

Official Magazine Newsletter of  
the Kansas Army National Guard

# KANSAS SENTINEL

October 2010    Volume 1, Issue 8

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**10,000 Miles for Charity**  
*Soldier sets goal for deployment*

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**35th ID History Recorded**  
*KS National Guard Museum opens  
new wing.*

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**Brig. Gen. Steen Retires**

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## On the Cover

A Soldier with the 778th Transportation Company, Combat Heavy Equipment Trailer, qualifies with his M-16 rifle at Regional Training Center in Salina, Kan. The 778th CBT HETT mobilized to Kuwait in support of Transition to Stability Operations for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Photo by Sgt. Charles Malloy,  
778th CBT HETT UPAR

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# The Leader's Role

## Removing the Mental Health Stigma

“What do you mean 1SG? You’re kidding me; there are MPs and ambulances in front of his house right now. I’ll be right there!” I can’t believe it; SPC Jones just killed himself. How did I miss it? I knew he had some issues when we redeployed, but he was one to suck it up and drive on. He was a good Soldier, I didn’t want to screw him over and let the commander think he was some “nutcase”. Unfortunately, scenarios like this play out in the Army almost every day leaving leaders and fellow Soldiers filled with guilt.

The impact of combat, multiple deployments, family separations, and a lack of coping skills are taking its toll on our Soldiers and their families. It is the obligation of leaders across the Army to dedicate our collective efforts to remove the stigma associated with seeking out behavioral health treatment. Unfortunately, there is no magic answer to preventing suicide. However, as leaders we can mitigate the possibilities by concerning ourselves with primarily three things: develop a meaningful relationship of trust with our subordinates; be aware of the indicators of suicide and not be timid in asking the hard questions like “are you thinking of killing yourself”; and foster an organizational climate that is free of criticism for those seeking assistance.



***SGM Sheldon W. Chandler,  
USD-N G2 Sergeant Major***

### **Behavioral Health Stigma within Our Ranks**

The three greatest barriers a Soldier faces in seeking out mental health treatment are shame, fear of jeopardizing their careers, and trust in their leadership after their personal issues are shared outside the chain of command. It is imperative leaders across the Army, at all levels; inculcate the fact that it is acceptable to seek assistance. To coach, teach, and mentor a Soldier to ask for help should be no more different than teaching Warrior Tasks. We must embrace the fact a Soldier’s mental health is as equally important, if not more important than their physical readiness in order to reduce the stigma. To remove the stigma of seeking out assistance we must first eliminate the bravado associated with the normal Army life. We leaders have heard them all: “Hooah Sergeant, I’m good”, “You know me, I don’t sweat the small stuff”, or my favorite saying “See the shrink, I’m not nuts”. It is crucial we not accept these kinds of responses; sit down and listen to our Soldiers and know unequivocally when something is out of place.

Our more senior leaders within the Army are leading the charge through fundamental policy changes and revising regulatory guidance to reduce the stigma associ-

“Leader” Con’t Page 4

# The Leader's Role

## *“Leader” Con’t*

ated with mental health. Although leaders at all levels of the Army are implementing change to policies and procedures, the most critical change is that of culture. It is imperative to change the paradigm associated with Soldiers seeking assistance and reaching out to their leaders and fellow Soldiers for help. Unless we shift the paradigm and make positive strides in our Army culture “stigma can render suicide prevention efforts ineffective unless elements are incorporated into the program to counter these destructive attitudes” (AR 600-24, 2009). The Army is committed to decreasing stigma associated with seeking help, to improve access to care, and to incorporate suicide prevention training into all training programs (Schoomaker, 2010).

### **Resources Available**

In FY 2009, 239 Soldiers from the active and reserve components in total took their lives. More staggering, another 1,713 Soldiers attempted suicide. Over the last three years

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As leaders, our Army needs us now more than ever.

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-SGM Sheldon W. Chandler

there have been over 450 confirmed suicide cases in the Army (CNN, 2009). In October, 2008, the Army partnered with the National Institute of Mental Health to begin a five-year, \$50 million research program into the factors behind Soldier suicides and how to prevent them (Schoomaker, 2010). In addition to hiring new mental health experts, the Army focused their efforts on the creation of the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness and Master Resilience Training programs. Organiza-

tional leadership must be willing to let our best leaders with the right skill set and the right personalities take the time to attend this training for it to be successful. We cannot afford to simply give up a name for another Army tasking, we must send our very best. In 2009, we passed the line of departure in moving out for this important mission by sending 150 extremely capable Sergeants and family members to the University of Pennsylvania as the inaugural class of master resilience trainers. The Army’s goal in 2010 is to have a master resilience trainer in every Battalion across the Army. Master resilience trainers will be an extremely valuable tool in sharing the knowledge and wisdom of this specialized training and be the lead echelon of a full frontal attack on preventing suicides in our Army.

### **Educating our Soldiers and Army Families**

As leaders, our Army needs us now more than ever before in order to combat one of the most catastrophic challenges of our careers. We must come armed not with a basic load of ammunition, but the knowledge and empathy necessary to support and lead our Soldiers in their time of need. Educating our formations on the importance of behavioral health and removing the stigma can save a Soldier’s life. Compassionate leadership, support, and education will result in our Soldiers seeking help without the worries of shame, criticisms, or negative impacts on their career. The use of training vehicles such as NCO and Officer Professional Development Programs and Family Readiness Groups meetings not only trains our Soldiers, but also our Army families. Leaders provided with the opportunity to attend any level of resilience training should seek out the opportunity and pass on the knowledge to their seniors, peers, and subordinates. It is critical we learn and grow together in order to maximize our effectiveness within our ranks and overcome this critical issue.



