

KANSAS SENTINEL

December 2010 Volume 1, Issue 10



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On the Cover

Spc. Jake DeCaro takes a photo of the last parachute jump of the day as the sun is beginning to set over Kansas. DeCaro has more than 400 jumps as a parachuting photographer and videographer.

*Photos provided by Spc. Jake DeCaro,
Company D, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation*

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.

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Essay by a Soldier's daughter

EDITOR'S NOTE—

There are times that all of us may feel that the youth in the country just don't feel about the country like our generation did—I want you to meet Hope Dedrick, the 11-year-old daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth and Joanne Dedrick. She wrote an essay for her school and won first place for the fifth to sixth grade division.

She wrote it about her father, who is a member of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry, which is currently deployed to the Horn of Africa.

“We are extremely proud of her,” Joanne says. “She is such a good writer, and she did the essay all by herself. We are lucky to have her, she lives up to her name.”

Hope not only is working on three books right now, but also sings with a voice of an angel, according to Joanne. She has three brothers; Neil, Drew and Shawn and a sister, Jodi.



Hope Dedrick after being awarded the Most Valuable Player award at one of her softball games where she pitches.

Patriotism *By Hope Dedrick*

Patriotism has affected my life to the fullest. I feel that we live in a beautiful, amazing country. When I see an American flag, I feel proud. Many of my family members have served in the military so I have strong faith in America. I love to sing patriotic songs, such as ‘The Star Spangled Banner’ and ‘America the Beautiful’. Just as Gerald Stanley Lee said, “America is a tune. It must be sung together.”

My Dad has been in the Army for most of my life. He inspires me to respect our country and all who live in it. He has told me that America is great and it is worth protecting. Although I am only 11, I still think that I can make a difference just by being a good citizen. Sixth graders like me can do our part for the good of America. We can be in Girl or Boy Scouts and do service projects, such as helping out at local charities or gathering food, clothing and money for the less fortunate. Another way that kids like me can show pride in our country would be to take care of the environment, by recycling and using our resources wisely. We can all show our patriotism in our everyday lives simply by being kinder to each other.

I respect all of our servicemen and woman sacrificing for our country. They all love America so much that they would put their lives on the line to protect it. It amazes me that so many people dedicate their lives to fight for our country. My father is one of those people. He is deployed overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Sometimes my family struggles and misses my Dad but then we remember why he is there. I know what he is doing is important. As they say, not only the soldier serves, so does his family. We all have to be strong. It helps to remember that many other military families are going through the same thing as our family.

I believe that patriotism is pure love for our country. Patriotism is not just flying the flag or singing a patriotic song, but it is about the sacrifices that we all must make to keep America “the land of the free and the home of the brave”.



Artist's rendering of the new Army National Guard Readiness Center in Wichita, Kan.

Ground-breaking ceremony held for Kansas National Guard Heartland Preparedness Center

State, city and county officials picked up shovels at the ground breaking ceremony for the new Kansas National Guard Heartland Preparedness Center in Wichita. The ceremony was held at the center, located southeast of the intersection of I-135 and K96 (just north of E. 21st St on N. New York Ave.) on Nov. 16.

“This new facility will allow our military and our public safety officers to be better prepared and equipped in their most important mission - ensuring the safety of Kansans,” said Governor Mark Parkinson. “I am glad to see multiple agencies and levels of government working together to carry out this mission, and I hope that this kind of partnership and collaboration continues as the center grows.”

The multimillion dollar center is being developed by a partnership of military, city and county agencies as a joint facility for Kansas National Guard, public safety and emergency management use.

“This center is part of the wave of the future,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general. “It will be a joint-use facility where military, public safety and homeland security agencies are co-located, greatly improving the lines of communication and resource sharing to enhance the safety and security of Kansans.”

The Readiness Center will be largest National Guard armory in Kansas with the base of operations for more than 330 Kansas Army National Guard personnel. The Field Maintenance Shop will consolidate two existing facilities and provide vehicle maintenance support for units within the region.

“We are very proud that this facility will set a national standard as a one-of-a-kind cooperative training facility involving the city, county and National Guard,” said Carl Brewer, mayor of Wichita. “The

Heartland Preparedness Training Center will be a symbol of cooperation, efficiency and vigilance, all of which make our community a safer place to live.”

The center complex is paid for through city and county funds and through federal funds secured by the city, county and state and have received a \$500,000 grant for construction enhancements that will allow the facility to serve as an alternate emergency operations center to the existing Emergency Operations Center. The city and county have also funded the current infrastructure improvements to the site.

“We’re constantly looking for other public safety partners and or communities that want to share space, share facilities,” said Col. Cliff Silsby, director of Facilities Engineering for the Kansas National Guard. “It makes sense to partner with the public service groups because that’s what we do. We’re the 9-1-1 to the 9-1-1, as General Bunting refers to us.

The Kansas Highway Patrol is considering construction of a new Troop F Headquarters on the site to replace its existing headquarters at 3200 E. 45th Street North. All of the partnering agencies have agreed to make maximum use of joint training areas such as classrooms, assembly areas and conference rooms to reduce costs and improve coordination and interaction among the partners.

“We believe that this concept of shared use, maximizing the land available and having partners actually protects us from future fiscal challenges because we are operating as inexpensively as possible,” said Bunting.

“We are not the sole tenant. You usually survive a fiscal storm if you have a lot of roommates helping pay the rent.”

KSNG Teen Council established

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

Thirteen youth volunteers gathered at Nickell Armory Nov. 13, to pioneer the establishment of the first Kansas National Guard Teen Council. The nominated group is comprised of young individuals ranging from 13-18 years old, who have family members enlisted in the Kansas Army and Air National Guard. The mission of this youth council is dedicated to developing leadership skills and enhancing life for military children in Kansas.

“We felt an ample amount of military youth was looking for leadership positions within the Kansas National Guard,” explained State Youth Coordinator Darcy Seitz. “We believe Teen Council will be an opportunity for them to represent their age group and help make decisions for youth and children.”

The Kansas National Guard (KSNG) Teen Council’s role is to assist the State Youth Coordinator and act as a collective voice for the children and youth of the KSNG. To be involved in the Teen Council, participants must fill out and submit an application to the State Youth Coordinator. Council members hold a term of appointment for one full year. The Teen council consists of five leadership positions: president, vice president, secretary, two historians, and up to 10 council member positions.

“The Teen Council is a great place to bond with other military kids and make a difference,” stated Reed Wheeler, a council member. “Today, we are helping kids that are less fortunate receive toys and trying to make their life a little better by doing it.”

As part of their first meeting, the Teen Council spent the day performing community service and team building activities deemed to strengthen the bonds between council members. The Teen Council completed their first community service opportunity, Toys for Tots, with the local U.S. Marine Corps Reserves. The opportunity involved gathering and sorting new toys into age groups and gender. The toys will be distributed to less fortunate children during the Christmas holiday. After a morning of community

service of sorting and packing toys for tots, the group headed to Blue Star Ranch where the council learned how to care, maintain and ride horses. More importantly, it was an event aimed at building group collaboration and friendship.

“It’s a great opportunity for kids to get out of their normal routines, and engage and participate with other young adults,” said Seitz, “and while we do try to steer the activities towards building collaboration and teamwork, we also want to keep it fun.”

The Teen Council has aspiration of establishing a networking community that involves peer mediation

(Front) Tyler Prine, Allyson Henry, Kassidy Seaba, Sophia Olsen, (Second Row) Toby Sullivan, Mary Powledge, Reed Wheeler, (Third Row) Skylar Dickey, Ty Shafer, Jahna Yuhn (Back Row) Preston Henry, Ryan Brunner, and Sawyer Green stand together for a group photo.



for Kansas National military youth. This networking enables the council to discuss military related issues and establish an interpersonal relationship with the geographically dispersed military youth of Kansas. Additionally, they plan on creating a presentation called “Life as a Military Kid”. The presentation will explain the strengths, weakness, opportunities, and view point of a military child through various ages and situations. Leadership training will commence in January and further community service will transpire.

“The Teen Council is an opportunity to gain leadership skills,” stated Kassidy Seaba, a Council member. “I think our experience with deployment will allow us to help out other kids.”

The Teen Council members include: Ty Shafer, president; Mary Powledge, vice president; Toby Sullivan, secretary; Jahna Yuhn and Skylar Dickey, historians; Allyson Henry, Kassidy Seaba, Preston Henry; Reed Wheeler, Ryan Brunner, Sawyer Green, Sophia Olsen, and Tyler Prine are general members.

Changes in Command/Authority

2-130th has new commander

Capt. Daniel E. Ball took command of the Kansas National Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery during a change of command ceremony Dec. 3 at the Hiawatha National Guard Armory, Hiawatha, Kan.

During the ceremony, Capt. Mark McLeod passed the unit Guidon to Ball.

McLeod has commanded Headquarters and Headquarters Battery for the last year during the unit's deployment to Egypt.

McLeod will be continuing his military career with the Army Reserves. He currently lives in McAllen, Texas, with his wife, Karen.

Ball, commanded the Rear Detachment of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery during the last year. Ball currently holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Pittsburg State University. He has served with the 101st Airborne Air Assault Division at Fort Campbell, Ky., and completed Officer Basic Course at Fort Sill, Okla. Ball is a combat Veteran having served in both Iraq in 2005 and Afghanistan in 2008. As a full-time Kansas Army National Guard Soldier, Ball serves



Above: Capt. Daniel E. Ball stand in a change of command formation to receive the company guidon for Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery. Ball is taking command from Capt. Mark McLeod, who commanded the unit for the last year during a deployment to Egypt.

as a military analyst at the Department of Facility Engineers at Joint Forces Headquarters in Topeka, Kan. He lives in Hiawatha with his wife, Laura, and his 2-year-old son, Thomas.

Trying to build an even better retirees listing

In an effort to keep our retirees better informed on what is currently happening in the Kansas National Guard, the State Public Affairs Office needs your assistance.

Right now, Jane Welch, Public Affairs Office Administrative Assistant is trying to build an e-mail distribution list of our retirees. So far she has been hit-and-miss on gathering this information.

The office would ask that if you have retirees that you correspond with via e-mail, to please forward their addresses to the State Public Affairs office at jane.e.welch1@us.army.mil in order for her to add them to her list.

"I've always felt that our retirees are one of our greatest assets who have dedicated a lot of time and effort to this organization," said Welch. "I want to let them know that they are still a vital part of this organization by keeping them informed on what is happening."

Great Plains Training Center changes command



Left Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, new Great Plains Joint Training Center commander, and Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas Adjutant General, exchange a salute during the change of command ceremony between Brig. Gen. Norman Steen and Peck.

Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, Kansas Army National Guard, assumed authority of the Great Plains Joint Training Center, Salina, in a ceremony on Oct. 17. Peck replaces Brig. Gen. Norman Steen, who retired Oct. 31.

The change of authority took place at the Kansas Regional Training Center, Salina.

“Norm has done an outstanding job in coordinating the activities of the military and civilian entities that comprise the Great Plains Joint Training Center,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general.

“Under his leadership, the Great Plains Joint Training Center has become one of the nation’s premier training sites, not only

for the military, but also for civilian first responders of all stripes. I thank him for his hard work and wish him well in his retirement.

“I have every confidence Eric Peck is the right man to continue this vital training mission,” said Bunting. “He has proven his worth as a leader both here in the state and in crucial missions overseas, including leading our first Agricultural Development Team in Afghanistan.”

The GPJTC provides a location where military and emergency responders can train in a realistic environment either separately or jointly to prepare for real-life disaster response. The site includes the Smoky Hill Weapons Range and Crisis City, designed for the military and first responders to exercise their plans when responding to a disaster in a local community.

