regiment.

Peck was the guest speaker at the graduation. While Maj. Dwayne Byerly, the Kansas OCS company commander and master of ceremonies, was in the middle of reading his biography, Peck cut him short and jokingly told everyone that they could read it later in their handout because it was cutting into his time to speak.

Peck started off directly addressing the candidates and their families saying, “You’ve really accomplished a great first step in your journey towards becoming professional officers. I know that it was through considerable effort on your part and your family’s part, because it takes a lot of sacrifice to get to where you are.”

Peck went on to tell the candidates what his thoughts on leadership are, “I’ve come to believe that few people are born to become great leaders. When

all is said and done, the kind of leader you become is up to you....Everything we do, or fail to do, is based on the choices we make.” Peck continued on to tell them about the new challenges that the senior leaders of today are facing and what they will face as well.

Peck then gave them the same advice that he gives to every organization he has worked with or lead. Peck said it is very basic and simple but true, that they should “treat everyone with the common decency that you would want them to treat you.” Peck paraphrased Harry Truman saying, “his observation was that one of the surest ways to judge someone is by how well or how poorly they treat those who can’t talk back.” Peck encouraged them to be willing to get down and do the same things they may have to ask their troops to do, citing a story about where General George Washington was willing to get down with the troops to help them when there wasn’t enough manpower to get the job done. He said, “It’s a powerful demonstration of leadership in action. So, don’t be afraid to do the things you expect your troops to do.”

Peck further told the candidates that another part of treating Soldiers decently is to “make sure that they, and their families, are taken care of ‘body, mind and soul’.” He said, “it is the families who often bear the brunt of our Soldiers’ overseas combat tours, particularly when they face multiple deployments.” Peck encouraged the candidates to create a climate where the Soldiers can get the help they need as they face the things that may come in their life as a result.

Peck went on to tell them that the second basic quality of leadership is to “do the right thing, even when it is the hard thing—in other words, integrity.” He cites how too often people hear about leaders start out with the right intentions but somehow over time they go astray, so he encouraged them to stay the course and make sure they do the right thing and not the convenient thing.

Then one of the last things Peck encouraged them in as a part of leadership and troop support is having the courage and integrity to be able to tell superior officers what they may not want to hear – don’t just agree and give the popular answers. He said that there may be risk in doing that, but if they know it is the right thing to do then do it.

After Peck’s speech several awards were given to candidates that have shown outstanding achievements.

***See “COMMISSION” page 12***

*From “COMMISSION” page 11*

**The Noble W. Drake Academic Achievement**

**Award:** For highest academic average during the course. Highest average for OCS Class 55 was 95.84 percent by Officer Candidate Lucas Osborn.

**The Physical Fitness Award:** For highest average on Army physical fitness tests while at the course. Highest average for OCS Class 55 was 255 points by Officer Candidate Andrew Wolfe.

**The Tactical Proficiency Award:** Given to the candidate that demonstrated the most tactical proficiency and leadership ability during Phase III field training at Ft. Lewis, Wash. This was awarded to Officer Candidate Joshua Bralley.

**The Erikson Distinguished Graduate Award:** Awarded to the candidate who achieved the highest combined overall score in the OCS program. This individual does not necessarily have the highest score in any one area, but consistently scored highly in all areas of assessment. This was awarded to Officer Candidate Andrew Wolfe.

**The Association of the United States Army Leadership Award:** Awarded to the candidate who achieved highest score in leadership during course. Leadership scores are determined by the instructors using the Leadership Assessment Program, which in-

cludes 16 evaluated areas called “Leadership Dimensions”. They are: oral communications; written communications; oral presentation; initiative; sensitivity; influence; planning and organizing; delegation; administrative control; problem analysis; judgment; decisiveness; technical competence; physical and mental stamina; followership and mission accomplishment. This was awarded to Officer Candidate Merlin Hollis.

**The National Guard Association of Kansas**

**Award:** Awarded to the candidate who, according to the school cadre, displays the leadership; integrity; knowledge; dedication to duty; military bearing and appearance; communications skills and attitude desired in an Army officer. The recipient must possess and display the highest standards and characteristics of a leader. This was awarded to Officer Candidate Angie Mooneyham.

Each graduate received a National Guard Association of Kansas membership for the first year. This was presented by Col. Michael Erwin, president of the association. They also received a complimentary set of Second Lieutenant bars and a their first year’s membership to the Military Officers Association of America, presented by retired Brig. Gen. Ronald Tincher and retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Delbert Hill.



*The graduating class of OCS Class 55 accept their commissions and take the Oath of Office. Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, commander of the Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas – Land Component, administered the oath. (From left) 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Joshua Bralley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Merlin Hollis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. David Isaac, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Angie Mooneyham, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Lucas Osborn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Sarah Patterson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Brian Rogers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Joseph Swann, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Andrew Wolfe.*

# Slusher Inducted into OCS Hall of Fame

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class William McGinnis, 105th MPAD

Each year the 235<sup>th</sup> Regiment hosts the annual OCS Hall of Fame Induction and Commissioning Ceremonies in Salina, Kan. Former commander of the 235<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Col. Robert Bloomquist, established the OCS Hall of Fame in 2003 to pay special tribute to those outstanding officers and leaders who are graduates of the program who have since retired, departed the military, or have passed away.

Officers to be considered for selection into the OCS Hall of Fame must meet one of the following criteria: have attained the rank of colonel or higher, have been awarded the Silver Star or a higher award, have been killed in action or in a combat zone, or held captive as a prisoner of war.

According to Col. Robert Windham, commander of the 235th Training Regiment, each year the two ceremonies are held together to honor the long and rich heritage of our Kansas officer corps while welcoming its newest members.

This year's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony honored retired Colonel Michael Slusher.

"None of us, unless you throw yourself on a grenade, receives recognition for something they've done by themselves," Slusher said. He was brief because he already had an opportunity to speak to the candidates the night before at the OCS Class 55 Dining Out, where he spoke to them about the importance of the Army values in being a leader and how they have applied to his life and will apply to theirs as well.

Slusher enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at the age of 17 in 1968, serving primarily with the special operations units (including a combat tour in Vietnam) before transferring to the Marine Corps Reserves and civilian life.

Upon returning to Kansas in 1979, he joined the Kansas Army National Guard. In 1981, he attended the Officer Candidate School in Salina, Kan., Class

25. He served as an infantry officer for the next 29 years at all levels, from platoon through division and Department of the Army. While the majority of this time was with combat formations at the battalion and brigade level, it also includes more than 10 years within the special operations community at the team and selective assignments level. In 2010, he retired with over 40 years of active and reserve service, including more than six years deployed to combat and hostile fire assignments. His concluding assignment before retirement was three years in Southern Sudan, Africa, as the Senior U.S. Military Advisor to the Sudanese People Liberation Army and the Government of Southern Sudan.



*Retired Col. Michael Slusher is presented an induction plaque by Col. Robert Windham, commander of the 235th Training Regiment.*

His extensive military education includes Officer Candidate School, Infantry Basic Course, Armor Advanced Course, Army Ranger School, Army Airborne School, Air Assault Course, Navy Combat Divers and Salvage Divers Schools. He also holds both the Marine Corps Combat Action Ribbon and Army Combat Infantry Badge. His civilian education includes Associate of Arts in Administration of Justice from Saddleback College, Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration from University of Redlands, Master of Arts in Political Science from the University of Kansas, and graduate study in Administration of Justice from Wichita State University.

Slusher has received more than 65 individual and unit medals including the Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Italian National Service

Medal, National Defense Medal with two stars, Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaves, Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf, Humanitarian Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with four stars, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm, Presidential Unit Citation with star, Army Expeditionary Medal and Kansas Meritorious Service Ribbon with device and many more.

# Agricultural Development Team 4 Readies for Departure

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza-Pangburn

Instability, poverty and desperation have been the greatest recruiting tools of violent, radical groups such as the Haqqani-Network, Al-Queda and the Taliban. In 2007 one fact was self-evident; in order to bring stability to a historically unstable region, the U.S. Army would need to do more than just build a few roads, hospitals and schools. Long-term stability would require a drastic infrastructural improvement to enable the Afghan people to provide for their own basic needs.