*Inset:*

*Spc. Megan Bancroft, 35th  
Infantry Division (ID)  
Human Resources Specialist,  
inspects the interior of a 400  
gallon water “buffalo” for  
deficiencies.*

*Bancroft was among 17  
35th ID Soldiers to  
participate in a field  
sanitation course during  
annual training in late  
September.*

Field sanitation certification  
protects 35th ID Soldiers

Story and Photos by:  
Sgt. Heather Wright, 35<sup>th</sup> ID Public Affairs



*First Lt. Jessica Aguinaga, 35th Infantry Division (ID) Environmental Science Officer, guides her field sanitation class through inspecting a 400-gallon water "buffalo" for deficiencies during annual training in late September.*

To the uninitiated, field sanitation brings to mind an image of hand-dug latrines and the other unpleasant, but necessary, tasks associated with them. First Lt. Jessica Aguinaga, 35th Infantry Division (ID) Environmental Science Officer, provided another definition of field sanitation to her class of 17 Soldiers during 35th ID's annual training.

In reality, field sanitation involves a broad range of categories including personal hygiene, water supply, waste disposal, food supply, arthropod control, heat and cold injuries, toxic industrial materials and noise reduction.

Field sanitation specialists assist unit commanders in identifying potential hazards from each of the above categories and providing the necessary resources, measures or direction to safely control those hazards.

With such an extensive range of categories, field sanitation teams couldn't realistically be responsible for all the necessary control measures. Environmental officers and medical teams are ulti-

mately responsible for field sanitation, but the teams play a critical role. They serve as educated "eyes on the ground" for their commander, environmental officers and medical team.

Field sanitation teams are composed of two members. Their primary responsibilities are as follows: monitor and treat the unit's water supply to prevent waterborne disease; monitor the transportation, storage, preparation and serving of food; assist in the selection and construction of all waste disposal devices; and control arthropods and other animals in the unit area and assisting the commander in the selection of bivouac sites.

"My goal was to teach teams within each section to be observant and assist

the unit commander in identifying hazards and implementing preventative medicine measures," Aguinaga said.

Sgt. Michael Hoeschele, 35th ID Human Resources Specialist, felt the class was interesting and thorough. While he was aware of many common problem arthropods like mice and spiders, he didn't know as much about the additional problems they can bring with them. "The different diseases that arthropods can carry is amazing," Hoeschele said.

A relevant example is leishmaniasis, a parasitic disease carried by sand flies, which causes sores, severe tissue degeneration and death. Soldiers deploying to the Middle East will appreciate their field sanitation team's knowledge of how to prevent sand fly exposure.

The entire class passed the mandatory field sanitation test. With the certification of all 17 Soldiers, the 35<sup>th</sup> ID has made good progress towards providing a safe and healthy environment for all their troops.

# Memorable Flag Raising

On Aug. 8, three Soldiers from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry Division presented a flag raising ceremony with a group of NCOs from the Japanese navy. The date was chosen by the Japanese NCOs as a date of remembrance. The date served as a memorial of the two atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima, August 6, 1945 and Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945. The ceremony was held at the flagpole by the quarterdeck, which used to be the camp's main flagpole. Early on the morning of Aug. 8, the two lead Japanese NCOs raised the flag while Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Buskirk, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Perry and Sgt. 1st Class Mark Young saluted along with a formation of Japanese NCOs. The flag flew for approximately 20 minutes and then lowered. Once the flag was lowered, Sgt. 1st Class Buskirk assisted the Japanese NCOs in folding the flag in the same manner as the US flag. The Japanese NCOs then presented the flag to their highest ranking NCO. According to Sgt. 1st Class Buskirk, the ceremony, which marked a rare occasion where a Japanese naval ensign has been flown over a U.S. camp, was "very moving for both the Japanese and American servicemen who were present."



*Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Buskirk reads aloud the citation from the certificate presented to the Japanese.*



***Inset:** Sgt. 1st Class Mark Young (foreground) and members of the Japanese navy (background) render a salute during the flag raising ceremony.*

# 35th ID Fields Standard Integrated Command Post System



*Story and Photos by Sgt. Heather Wright, 35th ID Public Affairs*

*Master Sgt. Antonio Slaughter, 35th Infantry Division Chief Ammunition non-commissioned officer, repacks environmental ductwork after successfully setting up a medium Trailer Mounted Support Systems (TMSS). The 35th ID received 19 TMSS in support of the Army's Standard Integrated Command Post System (SICPS) during annual training in late September.*

The 35th Infantry Division (ID) is one of the latest Army National Guard Divisions to field 11 of the Army's Standard Integrated Command Post System (SICPS) Trailer Mounted Support System (TMSS) in cooperation with Northrop Grumman Corporation's Command Post Platform (CPP) to provide mobile tactical operations centers that can be rapidly deployed for command, control and communications on the battlefield.

**“T**he SICPS fielding gives the 35<sup>th</sup> ID the capability to operate in any environment,”

*-Col. Russell Conrad*

Northrop Grumman trainer Kevin Stark and a crew of fellow trainers traveled to Leavenworth to teach 35th ID Soldiers how to properly set up and use the new systems during the 35th ID's annual training in late September. Stark and his coworkers

spend 150 to 200 days on the road training Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve components how to effectively deploy the SICPS, TMSS and CPP.

Stark has been helping units across the nation learn about the systems for the past four years. The SICPS system has been fielded in approximately 80-percent of the Army's units. Northrop Grumman should have the remaining 20-percent fielded towards the end of 2011.

According to Stark, early in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, the Army recognized the need for a more efficient communication and command system. The regular Army, National Guard and Reserve were using different communication and command post sys-

**“SICPS” Con't Page 12**



*Kevin Stark, Northrop Grumman Military Trainer, shows 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Soldiers the proper alignment of the exoskeleton and plate in a large Trailer Mounted Support Systems (TMSS). The 35<sup>th</sup> ID recently received 19 TMSS in support of the Army's Standard Integrated Command Post System (SICPS) during annual training in late September.*

## “SICPS” Con’t



*Left: A 35th Infantry Division Soldier watches the air pump as it fills the bladder of a large Trailer Mounted Support Systems (TMSS). This innovation raises the 1,600 pound shelter with minimum assistance and prevents injuries. The 35<sup>th</sup> ID recently received 19 TMSS in support of the Army’s Standard Integrated Command Post System (SICPS) during annual training in late September.*



*Right: The 35th Infantry Division recently received 19 Trailer Mounted Support Systems (TMSS) in support of the Army’s Standard Integrated Command Post System (SICPS). Shown above is the large version which provides 1,120 square feet of usable*

tems. Much like the confusion during Hurricane Katrina, the lack of effective communication and command posts led to unnecessary delays in assistance and in some cases - death. The SICPS TMSS and CPP provide the necessary standardization of communication and shelter to avoid making the same errors.