“It’s been a real privilege to serve the people of Kansas and this great country for the past 32

years,” Steen said.

“Command of the Great Plains Joint Training Center has been the pinnacle of that experience.”

“It is an honor to be entrusted by Major General Bunting with continuing to build on the excellent programs established by Brigadier General Steen and his great team at the Great Plains Joint Training Center,” Peck said.

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Above: Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas Adjutant General, presents Brig. Gen. Norman Steen a pistol during a change of command ceremony for the Great Plain Joint Training Center in Salina.

Changes in Command/Authority

Miller takes over command of 995th

Photo and story by Sgt. Kevin R. Landers, Unit Public Affairs representative, 995th Maintenance Company (-)

The 995th Maintenance Company (-) held a change of command ceremony on Dec. 4, 2010, at the unit in Smith Center, Kan. The outgoing commander, Capt. Mark Mullinax turned over his command to incoming commander, Capt. Wallace E. Miller III.

Mullinax had been in command since June, 2008, and gave an emotional speech to his unit, thanking them for their support and hard work during his command.

Miller took over command and recognized the hard work the unit has done in the last two years under Mullinax's command.

"I am proud to take this command," said Miller. "This unit has had outstanding success and I am eager to move forward and build on that success—great things will be possible and we'll accomplish them."

Lt. Col. Matthew Bedwell, the 287th Special Troops Battalion commander awarded Mullinax the Army Commendation Medal for his work as company commander.

"Company command is a hard job," said Bedwell. "Captain Mullinax carried out his duties as company commander extremely well. I am confident that Captain Miller will sustain that high standard as the new commander of the 995th Maintenance Company during his command." Mullinax enlisted into the Kansas Army National Guard in 1993 as a Track Vehicle Mechanic in Company B (-), 169th Support Battalion. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in Ordnance on 15 January, 2004.

Mullinax is the Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES) Foreman at Fort Riley, Kan. He and his wife Lisa have two children: Kyle Weishaar and Haley Mullinax.

Miller enlisted into the U.S. Army in 1995 as a mortarman in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, Fort Riley, Kan. Following his active duty service, he enlisted



Above photo, from left—Master Sgt. Jimmie Jarvis, 995th Maintenance Company acting first sergeant hands the unit colors to outgoing commander, Capt. Mark C. Mullinax. Lt. Col. Matthew Bedwell 287th Special Troops Battalion commander waits to receive the colors from the outgoing commander to hand them to the incoming commander, Capt. Wallace Miller. The ceremony occurred Dec. 4, 2010. Mullinax held command of the 995th since the June, 2008.

into the Kansas Army National Guard in 2002 as an Infantryman in Company B, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Infantry on Sept. 16, 2004 and in 2008 branch transferred to Ordnance. He is the full-time Administrative Officer for the 287th Special Troops Battalion, Hays, Kan. Miller and his wife Leah have two children: Orion and Conrad Miller.

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Change of Authority for the 635th RSG

Story and photo by Maj. DeAnn Barr, Great Plains Joint Training Center Public Affairs



Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Boring accepts the ceremonial sword from the 635th Regional Support Group commander Lt. Col. John Campbell during the Change of Authority on 5 Dec., 2010 at the Great Plains Joint Training center. Command Sgt. Maj. Manuel Rubio (far left) is the outgoing unit command sergeant major..

A Change of Authority between Command Sgt. Maj. Edward A. Boring and Command Sgt. Maj. Manuel R. Rubio, Jr. from the 635th Regional Support Group based in Hutchinson, Kan. took place on Dec. 5, 2010 at the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, Kan.

Boring assumes the position with 36 years of military experience. "I'm looking forward to the opportunity to work with a different type of Brigade," said Boring. "I've been an engineer my entire career in the Guard. This is going to be a new experience for me."

After one year in the position, Rubio departs his post with no regrets. "It's been a year experience for me," said Rubio, who has served 34 years in the Army. "Up to this assignment I've been a maintenance logistician. This was an eye-opening experience for me to see how field artillery and their rich tradition operate."

Rubio is now serving with the Recruiting Command located in Topeka, Kan.

Boring enlisted into the United States Marine Corps on Dec. 27, 1971. After serving four years of active duty, as a aviation structural mechanic with the Marine Corps obtaining the rank of sergeant, he entered the Kansas Army National Guard as a squad leader for Detachment 1, Company B, 891st Engineer Battalion. Boring's duty positions included: squad leader, supply sergeant, food service sergeant, first sergeant, and command sergeant major.

Boring is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, as he served as first sergeant of Company B, 891st Engineer Battalion. His previous assignment

was as command sergeant major for the 891st Engineer Battalion.

His Military schools include: NBC Specialist, PLDC, BNCOC, ANCOG, First Sergeant Course, and has graduated from the Sergeant's Major Academy. He is a retired captain of the Kansas Highway Patrol with over 26 years of service, Boring has numerous civilian schools pertaining to Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety. He currently works for the US Department of Transportation/Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Program Manager.

Boring is a life member of Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kansas, member of the VFW, American Legion, American Legion Riders, Mirza Shriners, Past Master in Kansas Masons, Kansas Peace Officer Association, past president of Humboldt Lions Club.

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His awards include: Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf, Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaves, Army Good Conduct Medal, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal with two bronze stars, Armed Forces Reserve medal with "M" device and hour glass, Iraqi Campaign Medal with a bronze service star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Non-commissioned Officer Professional Ribbon with numeral four, Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Overseas Service Ribbon with numeral three, Kansas Commendation Ribbon with bronze oak leaf, Kansas Strength Management Ribbon, Kansas Homeland Defense Service Ribbon, Kansas Emergency Duty Service Ribbon with two sunflower devices, Kansas National Guard Service Ribbon, Army Meritorious Unit Award, Army Superior Unit Award, and the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal.

Boring and his wife Twilla, reside in Cherryvale, Kan. They have one daughter who lives in Tennessee, and a son who is currently a sergeant with the 891st Engineer Battalion. They have four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Rubio enlisted into the Kansas Army National Guard on Nov. 30, 1976. He completed Basic Training at Fort Dix, N.J., and attended Advanced Individual Training at Fort Belvoir, Va., as a Power Generation Mechanic. Rubio holds Military Occupational Skills in both the supply and vehicle maintenance. His assignments within the Kansas Army National Guard include; section sergeant, platoon sergeant, first sergeant and command sergeant major.

Rubio is a veteran of both Desert Storm/Desert Shield, while serving with the 170th Maintenance Company, and Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 287th Special Troops Battalion. He is also a full-time technician with the Kansas Army National Guard.

He has attended numerous non-commissioned officer courses to include the Sergeants' Major Academy. He is currently pursuing a degree from Columbia Southern University and is a life member of the VFW, Enlisted Association and member of the American Legion.

Following the conclusion of his duties as the com-

mand sergeant major of the 635th Regional Support Group, Rubio will become the new command sergeant major for the Recruiting and Retention Battalion – Kansas Army National Guard.

His awards include: Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf, Army Commendation Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Medal with one silver and one bronze oak leaf, National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, Southwest Asia Medal with bronze service star, Iraq Campaign Medal with two campaign stars, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with gold hour glass and "M" device and numeral two, Noncommissioned Officers Professional Ribbon with numeral four, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training ribbon with numeral seven, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), Kansas Meritorious Service Ribbon, Kansas Commendation Ribbon with bronze oak leaf, Kansas Strength Management Ribbon with bronze oak leaf, Kansas Emergency Duty Service Ribbon with five sunflower devices, Kansas Homeland Defense Service Ribbon, Kansas National Guard Service Medal with three sunflower devices, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Rubio and his wife, Kristy, reside in Rossville, Kan., with son, Clayton. They have one daughter, Courtney, attending the University of Kansas. Rubio also has five adult children who live in the Wichita, Kan. and Fort Worth, Texas, areas.

Next Month in the Sentinel—

- **Meet Governor Sam Brownback and see photos of the inaugural ball.**
- **Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting retires.**
- **Col. Lee Tafanelli named as new adjutant general.**
- **More retirements in the Kansas Army National Guard.**
- **What are we doing overseas?**
- **ADT comes back home!**

169th CSSB welcomes new commander

The 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) has a new commander after a change of command ceremony was held Dec. 5, 2010 in the Olathe, Army National Guard armory. The new commander, Lt. Col. David E. Lee, took command from Lt. Col. Thomas J. Foster.

“I am both humbled and honored at the opportunity to serve as battalion commander of the 169th CSSB and look forward to leading and working with the officers, NCO’s and Soldiers throughout the formation,” said Lee.

“I take the privilege of command very seriously,” Lee continued. “As the integration process begins into command, I immediately realize the outstanding quality of staff, company commanders and soldiers that Lieutenant Colonel Foster has trained and mentored over the past 30 months of command. To that I am grateful and pledge to continue the strong leadership and technical skill building that he and his predecessors have established and maintained over the long

history of the Battalion.”

Lee brings with him a wide range of knowledge to the command position that he feels will help ensure his success. His diverse background started when he enlisted with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 891st Engineer Battalion, as a wire systems installer in 1985. In 1989, he received his commission and served with 891st Engineer Battalion. During his tenure, he served in various positions including communications and electronic officer, platoon leader, reconnaissance officer, executive officer, company commander and logistics officer.

Lee had served as operations officer of the 287th Sustainment Brigade, during which the unit deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2001, Lee transferred to the 169th Corps Support Battalion, serving as the intelligence and training officer and then deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as the support operations officer in 2005. Upon return from the deployment, Lee served as the assistant support operations and training officer for the 287th Sustainment Brigade.

Foster, who had served as commanding officer since July 2008, said, “This has been the best military position I have ever had and I have been blessed to be the commander of the 169th CSSB,” said Foster. “I truly love this battalion and the soldiers that make it great. It is a sad day to give up command, but, Lieutenant Colonel Lee will do a fantastic job during his command here at the 169th CSSB.”



Lt. Col. Thomas J. Foster hands Col. Barry Taylor the unit colors in preparation for handing command of the 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion over to Lt. Col. David E. Lee during the Change of Command Ceremony held Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010, at the Olathe National Guard Armory.

Photo by Spc. Robert Havens,
105th MPAD

Changes in Command/Authority

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Col. Eric Peck was promoted to the rank of brigadier general during a ceremony where he took over as commander of the Great Plains Joint Training Center (GPJTC) on Oct. 17, 2010. The ceremony was held at the Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina, Kan.

Peck, a Manhattan resident, has served at all levels of command from detachment through battalion and has been assigned to the Department of the Army and National Guard Bureau staffs.

Peck says that the new posting will be a great opportunity to continue to implement systems improvements for all those National Guard Soldiers performing missions for Kansas at home inside the state and around the world.

He started his military career in the Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) as a UH-1 crew chief in a Combat Engineer aviation section in 1974.

He formerly served as the Kansas Army National Guard chief of staff before becoming the chief of the Joint Staff in 2006. He commanded 1-6th Kansas Agribusiness Development Team deployed to Afghanistan from October 2008 through March 2010 and has over 2,500 hours of flight time. Peck has completed numerous military education courses including the Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College.

He has earned several military decorations such as The Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with seven Oak Leaf Clusters, Afghan Campaign Ribbon with bronze star, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Service Ribbon. He has earned the Combat Action Badge and the Army Master Aviator Badge.

In 1978 he completed the Warrant Officer Candidate/Aviator Course and became a line pilot in the 920th Medical Evacuation Detachment, KSARNG. COL Peck received a direct commission to Second Lieutenant in 1983 in the Medical Service Corps.

Peck is married to the former Lillis Heldenbrand of Manhattan, Kansas. They have two children Georgia age 26 and Ely age 24.