Thus, the Agribusiness Development Team, or ADT, was formed. Such missions require Soldiers who are both capable warriors, and competent farmers or agricultural experts. Because this set of skills is so uncommon in the active duty Army, such a task was best suited to the National Guard. Only the Citizen Soldiers of the National Guard had already proven that they could balance a civilian career as a scientist or agricultural professional with the high demands of a military career in today's operational reserve forces.

Because Afghanistan's agricultural heritage has been disrupted by decades of foreign invasions, ADTs were created with a specific non-kinetic mission: to promote better agricultural practices in Afghanistan in order to re-build Afghanistan's farming heritage. ADTs teach once common agricultural skills to Afghan farmers so that they can grow feed and food crops and create a sustainable way of life for the Afghan people. Once the farmers can sustain themselves and their families, they will no longer need to rely on crops like the poppy, which they can only sell in markets that support terrorist groups. States across America with a strong agrarian heritage raised their hands, and now a dozen ADTs are dispersed throughout Afghanistan from these states.

This September, Kansas is preparing to send its fourth ADT to Afghanistan, Laghman Province. This team will work in conjunction with Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT), USDA, USAID and local Afghan government on multiple projects that will generate legal profits for the local population.

ADT 4 is composed of Soldiers from 772nd Engineer Company, who will make up the Security Force, and Soldiers from various Kansas and Maryland National Guard units who

comprise the individual agricultural expert team and headquarters section. Among their ranks are also linguists, hydrologists, a geologist, and numerous specialties that have been identified as keys to making them successful on their special mission. The entire team came together for the first time on Aug. 5, 2011 when they hit ground in Salina, Kan. for their pre-mobilization training. ADT 4 hit the ground running, first with nearly the entire team



*Sergeant 1st Class Clair attends an Agricultural Immersion class on the Kansas State University campus. The class covers ways to minimize post-harvest loss, control parasites and create sanitary conditions for food production*

completing the Combat Life Saver course; then it was straight to Fort Riley for Crew Serve Weapons Qualification in the 100 degree, humid Kansas heat peppered with the occasional thunderstorm. Each member has become proficient on both their M4 rifle and M9 pistol. Before they get a chance to enjoy their farewell ceremony and a well-earned three-day pass with their family, they will complete a Collective Training Exercise and Gunnery. Pre-mobilization will end at Camp Atterberry, Ind., before they finally head to Afghanistan and pick up where ADT 3 left off.

Kansas' participation in the Agribusiness Development Team has been a big point of pride, as it highlights the state's rich farming heritage and academic agricultural resources. With both their arms, and their plow shares, ADT 4 is ready to go.

# National Guard Supports Active Army with Operational Exercises



In preparation for future deployments into hostile combat zones, two units from the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kan., recently conducted mobile operations in urban terrain (MOUT) exercises at one of the Kansas Regional Training Institute's MOUT sites in Salina, Kan. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen supported the exercise by supplying the facilities and enemy

forces for the units to engage.

Over four days, Aug. 16-17 and 22-23, Company-sized elements from the 1-28<sup>th</sup> IN and 1-4<sup>th</sup> CAV flew in via Chinooks and Black Hawks and engaged the opposing forces using various tactics and approaches that they had been practicing back at Fort Riley prior to the exercises.

"The operation went very well," said Lt. Col. Peter Shull, ground force commander, Company commander responsible for the mission.

"These guys are what we call 'pre-seasoned,' they are just ramping up until they are fully trained." This was their first mission and they came out to the objective, executed and accomplished the mission while successfully conducting all the contingencies they had prepared for in their rehearsals prior to the exercise.

Lt. Col. Richard Fisher, Kansas Army National Guard Training Center garrison commander, said that his unit designed the training exercises to be as real-to-life as possible and to meet the specific needs re-



*Fort Riley, Kan. Based soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division practice securing and searching a mobile operations in urban terrain (MOUT) site. Their objective was to identify and remove enemy personnel from the area to help restore normalcy to the region, a simulation that will play out in real life on an upcoming deployment.*

“got their scenario for what they were looking for and what they thought was the most probable, most dangerous type of scenario and so that is the way that we set it up with combatants and non-combatants.” According to Fisher, commanders really appreciate the training his team provides because his team is able to switch and make adjustments to each team’s scenarios to enhance their training. “We’re just here as training aids to enhance their training. You train here to find your mistakes so you don’t make them when you are in the real mix.”

Each exercise scenario and operation was completed as close as possible to what the Soldiers would be dealing with in a real combat situa-



tion. Prior to and during each mission, Kiowa aircraft from Fort Riley flew in and conducted reconnaissance and air support for the ground troops. The Soldiers on the ground conducted operations and then were extracted back out by helicopter. According to Capt. Clayton Cornell, company commander to the ground force commander, the assault teams missions involved bringing security to the region by identifying and removing enemy personnel from the area to help restore normalcy to the region. This involved going into a village that is friendly to coalition forces and removing a high value target and any enemy forces that attempted to engage their teams. During his team's assault, Cornell said, "we achieved our ob-

jective and recovered about 25 RPG's (rocket propelled grenades)." According to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Joseph Dessert, with 1-28<sup>th</sup> IN, his team's mission was to capture the HVT who was an IED cell leader that was targeting coalition forces. They were able to capture him, while engaging 5-10 enemy forces -- killing four of them and capturing three enemy prisoners of war.

Once the training day ended, Command Sgt. Maj. Greg Kober with the Great Plains Joint Train-

ing Center, rallied the personnel involved in the exercise scenario and conducted an after action review to evaluating each team's performance -- what each team did well and what each needed to improve upon. Once completed, Kober then takes the information and puts in a useable format to give to the units' leadership to help them improve upon future training.

# MOVE That BUS!!

Extreme Makeover:  
Home Edition delivers  
new home to Hill Family

Story by Spc. Jessica Zullig, 105th MPAD

On July 31, Retired Sgt. Allen Hill and his family, a Kansas Army National Guard veteran, received the surprise of a lifetime: a knock on their door from the Extreme Makeover: Home Edition crew to inform them that they would be the recipients of a new home. A home, with Allen in mind, and constructed specifically for their family.

The road to their new home has been painful and joyous and includes some unlikely players. However, without the new home, the family would continue to be split apart by the invisible wounds of war.

Hill was almost killed by a massive roadside bomb on Nov. 21, 2007, while serving on his second tour in Iraq. He deployed the first time in August 2005 through November 2006. He returned home and then

was deployed again January 2007 with the 731st Medium Truck Company to provide security for northbound supplies feeding and housing troops closer to the fight.

"The night I was injured, I was serving as a gunner for the last truck in the convoy," stated Hill. "The trip back to our base started out normally. Our convoy was the only one to leave Baghdad that day. We were rolling down the road when I saw a guy out in the field messing with something in his hand. The next thing I see is a bright light and then I felt rocks and grit hit me in the face," Hill recounted.

Hill has no memory of anything else that night. His next memory is from when he woke up in Germany, thinking he was still in Iraq. Filled in on the rest of what happened by various people, he remained in

Germany until Nov. 25, when he was transferred to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington D.C., where he recovered until March 2008.

He has recovered from the physical wounds, but it is the injuries that can't be seen that haunt him. Environmental triggers such as loud noises, dimly lit spaces and long hallways instigate Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) episodes. Some of these episodes are particularly dangerous as they can send Hill running for cover.

After fighting the disorder at home for some time and secluding himself inside his home, Hill move to a veterans treatment facility in northern California, where he had been for more than a year. In order to return home, he would need a house that met some specific criteria...it would need to be a



Retired Kansas Army National Guard Soldier, Sgt. Allen Hill and his family catch a glimpse of their new home as the Extreme Makeover: Home Edition bus rolls away, August 6. The Hills were the recipients of a new home, built by some 3,000 volunteers from the local community.