SICPS TMSS Medium and Large systems combine shelter, utilities, power generator, environmental control and tactical mobility to form a complete command operation center.

“The SICPS fielding gives the 35<sup>th</sup> ID the capability to operate in any environment,” said Col. Russell Conrad, 35th Infantry Division Operations Officer and Assistant Chief of Staff.

Set up within roughly 30 minutes, the SICPS TMSS medium provides more than 442-square feet of usable space and includes a 5-ton environmental control unit (ECU) and can generate 18 kilowatts of power. The environmental control unit includes both a heater and an air conditioner.

The large system takes about an hour to set up and provides more than 1,120-square feet of usable space, a 12-ton ECU and can generate 33 kilowatts of power. Both systems are completely towable by military vehicles and have been tested to maintain temperatures in climates from -50 degrees to +131 degrees Fahrenheit. In earlier designs, the shelters had a separate interior and exterior portion that actually had to be stitched together. The poles and beams were also separate and made for an un-

new design has the interior and exterior liners attached to the pop-up exoskeleton. The large system includes an air bladder and air pump that raises the shelter. This makes the set-up much less time consuming, easier to manage and helps avoid injury.

Previously, the generator, ECU and shelters were hauled on separate trailers. This gave rise to logistical issues – maintain and coordinate three separate pieces of equipment and trailers for one shelter. With the TMSS, the shelter, generator and ECU are conveniently stored together on one trailer. This makes accountability, mobility and set-up more efficient.

Standardized communication is addressed with the mobile Command Post Platform (CPP). The CPP is housed in a HMMWV. It includes eight radios, both classified and Sensitive but Unclassified (SBU) LANs and can connect with another CPP to provide necessary redundancy. Northrop Grumman’s training also includes teaching the IT teams in each unit how to manage, trouble shoot and set up each of the systems and integrate them with the unit’s computer systems.

Northrop Grumman’s comprehensive training, top of the line shelter and communication systems will allow the 35<sup>th</sup> ID commanders and staff to digitally plan, prepare, and execute operations in seamless union with other units.

# Kansas Guardsman officially U.S. citizen

Story and Photo by Sgt. Adam Cloyd,  
Agricultural Development Team 2

On October 1, the Kansas National Guard and nation welcomed its newest citizen Soldier during a ceremony in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Spc. Enrique Martinez Moreno, an infantryman assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 6th Kansas Cavalry, Agri-Business Development Team (ADT) stationed at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Mehtar Lam, raised his right hand and pledged his allegiance to the country he defends.

Martinez said earning his citizenship has been a goal of his since coming to America where shortly after arriving he reconnected with his father in Wichita, Kan., and began to think about life as a Soldier and a Guardsman.

“Being a Soldier was a dream, and Kansas was my new home so being a Soldier in the Kansas Guard just fit,” he said.

In 2007, Martinez was able to make that dream a reality and joined the Kansas Army National Guard. Soon after his enlistment he went to work to earn his citizenship.

There is a long tradition of earning citizenship through military service dating back to the Athenians and the Romans. Fortunately for Martinez he didn't have to serve 25 years to earn his citizenship as the Roman's did.

President George W. Bush shortened the length of service requirement to one year in 2003, and the military even assists with the costs of filing. With help from his non-commissioned officers and his chain of command, Martinez said the process was a snap.

One of those in his corner was Col. Michael Dittamo, commander of the ADT.

**“SPC. MARTINEZ  
is a great  
soldier and  
is now  
officially  
a great  
American.”**

- Col. Michael Dittamo

“Seeing Spc. Martinez become a citizen while serving his nation at war reminds me that my grandfather, a new immigrant from Ireland, did the same during World War I.” Dittamo said. “Spc. Martinez is a great soldier and is now officially a great American.” he added.

Dittamo's sentiment was echoed by Sgt. 1st Class Bonifacio Purganan,



Martinez's platoon sergeant as well.