Top photo—Mrs. Lillis Peck affixes Brig. Gen. Eric Peck's new rank to his uniform. **Lower photo**—Peck accepts the colors of his new command at the GPJTC.

Slusher caps 42-year career

The retirement of Col. Mike Slusher this October brings to a conclusion an adventure that began in the fall of 1968. Enlisting in the United States Marine Corps, he served in Vietnam with 1st Force Reconnaissance Company, one of the forerunners of today's Marine Special Operations Command.

His most recent assignment has been as the Senior U.S. Military Advisor in Sudan, one of the five terrorist-sponsoring nations with sanctions against them. Originally arriving in Africa in the fall of 2007, he went to Darfur as the U.S. military representative to the Darfur Ceasefire Commission and military advisor to the commander of the African Union forces, Lt. Gen. Martin Luther Agawi, later commander of the U.N. African Mission in Darfur.

As the mission continued and transformed, he operated out of Juba in Southern Sudan as the Senior U.S. Military representative to the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army and Government of Southern Sudan. This was the group of citizens who had rebelled against

the Omar Bashir government in 1983 and fought the longest civil war in Africa, one with deaths exceeding two million persons.

While Sudan is technically still one nation, United States Foreign Policy has favored developing a "potential" relationship with the semi-autonomous Government of Southern Sudan. Slusher's role during this last two years has been to facilitate the defense transformation of the SPLA into a conventional army that would provide security for the people and government of Southern Sudan should it become an inde-

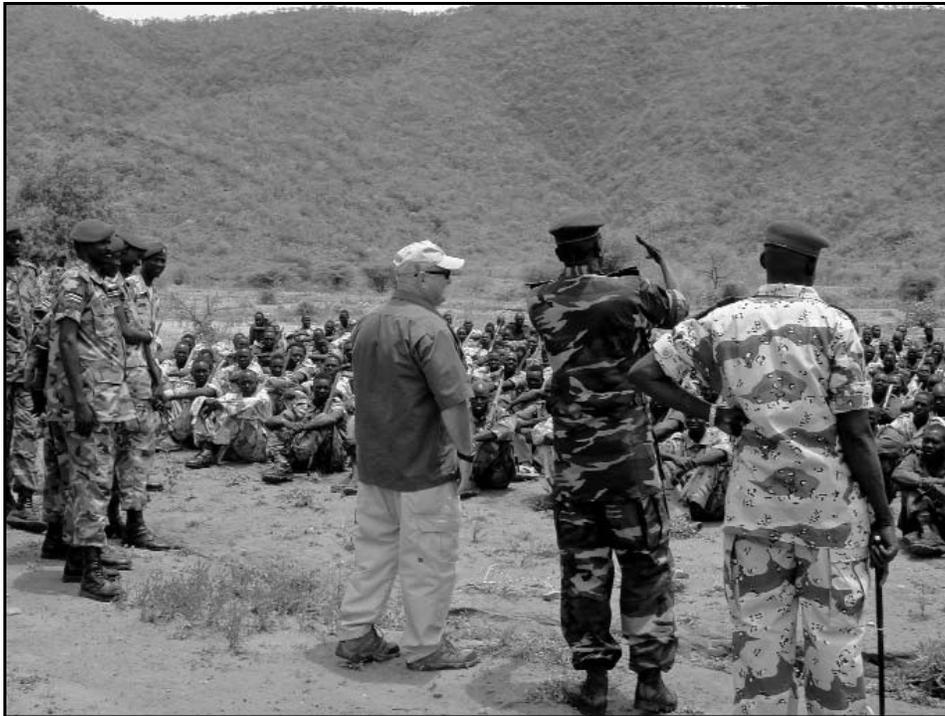
pendent nation.

The difficulty of getting U.S. Defense personnel into Sudan required Slusher to perform duties that would normally fall within the Defense Attache's Office and a Military Advisory Group. Establishing a program similar to conventional Security Assistance programs, he oversaw what was a nonexistent program into one of the largest in Africa. In the process, he managed to fill two passports with travel stamps and make friends with many senior military and government officials in East Africa. At the conclusion of his three year as-

ignment in Sudan, the longest tenure of any U.S. military personnel in that country, General William Ward wrote: "Colonel Mike Slusher is uniquely and exceptionally talented to operate in difficult and ill-defined conditions for extended periods of time with ease and precision. In situa-

tions which require extreme autonomy, he has proven to be resourceful and extremely mission focused. His recent experiences in Sudan required him to demonstrate tact, agility and diplomatic finesse in dealing with senior members of friendly and hostile governments – and he was perfect."

For his service, Slusher has been awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, the highest award to a Kansas National Guardsmen serving on active duty since the Vietnam War.



Col. Mike Slusher's last assignment in his 42-year military career was as the U.S. military representative to the Darfur Ceasefire Commission and military advisor to the commander of the African Union forces. (Photo provided)

Soldier says memorial drive is beginning of his Christmas

By Sgt. 1st Class William Witzke,
Battery A, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery

“When do you know that the Christmas season is here?” The question was posed to me via a local radio station on my way to work a few days ago. To be exact, it was Tuesday, Nov. 30, of this year. As I listened to local callers phone in their answers of children’s Christmas programs—Black Friday, specialty store sales, grandmas’ turkey dinner at Thanksgiving—I thought about how I know that Christmas is upon us. I hadn’t really thought about this question much but the thought brought a tear to my eye as I realized that I know it is Christmas when I’ve filled the hundreds of Christmas stockings and the multiple boxes that accompany those stockings. I know it’s Christmas when I’ve been to the Travis Bachman Memorial Christmas Stocking Drive.

Christmas stockings are a big deal with my wife, Robin. I think they always have been. I like to humor myself and think that it stems back to our first Christmas together. I was in the Air Force then, stationed at Royal Air Force Base Lakenheath, England. We sat in our rented flat with borrowed furniture, a pitiful table top tree and an ocean apart from our closest family. I can still recall the child-like glee we had dumping out our stockings. From the very first Christmas with my wife through the years of watching our children, through deployments when I have seen my soldiers doing it, to each and every time I have done it; dumping out the Christmas stocking just takes me back to when Christmas was pure and simple. I think the dumping out of the stockings is my favorite part of Christmas.

This year was the fourth annual Travis Bachman Memorial Christmas Stocking Drive and it hardly seems real that it was four years ago that the Christmas Stocking Drive came about. The first year of the drive was 2006, when it wasn’t a memorial; it was a brain child, a way for two wives to send a little Christmas joy to some lonely Soldiers. I was there that first year, along with Travis, Robert Ortiz and Robert Arambula along with 175 or so Soldiers of the 714th Maintenance Company at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Diamondback, Iraq. We were all de-



Staff Sgt. Travis Bachman, who was killed by an improvised explosive device in Mosul, Iraq in August, 2007. He was posthumously promoted to Sergeant First Class.

ployed to Northern Iraq that Christmas. My wife, Robin, and Travis’ wife, Amber, along with their friends, co-workers and church families decided to make sure that the Kansas Soldiers with the 714th had Christmas stockings.

That first year, the ladies were just hoping to gather enough stockings to make sure that at least 1st and 2nd Platoon had enough to go around. Then they thought maybe they might get enough interest to have enough for the entire company. When all was said and done, those ladies had gathered enough stocking from Garden City, Kan. and the surrounding area to stuff, box and mail enough Christmas stockings for both platoons, the 714th Maintenance Company, our sister company and the entire 352nd Combined Service and Support Battalion. In all, over 750 stockings were sent to Northern Iraq

that Christmas.

Tragically, Sgt. 1st Class Travis Bachman was killed Aug. 1, 2007 near Mosul, Iraq when an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated near his armored security vehicle. He was one of my best friends and loved Christmas just like I do. It is fitting then, that the gift of our two wives to our platoons now continues in his honor as the Travis Bachman memorial Christ Stocking Drive.

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Sgt. 1st Class Travis Bachman’s widow, Amber (Bachman) Wilson, and his mother, Connie Bachman, arrive at the Christmas stocking drive.

Photos by Madison Witzke



Amber (Bachman) Wilson helps assemble the Christmas stockings on the 'assembly line' during the drive.

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In 2007, the second year of the Stocking drive, now in honor of Bachman, the Garden City community, as well as the surrounding area, got on board with sending Christmas from Kansans to Kansas Soldiers deployed overseas. That year we packed 938 stockings which were sent Iraq, Kosovo and Afghanistan. The first annual Travis Bachman Memorial Christmas Stocking Drive is a huge success.

Mid 2007 saw the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery deploy to Iraq. Knowing that the 161st would be home for Christmas, Amber Bachman and Robin Witzke decided that since the unit was their own Battalion, they would send Christmas in July. They did just that and sent care boxes to more than 600 members of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery.

Year three (2008) saw 700 stockings sent again to Kansas soldiers deployed overseas. That year the Memorial Stocking Drive involved not only Garden City, but saw the addition of Holcomb, Lakin, Deerfield, Scott City and other surrounding communities. Those stockings were sent to Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo.

The 2009 Memorial stocking drive was again an amazing event. It is looking like most of southwest Kansas was beginning to think as I do, Christmas doesn't start until the stocking drive. In fact, the stocking drive was so well attended that we ran out of Kansas Soldiers to send them to. More than 1,000

stockings were donated and sent to Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We just completed the fourth annual Travis Bachman Memorial Stocking Drive. This Christmas season things settled down a little and we were able to mail out about 430 stockings to Kuwait and our Kansas Soldiers deployed there.

I asked Robin several times about how many stockings this year and how many that year. In fact, I am sure there is a question to her for each number listed. And, each time she reminds me that it isn't about the number of stockings sent or to which unit they went. It is this: each stocking represents a Soldier and each Soldier a family.

Each family is missing a deployed father, husband, mother, son, daughter, sister or brother. For each stocking there is an empty chair at Christmas dinner. I do remind her each time that while the number does indeed represent x number of soldiers deployed that it also represents x number of hearts warmed and that for each stocking sent the recipient is for just a few minutes, a child with child-like

excitement and child-like glee. And, that above all, they know that as members of the Kansas National Guard Family, someone in Kansas loves, appreciates and admires them.

So, when do you know it's Christmas?

For me, it isn't Christmas until the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. It isn't Christmas until I've participated in

the Travis Bachman Memorial Christmas Stocking Drive.

Editors note: the **Travis Bachman Memorial Christmas Stocking Drive** is held annually the Tuesday following Thanksgiving in Garden City, Kan. Inquiries about the fifth annual stocking drive may be made by contacting Mrs. Robin L. Witzke or Mrs. Amber Wilson C/O We Support our Troops. P.O. Box 973, Holcomb, Kan. 67851. To date there has been an excess of 4,500 Christmas stockings or care boxes sent to deployed Kansas Soldiers.

Each stocking represents a Soldier and each Soldier a family. Each family is missing a deployed father, husband, mother, son, daughter, sister or brother. For each stocking there is an empty chair at Christmas dinner.

NEWS FLASH!

Kansas unit stories from across the world

778th Transportation Company deploys for overseas mission

By Sharon Watson, State Public Affairs Office



Soldiers of the 778th Transportation Company stand during their deployment ceremony at Heritage Hall of the Bicentennial Center, Oct. 17. Photo by Jane Welch, State Public Affairs

Approximately 300 Kansas National Guardsmen were honored during a deployment ceremony on Sunday, Oct. 17. The deployment ceremony was held in Heritage Hall of the Bicentennial Center.

The Soldiers are from the 778th Transportation Company (Heavy Equipment Transport), headquartered in Kansas City, Kan., augmented by Soldiers from the 731st Medium Truck Company and the 137th Transportation Company (Palletized Loading System). All three units are part of the Kansas National Guard's 287th Sustainment Brigade.