See "Bus" continued on page 20



*Above: The construction of the house is not quite finished on day three. Volunteers and makeover crew work for seven days to create a dream home for the Hills. (photo by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)*



*Top left: Retired Sgt. Allen Hill, a former Kansas National Guardsman and recipient of a new home built by the Extreme Makeover: Home Edition crew and volunteers, stands with his family before the revealing of his new residence Aug. 6, in Ottawa, Kan. (photo by Pfc. Robert Havens, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)*



*Bottom left: Members of the Kansas Army National Guard line the road as the Hill family arrive in a limousine for the revealing of their new home Aug. 6, in Ottawa, Kan. (photo by Pfc. Robert Havens, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)*

*Bottom: The Hill home is finished and ready to be revealed to the family on Aug. 6, 2011. The home features a “quiet room” that is sound proof to provide Hill with a place to go during episodes.*



*From "Bus" page 18*

"quiet" home. Their Ottawa residence was near a quarry and railroad tracks and the noise actually triggered episodes. In order to be together as a family, the Hills would need a new home.

This is where the story broadens and takes on some unique players and involves a dog and an award winning actress.

While looking for things that could help Hill, his wife Gina came across the program Puppies Behind Bars. After contacting the organization and talking extensively with them to explain his condition, filling out loads of paperwork, Allan was awarded his ser-

men's medium security prison. The PBB program allows service members who struggle with PTS, like Hill, the opportunity for a service dog to aid them in their struggle. The dogs are trained by the inmates.

Through this meeting, Close discovered the Hills need for a quiet home. It was Close who nominated the family to receive the new home from the Extreme Makeover organization. And, it is through the building of this home by the Extreme Makeover people and the community that the Hills have been reunited as a family.

"This is truly a dream come true," said Gina Hill. "We couldn't have asked for a more perfect home. It is hard to believe that this would happen for us. So many things have been a struggle; we have had some amazing blessings along the, for sure, but this is the one thing that was keeping us separated," she continued.

"This whole thing has just been a God-send," Hill added. "I struggled with quite a few environmental triggers that I really couldn't control in our old house. That made life for me pretty hard," he continued. "Coming to this...it really hasn't sunk in yet. I'm still pinching myself!" The new house features a sound proof "quiet" room where Allen can go when he needs things to be quiet, as well as foam insulation, triple glass windows, and multiple other features that reduce outside environmental noise, according to builder Robert Andrew of M.A.C. corporation, one of the primary builders. "It really means a lot for us to be able to do this for Allen and the family," he said. "They have given so much for us; it is only fitting that we be able to give back to them."

Through the week, more than 3,000 people from the region volunteered and worked on the house in blistering summer heat, running shifts of eight hours. Construction on the home never stopped for the entire seven days it took to build. From the time the foundation was laid, right up to the time it was presented to the Hill family, scores of community members worked 24-hours a day to ensure that the home was finished on time.

"This means we get to be a family again," said ten-year-old son Dreyson as he clung to his father's side. "Dad is finally home."

The episode of Extreme Makeover:Home Editon that features the Hill's home build is expected to air on ABC sometime in October. Check your local listings for dates and times



*Contractor Robert Andrew presents the Hill family with the deed to their new home. The Hill family received a new home that was build by community volunteers and the ABC television show Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.*

vice dog, Frankie. Through working with the Puppies Behind Bars organization, the Hills were extended the invitation to meet the trainer of Frankie on an episode of the Oprah Winfrey Show.

The Hills met Glenn Close, an award winning actress, during the filming of the Oprah Winfrey Show in which she witnessed the meeting between Roberto Rodriguez and Hill at the Fishkill Correctional Facility in New York. Rodriguez, the trainer for Puppies Behind Bars and Hill's service dog is an inmate at the

# Trauma After the Action: The Unseen Wound

In the early 1800's military doctors began seeing cases of what they determined to be simple battlefield exhaustion. In every major engagement from that point members of armies around the world have been diagnosed with cases of fatigue and an inability to function in battle. According to retired Master Sgt. I. S. Parrish, USA, in his Military Veterans PTSD Reference Manual, first published in 2008, the only treatment for this 'exhaustion' was to bring the afflicted soldiers to the rear for rest and recuperation, before sending them back into battle.

Modern medicine knows this exhaustion as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Studies of PTSD and treatment for it have come a long way in the past 40 years. Doctors now can recognize signs of PTSD and treat some, if not all of its known symptoms.

Physicians from all branches of the armed services have increased the awareness of the effects of PTSD on service members. Since the first recorded cases of PTSD in the post-Vietnam era scientists and doctors have recognized a number of symptoms.

In 1979 the American Psychiatric Association (APA) acknowledged PTSD as an actual condition in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, Third Edition.

The APA lists the symptoms of PTSD in three separate categories. The most recognized symptoms are flashbacks, or reliving the event. Cars colliding or other loud noises can easily startle the afflicted person, and bring back painful memories of the traumatic event.

The Mayo Clinic staff released a report in 2011 defining the next symptom as Avoidance.

Avoidance can take many forms ranging from memory problems and trouble concentrating to difficulty maintaining close relationships. Service members returning from overseas combat deployments often report marital and family problems.

Relationship problems are usually part of a larger issue of depression and anxiety disorder. According to Parrish, those afflicted by PTSD often experience a sense of separation or detachment from others, including their loved ones. Phrases such as "no one can understand what it's like," or "I'm on the outside looking in at all these people who don't have a clue,"

or "I don't care about things or people the way I used to," are frequently voiced by sufferers.

The third symptom category is a sense of Hyper-Arousal, or feeling keyed up. The Mayo Clinic staff physicians state this may include mood swings, insomnia and nightmares. People affected by PTSD may also feel a sense of danger or stress at the smallest startle.

Much like the symptoms, treatments for PTSD vary as much as the people who suffer from it. Treatment can range from taking medication such as sleeping pills and antidepressants/anxiety to counseling and psychotherapy.

There are numerous hotlines and websites that are available for sufferers of PTSD and other traumatic brain injuries, and are accessible 24 hours a day 365 days a year.

What is important to remember is that PTSD does not have to be a permanent problem. With the proper care and treatment the damage done by PTSD can be repaired and a full and healthy life can be had.

If you, a love one or a fellow Soldier are experiencing the symptoms of PTSD, don't wait to get help. It doesn't get better on its own and admitting you have a problem is not a sign of weakness.

Where to get help

## PHONE NUMBERS

Military One Source Hotline:

1-800-342-9647

National Suicide Prevention Hotline:

1-800-273-8255

National Institute of Mental Health's

Anxiety Hotline: 1-888-826-9438

## WEBSITES

[www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) – Military One Source

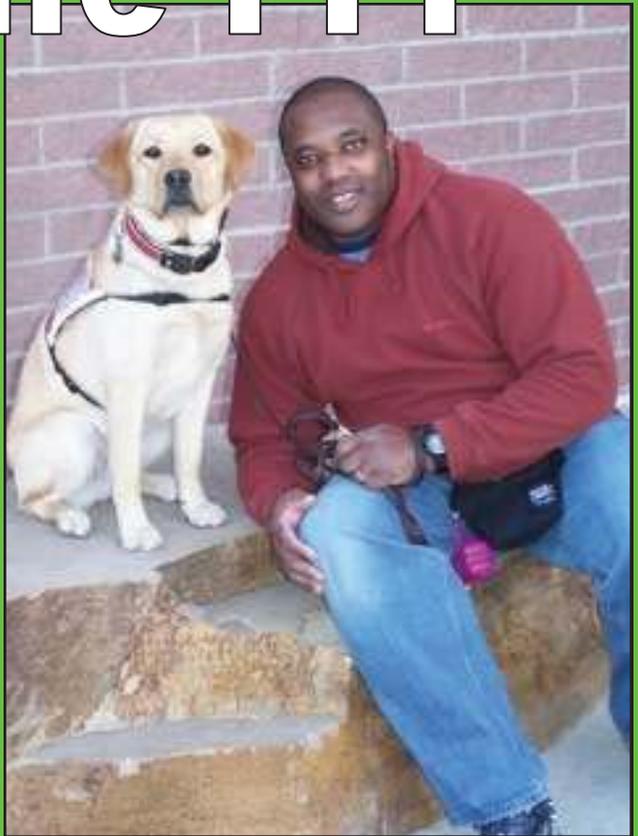
<http://www.ptsd.va.gov> – National Center for PTSD

# A Dog's Life . . .

## Companion

## Best Friend

## Savior



*Retired Sgt. Allen Hill with service dog Frankie during their initial training in Colorado.*



Kansas National Guard Soldier retired Sgt. Allen Hill with service dog Frankie.

