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Vigilant Guard 2014 tests state emergency response plans

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

Multiple major disasters pummeled Kansas Aug. 4-7 in a magnitude that required response not only from local agencies, but also from the state, the Kansas National Guard, other states and federal entities.

But that was okay, because we knew they were coming and it was all just for training.

Kansas was the host for Vigilant Guard 2014, a large-scale, multistate disaster response exercise sponsored by U.S. Northern Command and the National Guard Bureau that tests the capabilities of emergency response agencies at all levels of government, both military and civil.

“Sometimes, the scope of a disaster can quickly overwhelm the manpower and resources of local responders,” said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general and director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. “That’s when they can ask the state to assist. Some disasters are so significant, as with the hurricanes that hit the Gulf Coast and the forest fires out west, that states have to reach out to neighboring states for assistance. That’s what Vigilant Guard is all about.”

More than 2,000 local, state and federal personnel took part over the course of the

six-day exercise, which was conducted at several locations in the state, including Fort Riley, Overland Park, Salina, Crisis City and Smoky Hill Weapons Range outside of Salina, Topeka and Wichita.

Planning for Vigilant Guard 2014 took more than a year.

“Vigilant Guard gives us the opportunity to test our emergency response plans and capabilities, and to practice integrating the response efforts of civilian agencies and the National Guard, as well as to incorporate help from other states and also federal entities,” said Tafanelli.

Tafanelli said the exercise scenario included a number of disasters.

“Since this is Kansas, we expected it to involve tornadoes, with the need for search and rescue, medical care, disruption of utilities, train derailments, community security issues, hazardous material contaminations and other problems. Additional aspects of the scenario included an industrial fire, flooding and even bioterrorism. With all this happening, we needed to bring in assistance from our neighboring states that have teams specially trained to deal with some of these events.”

Kansas National Guard organizations participating in Vigilant Guard included Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas; 35th



Hazmat suits and heavy equipment were common sights at Crisis City Aug. 4-7 as civilian and military first responders took part in Vigilant Guard 2014, a multistate emergency response exercise hosted by the Kansas National Guard. (Photo by 1st Lt. Margaret Ziffer, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Infantry Division; 287th Sustainment Brigade; 635th Regional Support Group; 235th Training Regiment; 1st Battalion,

108th Aviation Regiment; 73rd Civil Support Team; 35th Military Police Com-

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Large-scale exercise requires planning and preparation

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

A large-scale exercise such as Vigilant Guard takes a lot of planning and preparation from military and civilian participants. Staff with the Preparedness Branch of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management were heavily involved with helping to coordinate exercise planning activities.

“We’ve probably had at least 60 people involved in planning this,” said Terri Ploger-McCool, Preparedness Branch director. One of the major steps was to develop good exercise objectives.

“What that entails is trying to understand and conduct a quality needs assessment that frames where we stand in our capability development,” said Ploger-McCool. “Our whole idea behind preparedness is to establish capabilities for whatever disaster is to face us and building on those, finding out where some of our gaps are. In that needs assessment, we identify some of the things we need to practice on in more detail. We look at some of those issues that

we need to continually enhance and build upon. That’s how we form our objectives.”

She said the planning process takes a lot of coordinated discussion with state partners that fill roles in the emergency support functions outlined in the State Emergency Response Plan.

“We have been working very closely with all of our emergency support function partners here at the state level as well as all of our military partners that are doing this,” said Ploger-McCool. “It also involves working with the counties that we are impacting with this simulated disaster and trying to organize and make sure all of our training objectives mesh with each other.”

Once the exercise objectives have been established for those emergency support functions, planners begin working on the messages and scenarios that will drive those objectives.

“We start working on developing what we call a ‘master scenario events list,’ which actually drive the objectives to be tested,” she said. “Especially in a full-scale exercise like this, where there are several different agencies involved and there are several different field operations going on at the same time, it takes a lot of coordination and making sure that, as the events unfold, we’re stressing the system a little bit more each time so that we really strap some of the resources.