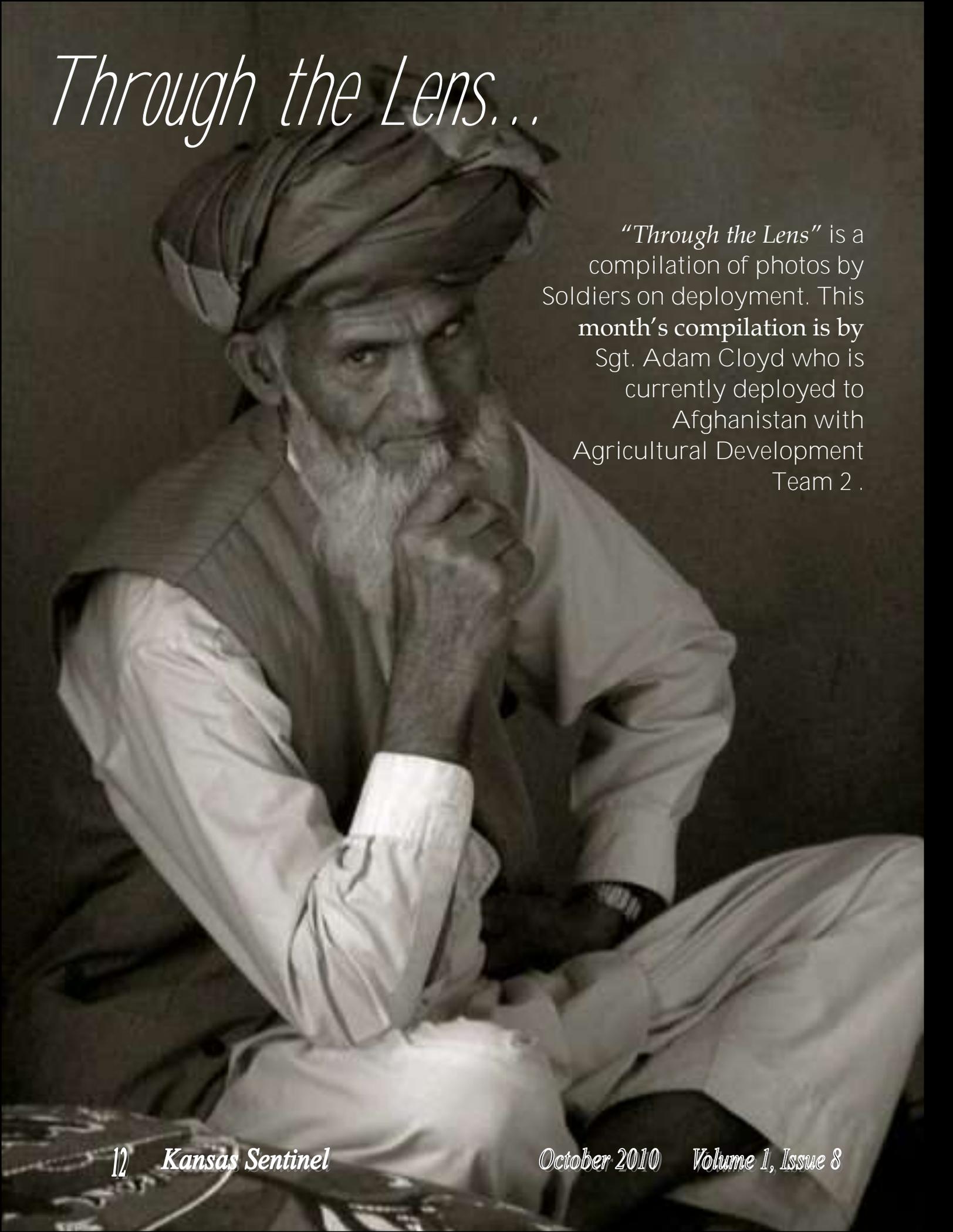
“Martinez is a proud U.S. Soldier who always strives to improve himself and help other soldiers in his unit. His ‘mission first’ and ‘help others before himself’ attitude go a long way, not just in his military career, but in his civilian career as well,” Purganan said.

Martinez, a man of few words, summed up what getting his citizenship meant to him.

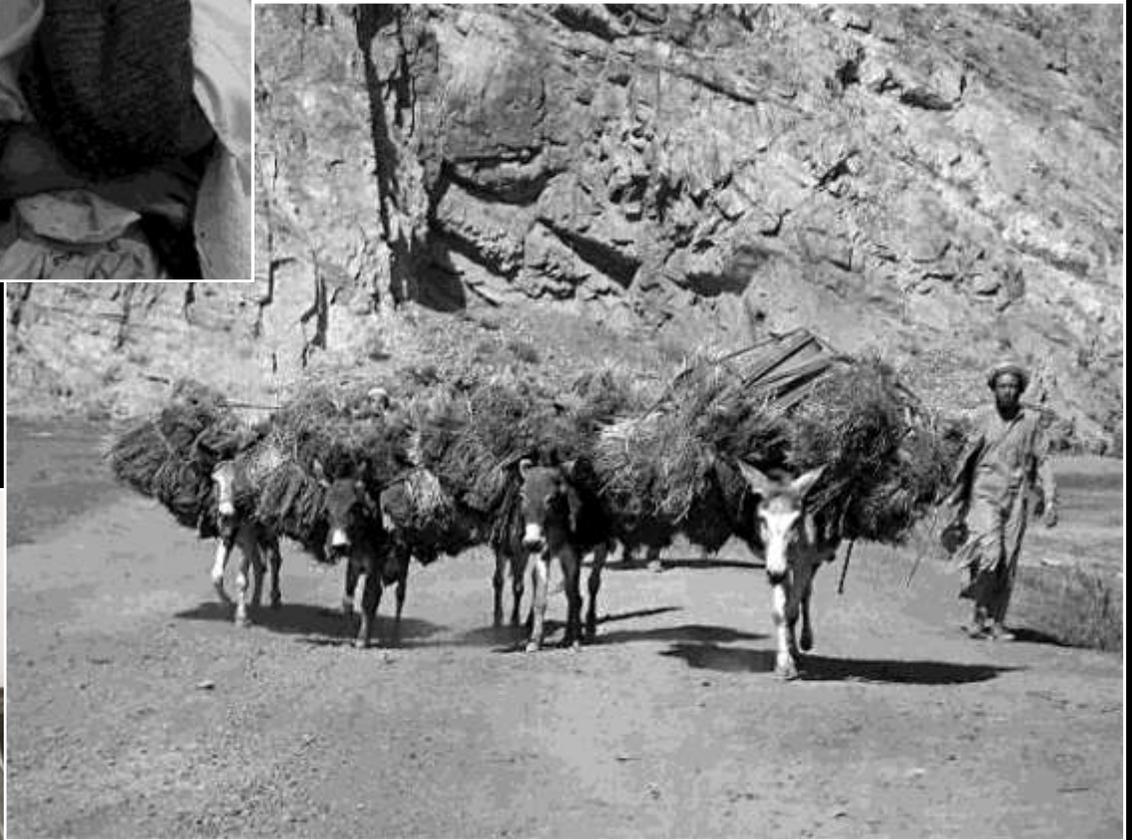
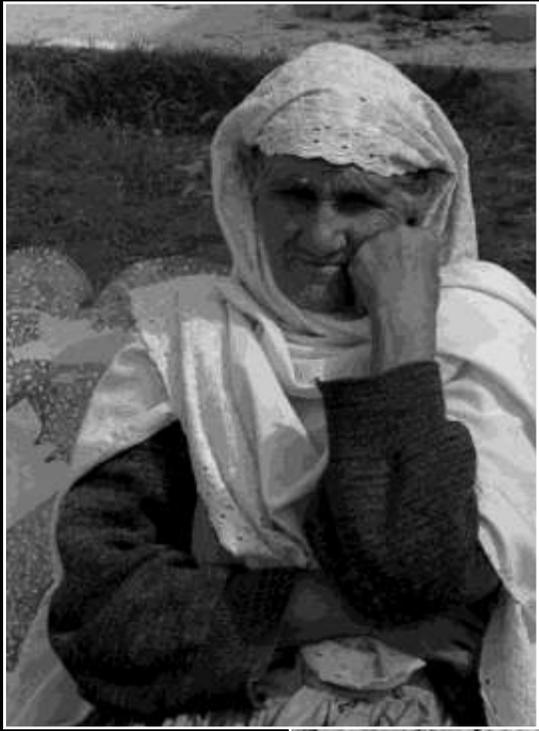
“I'm proud to be an American, and I'm proud to serve, but I got to get back to work.”