For most, a dog is a pet; a companion, fishing buddy, hunting partner. But, for servicemen and women who struggle with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, like retired Sgt. Allen Hill of Ottawa, Kan., a dog can be a link to reality and a sense of normalcy in life.

Change can be uniquely stressful, especially for service members coming back from a deployment. For those with physical or emotional injuries, the transition can be overwhelming.

Today's Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans are coping with a range of psychological disorders in far greater proportions than veterans of previous conflicts, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury and depression. The Department of Defense and other organizations involved in veterans' care are increasingly recognizing

*See "A dog's Life" page 23*

*From "A dog's Life" page 22*

the benefits of animal-assisted therapy, also known as pet therapy, to help even seriously disabled veterans heal their emotional and physical wounds.

Hill, who got his service dog Frankie from an organization call Puppies Behind Bars, says he would be lost without his service dog.

"My relationship with Frankie is a give and take relationship. Daily our bond grows stronger. We are best friends," said Hill. "She can sense when I am having problems or something isn't right with me. If I am not in the same room as my wife, she will go get Gina to come give me help. I don't think I will ever understand how well she knows me. It is amazing to me. She rarely leaves my side even when she is off leash and free in our house. Her favorite spot is wherever I am. I couldn't ask for a better partner in life."

The amount of places that Hill now has the courage to go since Frankie came into his life is night and day. After he had returned home from his second deployment to Iraq, where he was seriously injured by a remote detonated Improvised Explosive Device (IED) he become a recluse, often hiding in his home, afraid to go out. He had experienced some severe episodes with post traumatic stress. So much so, that he would become a danger to himself or those around him. Hill eventually went into a residence program in northern California, spending more than a year in rehabilitation away from his family. Through it all, Frankie has been by his side.

"Frankie has impacted my entire family. She has given my wife the freedom to focus on our kids instead of me so much," said Hill. "She has given my kids their freedom back as well because they can just be kids instead of having to worry about their dad all the time. Frankie has given me the ability to be a part of their lives again, instead of withdrawing into myself. In many ways, she has brought me the rest of the way home to my family. They all love her and she knows it!! She is slowly helping me gain my independence back."



Hill plays tug-of-war with Frankie in the back yard of his former home in Ottawa. She loves to play soccer with him and can even sense when he is having problems.

While seriously injured veterans might require a specially trained service animal, many veterans will neither qualify nor need a highly-skilled pet in order to benefit from the unique therapeutic qualities of a four-legged friend. And wounded soldiers transitioning to civilian life aren't alone in finding comfort and emotional stability from a pet dog or cat.

Companion pets offer a humane addition to other forms of military transition assistance, and are potentially well-suited for:

- \*Service members returning from overseas deployment or war duty

- Soldiers in transition to civilian life from active duty

- \*Veterans coping with various life changes, such as children leaving the home, separation or divorce, change of employment or residence, etc.

- \*Veterans experiencing feelings of depression, isolation or loneliness

- \*Immediate family of an active duty service member needing help to fill the void of a deployed spouse or parent

# Soldiers Support Djiboutian Orphanage

By Sgt. Shawn Collins

CAMP LEMONNIER, Djibouti ( Aug. 19, 2011) - A group of Soldiers from First Platoon, Battery B, 1st Battalion 161 Field Artillery have dedicated the month of August to volunteering at the baby orphanage in Djibouti City.

The Soldiers started going to the orphanage with a group from the Camp religious services. It started with two

Soldiers from Battery B and has grown to a team of six; Capt. William Chuber, Sgt. Shawn Collins, Sgt. Robert Davis, Spc. Donna Schild, Spc. Andrew Wieland, and Pvt. 2 Jesus Arredondo.

“They have devoted their time to playing, feeding, changing diapers and putting the

children to sleep. I am very proud of the soldiers for using their time to help others,” Chuber said.

After going to the orphanage a few times, the Battery B Soldiers learned of a project that a few Marines had started before they redeployed from Djibouti. The Marines started to repaint and clean up one of the storage rooms in the orphanage used to store clothes, diapers, toys and medicine.

The Battery B Soldiers made the commitment to the Nuns and children to take over the project.

“At first I think the nuns were worried that we were just there to do a little work and leave. When

they saw us still working on day five of our project, they really started to open up to us,” Wieland said.

The Soldiers have almost finished scraping the old paint and crumbling plaster off the walls. The next step is to start filling in the many holes in the walls and start painting

The Soldiers feel they have gone from being seen

as random visitors to actual members of the community. “It is real nice when you can see the effect we have had on the locals. For example, today we had a person that came into the room to shake our hands and tell us thank you. Also the local



*Bravo Battery Soldiers with two of the sisters from the Franciscan Sisters of Notre Dam Orphanage take a group photo after a long day of scraping paint and running around with children. In the photo from left to right: Sgt. Shawn Collins, Capt. William Chuber, Sgt. Robert Davis, Sister Teresa, Pvt. 2 Jesus Arredondo, Spc. Donna Schild, and Sister Teresa's assistant. (Photo by Spc. Andrew Wieland)*

GS4 guards have thanked us many times when we were on our way back in,” Wieland said.

“At first it was a little scary with all the children running around, until that first little one reaches out and gives you the biggest smile ever,” Arredondo said.

Arredondo went on to say, “It feels great to go in there and play with the children, but it is a real heart breaker when you walk into the room and they recognize you.”

As Arredondo visited the orphanage for the third time, several of the children recognized him and came running.

# U.S., Tanzania Soldiers Share More than Soldier Skills

By Spc. Michelle C. Lawrence, UPAR

CAMP LEMONNIER, Djibouti (August 15, 2011) Two teams of U.S. soldiers from Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa recently returned from partner-ship-building missions where they shared military knowledge and experiences including logistical skills, crowd control and battalion staff roles with members of the Tanzania Peoples Defense Force (TPDF). The first team of soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery travelled to Msata, Tanzania in June while the second team traveled in July.

“The work was great,” said Sgt. Todd Gingrich. “The Tanzanian soldiers always seemed motivated and upbeat. They were curious about our culture and military experiences.”

Even though they shared a similar mission, the two teams had a wide range of experiences with their counterparts.

The first team, led by Lt. Col. James Bunch, worked primarily with the TPDF battalion staff. Bunch and his team shared different methods to create a secure environment within Tanzania.

“It was extremely satisfying to watch the staff improve during the course of the exercise

and to know that our efforts were working,” said Bunch.

The second team consisted of 1st Sgt. Todd Daniels, mission commander, Staff Sgts. Keith Adams and Todd Gingrich. They shared professional military skill sets including entry control point procedures, operation orders, warning orders and human rights guidelines.

Best practices were not the only thing the nations shared.

“We got to know them, got to know their culture, asked about their family,” said Gingrich. “On down time we’d talk and trade stories on our different cultures and how we lived.”

Daniels said he was constantly impressed by the culture and dedication of the TPDF.

“This is their life,” said Daniels. “Every day is a work day to them. Their work ethic is truly amazing.”

According to Daniels, the village women would walk two or three miles from their home to a pond with a five-gallon bucket for water. They would put

the buckets on their head and carry them back to their homes to boil and use for the day.

Throughout the training, the Tanzanian and U.S. Soldiers formed strong relationships which made the return trip to Camp Lemonnier difficult.