The Guardsmen will deploy to Kuwait to transport military equipment and supplies out of Iraq as U.S. troops withdraw from that nation.

"Our troops may be coming home from Iraq, but that doesn't mean the job is finished," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general. "Over the course of Operation Iraqi Freedom, our nation has transported tons and tons of military vehicles, equipment and supplies into Iraq. Now, it's time to bring it home and I can't think of a group of Soldiers more qualified to carry out that task."

The unit conducted pre-mobilization training in Salina at the Great Plains Joint Training Center and will conclude training at Camp Atterbury in Indiana prior to leaving for Kuwait.

Kansas Infantry unit 'conquers' the depths

Edited by Staff Sgt. Jack Elliston,
2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry

The Infantry's domain normally consists of the forests, fields, cities and even the desert but Soldier's of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry, recently conquered what is normally considered the Navy's domain, an underwater reef. These Warriors planted the 'guidon' on a reef just off the coast of Djibouti.

The day started at the dock at 7:30 a.m. where the assault force boarded the assault craft and began movement west toward the objective. The assault force met moderate resistance along the way (the wind picked up) but they pushed on. In preparation for the assault the Soldiers conducted final checks and rehearsals near the objective (those working on certifications demonstrated their proficiency at: mask and regulator removal and replacement, neutral buoyancy and movements in water.) After the rehearsals they moved out smartly and "assaulted the objective" (toured the reef). One of the senior Warriors present described it as, "an endless and spectacular aquarium with no glass." Soon it was time to consolidate and regroup for the next assault (air was running low) so the assault force returned to the assault base (the boat).

After a refueling and rearming (a great lunch, provided by the dive company, and new tanks) the force geared up and went for the second assault (dive) of the day. This assault did not require "rehearsals" so they quickly assaulted the objective. They found that "unlike on land, nature doesn't seem to think camouflage is important on the reef." The Soldiers found bright fish of numerous colors – blue, orange, red, green and more on the objective.

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Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry, plant the guidon on a reef near Djibouti.
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Elliott

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The Advanced Open Water divers assaulted down to 100 feet for 10 minutes with their element leader (the instructor) who had them conduct proficiency drills (simple math problems to see if their ability was impaired and to experience that depth). One Soldier experienced a moment of uncertainty for a few seconds but he fought on to a successful conclusion.

Elements of the security element (the snorkelers) did a recon of the objective, (three of the eight snorkelers also did a discovery dive, which is a shallow water dive preceded by an hour of instruction). The objective has been claimed and named. It will henceforth be known as “First Kansas Reef”.

The “First Kansas Reef” extends from very near the surface to about 40 feet deep thus the entire assault force was able to participate in the taking of the objective. By 5 p.m. everyone packed it in and returned to base. Although the Soldiers were tired (eight hour mission with three hours on the objective), they felt they had surpassed mission objectives. The reef had been taken, the flag planted and certifications obtained.

Unit shoots with Swedish unit

*Story by Staff Sgt. Joshua Moore
2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry*

Several Soldiers from Company C, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry, received some unexpected visitors while they were at the range zeroing the Advanced Combat Optical Gunsight (ACOG).

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Members of the Swedish Navy and Marines pose with Soldiers from Company C, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry, after the two groups participated in an unexpected, co-operative range day.

Photo by PFC Jesse Adams

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Ten members of the Swedish Navy and Marines showed up thinking they had the range reserved for that day.

Instead of having an old western shootout to decide who gets the range, it was decided it would be better for both groups to share the range. By sharing the range both groups managed to turn a negative into a positive. Not only did both units get the range time they desired, but they also got a rare opportunity to become familiar with and fire the other group’s weapons. The Company C Soldiers got an opportunity to fire the Swedish Military Glock 9 mm and learned some different techniques for firing that the Swedish Military have adapted to fit their mission.

The Swedish Military trains to board pirate ships so they learn to fire their weapons with one hand. This technique allows them to keep the other hand free to hang on while aboard small ships. The Swedish Military personnel then got to fire the M4 with the ACOG sight and went through the same engagements the Company C Soldiers were doing that day.

All in all the Kansas Soldiers seemed thrilled about the experience. Sgt 1st Class Thomas Buskirk stated “It was a great day at the range. I wish there were a lot more like it.”

The next day the Swedish Military made their way to Camp Lemonnier for a visit. Buskirk and Sgt. 1st Class Darin Leifried escorted the Swedish service members on the camp, introducing them to Battalion leadership and taking them to the local Navy Exchanges Store for some shopping. The Swedish Navy and Marine personnel were then treated to lunch at the Bob Hope Galley.

Ultimately, thanks to a desire to facilitate positive relationships and a willingness to cooperate, the scheduling conflict turned out to be a rather enjoyable and educational experience for both sides.

2-137th IN to Play Integral Role in Test of Solar Tent Technology

Story by Edwin Stremel

Lately, the Army has begun to look at options for renewable energy to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels. One such option that could be viable, solar power, will be tested in the form of a tent shade at Camp Lemonnier in the near future. The design incorporates flexible solar panels into a tent shade large enough to cover a standard medium Army tent. The shade will help to reduce heat load on the tent while

also providing up to two kilowatts of power to recharge a bank of batteries.

The solar shade has the potential to be used as a stand alone system to power lights, communications equipment, laptops, and other electronics devices. However, it is more likely that it would be used as a backup and supplement for generator power allowing the Army to reduce the logistics trail needed to provide power currently. The 2-137th Infantry has been chosen to provide assistance in the set-up, maintenance, and monitoring of the system during the test in Djibouti. Capt. Kimberly Young, commander of the Forward Support Company, will be the officer in charge of the operation during the testing and will be coordinating the efforts of the team selected to carry out the project.

Soldiers Go the Extra Mile in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mathew Davids



Sgt. Johnnie Ross poses for a picture with a few of the residents of Mother Teresa’s Mission.

The soldiers of 2nd Platoon, Company A, 2-137th Combined Arms Battalion have been outstanding representatives of the great state of Kansas while performing their mission in Ethiopia. Despite their busy schedule and nonstop operations which includes compound security, force protection missions and numerous other assigned tasks the Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, Company A have found the time to do volunteer work to build positive relations with the local populace. Through the devotion of their time and with a little help from families back in the states they have

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been able to make an impact by distributing food to the elderly upgrading the facilities at St. Teresa’s mission for the sick and dying.

In Dire Dawa a local food kitchen provides a meal to the elderly every Tuesday. The food kitchen was started by Mr. Lee who is a Baptist minister and provides one meal which is basically rice, carrots and chicken all cooked together. Once the meal is complete it is poured into a plastic bag to be served to the elderly. Many of workers have to use broken utensils or their hands to serve the food. The men of 2nd Platoon have been very generous and have purchased dishes, silverware and other cooking equipment that can be used to help make this easier for the volunteers. The soldiers have also donated bananas, mangos and oranges to the food kitchen. The smiles and sincere thanks from the locals have been wonderful sight to see for the service members who participated. The Soldiers of 2nd Platoon who have volunteered their time have described the experience to be humbling and worthwhile.

Providing food is not the only way that the Soldiers of 2nd Platoon have donated their time. Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Davids and Sgt. Johnnie Ross have taken a personal interest in the St. Teresa mission for the sick and the fatally ill. St. Teresa’s Mission helps house abandoned babies, mentally ill patients, AIDS patients and many others who are severely ill and can’t afford treatment through a regular hospital. Davids visited the St. Teresa’s mission and what he saw opened his eyes and heart for what the mission was trying to accomplish. “I can’t get the picture out of my head (of) seeing a mentally and physically handicap child in a chair, unable to swat away the 20 flies (that) I saw on the child’s eyes,” said Davids. Currently the mission is without running water due to severe corrosion of the water tanks. The mission is also without screen doors to protect the infants and handicap children from the disease carrying flies and mosquitoes that plague the country. Despite all the hardships that the mission possesses it hasn’t deterred the Soldiers from 2nd Platoon from trying in to improve the facility.

Ross took it upon himself to construct a ping pong table that was presented to the men’s quarter of the St. Teresa Mission. The patients there were thrilled to have a new form of entertainment as they had only had a couple of decks of playing cards for entertainment previously. Meanwhile, Davids requested some

supplies from his family back in the states. What Davids received was more than he could possibly dream; clothes, books, candy and fly traps were just some of the items that were sent. On the 100 year birthday of Mother Teresa, Davids and Ross delivered the supplies and strategically placed the fly stripes throughout the rooms in the mission. The senior sister was very appreciative of what they did and presented them with a couple of pictures of Mother Teresa.

The Soldiers of 2nd Platoon look to continue their volunteer work and have plans to continue to repair and improve many other issues within the mission.

Adjutant General of Kansas Visits Troops

Story by Spc. William Ravenstein

Holidays to Soldiers deployed overseas are often just another day away from family and friends. However, for some members of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry the 4th of July became a rather special day. Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, the adjutant general of Kansas, made a visit to check on his Soldiers and Airmen deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. During his visit Bunting performed a promotion ceremony per the request of battalion commander, Lt. Col. Gregory Mittman.

Three Soldiers were promoted during the ceremony: Cpl. Joshua Condon to sergeant, Sgt. Michael Meteorier to Staff Sgt., and Staff Sgt. David Reece to Sgt. 1st Class.

Bunting also presented coins for achievements to Sgt. 1st Class Dan Reling, 1st Lt. Robert Lynn, Capt. Scott Allen, and Spc. Zachery Payton.

After the ceremony Bunting took a moment to speak to those Soldiers who were present saying, “many refer to this day as the 4th of July; I personally like calling it Independence Day.” He then thanked everyone for a job well done and encouraged the Soldiers of the 2-137th Infantry to keep up the hard work and to make Kansas proud.

Find the 105th MPAD on FaceBook!
<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Topeka-KS/105th-MPAD/163146507057526>
High Resolution PDF’s of the Sentinel are on the TAG’s Home Page

YOUR BENEFITS

Eligibility for the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program

Includes “gray area” retirees, surviving family members and retirees living overseas

The government-authorized TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) began in 1998 as a voluntary option that offered basic dental benefits to Uniformed Services retirees and their eligible family members.

In 2000—some three years before the first TRDP contract would expire—the TRDP scope of benefits was enhanced to include such comprehensive services as crowns, bridges, full and partial dentures, and orthodontics. In 2003, the second five-year TRDP contract was awarded by the Department of Defense to the incumbent administrator, Delta Dental of California, and included further improvements such as a shorter enrollment commitment and waiting period, increased maximums, and an expanded dentist network.

The TRDP is now in its third year of operations under a new five-year contract that began Oct. 1, 2008 and today provides affordable, comprehensive dental benefits—including dental implant services, coverage for posterior composite fillings, and a \$1,500 lifetime orthodontic maximum—to over 1.2 million covered lives.

Also starting Oct. 1 of 2008, TRDP benefits under the new Enhanced-Overseas Program were expanded to retirees and their eligible family members who reside overseas. Until then, overseas enrollees had to return to the Enhanced TRDP service area to receive dental care. Additionally, the new contract included a provision that now allows Enhanced Program enrollees who live within the service area to be covered for emergency treatment when they are traveling outside the service area.

There are still a large number of eligible individuals—including retirees living overseas, unremarried surviving spouses and children, and “gray-area” re-

tired Reservists and National Guard members—who are unaware of the TRDP or even that they are indeed eligible. Outreach efforts by Delta Dental to promote awareness about the TRDP continue to expand to ensure that as much of the eligible population as possible is informed of the benefits this affordable group program has to offer.

The TRDP service area includes all 50 states as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Canada. Enrollees may seek care from any licensed dentist in this service area or can maximize their benefit savings by choosing a dentist from an expansive participating TRDP network.