Martinez's hard work and dedication to the mission is a credit to all Americans and those still waiting to become Americans.

# *Through the Lens...*



*"Through the Lens"* is a compilation of photos by Soldiers on deployment. This month's compilation is by Sgt. Adam Cloyd who is currently deployed to Afghanistan with Agricultural Development Team 2 .







# Kansas “powder keg” for Civil War

Story by Pfc. Robert Havens, 105th MPAD



When people think of the Civil War, they think of Gettysburg, Antietam and Bull Run. They think of America at its darkest hour, nearly torn apart by battles all along the Confederate-American border. Most people would even argue the Civil War began when Brig. Gen. GT Beauregard ordered the shelling of Fort Sumter.

“Kansas was the powder keg that led to the explosion of the war between the states,” said retired Capt. Herschel L. Stroud.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act was proposed to allow two more states into the Union. During this time, several Missourians snuck across the border into Kansas to vote for slavery, which would keep Kansas from becoming a free state. This event led to hostile events in and around Kansas.

Participants in the Civil War Days, Sept. 9, at the Kansas National Guard Museum, Topeka, Kan., re-enacted the hostilities that occurred in the area during that time.

Booming cannon shots and sharp cracks of black powder rifles exchanging bullets filled the air during the performance for the Civil War Days.

Re-enactors also demonstrated how easy it was for Soldiers to be taken captive as well as how things were much different then than they are today. Civil War camps, field ambulances, blacksmiths and a general’s tent were on display to demonstrate to the public how the times have changed.

Participants in the Civil War re-enactment at the Kansas National Guard Museum, Topeka, Kan., stand in line preparing for battle. The re-enactment was part of the Civil War Days, September, 9.

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

# 35th ID Operations Officer Gives Presentation at National WWI Museum

Story and photos by Sgt. Heather Wright,  
35th ID Public Affairs

Col. Russell Conrad, 35th Infantry Division Operations Officer and Assistant Chief of Staff, gave a presentation concerning the 35th Infantry Division's (ID) role in the Meuse – Argonne Offensive at the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Mo., on Sept. 21. Approximately 25 Soldiers from the 35th ID attended the presentation and toured the museum afterwards.

“The 35th ID has played a significant role in the lives of both Missouri and Kansas citizens beginning in World War I and continuing today,” said Conrad. “It’s important for 35th ID Soldiers to recognize and learn from their shared history and honor the memories of their fallen comrades.”

Conrad hopes that this visit will lead to future participation in museum events and ameliorate the idea that the 35th ID consists solely of Kansas Soldiers. “There is a common misconception in Missouri that the 35th ID is a Kansas unit,” Conrad said. “In reality, Missouri units constitute a large portion of our force. Our dual nature makes us a stronger division and strengthens bonds between the states.”

Conrad’s presentation focused on the how the 35th ID arose and lessons learned from the five days the 35th participated in the Meuse Argonne Offensive.

The 35th ID was formed by combining units from the Missouri and Kansas National Guard. At the beginning of World War I, efforts were made to fill in missing personnel with draftees specifically from Missouri and Kansas, though this proved to be impractical towards the end of the conflict.

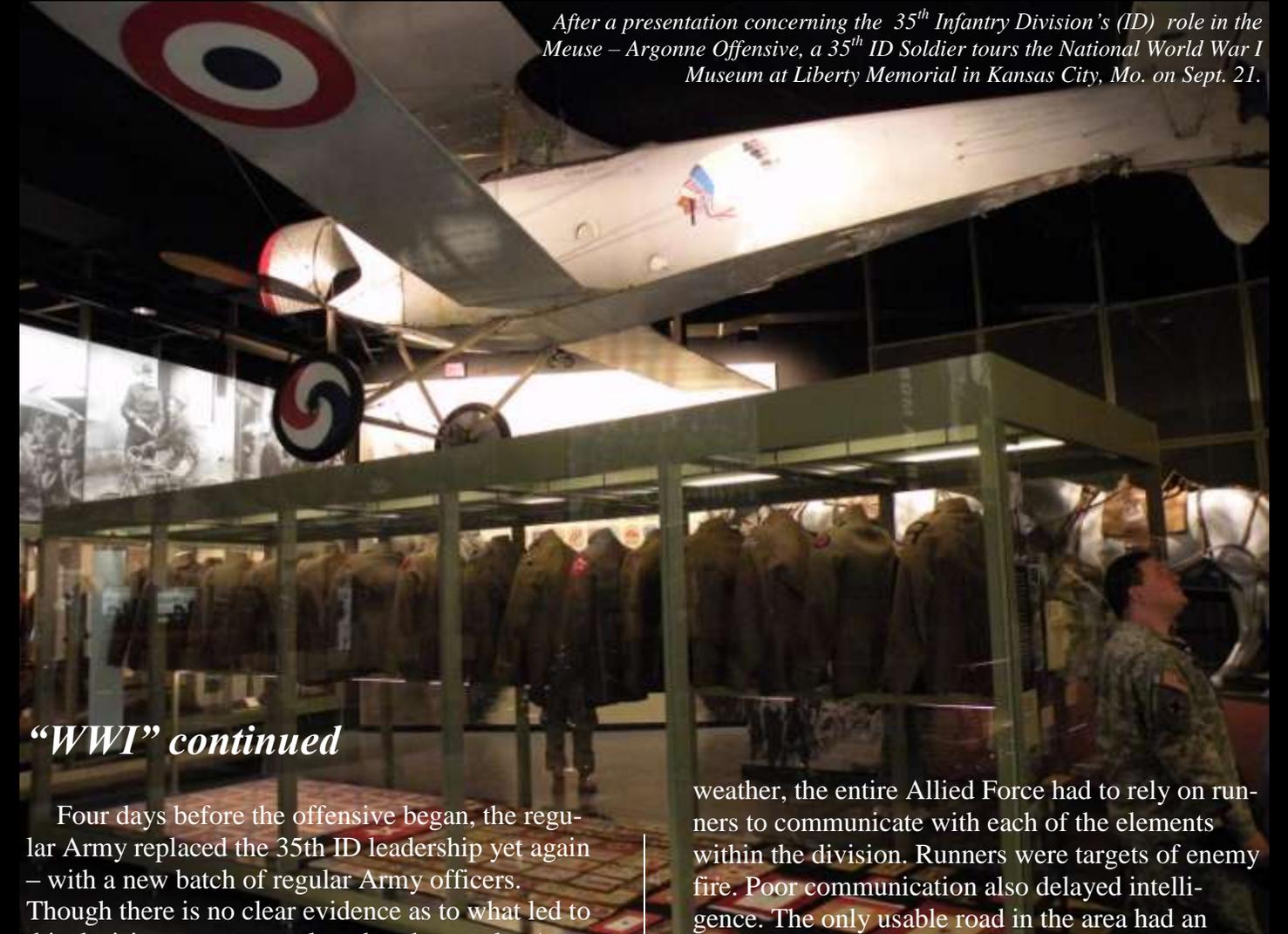
Issues began with pre-deployment training. British soldiers were sent to the States to oversee the division’s training in trench warfare. While this seemed sensible at the time, it later proved a huge mistake. While the enlisted were going through this training, their National Guard officers were sent to separate training elsewhere. The units were led by Regular Army officers in their absence.