“By the time we left Tanzania we had built a great number of friend-

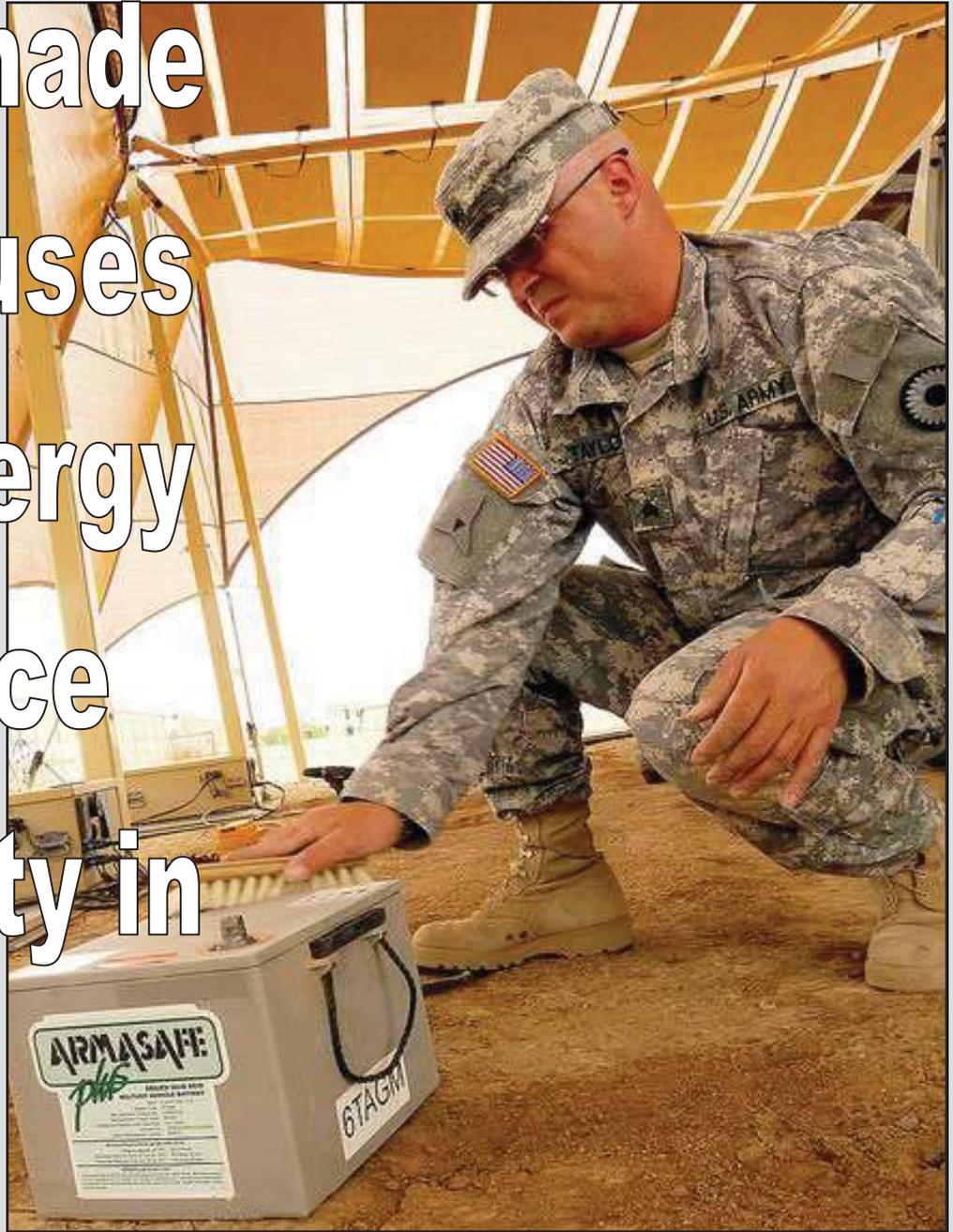
ships,” said Capt. James Pope. “The Tanzania Peoples Defense Force soldiers wanted us to come back again. Through interaction we were able to build a bridge of friendship that will help facilitate future cooperation between our forces.”

Gingrich echoed that sentiment, and added, “It’s their home, their continent. They have a vested interest in its future.”



MSATA, Tanzania (June 27, 2011) – Lieutenant Colonel James Bunch, 1st Battalion 161st Field Artillery liaison officer, shares different points with members of the Tanzania Peoples Defense Force on how to plan a leadership meeting with United Nation and local officials at the Msata Training Base June 27. Bunch shared various ways to integrate the military decision making process with the S5 directorate - Planning of Future Operations.

# Power shade system uses solar energy to produce electricity in desert climates



*Sgt. Nathaniel Taylor, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard, cleans up one of the six Hawker HMMWV batteries that store electricity produced by a solar shade at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti.*

*By Rich Bartell, U.S. Army Africa Public Affairs*

CAMP LEMONNIER, Djibouti - More than a year ago, a team of Kansas National Guard Soldiers set up a solar shade system here that produces two kilowatts of power. With relatively no maintenance, the system continues to silently and steadily produce eco-friendly electricity from the sun.

Recently, Maj. Tim Franklin, the Uniformed Sci-

ence Technology Advisor to U.S. Army Africa and Steve Tucker of the U.S. Army Natick Research, Development and Engineering Center traveled to Djibouti to assess the power shade system and train Soldiers on its use.

“The system performed well during the year-long, limited military user assessment. Despite the harsh winds, high temperatures and extremely dusty conditions, the system remains fully operational with only

*See “Power Shade” page 27*

minor delamination on three of the 72 panels. It produces virtually maintenance-free power," Franklin said.

He said the silent, zero-emission and logistic-free power the system produces provides tangible savings.

"The solar shade system produces the same amount of power that would be produced by a gas driven generator using eight gallons of fuel a day, or approximately 2,900 gallons in a year. In remote sites, gas costs about \$15 a gallon when you factor in transportation and handling. When properly used in the optimum environment, a system like this has the potential to save the Army as much as \$40,000 a year," Franklin said.

He said there are many other second and third order positive effects, such as less maintenance to generators and refueling trucks, reduced manpower requirements for mechanics and drivers and decreased power requirements due to the thermal protection the solar shade provides.

"Most importantly, the reduction in fuel convoys equates to a reduction in associated casualties from IEDs [improvised explosive devices] and small-arms fire when used in a hostile environment. That's a metric that you cannot hang a dollar value on," Franklin said.

The system is simple and consists of 72 solar panels located on the top of the 40-by 60-foot surface of the shade. Power is stored in six Hawker HMMWV batteries encased in three metal boxes. It resembles a tent-like awning used at out-door events and can allow smaller tents to be set-up underneath it.

Tucker, an electrical engineer uses the "bathtub" analogy to describe how the solar shade system works. "Using the solar shade as an alternative energy source is all about understanding of the balance of power," Tucker said "Think of the solar shade as a bathtub filled with water. The water is the energy produced and stored by the shade. It's usable energy. The solar panels create energy that goes into the battery system, just as the faucet pours water into the bath tub," Tucker explained.

"This is where the balance of power comes in, where users must ensure the power used doesn't exceed the amount of power stored," Tucker said.

"It's a paradigm shift. It's a different mindset from having a generator, where you have energy only as

long as you have fuel. The biggest challenge is managing the expectations of the user. The system has advantages far above and beyond fossil fuel fired generator systems. Again, there isn't a logistics tail. It doesn't require fuel, nor does it require weekly maintenance," Tucker said.

The power shade is particularly appropriate to power small electric devices such as fans, radios and computers.

"We'll continue to work with Army units and Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa to refine and validate requirements for remote, silent expeditionary power, especially where logistical resupply is a challenge," Franklin said.

"This is not a science project. The end-state is to see promising alternative energy technologies such as the solar shade advance to enduring solutions for the Army. That can only be accomplished with validated requirements and a coordinated effort between the warfighters, program managers, TRADOC combat developers, and the RDECOM science and technology office," Franklin said.

During the two-day training Franklin and Tucker engaged eight Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa personnel in the use and assembly of the solar shade. They took the shade down and reassembled it after a complete cleaning and maintenance of the system.

The solar shade has been added to the organization's property book and is ready for use in any of several CJTF - HOA operational area.

## **IS YOUR STORY BEING TOLD ?**

**Every unit has stories to tell and things that they are doing that should be shared with other Soldiers throughout the state. Submit your stories or ideas to the Kansas Sentinel contacting us at: [phillip.witzke@ng.army.mil](mailto:phillip.witzke@ng.army.mil)**

# Kansas Soldiers Learn First Aid for Snake Bites

By Sgt. Steven Koehn  
CAMP SIMBA, Kenya  
(15 July 2011) - Members of Second Platoon, Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery attended a snake bite course in Watamu, Kenya on July 15th.