After a mandatory 12-month enrollment obligation is satisfied, enrollees can remain in the program on a month-to-month basis. The Basic Program was closed to new enrollees in 2000 but continues with no change in benefits for those already enrolled and who wish to remain enrolled.

The TRDP carries a \$50-per-person-per-year deductible with a family cap of \$150 and an annual maximum of \$1,200 per person (\$1,000 for Basic Program enrollees) against which preventive and diagnostic services are not counted. Coverage for these services as well as for basic restorative services, periodontic services, endodontic services, oral surgery and dental emergencies is available immediately upon the effective date of coverage.

Major services such as crowns, bridges, full and partial dentures, implants and orthodontics, payable at 50 percent, are available to Enhanced TRDP enrollees after a 12-month waiting period. A waiver of this waiting period may be granted to certain individuals who enroll in the TRDP within four months after their retirement and provide supporting documentation.

More information about the TRDP, including how to enroll online, can be found on the TRDP web site at www.trdp.org or by calling Delta Dental toll-free at 888-838-8737.

Also starting Oct. 1 2008, TRDP benefits under the new Enhanced-Overseas Program were expanded to retirees and their eligible family members who reside overseas.

Employer Partnership Launches Powerful Job Search Tool

By Lt. Col. Matt Leonard
Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces

portal's functionality improvements make the search and application process much more efficient, saving Service members and other job seekers time.

But the improvements don't stop there.

Employers will find the new portal more useful as well. They are now able to enter position vacancies directly into the system and track those jobs, applications and views through their

company dashboard. Employers may also reach in to the system and locate the resumes of qualified candidates who may not have had the chance to apply themselves. So just by posting your resume you may be contacted by one of our military-friendly employer partners who need your skills.

If you had used the old job search engine you should definitely check out the new portal. Although the web link, www.EmployerPartnership.org is the same, you are now in the driver's seat and this definitely is not your father's Oldsmobile.

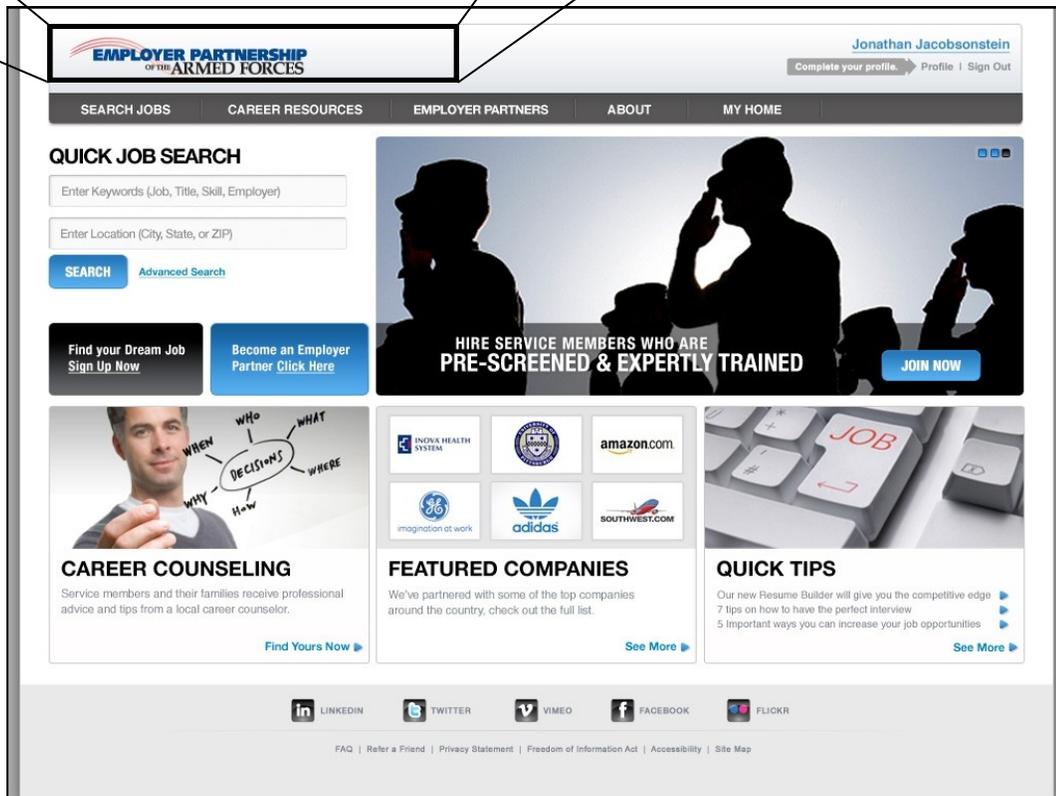
Editor's note: The Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces is a no-fee program which connects Service members, their Families and veterans with employment opportunities. The program has more than 1,150 military-friendly employer partners across the nation.



On Veteran's Day, the Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces launched its new, state-of-the-art job search portal. The portal's tools offer National Guardsmen and Reservists, their Families, Wounded Warriors, and veterans increased capabilities when seeking employment opportunities. The portal also vastly improves our Employer Partner's access to skilled candidates.

No longer does a job seeker have to re-enter basic personal information every time a search is launched. Instead, the user simply logs in and the system can continue any previous activity. A user may now set-up a personal profile so that he or she is able to save searches, search parameters and individual job announcements within their own "dashboard". By activating the alert option, seekers will be provided with a notification whenever a desired position is posted.

The portal offers other useful features as well. The Resume Builder allows users to create and keep their resume available within the system. Service members have an additional feature available to them: access to the Program Support Manager network for career counseling and resume assistance. The new



Soldier has career as parachuting photographer

By Sgt. Gilbert Gonzales, Unit Public Affairs Representative, Company D, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation

Kansas Army National Guard Soldier Spc. Jake DeCaro looked up to see the onrushing ground he was fast approaching, knowing that he had just seconds to correct or cut away the tangled suspension line that had ended up over the parachute canopy before he would impact. He was rushing towards the ground in excess of 10,000 feet per minute, yet time slowed down for him while he worked to correct his dilemma and save his life.

"I could hear a friend's voice going through my head saying, 'the number one reason for a reserve malfunction is instability upon deployment'," said DeCaro. "So I knew I had to correct the spin, and the standard parachutist response is to 'cut away', the fouled parachute, stop the spin of the body and deploy the reserve chute."

DeCaro succeeded in those three steps, which took only a few seconds, "but it seemed like time slowed down for me," said DeCaro.

This one mishap does not diminish DeCaro's love of jumping out of a perfectly performing aircraft to pursue his talent of a skydiving photographer and videographer. He's been skydiving for 11 years, getting his start in 1999 out of curiosity, when he was on active duty at Fort Carson, Colo., where he was a heavy wheel mechanic.

Now he has more than 600 jumps, roughly 400 of them video jumps, DeCaro says that it is no longer as much of an adrenaline rush to skydive, but he has slowed down quite a bit over the past years, practicing his art in Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Kansas and Missouri. "Now, it is more relaxing than anything," said DeCaro. "But, I would definitely recommend it to anyone who has not tried skydiving but is considering it," said DeCaro.

Skydiving can become an expensive hobby, the first tandem jump is roughly about \$200 and the cost tend to increase as the individual becomes more active in the jumps. Although a little expensive, this sounds like a very fulfilling hobby that DeCaro says is definitely worth being able to say you were able to jump out of a plane, if only just once.

"I highly recommend this to anyone who is considering trying it and having it videotaped," says DeCaro. "You will definitely wear that video out showing it to all your buddies." The most recent jump for DeCaro was in April of this year and he plans on continuing this unique hobby while still a member of the Kansas Army National Guard, a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter repairman, with Company D, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment (Assault), at Forbes Field in Topeka, Kan. It may seem ironic that someone who repairs aircraft to keep them in the air would enjoy jumping out of them, too, but DeCaro says the thrill of jumping is its own reward.

"I had always wanted to try it and one day I just opened up the Yellow Pages and looked it up and set up an appointment" said DeCaro. "I showed up all scared, I was pretty nervous, thinking 'what the heck am I doing... once I tried it, I was hooked.'"

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From SKYDIVING, Page 22

The standard height of each jump is different and depends on the location of the jump and the type of aircraft that is being used. On DeCaro's first jump, he was tandem with the instructor, meaning that he and a diving instructor were tethered together for this jump. "Basically, you're just along for a ride at that point," said DeCaro. After a couple of weeks, DeCaro went back to begin Student Progression Training. This training requires the student to make 20 free fall unassisted jumps, which took him about six to eight weeks to complete. Once DeCaro completed this stage of his training he started working on free fall photography and videography in 2000.

"This basically means you just strap a camera to your helmet and begin experimenting with it all."

Then began producing video for formation skydiving teams and then began doing tandem video and photography as well. "Which is a video log of your first sky dive," said DeCaro.

During this jump the instructor is tied to the new student and the videographer jumps out of the aircraft at the same time and videotapes the entire dive.

"Around here in Kansas a jump starts at about 10 or 11,000 thousand feet, but can be up to 13,000 feet," DeCaro explained.

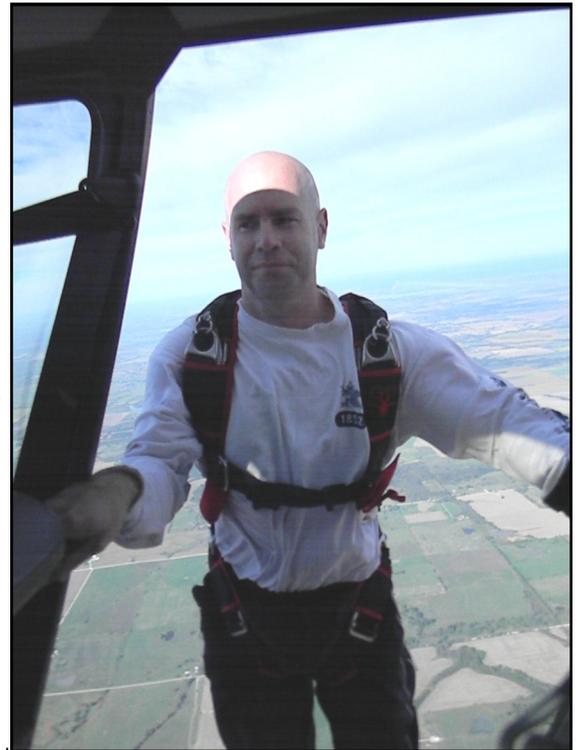
While falling, the jumper is traveling about 135 M.P.H., more than 10,000 feet per minute with the parachute deployment usually about a minute after jumping clear of the aircraft.

Jump school in the military—

Jump school is not for the faint of heart. It involves a rigorous three-week training course consisting of three separate phases — Ground Week, Tower Week and Jump Week, as well as an intense daily physical fitness regimen.

During Ground Week, students begin an intensive program of instruction to build individual airborne skills. The individual skills learned during Ground Week are needed during Tower Week, and the "mass exit" concept is added to the training. Tower Week completes the individual's skill training and builds team effort skills. All the skills learned in the previous two weeks are finally put to use. The students must complete five jumps. If a student has trouble grasping the jump course, they are "recycled" back to the next class. After that, if their deficiencies are not remedied, they are dropped from the training for their own safety as well as the safety of others.

Soldiers that have gone through the regimented program of military jump school say that the physical requirements cannot be understated. Nearly 75 percent of a class will not make it through the three weeks of requirements—some being recycled to another class, others completely out of the program.