Eventually, 35th ID officers rejoined their enlisted troops and deployed to Europe where the Division was seasoned with additional training with British and French troops and time served as reserves for other units. During this time, most of the 35th ID’s National Guard command was replaced by regular Army officers. The regular Army had serious reservations about letting National Guard officers lead both the division and significant elements within the division. Afterwards, the 35th ID received orders to participate in the Meuse Argonne Offensive and began their journey to the area.

*“WWI” continued page 20*



*Col. Russell Conrad, 35th Infantry Division Operations Officer and Assistant Chief of Staff, gives a presentation concerning the 35th Infantry Division’s role in the Meuse – Argonne Offensive at the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Mo. on September 21st.*



*After a presentation concerning the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's (ID) role in the Meuse – Argonne Offensive, a 35<sup>th</sup> ID Soldier tours the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Mo. on Sept. 21.*

## *“WWI” continued*

Four days before the offensive began, the regular Army replaced the 35th ID leadership yet again – with a new batch of regular Army officers. Though there is no clear evidence as to what led to this decision, some speculate that the regular Army was concerned that the previous leadership's ties with their Soldiers would make them incapable of putting the troops in danger.

With new leadership in hand, the 35th ID awaited their orders. They received them – eight hours before the beginning of the offensive. The 35th ID would participate in a frontal assault to help the 5th Corps capture the main supply line of the German Army. Simple enough – except the 35<sup>th</sup> ID had been specifically trained in trench warfare, not offensive maneuvers.

The orders also failed to accurately convey the commander's intent. An element of the 35<sup>th</sup> ID was supposed to perform a flanking movement while passing the east side of the Argonne forest – taking out machine gun nests that would hinder the 35<sup>th</sup>'s progression.

Communication and logistics were also a problem. Due to limited technology, rough terrain and

weather, the entire Allied Force had to rely on runners to communicate with each of the elements within the division. Runners were targets of enemy fire. Poor communication also delayed intelligence. The only usable road in the area had an enormous crater that delayed artillery and tanks until engineers were able to fix it. This delay cost 35th ID infantry units dearly – in lives and injuries. The promised supporting fire didn't begin on time.

Furthermore, the 35th ID didn't have a good supply and medical chain. Injured soldiers had to wait up to 24 hours before being triaged. The units ran out of ammunition, food, and pack animals.

Those five days for the 35th ID proved to be disastrous. Seven-hundred eighty-five 35th ID Soldiers were killed-in-action while 6,216 were wounded – effectively removing the 35th ID from the battle. 35th ID Soldiers fought bravely and tried their best to achieve their objectives. Ultimately, however, the 35th ID was unable to achieve their goals due to a combination of poor communication, disruption of the chain of command, poor logistics, bad intelligence and rough terrain.

# Museum honors 35th ID veterans

Story and photos by  
Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke,  
105th MPAD

The museum of the Kansas National Guard is also the new home for the 35th Infantry Division Museum. In ceremonies October 9, the Kansas National Guard Museum officially opened the 35th Infantry division wing, marking a significant addition to their Forbes Field, Topeka, facility.

“The ‘old veterans’ as I will call them; living World War II veterans from six or seven years ago to the present, had a dream that they expressed to me and several of the so-called ‘younger veterans’ that they wanted a museum,” said retired Maj. Gen. Jack Strukel, Jr., Chairman of the 35th Division Association Museum committee. “They could stand and tell us of about a dozen states that when World War II was over, they build their state a museum for their division. And, they said all

they wanted was a museum so they could leave a few of their old trinkets and memorabilia and memories.”

Once that dream was birthed, it took on life and became the project of numerous people and multiple entities to make the addition to the existing museum a reality. Members of the Kansas Legislature, the Kansas Lottery Commission, 35th Division Association, the Kansas National Guard and many others dedicated countless hours and worked tirelessly to build a facility that would honor both past and present members of the 35th Division along with contributions that they have made in defense of freedom around the globe.

“It has been my pleasure for the last five years to work with our Adjutant General and to work with those people who are members of the Board of Directors for the Kansas National Guard Museum and those members of the 35th Division As-

sociation Planning Committee,” said Strukel. “The museum, as you see it today, is kind of like it has just been born. Items have been placed in display cases and many of them will stay there, maybe forever. But many items will be replaced with things even more memorable as the years go by.”