The snake bite seminar was held at the Bio-Ken Snake Farm near Watamu, Kenya. The Bio-Ken Snake Farm hosts a wide range of venomous and non-venomous snakes at the farm.

The Bio-Ken organization is a research organization that also provides a range of services for the surrounding area including snake removal, snake seminars, and providing snake venom for making antivenin.

The service members from Camp Simba took the trip down the coast to Watamu, Kenya to take the course. The course was attended by four 161st Soldiers along with the Hospital Corpsman stationed at Camp Simba.

Service members arrived at the course on July 15th and were given a tour of the farm. The tour guide described seven families of snakes and the unique characteristics of the snakes and informed the group whether the snakes were venomous or not. The seven families of snakes discussed were worm snakes, pythons, colubrids, blind snakes, burrowing snakes, cobras and vipers. Along the way the group received the opportunity to hold several non-venomous snakes.

The service members learned the difference between cytotoxic venom, neurotoxin venom, and haemotoxic venom. Additional information the service members received was the terrain where the snakes are found. This information helps to narrow down the type of snake that likely bit a snake bite victim.



Sergeant 1st Class Curtis Woodbury handles a snake at the Bio Ken Farm Snakebite course in Malindi, Kenya. (Photo by Spc. James Mace)

After seeing the snakes at the Bio-Ken snake farm the service members received a snake bite class. The class covered the first aid that will help the first responders save lives in the field.

Sanda Ashe, the director of the Bio-Ken research center said, "The most common mistake that I see is an overreaction to the snake bite, causing the victim to panic."

The soldiers learned to stay calm, send for a doctor immediately, cover the wound with a sterile dressing, and elevate the wound. Other techniques learned include asking the patient questions to help identify the type of snake that bit them, removing all constrictions on the bitten limb, and monitoring the patient until they are seen by a doctor.

Spc. Phillip Reese said, "The most important thing that I learned in the class is to keep the patient calm and avoid snakes as to not provoke an attack." Second Platoon is stationed at Camp Simba located on a Kenyan Naval Base on the northern coast of Kenya. The platoon conducts Force Protection operations on the base.

For more information on snakes and snake bites visit the Bio-Ken website at <http://bio-ken.com>

# OPERATION: KIDS CAMP!

*Story by, Lt. Col. Rex Johnson, Joint Forces Headquarters— Land Component Public Affairs Officer*

In July, 109 children enjoyed a taste of military life through a five day and four night camp in Salina, Kan. Since 1998, Kid's Camp has been an annual event, allowing children ages 8-12 the opportunity to experience a week of fun at the Kansas Regional Training Institute (KSRTI). During the week, the children enjoyed doing many of the things their uniform wearing family member does such as marching in formation, singing cadences, training on simulators, and eating in a military chow hall.

"Kid's Camp is designed to give children a chance to experience everything a Service Member does while on duty," said Darcy Seitz, State Youth Coordinator for Kansas and camp director. "The goal of camp is to provide a safe environment where Guard children can bond, create new friendships, and share their experiences about life in a military family."

The children are divided up into different squads based on gender and age group. Each squad wears T-shirts and caps with their squad colors and designs their own flag. The kids participated in several activities throughout the week; which included jumping on giant inflatable's, playing games on military simulators, participating in a Camp Idol karaoke contest, and even having the chance to turn their squad leaders into human sundaes.

While the children lived in barracks and participated in activities at the KSRTI, they also had the opportunity to enjoy activities in the local community. Thanks to the support of Salina businesses, the children were able to go to Kenwood Cove Water Park a couple of times during the week as well as Jumpin' Joes Family Fun Center.

Makayla Turner, age 12, attended the camp for the third year in a row. Like many of the children, she enjoyed the variety of events offered.

"We got to go swimming two times and we got to go bowling," Makayla said. "We got to go to Jumpin' Joes. We got to do a lot of stuff. We got to create our own flag. It was really cool."

"The best thing about Kid's Camp was bowling and swimming," said Raiden Gonzales, age 10, who is attending his first camp. "It might make me want to join the Air Force."

"We got to bowling, swimming, and we got to jump on

the bouncy houses," added Taryn Flinn, age 9. "And make human sundaes out of our squad leaders. It was the best thing in the world."

"I mostly like the swimming because you get to go down the lazy river and get flushed down the slide," said Bailey Schulte, age 11, attending her second Kid's Camp. Bailey added that the shirt signing with her fellow squad members and friends at the end of camp was another great experience.

Skyler Camper and Mason Turner, both 8, were



*A blue team Kids Camper stares intently into the headset of one of the many virtual training devices that were utilized during Operation: Kids Camp.*

*See "Kids Camp" page 30*

*From “KIDS CAMP ” page 29*

part of Alpha (Tan Squad). They explained how much they enjoyed their first Kid’s Camp experience.

“It was fun and exciting,” Skyler said.

Mason commented that Kid’s Camp was “a blast.”

Cody Giles, age 11, said that swimming was one of his favorite things to do at Kid’s Camp. When asked what he thought about the whole Kid’s Camp experience, he explained in two simple words, “It rocked!”

Dan Fox, a retired Air Guard senior master sergeant and technician for the 190<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, served for the second year in a row as the camp’s first sergeant. He has participated in the Kid’s Camp for the past eight years. He served first as an assistant squad leader, a squad leader, and then became the first sergeant as of last year.

“Being first sergeant is awesome,” Fox said. “It is an amazing experience being the father figure over the kids. It is really a heartwarming experience.”

“I can say there is not a bad thing about Kid’s Camp,” Fox added. “We have a lot of these kids who say ‘man, when I grow up I want to be in the Army; and can I come back and be a counselor at Kid’s Camp?’ “

Fox is grateful for the support from the Kansas National Guard for Kid’s Camp. “I just appreciate the support from the Adjutant General on down,” Fox said. “The National Guard is the foundation (for the camp) and an incredible organization; we couldn’t do it without them.”

The camp concluded on Friday, July 15, with a graduation ceremony. Each of the children received various awards for their camp participation. The awards included medals for volunteerism, attention to detail, most improved, enthusiasm, teamwork, motivation, leadership, initiative, and determination amongst others.

“Each one of you is really important to your mom or dad or maybe both staying in the National Guard,” were the words given to the campers by Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose, director of the Joint Forces Headquarters and keynote speaker at the graduation ceremony. “And it is really important that you learn what we in uniform do when we go to drill, or when we are working in our military position. So that you understand and you are OK with your parents staying in.”

“Because retaining our Soldiers and Airmen is all about having our families understand what we are doing and why we are doing it,” Rose added.



*Campers set up their pseudo rockets on the launchers. The campers learned about aerodynamics, force, angles of trajectory and were able to construct experiments to get some hands on education in how each element works together to launch their projectile.*

Kid’s Camp was supported by over 50 volunteers. These consist of service members from the Army and Air Guard, JROTC members from local high schools, and Teen Council members. The volunteers, along with the help of the local businesses in Salina, make Kid’s Camp a reality.

“Volunteers and the community are crucial pieces to ensuring Kid’s Camp is a success year after year,” said Seitz. “Without volunteers donating their time, or businesses allowing us to bring our campers in to their facilities, Kid’s Camp would not be possible.”

“This speaks volumes about our volunteers and their commitment to the kids in wanting to provide them a first class experience,” commented Maj. Gen. Lee Tafaanelli, the adjutant general.

“Kid’s Camp provides a great opportunity for the children of our Guardsmen to come out and enjoy the outdoor activities and make new friendships with other National Guard kids and hopefully leave camp realizing that they are all an important part of our Kansas National Guard family,” Tafaanelli said. “The kids get to learn about leadership and the value of working as part of a team.”