Preceding Page insert photo—*Just exiting the airplane, members of the jump team begin to combine to form a pattern (Overlapping photo) and hold the pattern for a while before dispersing and deploying their parachutes.*

Above Photo—*Spc. Jake DeCaro readies to exit a plane. He has now more than 600 jumps to his credit, at least 400 of them while shooting video.*

Photos provided by Spc. Jake DeCaro, Company D, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation



Gerhardt is 'Spouse of the Year'

Story and photos by
Sgt. Beverly Fortner,
105th MPAD

Being named 'Spouse of the Year' for 2010 by the Kansas National Guard Association of Kansas was a total surprise for Dorothy Gerhardt, wife of retired Brig. Gen. Ed Gerhardt of the Kansas Army National Guard.

As Dorothy looks back on her role as a military spouse there is no question of what her job entailed – she was the matriarch of the family front lines. But as a military spouse she also became part of a bigger family. This family included developing new friendships and support systems within the military family's network, such as her friendship with Nadine Tice, the spouse of former Kansas Adjutant General, retired Maj. Gen. Ralph Tice.

"I am very proud of her and I couldn't have had a guard career without her," Dorothy stated emphatically.

She joined the "Guard family" more than 45 years ago, when she married her husband, and has since contributed thousands of hours in support of her husband and the Kansas Army National Guard. When asked about her role as a military spouse, Dorothy humbly stated, "I am very honored to be named to this prestigious position. After all, all I did was support my husband and took care of the home front."

Whether volunteering to help with pancake or chili feeds, at appreciation dinners, or at the Kansas National Guard Museum, Dorothy was more than willing to give of her time. Sometimes that also included shoveling snow or mowing the lawn as part of taking



(Above) Mrs. Dorothy Gerhardt says that she was surprised to be named as Spouse of the Year, but is honored. She loves to donate her time to a good cause such as the Kansas National Guard Museum. She is shown standing in front of one of her favorite art pieces the museum has, that she helped hang during her volunteer time.

care of the home front when her husband was away.

The Gerhardts were married in a small church in Palmer, Kan. Brig. Gen. Gerhardt was attending Emporia State University, Emporia, Kan., when Dorothy's sister introduced them. She graduated from the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kan., in 1968 with a bachelors' of science in business administration. Now retired, she has worked as a real estate appraiser and also served as a secretary for the Kansas Legislature for four months of the year.

The Gerhardts have three adult children; Mary, Karen, and Gary. They also have two grandchildren, Nicholas and Zachery.

See SPOUSE OF THE YEAR, Page 25



(Left)—Dorothy and retired Brig. Gen. Ed Gerhardt take a moment out of a Sunday after church to begin work at the Kansas National Guard Museum.

(Right)—Dorothy says that even though she is retired, her days are still busy with the many organizations and hobbies she donates her time to. She makes stained/leaded glass, and she stands in front of one of the displays that she made for the Kansas National Guard Museum. Some have been donated to other associations for their fundraising efforts during the past years.



From SPOUSE OF THE YEAR, Page 24

One personal favorite project really grabs Dorothy’s interest now—the Museum of the Kansas National Guard in Topeka, Kan. She has spent countless hours volunteering at the Museum to include performing such tasks as hanging all the pictures in the new conference room with help from her son, Gary, making flowerpots to display at the Museum’s entrance, stuffing envelopes and mailings, and even cleaning bathrooms. It’s not the most glamorous job in the world, but she has no complaints. She said, “As the Museum was getting ready to open, I also helped by mowing, picking up rocks and cleaning.”

Her special talents include quilting, gardening, and working with stained/lead glass. If you have visited the Museum of the Kansas National Guard you can see some of her work there. Hanging up on the wall in the 35th Division Hall of Fame are two stained

glass 35th Division Crests made by Dorothy. She has also made other stained glass pieces that were donated to the silent auction at 35th Division Association conferences.

But, as important as the Museum is, she doesn’t lose focus on what’s most crucial for her. Regarding her 45 years as a military spouse, Dorothy summarized it this way: “The Guard has been good to our family. It is not just the Guard – it is a friend for life. I feel that volunteering is one way to pay back.”

Get your Soldiers and Unit in the Sentinel!!
We are always looking for new stories about your Soldiers, family, and unit for great human interest stories.
Contact us at:
michael.lee.wallace@us.army.mil or 785-274-1902.



St. Barbara Inducts New Members

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

As part of its Celebration of Saint Barbara, two units, the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery (1-161 FA), and the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery (1-130 FA), held formal dining out functions to honor the patron saint of Field Artillery during the last two months.

20 Soldiers of both units were inducted into the Order of Saint Barbara. For the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, the inductees were; Maj. Mark Herron, Capt. Kyle Bell, Capt. William Chuber, Capt. Douglas Iverson, Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Taylor, 1st Sgt. Steven Sprawka, Master Sgt. Dennis Sheahan, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Indermuehle, Sgt. 1st Class William Witzke, Staff Sgt. Alexandro Deleon, and Staff Sgt. Jerry Mead, along with Sgt. 1st Class Todd Kenyon, another inductee, who was not present at the ceremony due to other commitments.

Inductees for the 2nd Battalion, 130 Field Artillery were; retired Maj. Jay Gradinger, Capt. Murl Riedel, Sgt. 1st Class David Wellman, Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Prine, Staff Sgt. Donald Sand, Staff Sgt. Jacob Millias, Staff Sgt. Christopher Dame and Staff Sgt. William Guthrie.

The 130th also awarded the most honorable of the artillery awards—the Ancient Order of

Above: (From left to right): Staff Sgt. Jerry Mead, Staff Sgt. Alexandro Deleon, Sgt. 1st Class William Witzke, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Indermuehle, Master Sgt. Dennis Sheahan, 1st Sgt. Steven Sprawka, Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Taylor, Capt. Doug Iverson, Capt. William Chuber, Capt. Kyle Bell and Maj. Mark Herron stand in line waiting to be inducted in the Order of Saint Barbara at the Ramada Conference Center in Hutchinson, Kan., Nov. 6.

Saint Barbara to retired Col. James ‘Jim’ Patton, who could not attend the evening’s events due to a death in the family.

The Honorable Order of Saint Barbara recognizes United States Field Artillery Association (USFAA) members in good standing who have demonstrated the highest standards of integrity and moral character, displayed an outstanding degree of professional competence, served the United States Army or Marine Corps Field Artillery with selflessness, and contributed to the promotion of the field artillery in ways that stand out in the eyes of the seniors, subordinates and peers of the recipient.

The Ancient Order of Saint Barbara is the more distinguished of the awards, recognizing the select few who stand above their brethren of the Honorable Order, for those that have performed conspicuous, long-term service for the field artillery.

See ST. BARBARA, Page 27



Above: Guest speaker, retired U.S. Air Force Col. Thomas Kirk, speaks to the attendees of the celebration of Saint Barbara attendees about his experiences in a prisoner of war camp during the Vietnam War.



Left: Lt. Col. Thomas Burke, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery commander, places the Order of Saint Barbara award around the neck of Maj. Mark Herron during the induction ceremony held at the Ramada Conference Center in Hutchinson, Kan., Nov. 6.

Right: Command Sgt. Maj. Harrold Whitley, who served as the command sergeant major for the 161st Field Artillery for the past three years, receives the Meritorious Service Medal from Lt. Col. Thomas Burke, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery commander,



during the celebration of Saint Barbara dining out at the Ramada Conference Center in Hutchinson, Kan., Nov. 6.

From ST. BARBARA, Page 26

Lt. Col. Thomas Burke, 1-161 FA commander, assisted by Sgt. Maj. Ricky Matticks, presented the awards to 1-161 FA Soldiers, while Lt. Col. Chris Burr assisted by Sgt. Maj. Brian Anderson presented 2-130th FA Soldiers with their awards.

“The Saint Barbara's is the most honored award that a field artilleryman can be awarded,” said Sgt. 1st Class David Schild, 1-161 FA senior human resource sergeant. Schild has served for 18 years — 11 of which were with the field artillery on active duty and in the National Guard.

“I have known some of the best soldiers in the military and almost all of them were trained by the field artillery,” he said. “If I would ever be awarded the Saint Barbara Medallion, it would be my highest honor. I am proud to be a part of a battalion that honors its soldiers with this award.”

The second half of each battalion's function was the to induct spouses into the Artillery Order of Molly Pitcher, which recognizes individuals who have voluntarily contributed in a significant way to the improvement of the field artillery community.

During the 1-161 FA celebration, five spouses

were inducted: Catherine Bell, wife of Capt. Kyle Bell; Barbara George, wife of Spc. Ron George; Becky Matticks, wife of Sgt. Maj. Ricky Matticks; Susan McMahan, wife of 1st Sgt. John McMahan and the mother of Spc. Orin McMahan; and Tanya Piland, wife of Sgt. Justin Piland; along with Kristin Olson and Donita Zamarippa, who were not present at the ceremony due to other commitments.

The 2-130th FA inducted Mrs. Deborah Thompson, wife of Master Sgt. Eric Thompson, and Mrs. Carrie Foster, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Foster.

Other awards given by both units were presented during the festivities. Burke gave special recognition to Command Sgt. Maj. Harold Whitley, who had served as the command sergeant major for the 161st FA during the past three years. Whitley deployed to Iraq with the battalion, and so was recognized for his outstanding contributions by being awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

The 2-130th FA had four awards to give during their evening's function. The first was to retired Lt. Col. Lee Keffer. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his numerous years of commitment to the unit.

The next two awards were battalion coins, awarded to Spc. Stephen Levins of Battery B for being named the Soldier of the Year; and Staff Sgt. Jared Meier, also of Battery B, for being named the non-commissioned officer of the year.

From ST. BARBARA, Page 28

From ST. BARBARA, Page 27

The two Soldiers have competed world-wide for this event, and have been named the top Soldier and NCO of the State of Kansas. They will be honored further at the National Guard Association of Kansas's yearly convention.

The next award for the unit was the Command Sgt. Maj. Dean Tollefson Retention Award, for outstanding efforts in the field of recruiting and retention. This year's winners were Battery A, the award was accepted by Capt. Murl Riedel and 1st Sgt. Kevin Reishick.

Guest speaker for 1-161st FA's evening events was U.S. Air Force retired Col. Thomas Kirk, who had been a prisoner of war and cell mate of Senator John McCain at the Hanoi Hilton during the Vietnam War.

Kirk had completed 166 combat missions in Vietnam and was a



***Left:** Staff Sgt. Jacob Millias of Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery is knighted at the Induction of St. Barbara Dec. 4.*

***Right:** Retired Lt. Col. Lee Keffer kisses his wife, Brenda, after receiving his awards.*



***Above:** Retired Maj. Jay Gradinger, Capt. Murl Riedel, Sgt. 1st Class David Wellman, Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Prine, Staff Sgt. Donald Sand, Staff Sgt. Jacob Millias, Staff Sgt. Christopher Dame and Staff Sgt. William Guthrie were inducted in to the Order of St. Barbara.*



Left: (From left to right): Tanya Piland, wife of Sgt. Justin Piland; Susan McMahan, wife of 1st Sgt. John McMahan and the mother of Spc. Orin McMahan; Becky Matticks, wife of Sgt. Maj. Ricky Matticks; Barbara George, wife of Spc. Ron George; and Catherine Bell, wife of Capt. Kyle Bell stand in line to be inducted into the Order of Molly Pitcher at the Ramada Conference Center in Hutchinson, Kan., Nov. 6.



From ST. BARBARA, Page 28

squadron commander leading a raid when his F-105 Thunderchief was shot down on Oct. 28, 1967. He spoke of his experiences and beliefs.

For the 2-130th FA, guest speaker was former battalion commander, Lt. Col. John Rueger, who spoke of the missions the battalion succeeded in during their recent deployment to the Sinai. After the guest speakers, both units ended their year's ceremonies.