Funding for the building project was made possible due to the increased time that Kansas Lottery Veteran’s tickets were available. Originally only available for purchase seven months per year, the ticket availability was extended to a year-round sale with the additional dividends it garnered being awarded to the museum building project for a period of two years.

Those extra dollars will now go to aid the Kansas Commission on Veteran’s Affairs to help with operational costs for Kansas Veterans Homes and veteran cemeter-



Kansas National Guard Museum board members, Kansas Legislator, members of the 35th Division and 35th Division Association ceremonially cut the ribbon to officially open the 35th Division Museum as part of the Kansas National Guard Museum, October 9.

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

“Museum” Con’t Page 23

## *“Museum” Con’t*

ies as well as the Adjutant General’s Scholarship fund.

“We are here because of the special efforts of a number of folks; those who had the vision, who had the drive to ensure that this turned into reality,” said 35th Division Commander Maj. Gen. John Davoren. “We especially owe then a lot of thanks. We also owe thanks to the rest of you who are members of the history of Kansas who have established the ground work for those folks like I and my officers and enlisted personnel who live each day as we represent you and all the other Kansans as members of the 35th Division.

While the 35th Division has only been part of the Kansas National Guard for 93 years of the 155 years of existence of the Kansas National Guard, they are steeped in history, spanning from World War I to the present Global War on Terror.

The 35th Division was constituted on July 18, 1917 as one of the 17 National Guard divisions authorized for service in World War I. During that war, they served in such pivotal positions as the Meuse-Argonne front. During the night of September 20, the 35th moved into forward positions in preparation for the Muese-Argonne offensive. At 5:30 a.m. on September 26 the division launched its attack and for the next four days kept up the attack against heavy German resistance. The division suffered so many casualties that it was relieved and placed in reserve. Two weeks later the Santa Fe Division reentered the front line where it served until shortly before the Armistice. The division returned to the U.S. in April 1919 and was demobilized on May 30, 1919.

Reorganized in 1935, the 35th Division was again pressed into service, this time for World War II, and played a pivotal role in the European theatre. The Santa Fe Division landed on Omaha Beach, Normandy, France, between July 5 and July 7, 1944. It entered combat on July 11 and fought in the Normandy hedgerows north of St. Lo. After repelling a series of German counterattacks, the division entered St. Lo. Continuing its advance, the 35th took town after town in a drive spearheaded by the 4th Armored Division. By the middle of September, the 35th had reached the city of Nancy. As part of the Third Army, the Santa Fe Division kept up the pressure against the German army forcing it to fall back toward Germany.



*35th Division Commander, Maj. Gen. John Davoren expresses his gratitude for the addition of a 35th Division Museum within the Museum of the Kansas National Guard on October 9.*

Photo by Sgt 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th MPAD

The division moved into Belgium and took part in the fighting to relieve Bastogne. The 1st Battalion, 134th Infantry broke through the German ring and was one of the first units to reach the 101st Airborne. The 35th then went on the defensive against the continued German attack. During a five day period the division artillery fired more than 41,000 rounds. After another two weeks of fierce fighting the division stopped the German advance.

On January 23, 1945, the 35th moved south to the Alsace region of France to help stop a German attack in the Seventh Army sector. One week later the 35th made one of the longest tactical moves of the war when it deployed 292 miles, by rail and truck, to Masstricht, Holland. The 35th relieved the British 155th Brigade on February 6 in positions along the Roer River in Germany. The Santa Fe Division then spearheaded the Ninth's Army

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## ***“Museum” Con’t***

drive into the German heartland.

After crossing the Rhine on March 25, the division kept advancing eastward until April 26 when it moved to Hanover, Germany, for occupation duty. The 35th returned to France for rest and was alerted for movement to the Pacific Theater. However, with Victory over Japan (VJ) Day the division returned to the United States in September 1945 and was inactivated on December 7, 1945 at Camp Breckinridge, Ky.

In more recent years, elements of the 35th division have served as the Headquarters Command for Task Force Eagle of Multi-National Division North in Bosnia and Herzegovina as part of SFOR-13 (Stabilization Force) with the NATO peace-

keeping mandate under the Dayton Peace Accords. The 35th also provided headquarters control for the National Guard units deployed to Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. A detachment element of the 35th Division served most recently in Kosovo as part of the headquarters element for Task Force Falcon of Multi-National Task Force East (MNTF-E) for the Kosovo Force 9 (KFOR 9) mission. KFOR is a NATO-led international force responsible for establishing a safe and secure environment in Kosovo. The 35th provided the command elements from November 7, 2007 until July 7, 2008.

“A couple of weeks ago I had the honor and the pleasure to be able to attend the 35th Division Association meeting down in Branson, Mo.,” said retired Maj. Gen. Wayne Pierson, a past 35th Division

Commander and current Association President. “It is one of those meetings that when you get to be in the presence of the people that accomplished so much; it is just an emotional experience that you never forget. On behalf of all those Soldiers that have served, not only in World War II, but also that have served in the Division in the past few years and have continued to serve now. I want to tell you; you don’t know how much this means to us. We want to really let you know how much we appreciate what you

have done. We now have that continued recognition of the sacrifice that continues to allow us to have the freedom to do what we are doing today.”

The Museum of the Kansas National Guard is open to the public from 10:00 a.m. To 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.



*Retired Maj. Gen. Jack Strukel addresses those assembled at the grand opening of the 35th Division Museum at Forbes Field, Topeka. Strukel is chairman of the 35th Division Association Museum Committee and was instrumental in the development and building process that allowed the museum addition to be built.*

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

# 32 years of service comes to a close

Brig. Gen. Norman Steen Retires

Thank you for coming. I am honored that you're here and sincerely appreciate your presence. This is a great day in Kansas and the Kansas National Guard, because it signals the endurance of what is good.