# Teen Leadership Summit - An Experience to Remember

By Sophia Olsen, Teen Council Member

The 2011 Classic Teen Leadership Summit was an experience that I will never forget. I was selected to attend the Summit out of 800 applicants nationwide by the two essays I sent in. The Classic Teen Leadership Summit was held at the Wahsega 4-H Center near Dahlonega, Ga. Challenging physical activities like high ropes courses, low ropes courses, a survival class, and white water rafting were useful for teaching us how to build and use teamwork, creative thinking, and strategizing in a variety of situations. Community service projects provided the opportunity for us to serve others.

Most importantly at the Summit, we participated in a variety of leadership classes. *Star Power* used a game where few rules were explained to show how people are limited by circumstances in life. The *True Colors* workshop challenged us to define ourselves to a personality type and interact with others who were very similar to us and who were extremely different. This gave us a better understanding of those around us. We also attended a resilience class that explained ways in which people will react or change from something like a deployment.

The Summit introduced us to community partners



*Sophia Olsen (left) with a camp friend from California in the shelter they made during survival class.*

of the Air Force that could be useful to us at home. Examples include Our Military Kids grants, 4-H, YMCA, Military OneSource, and Boy and Girl Scouts.

From the Teen Leadership Summit, I gained new leadership skills, a better understanding of teamwork, and many great memories.

## Broadcasters Wanted

Do you have an interest in broadcast media? Can you work independently or with a team? The 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment is seeking Soldiers to join our team. We have opening in both the E5 and E6 ranks and are looking for Soldiers who can work independently or with a team to produce video products that tell the story of the Kansas Army National Guard. You must have at least a 110 GT score, be willing to retrain into the broadcast MOS (46R) or possess it already. If interested, contact Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke at 785-274-1896/1892 or at [phillip.witzke@ng.army.mil](mailto:phillip.witzke@ng.army.mil).

Through the lens...



Air Ops with the  
1st Division!





*Fort Riley Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division land, assault and search the mobile operations in urban terrain (MOUT) sites of the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina. The Soldier were participating in a training exercise designed to simulate the conditions they will face in an upcoming deployment .*



*Above and Left: Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, practice capturing a “high value” target during recent training iterations at the Great Plains Joint Training Center, on the Smokey Hill bombing range, Salina, Kan. Soldiers had to clear buildings, secure the city and locate the high valued target after having been inserted via air by UH60 Blackhawk helicopters or Chinook helicopters.*

*Page 35: Soldiers depart the “playground” via Chinook and UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters after practicing insertion, clearing, securing and location of high value targets.*



# Beyond the Horizon: 1077th Soldiers aid Dominican Republic



Recently, several Kansas Guard members participated in Beyond the Horizon, Dominican Republic 2011. A joint service, interagency combined field training exercise, Beyond the Horizon is geared to provide humanitarian and civic assistance to the Dominican Republic. The mission was to obtain United States military forces to build a health clinic at Baruco and Cacheo, renovate the existing clinic at Armena, and distribute medical support to the local citizens.

Several military entities were utilized to complete the mission to include Army and Air Active, Reserve, and National Guard armed forces. Logistics and control of the missions fall into the capable hands of H.S. Army South. Commanding operations for Beyond the Horizon 2011 DOM-REP is U.S. Army' Puerto Rico based 393rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB). Kansas National Guard (KSNG) 1077th Ground Ambulance Company (GAC), Lenexa Medical Detachment, and Kansas Regional Training Institute (KSRTI) supported the mission by providing medical coverage of the three work sites from March to July.

With each force coordinating their expertise in engineering, construction, medical, dental, optometry, and veterinarian care, some communities will gain medical clinics, other areas will have schools renovated, and medical and dental care will be available to thousands of citizens. According to Sgt. Joshua High, 1077th Ground Ambulance Company (GAC) Readiness Noncommissioned Officer, Kansas sent Soldiers to provide medical support for the military personnel and they also assisted the mission by gathering patient data and taking vital signs.

Humanitarian missions such as Beyond the Horizons provide service members and the people they help with life-long impressions, a fact not miss by Lt. Col. Louis A. Feliciano, U.S. Army' Puerto Rico based 393rd (CSSB) Commander, "I know they [service members] will take something away from this mission for their lifetime; some have never seen so much need. They'll see they are able to contribute to a community." The Commander finds the reaction



*Spc. Courtenay Seppala poses with a local boy in a remote Dominican village. "These people possess so little but are billionaires in a more important way," she said. The smile on her face illustrates her gratitude to be able to assist the Dominican people.*

*This typical rural farming family dwelling illustrates the extreme poverty of the region and highlights the overwhelming need for basic medical services throughout the Dominican Republic. Members of the 1077th Ground Ambulance Company recently spent time there providing some much needed medical care.*



from the communities personally rewarding,

"The reciprocity of the Dominican people to us in ways of volunteering as translators and their hospitality is truly great."

There is an ever present audience across the dirt road running in front of the soon-to-be medical clinic in the area of Boruco. The front porch to a green wooden house seems to be the watching post. Several men sit in rockers while boys mill around.

One of the on-lookers, 32-year old construction worker, Kelvin Pena, has lived in the local community, Boruco, for the past 14 years and is very pleased to see a clinic going up in his neighborhood. "This is very important for our community," he said. "There are a lot of motorcycle crashes. The driving [is] not so good here and babies [are] being born all the time. If we need help we have to go to Mao which often is too long to get there."

Another Boruco citizen, Anan Perez Ventura, has lived in Boruco her entire life and understands the necessity of the health clinic.

"A medical clinic has been needed for years. It could benefit everyone. [Americans] are very, very good to do this help for us."

During the construction and renovation of the health clinics, classrooms and grounds of three Mao rural area schools were transformed into temporary triage centers. Air Force and Army medical personnel, Dentists and Dental Technicians, Optometrists, and Pharmacy Technicians worked elbow-to-elbow with volunteer translators to treat, diagnose, instruct, and provide head-to-toe care for more than 8,000 pa-

tients. The lines started forming at 6 a.m. and by 8 a.m., they wrapped around and down the block. Nearly every patient walked away with vitamins, medicines, antibiotics, glasses, even tooth extractions—all free of charge.

In addition to the temporary medical treatment facility in Mao the 1077th GAC is performing medical assistance to local communities. "A number of our medics have been sent to various medical missions for the villages," stated High.

Missions like Beyond the Horizon are going on all over the world, the Dominican Republic mission is just one of 120 such missions. Humanitarian missions provide valuable training to our military personnel by means of training to handle emergency relief efforts and other natural disasters where triage and medical care would be dense and fast paced.

Command Sgt. Maj. for this mission, Jose V. Martinez, 393rd CSSB, Puerto Rico, considers mission of this genre good for all, "We want to improve the quality of life for people everywhere. Missions like this make better Soldiers, better citizens, and a better world."

"I have learned so much from this mission," said 1077th GAC Soldier, Spc. Courtenay Seppala. "These people possess so little, but are billionaires in a more important way. I have never experienced the spirit of humanity like I have in the Dominican Republic. Operation New Horizons has been the ultimate life changing experience."

# Kansas Guard to Develop, Implements new Computer Program

Story by PV2 Anna Rose Laurin, 105th MPAD

A program is being developed to insure faster and safer decisions when it comes to the funding of the Command Emergency Relief Program, said Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, Commander Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas-Land Component, Kansas Army National Guard. Primarily this program is designed to intake data required to receive funding from CERP. This program will help our soldiers gather sufficient information while interacting with the locals and with the development of projects in their environment such as building irrigation canals, schools, or wells.

The development for the CERP program began in March, 2011, said Kellie S. Keifer, Program Manager with SRI International. Development of this program stemmed off of another program, which is also a task assistant in development.

“When thinking forward in today’s military we look at the technology being developed and think about applying what’s already produced to the military’s practical uses,” said Peck, “keeping our military on the cutting edge.”

“Also, using the newest developed technology, rather than to develop something new and specific, is a cost effective move for the military,” said Jason Dinger, a Software Engineer for SRI International. “This program runs on a system that many use every day on their personal devices, such as cell-phones, which means that several of the Soldiers who will be using this will already know how to control the software, which can save time and confusion.”