For information about ST. BARBARA, see Page 30



Upper right: (from left) Staff Sgt. Jared Meier was named Kansas's noncommissioned officer of the Year. Spc. Stephen Levins was named Kansas's Soldier of the Year.

Left: Deborah Thompson and Carrie Foster pose for a photo after being inducted in the Order of Molly Pitcher for their devotion, support and participation in the unit's activities.

Right: (from left) Capt. Murl Riedel accepts the Command Sgt. Maj. Dean Tollefson Retention Award from retired Command Sgt. Maj. Dean Tollefson, with the Battery A's first sergeant assisting in the acceptance, 1st Sgt. Kevin Reishick.



Legend of Saint Barbara

According to legend, Saint Barbara was the extremely beautiful daughter of Dioscorus, a nobleman of the Roman Empire, who lived near Nicomedia in Asia Minor in the third or fourth century. Because of her singular beauty and fearful that she be demanded in marriage and taken away from him, and also to limit Barbara's exposure to Christianity and encourage her development as a zealous pagan, her father shut her up in a tower.

Shortly before embarking on a journey, he commissioned a sumptuous bath house to be built for her, approving the design before he departed. Barbara had heard of the teachings of Christ, and while her father was gone she spent much time in contemplation. From the windows of her tower she looked out upon the surrounding countryside and marveled at the growing things; the trees, the animals and the people.

She decided that all these must be part of a master plan, and that idols of wood and stone worshipped by her parents must be condemned as false. Gradually she came to accept the Christian faith. As her belief became firm, she directed that the builders redesign the bathhouse her father had planned, adding another window, so that the three windows might symbolize

the Holy Trinity.

When her father returned, he was enraged at the changes and infuriated when Barbara acknowledged that she was a Christian. He dragged her before the prefect of the province, who decreed that she be tortured and put to death by beheading. Dioscorus himself carried out the death sentence. On his way home he was struck by lightning and his body consumed.

Saint Barbara was venerated as early as the seventh century. The legend of the lightning bolt which struck down her persecutor caused her to be regarded as the sainted patroness of those in danger from thunderstorms, fires, explosions - that is to say, sudden death. When gunpowder made its appearance in the Western World, Saint Barbara was invoked for aid against accidents resulting from explosions - and since some of the earlier artillery pieces often blew up instead of firing their projectile - Saint Barbara became the patroness of the artilleryman.

Saint Barbara is usually represented standing by a tower with three windows, carrying the palm of a martyr in her hand. Often, too, she holds a chalice and a sacramental wafer and sometimes cannons are displayed near her.



Legend of Molly Pitcher

The heat of June 1778 soared to 96 degrees as the guns barked at the British. The cannon barrels smoked, and men fell from heatstroke. In the heat, a woman walked back and forth from a well (or possibly a nearby creek) carrying water to the hot men and smoldering guns. Her husband manned one of the valuable cannons. They were making a difference by holding the causeway.

During one of her many returns to the line, she saw her husband fall. A colonial officer ordered his gun moved to the rear to make room on the line; he had no one left to man it. But Molly Pitcher stepped forward to keep her husband's gun roaring - every cannon was important.

The story of Molly Pitcher of American Revolution fame gives pride to her community of Carlisle, Pa., and the United States Field Artillery that claim her as its heroine. Her battleground in New Jersey boasts of a Molly Pitcher Well and a monument dedicated to her contributions during the Battle of Monmouth.



Left photo—35th Infantry Division commander, Mj. Gen. John Davoren, serves unit family members their Christmas dinner. “It’s important to have families come into the unit and break bread with us,” said Davoren, “because the holidays are for family, and they are an important part of the military family.”



35th celebrates the holidays—

Right photo, from left—Soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division, Col. Clint Moyer and Chief of Staff, Col. Matthew Raney, are served by the command of the division—35th Infantry Division commander, Maj. Gen. John Davoren, Brig. Gen. David Irwin of Missouri, Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Newton and deputy commander, Brig. Gen. Vic Braden of Kansas.

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th MPAD



Col. John Andrew

Kansas Army National Guard in transition—

Current Land Component Chief of Staff, Col. John Andrew, was selected as the new 35th Infantry Division Chief of Staff. He will make his transition to the Division effective Jan. 15, 2011.

The Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Col. Alan Soldan will assume the duties of the Land Component Chief of Staff.

Current 35th Division Chief of Staff,

Col. Matt Raney, will be retiring in the spring.

“I’m happy to be back in an operational unit at this time in history,” said Andrew.

“It’s been a pleasure to serve the adjutant general with the staff at Joint Forces Headquarters and I’m anxious to start working with all the great Soldiers at the 35th Infantry Division.



Col. Matt Raney



Col. Alan Soldan

Kansas Soldier knighted, awarded Legion of Honor

*Photos and story by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke,
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

It had been a long time coming, but Topekan and World War II veteran, Dr. Medford H. Shively was honored and pinned Dec. 1, 2010, as a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor in ceremonies conducted at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 400, Topeka.

Established by Napoleon, the Chevalier, or Knight, is the highest honor bestowed on an individual from the French government. Shively, who served the bulk of his Army service during WWII in France, was honored for those actions and pinned by Kansas Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting.

It has been some 65 years since the end of fighting in Europe. But, Shively, now 87, had no difficulty recalling his actions as a much younger man. As part of the 42nd Division, Shively landed in Marseilles on Dec. 9, 1944, and served in France until March, 1945. The 42nd Infantry Division, a division of the National Guard and comprised of 14 different states, was activated for service in World War II in July 1943.

As part of the 42nd, Shively would witness and participate in some of the most fearsome fighting in Europe, fighting through the bitter winter months defending a 31-mile sector along the Rhine. In January, the Division and regiment moved into the Bois D'Ohlungen where the 222nd would repulse repeated attacks from a last ditch German effort.

On Valentine's Day 1945, the whole of the division would enter combat, taking up defensive positions near Haguenau in the Hardt Forest. After a month of extensive patrolling and defense, the division went on the offensive, attacking through the Hardt Forest and breaking through the Siegfried Line (the Nazi built line of tank defense that encompassed more than 18,000 bunker, tunnels and traps).

In March of that year, they



Above photo, from left—Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, is the first to congratulate Dr. Medford H. Shively for the highest honor the French government can bestow on an individual. Assisting with the ceremony was the commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 400, Scott Steele.

would go on to clear Dahn and Busenber, allowing 3rd Army to establish bridgeheads across the Rhine, which would ultimately lead to the discovery and liberation of Dachau concentration camp and the ultimate demise of the German government.

“It was the coldest winter I had ever seen,” Shively recalled. “The 101st Airborne had to come in and rescue us, it was that bad. We were in southern France; we didn't know where we were. We didn't know

how bad off we were. We were pretty much surrounded by the Germans. Of course we never knew where we were in the big picture or how bad off we were.”

For his actions during combat, Shively was awarded the Bronze Star Medal as well as the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

See SHIVLEY, Page 33

**The 42nd
Infantry
Division
'Rainbow'
patch**



From SHIVLEY, Page 32

When asked about the bronze star medal, he hesitated, his steel blue eyes providing a window into the memories he would rather not recall.

“It was an experience,” he said softly. “I am glad I had it. I’m glad I came back.” Like a true warrior and soldier, he was more apt to recognize the efforts of others. “I think about the guys serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the dangers they face on the road. They never know what is going to happen to them, either. I am grateful that they are there for us, just like we were there when we were needed,” he said.

He was also awarded the American Theater Ribbon, the Europe, African and ME Theater Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

After the cessation of combat, Shively was assigned to the Vienna Area Command until his discharge in April 1946.

In a letter to Shively, Graham Paul, the French consulate at Chicago stated, “It is an honor and privilege to present you with the Knight of the Legion of Honor medal. Through this award, the French government pays tribute to the soldiers who did so much for



Above photo—Dr. Medford H. Shively visits with Kansas Army National Guard members, Command Chief Warrant Officer, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Hector Vasquez and State Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth.

France and Western Europe. You gave your youth to France and the French people.”

“My fellow countrymen will never forget your sacrifice. Their children and grandchildren are as proud of your courageous actions as can be your own children and grandchildren... It is my privilege to send you my sincere and warmest congratulations. Merci beaucoup for all you did!”

History of the 42nd Infantry Division—

Numerous Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers wear the ‘Rainbow’ patch. In August of 2004, 50 Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers deployed with the 42nd Infantry Division to Iraq. The 42nd Infantry Division is still active, with Kansas Soldiers still being attached to the unit.

The 42nd Infantry Division was created in August 1917, just months after the United States entered World War I, and was sent overseas to France in November. In 1943, the "Rainbow" division was reactivated for duty and deployed to Europe in December 1944, when it landed in the French port of Marseille. By mid-December, the "Rainbow" division had advanced into Alsace, closing in on the Strasbourg area. In March 1945, the 42nd drove into Germany and crossed the Rhine River by the end of the month. In April, the "Rainbow" division captured the cities of Würzburg, Schweinfurt and Fürth. By war's end, it had completed its drive into Bavaria and had entered Austria.

When formed and activated for WWII, the 42ID was a unique unit, as it was a reconstitution of the Rainbow Division from WWI. Except for the division headquarters, none of its earlier elements had reformed in the interwar period, so the Army Ground Forces filled its new units with personnel from every state. To emphasize the 42ID lineage from the 42ID of WWI, Maj. Gen. Harry J. Collins activated the unit on July 14, the eve of the 25th anniversary of the Champagne-Marne campaign in France.

See HISTORY, Page 34

From HISTORY, Page 33

Following training at Camp Gruber, Okla., and the journey to Europe, the three infantry regiments (222nd, 232nd, and 242nd) and a detachment of the 42ID Headquarters arrived in France at Marseille, Dec. 8-9, 1944, and were formed into Task Force (TF) Linden, under the Assistant Division Commander (ADC). TF Linden was task organized to VI Corps under 7th Army. TF Linden entered combat in the vicinity of Strasbourg, relieving elements of the 36ID on Dec. 24, 1944. Defending a 31-mile sector along the Rhine, north and south of Strasbourg, TF Linden repulsed a number of enemy counterattacks, at Hatten and other locations. On Jan. 24-25, 1945, in the Bois D'Ohlungen, and the vicinity of Schweighouse-sur-Moder and Neubourg, the 222nd Infantry Regiment repulsed repeated attacks by the German 7th Parachute and 47th VG Divisions. For this action the 222nd Infantry Regiment was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation (2001). After these enemy attacks, TF Linden returned to reserve of the 7th Army and trained with the remainder of the 42ID which had arrived in the meantime.

On Feb. 14, 1945, the 42ID as a whole entered combat, taking up defensive positions near Haguenau in the Hardt Forest. After a month of extensive patrolling and active defense, the 42ID went on the offensive. The 42ID attacked through the Hardt Forest, broke through the Siegfried Line, March 15-21, 1945, cleared Dahn and Busenberg, and mopped up in that general area, while the 3rd Army created and ex-

panded bridgeheads across the Rhine. Moving across the Rhine, March 31, 1945, the 42ID captured Wertheim am Main, April 1, 1945, and Würzburg, April 2-6, 1945, after a fierce battle. Schweinfurt fell next after hand-to-hand engagements, April 9-12, 1945. Fürth, near Nürnberg, put up fanatical resistance, but was taken, April 18-19, 1945, by the 42ID.

On April 25, the 42ID captured Donauwörth on the Danube, and on April 29, 1945, liberated some 30,000 inmates at Dachau, a Nazi concentration camp along with the 45th Infantry Division. The 42ID campaign ended passing through Munich, April 30, 1945, as it cut across the Austrian border located north of Salzburg.