When I first considered military service while attending a small Minnesota country high school in 1973, little did I realize what good things lay ahead. In 1978, my lovely wife Cheryl and I were married and we began our life together, I had infantry lieutenant's bars on my shoulders and I soon had military orders for West Germany in my pocket. The political world was a much different place then. We were still in the midst of a Cold War with the Soviet Union, still had a concrete wall separating Berlin, still recovering from the national pain of VietNam, and working to avert nuclear war. In 1978, U.S. Armed Forces were actually over- matched by dominant Soviet Armed Forces. The rules were simpler then. We knew our enemy and they knew us. Yet we proved that a strong military supported with a national will to use it can defend a nation, our Allies, and a way of life. We succeeded.

Today in 2010, 32 years later, the threat is much different. We no longer face a powerful military enemy – we would win a war with enemy tanks and artillery as we proved in the first Gulf War 20 years ago. But instead we face a radical ideological enemy who attacks our people directly on the streets of our cities, in our places of business, in our airports, to destroy our ideology and our way of life.

So as a U.S. Military we have adapted to that fight. America is again at war. Back in 1978, the National Guard was held in reserve in the event of World War III. Today, your National Guard is engaged in this war every day on four continents. Just this morning a few miles from here we said farewell to nearly 300 young men and women of the Kansas Army National Guard who are heading



to the Middle East for a recovery and sustainment mission.

Home town America is at war, because the National Guard is home town America. Here at the Great Plains Joint Training Center, we are home town Americans preparing to defend our way of life, so that others in America can preserve our way of life. We are bringing the fight into the insurgents' backyard, so that that fight does not end up in our backyard.

I cannot over-emphasize you how important your support of your military ***“Retire” Continued Page 26***

## ***“Retire” Con’t***

is. But I think most people miss the real reason why that support is so important. It's because the enemy's real target is not our military – we just happen to be in their way. Their real target is you, and your support of our country and our ideology. If the enemy can remove your will to resist, they defeat you. If the enemy can earn your sympathy for their cause, they defeat you. If the enemy can

*They quietly do their duty for reasons that most Americans know only in their hearts.*

*- Gen. Norman Steen*

convince you that our defense of America and our Allies is unjust, they defeat you. That's why here at Great Plains we're working to stay in the enemy's way and out of liberty's way. We're doing that by jointly training Army ground commanders to work with Air Force pilots so that together they can take out pin-point size enemy targets, and minimize both foreign civilian casualties and our own military casualties.

That's why we're training soldiers and airmen to fight and survive in more hostile parts of the world, while being ambassadors to that world. That's why we're jointly training our civilian first-responders--emergency planners, fire fighters, ambulance crews, and law enforcement--to work together if and when that fight does ever does come home to our own backyard in the form of terrorist attacks. It's never been more important to work together; that is why the Great Plains Joint Training Center exists. That's why we do what we do.

Over my career, I have been privileged to know many great Americans who I have trained for combat, and supported the deployment of thou-

sands of others I have never met. We will probably never see their names in a headline; they quietly do their duty for reasons that most Americans know only in their hearts. Unfortunately, we have read some of their names not in headlines, but in obituaries. Their sacrifice is real, so that yours doesn't have to be as great.

While many things have changed over my 32 year military career, two things--the two most important things to me--have not changed. First, through it all, my lovely wife Cheryl has been there supporting me each step of the way. We were married on a beautiful day in June 1978, and I was commissioned just a week later. Our first child Diana was born 15 months after that while we were stationed in West Germany; our second child Joseph while we were stationed at Fort Benning, Ga.; and our third child Laura while I was working for the Army at Fort Riley, Kan. So you can see it's been a family affair for the Steen family. They're all here today traveling in from three states to be here. The National Guard has given me the ability to serve my country while running a full time commercial business, and raising a stable family in great communities where our children could grow up to become great people in their own right - and they have. I'm very proud of each of my children, and of the people they have married. Thank you, guys. I love you. Thank you, Cheryl, for your love and support. I love you. We did it together.

The second thing that has not changed over the years is God's faithfulness to me in the Person of Jesus Christ. I am grateful to God that as I sought Him, He was always there, always faithful, always a Servant Leader to me. I know He will continue to do be there for me and my family, and He will be there for you too, in the years ahead.

General Bunting, thank you for allowing me to continue to serve and to command the Great Plains Joint Training Center. It has been an honor to serve under you.

General Peck, we have worked side by side many times over the years, and I know Great Plains is in good hands. I wish you well my friend.

To all those I have served with over the years, thank you for your support. Together we have made a difference. Let's stay in touch.

# 10,000 Miles for Charity

Story by Spc. Jonathan Moyer



What started as a simple hobby has turned into a monumental volunteer effort for charity.

Kansas Army National Guard Spc. Donald Lobmeyer started riding his bike at a young age, riding his bike for 10 miles to play baseball. At age 15, he bought a new bike for \$300, and his first long trip was that September when he rode approximately 60 miles from Wichita, Kansas, to Hutchinson, Kansas to go to the State Fair.

In 2003, Spc. Lobmeyer bought a recombinant trike from Australia for \$5,000 with accessories. He's ridden the trike at five different 100-mile rides including *The Hotter 'N Hell Hundred* in Wichita Falls, Texas, and the *MS150 Multiple Sclerosis Ride*, which consists of riding 150 miles in two days. During this event, he pulled a six-foot inflatable rhino with signs on it to raise funds and awareness for multiple sclerosis.

In 2004, he rode across Kansas for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. While deployed in Iraq from 2005 to 2006 with the 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment he rode more than 4,000 miles including the HHH, in 117 degree weather, the MS150 and the *Montel Williams Multiple Sclerosis Foundation* event, in which he managed to raise almost \$2,000 for MS research.

While in Djibouti, Spc. Lobmeyer plans to log more than 10,000 miles participating in various rides for charities including the HHH, MS150,

Heartspring, Montel Williams MS, the Djibouti Orphanage, and any others he may discover while trying to reach his goal of 10,000 miles.

We can all feel pride in wishing Spc. Lobmeyer good luck and good riding.

*Spc. Donald Lobmeyer pedals his way across Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa. Lobmeyer has vowed to ride 10,000 miles while forward deployed with the 137th Combined Arms Battalion. His rides will benefit numerous charities, including the local Djibouti Orphanage.*

Photos provided