“The software is an open system, which allows it to be very flexible,” said Peck. “The more tools and applications, the more initiative it will be and used out in the field. If the program can’t adapt to the

Soldier’s needs while working down range, the next time out the Soldier is going to leave it behind. We wanted flexible software, usable and adaptive to each Soldier’s individual note taking style, but also software that is ridged enough not to crash or freeze the system it is connected with,” said Peck.

The current technology down range can cause confusion when trying to share gathered information, according to Keifer. “This program is about gathering and sharing information without the confusion of multiple devices or lost communication. While in the field the Soldier can choose to elaborate on how a project is doing, or take simple notes then go back the Forward Operating Base and describe the situation further. With both solutions the information can be synced and shared all through the software,” said Keifer.

“This program combines all that a Soldier would currently be carrying while evaluating projects,” said Jing Tine, an Interaction Designer for SRI International. With the program out in the field the Soldier can write notes about what is going on in an environment or with a project, take photos as example of what is noted, or even record meetings or vocal notes for further description or information. This is all within the one device and can be linked, shared and discussed within the software loaded and connected with on other devices.

“This program is a faster link to communicating to the right people at the right time with as little information lost as possible,” said Peck. “The soldiers can leave quicker feedback where ever they are, which in the long run can help to lead to better and safer decisions. This will save time and money, while giving results that will lead to prominent choices being made and projects developed that will better the lives they involve.”

Would you like to see your photos in print? If so, the Kansas Sentinel is accepting photo submissions for the “Through the Lens” segment of the publication. The photo story must be military related; be in keeping with good order and discipline, contain enough photographs to fill at least three pages and can not be the work of anyone other than the submitting Soldier. For information or to submit photo stories, contact Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke at [phillip.witzke@ng.army.mil](mailto:phillip.witzke@ng.army.mil) or [phillip.witzke@us.army.mil](mailto:phillip.witzke@us.army.mil). Editor reserves the right to reject any and all photographs based on quality, content or appropriateness for publication.

## How Can I Become a Full-time Technician in the Guard?

As a traditional guardsman it can be a challenge trying to keep up with technician vacancies when you're not at your unit or wing. This is a common obstacle for many of the traditional members of the Kansas National Guard. Well, hopefully after reading this article it will become much easier for you to keep updated on technician vacancy postings. There are always a myriad of vacancies in the Kansas National Guard, we're sure one of them is for you!

The Kansas National Guard Human Resources Office has a convenient website which maintains a listing of all technician (and AGR) vacancies available throughout the state. The process is simple; go to the following website [http://kansastag.ks.gov/FED\\_jobs\\_tech.asp](http://kansastag.ks.gov/FED_jobs_tech.asp) and scroll down the page until you see a position you feel you're qualified for and interested in. When you decide which one, or which ones, you're interested in you can click on the announcement number located on the left edge of the screen. This will bring up the actual announcement. It describes the position, the type of work to be performed, the location, salary, selecting supervisor and what experience is needed to qualify for the position. You will find both general and specialized experience; if you can show, in your own words, you have the proper experience then you will qualify for an interview.

How do you apply? All you need to apply is to fill out two forms, the Optional Form (OF) 612 and the OF 306. To obtain either of the forms you can send an email to [HROTechnician.applications@ng.army.mil](mailto:HROTechnician.applications@ng.army.mil) requesting the forms or go to <http://www.opm.gov/forms/>, here you can access the OF 306 (due to recent changes at the Office of Personnel Management the OF 612 is no longer available at this link). Since the OF 612 has limited space on which you can record your prior work history, continuation sheets and/or resumes are highly encouraged; the more information you can provide the better. A few words of caution, make sure you are using your own words to describe your prior work history; copying and pasting, or plagiarizing may get an applicant disqualified.

Once you've completed the two forms, and ensured they're both signed (electronic signatures are not accepted), all that's left to do is send in the completed application. You can fax it (to (785) 274-1604), email

to [HROTechnician.applications@ng.army.mil](mailto:HROTechnician.applications@ng.army.mil), mail it (The Adjutant General's Dept-HRO, 2722 SW Topeka Blvd-Rm 136, Topeka, KS 66611-1287), or hand carry it – the key here is just to ensure we receive it prior to the cutoff date/time.

Hopefully we've cleared the air and made what can be a somewhat overwhelming process a little easier. If you have any questions or need any assistance please feel free to contact MSgt Terry Spangler, (785) 274-1160, [terry.spangler2@us.army.mil](mailto:terry.spangler2@us.army.mil) or SrA Diane Collins (785) 274-1184, [diane.m.collins2@us.army.mil](mailto:diane.m.collins2@us.army.mil), the HRO staff is here to assist.

### **ARE YOUR RECORDS READY?**

**Are your records ready for the next promotion board? Now is the time to begin checking your IPERM documents for errors and omissions. Don't wait until the last minute to find out ... Its your Career! Check today!**

# NCOES Changes at all Levels

The Army has recently introduced a new element in regard to Noncommissioned officer education system (NCOES). Structured Self-Development (SSD) is a five-phase program developed to enhance the leadership of the Non-commissioned Officer Corps. SSD-I prepares Junior Enlisted personnel to attend the Warrior Leader course and starts developing leadership skills. The Advanced Leader Course Common Core (ALC-CC) is essentially considered SSD-II and focuses on preparing junior NOO's for peacetime and wartime missions and contingencies. SSD III tasks are primarily focused at the platoon level and SSD-III is a pre-requisite for attending SLC. SSD-IV is focused at the Battalion level, is highly recommended to be completed prior to assuming the duties as a first sergeant and will be a pre-requisite for attending SMA. SSD-V tasks are primarily focused at the Joint Staff levels.

Effective Jan. 1 2012, SSD-1 will be a pre-requisite for attending the Warrior Leader Course. Service Members (SM) are automatically enrolled in SSD-I upon completing BCT/OSUT.

Effective Oct. 1 2012, SSD-III will be a pre-requisite for attendance at any Senior Leader Course (SLC). SMs completing ALC or BNCOC are being auto enrolled into SSD-III at this time. While SSD-III is not required for SLC until OCT 12, it is highly recommended that those SMs who have been auto enrolled complete SSD-III prior to attending SLC.

Effective Jan. 1 2013, SSD-IV will be a re-requisite for attending the Sergeant Major Academy. Service Members completing SLC are currently being auto enrolled into SSD-IV. Again, it is highly recommended that SMs complete SSD-IV prior to attending the SMA before the Jan. 1, 2013 implementation date.

Effective immediately, applications for Warrior Leader courses reporting after Jan. 1, 2012 will not be processed unless the service member is enrolled and started the training in SSD-I. Orders will not be cut to attend the Warrior Leader course until the Service Member has completed SSD-I. Any auto-enrolled into SSD-III must have an input status in ATRRS prior to processing application for SLC and will have to have completed SSD-II prior to orders being cut to attend. All applicants for the Senior

Leader Course and above with a start date after Oct. 1, 2012 will have to be enrolled into the appropriate SSD prior to processing applications and completed prior to processing any orders.

All Service Members currently enrolled in Warrior Leader course with a report date after Jan. 1, 2012 will be notified not later than Sept. 15, 2011 of the need to compete this requirement with the guidelines of the policy.

Completion of the appropriate SSD for the corresponding NCOES is required to be completed not later than 30 days prior to report date to allow for adequate time for completion of pay and allowances orders and Defense Travel Service orders to be cut. Service Members not showing "complete" in ATRRS will have to provide documentation or certificates of completion with their request for orders. If the appropriate SSD is not completed 30 days prior to the scheduled report date, the service members reservation will be cancelled from the course by the unit. Substitutions must have pre-requisite coursework completed and ATRRS input made prior to the 30 day suspense. Waivers of the 30 day suspense will be requested in writing to the JFHQ-G3.

Check with your Unit Readiness NCO and 1st Line leader for more information about enrollment into the SSD courses.

## S.M.A.R.T.

SPECIAL MILITARY ACTIVE RETIRED TRAVEL CLUB

The S.M.A.R.T. is a recreational vehicle [RV] social club for Active, Retired and Honorably Discharged Military Veterans and spouses, including RESERVISTS AND NATIONAL GUARD, from all the uniformed services. For those of you that are interested in receiving more information, please contact

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