On April 29, 1945, the 42nd Infantry Division entered the Dachau concentration camp, the earliest and longest-functioning SS-controlled camp in Nazi Germany. On that day, three U.S. Army divisions converged on the camp: the 42nd Infantry, the 45th Infantry, and the 20th Armored. When the three units arrived at Dachau, they discovered more than 30,000 prisoners in the overcrowded camp.

See HISTORY, Page 35



Left—The front gates to the concentration camp in Dachau, where the German words, “Work makes you free,” adorn the iron gated doors.

Above—Survivors of the camp await processing by American soldiers of the 42nd Infantry Division upon their rescue.

Photos courtesy of 42nd Infantry Division History pages

From HISTORY, Page 34

Just days before, about 2,000 inmates evacuated on a death march from the Flossenbürg concentration camp had arrived at Dachau and the SS guards had forced almost 7,000 Dachau inmates to move southward.

On April 28, the day before liberation, a train with about 40 or so railway cars arrived at the camp. It had left Buchenwald four weeks earlier on April 7 filled with more than 5,000 prisoners. With few provisions, almost 2,000 inmates died on the circuitous route that took them from Thuringia through Saxony to Czechoslovakia and into Bavaria. Their bodies were left behind in various locations throughout Germany. When U.S. troops arrived in Dachau on April 29, they found 2,310 additional corpses on the train. The 816 surviving prisoners were taken to barracks within the camp.

The proximity of the U.S. Army gave hope to the

Division nickname

The nickname of the 42nd Infantry Division, the "Rainbow" division, reflects the composition of the division during World War I. The division was drawn from the National Guards of 26 states (Kansas being one of the states) and the District of Columbia. It represented a cross section of the American people, as the rainbow represents a cross section of colors.

Casualty figures for unit—

Activated: July 14, 1943

Overseas: November 1944

Campaigns: Rhineland, Central Europe

Days of combat: 106

Total battle casualties: 3,971

Total Casualties: 5,949

Total deaths in battle: 655

Prisoners of war taken: 59,128

Presidential Unit Citation: 1

Awards: Medal of Honor-1; Distinguished Service Cross-4; Distinguished Service Medal-1; Silver Star-622; Legion of Merit-9; Soldier's Medal-32; Bronze Star Medal-5,325; Air Medal-104.

Commanders: Maj. Gen. Harry J. Collins commanded the 42ID during its entire period of Federal service in World War II.

De-activated: June 29, 1946 in Europe.

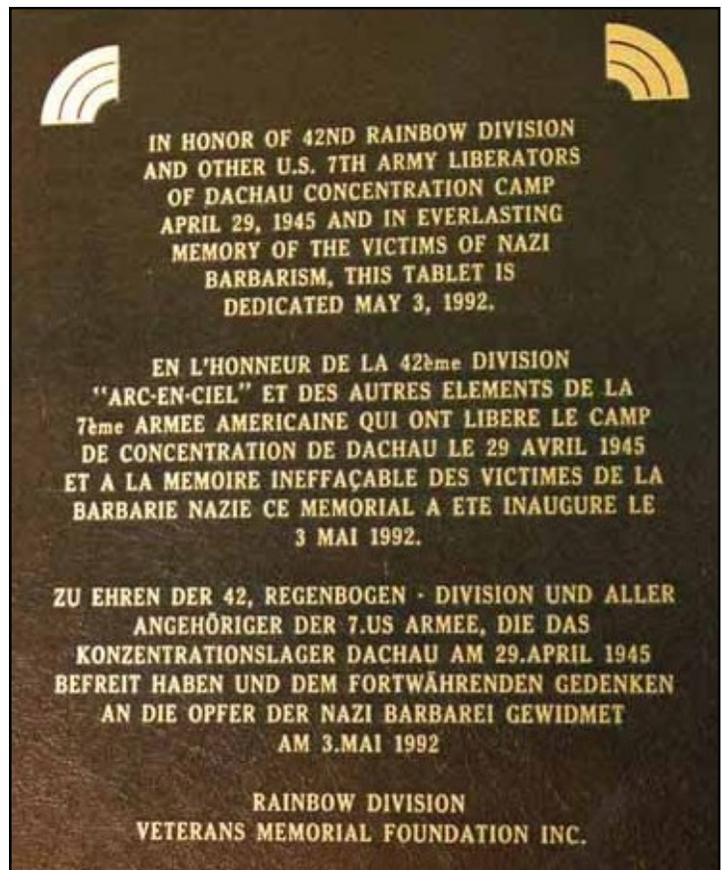
Right photo—The plaque that honors the 42nd Rainbow Division and thanks the division for the liberation of Dachau.

prisoners in the camp and to anti-Nazis outside it. In the town of Dachau, German opponents of the regime, including a few escaped concentration camp prisoners, took over the town hall, but the local SS put down the small rebellion and executed those among the insurgents whom they caught. In the Dachau camp itself, an international committee composed of representatives of the various nationalities imprisoned there was established to organize resistance.

News of Dachau's liberation spread swiftly. The delegations of journalists and congressmen who had been viewing the Buchenwald concentration camp were quickly diverted to Dachau to see the camp.

Immediately after Dachau's liberation, U.S. Army authorities and other Allied representatives began treating the sick prisoners, implementing health and sanitary measures to curb the typhus epidemic, and bringing in tons of food to feed the starving prisoners.

The 42nd Infantry Division was recognized as a liberating unit by the U.S. Army's Center of Military History and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1985.



Kansas National Guard High Power Rifle Team Reunion planned

The Kansas National Guard High Power Rifle Team is planning a reunion to be held at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, in Topeka, on April 10, 2011. Currently, a list of all past members is being compiled. If you were ever selected for the State Level High Power Rifle Team, when it was active, please contact retired Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Lewis.

These teams competed in Army Area, Regional and various State, National and National Guard championship Matches. If you have email please contact Lewis at: lewy62@sbcglobal.net or by phone at 785-235-2248 and provide your current mailing address, phone number and e-mail address.



New lieutenant colonel in town

Affixing his new rank to her husband's ACU blouse was Tia Weathers, velcroing on the rank of lieutenant colonel to her husband's uniform, Lt. Col. Monte Weathers. Weathers was promoted during a ceremony in October at Nickell Armory in Topeka, Kan.

He is the logistics management specialist for Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 69th Troop Command in Topeka, Kan.

Photo by Maj. Mike Wallace,
105th MPAD



Toys for Tots commences

Skylar Dickey, historian for the Kansas National Guard Teen Council gathers girl toys for Toys for Tots with the local U.S. Marine Corps Reserves. The mission of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community in which the campaign is conducted. The primary goal of Toys for Tots is to deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters that will assist them in becoming responsible, productive, patriotic citizens. For more information about Toys for Tots reference <http://topeka-ks.toysfortots.org> or www.toysfortots.org.

Photo by Spc. Stephanie Hodges,
105th MPAD

Local organizations help Soldier's families when in need

Times can be tough for a young family, especially around the holidays—but there are organizations that are there to help the Soldier and their family in times of need.

This holiday season, three organizations for the Soldier have assisted several families during the bad economic times. The Kansas National Guard Family Program, the Topeka Chapter of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), and the city of Ozawkie American Legion Post distributed nearly \$1,500 to those in need.

On Thursday, Dec. 16, 2010 at the United States Property and Fiscal Office of the Kansas National Guard in Topeka, Richard Nickum, the president of the Topeka Chapter of the AUSA presented a check for \$300 to the Kansas National Guard Family Program to give to a family that has been affected by hard times this year.

The family wishes to remain anonymous, but that didn't matter to the AUSA.

"This family should not be deprived of Christmas for their children because their dad is away supporting our nation," said Nickum, referring to the young family.

The Soldier and his wife were married just a year before his deployment and have been working diligently to relieve debt acquired before the deployment. They have two children and have recently lost their place to live.

"Each year at this time during the holiday season, we look for a family that has need so the AUSA can complete it's role to support Army Soldiers and families."

Nickum says it is very satisfying to support Sol-

dier's families. "We wish to support the Soldier and his family, because that Soldier is overseas supporting us. They're giving up a great deal—being in Afghanistan, Africa, Iraq, and all over the world, while

their families are over here on the home front. This puts a lot of stress on the families," said Nickum.

Cherie Herlinger, the Family Assistance Coordinator and Michelle Williams, the Senior Family Readiness support Assistant for the Kansas National Guard Family Program say that organizations like the AUSA are truly philanthropic.

"Without their help, some Kansas National Guard families would have a tougher time this year, but this type of help is not just for the holiday season, if we hear of a family in need, then we can help them.

But the day wasn't over for the Family Program people. They had

several other checks to distribute from the city of Ozawkie American Legion Post. These checks ranged from \$200-\$300 each, and would also be going to families that have a need this season.

Williams says that each family that gets the money have been researched and verified of their need. "Many families don't want to admit they need help," she says, "but they soon realize that that is what these organizations are for, and everyone needs a little help once in a while."

The AUSA holds a general membership meeting monthly for lunch at the Capitol American Legion Post #1 in Topeka on the fourth Tuesday of each month.



Above photo, from left—Cherie Herlinger and Michelle Williams of the Kansas National Guard Family Program office accepted a check for \$300 from Topeka Chapter of the Association of the United States Army president, Richard Nickum. The check will be given to a Soldier's family that is in need this holiday season.

Kansas Guardsmen thank local veterans for service

By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson
Joint Forces Headquarters, UPAR

On this year's Veterans Day members of the Kansas Army and Air Guard took time out of their holiday to spend time with other veterans. In Topeka, Kansas National Guard members visited more than 180 veterans in 10 Homes and Centers.

On Memorial Day we honor the veterans that have given the last full measure of devotion. On Veterans Day we honor the living veterans who are part of our community. However, as Veterans age they often out live their family and friends and end up spending their last days in a nursing home.

Rosmarie Doyle of the Eventide Convalescent Center said "We have made Veterans Day a special event before, but this is the first time that we have brought in serving service members to be with our veterans." The event at was held in the Center's dining room, which was decorated for the occasion, before the evening meal. As part of the Center's honoring their Veterans, certificates were presented to each one in recognition of their service to the Country.

Tech. Sgt. Emily Alley made time to visit several of the Homes. Senior Airman Shanna Finkemeier brought her two children Destiny, 8, and Jessie, 9, "So that they would have appreciation of those who came before." She added "They love the military as much as I do."

Her children helped pass out certificates to the veterans. 1st Lt. Marci Solander took time to visit with Army veteran Larry Foster. Foster told her of his service in Vietnam during 1968 to 1969. Staff Sgt. Dane Baker took time to visit with Bill German who served in the Navy during the 1960's.

Senior Master Sgt. Brian Martin, his wife, Amanda, and children Cara, 11, Seth, 9, Lorraine, 7, Jesse Lyn, 4 and Megan, 6 months, visited two facilities. Martin said "The children made cards fto give to the Veterans at the Atria Hearthstone. They were so excited by it; they wanted to do it again. We went home and they made more for the Veterans here at Eventide."

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marvin Terhune said that thanking the veterans was what he expected everyone in the country to do. "Especially those that were part of the 'Greatest Generation'," Terhune said.

"After all, those people fought in one of history's greatest and bloodiest wars, and they not only kept our country free, they molded the country for another generation to keep America great."

Jeff Moszeter, Eventide's Director of Operations, said that he has a special respect for the Veterans under his care. He thanked the current men and women in uniform for taking their time to share war stories with his Veterans. Moszeter said "I hope that we can make this visit a regular part of our annual Veterans Day's activities."



Above photo—Spc. Justin Prochaska gives a certificate of appreciation and a miniature American flag to World War II veteran Mosi Marlow.

Lower photo—Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marvin Terhune shakes the hand of World War II Veteran Robert Waters.

Photos by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