“With this exercise, we’re depleting local resources and getting to the point where we deplete state assets and we have to ask for federal assets.”

Ploger-McCool said that KDEM does not tell participants what assets they need.

“We’re just saying that we have a need and they determine if and how they can fill that,” she said.

Ploger-McCool said the exercise scenario “painted a very difficult week in Kansas. It was multiple events that continued over a six-day period.”

Although the driving events of the Vigilant Guard exercise began Aug. 1, not all participants began exercise play at the same time. In July, prior to the actual exercise, KDEM hosted a tabletop exercise to allow everyone to walk through the events that occurred during the Aug. 1-4 period.

Once the exercise began, participants began receiving exercise injects in real-time from a simulation cell set up in the Eisenhower Center at Nickell Armory in Topeka. The injects were sent out on a pre-determined schedule via telephone, radio,

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Numerous state agencies took part in a tabletop exercise July 14 in Nickell Armory, Topeka, in preparation for the Vigilant Guard exercise Aug. 4-7. (Photo by 1st Lt. Matt Lucht, Public Affairs Office)

Battalion shows off new armor to leadership and retirees

By Capt. Benjamin Gruver
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The newest Abrams tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles were on display during the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment's VIP day June 16 at Fort Riley, attracting more than a dozen retirees and several senior military personnel to the event.

The new M1A2 System Enhancement Program Version 2 Abrams tank and Bradley Fighting Vehicle with the M2A2 Operation Desert Storm – Situational Awareness enhancements were the main showcase for the event used to reach out to former unit members. The veterans met with Soldiers preparing their tanks for annual training at the Camp Funston motor pool before viewing a live-fire demonstration of the Bradleys.

"As a unit with plenty on its plate, it takes extra effort to reach out to alums," said retired Col. William Barker, former commander of the 1st Battalion, 635th Armor. "The CAB is to be commended for doing so."

Attendees were given a briefing on the current activities of the unit before getting a chance to have a hands-on view of the new equipment, which the battalion received in May.

According to Lt. Col. Steven Denney, commander of the 2nd CAB, 137th Inf. Regt., the unit received 15 tanks in May



The gun crew of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle fires their main gun at the Fort Riley artillery range June 16. The live-fire demonstration was part of the VIP day event for the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment. (Photo by Capt. Benjamin Gruver, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

and is slated to receive another shipment of 14 in October for a total of 29 tanks. They will begin training in the new tanks over

the course of the next year.

Many of the retirees were not shy once they were given a chance to get their hands on the Bradley and Abrams tank set out for display, climbing on top and interacting with the Soldiers to know more.

"Since I retired back in 2001, I haven't been involved much in military activities," said Barker. "It was good to be around Soldiers again."

"Watching those fine looking young men intelligently doing their jobs was refreshing," Barker said. "I came away with a re-

newed faith in the future of our country in general, and of the Guard in particular."

Many were very captivated by the newer equipment and its capabilities.

"This is a great experience to see what is current," said Herschel Stroud, a retired U.S. Air Force captain, who reminisced with a retired command sergeant major how the M60 Patton Main Battle Tank was the premier tank of their day. "Well, this is quite a change."

While the change from an M60 Patton tank to the new Abrams tank M1A2 SEP v2 is an obvious leap forward, the changes from the M1A1 will also give the regiment a significant advantage.

Some of those advantages include an advanced thermal sight and a Commander's Independent Thermal viewer, which provides the crew with a hunter-killer capability, acquiring targets 45 percent faster and off targets 50 to 75 percent faster. The front and side armor are upgraded and the tank is equipped with a Common Remotely Operated Weapons Station with .50-caliber machine gun operated from inside the tank.

The Abrams also has a new electronic backbone with powerful new computers for split-second command and control over the entire spectrum of combat, giving the tank commander and crew a better understanding of the tank's operational status and battlefield situation. Improved digital displays and diagnostic test system allow for faster and more efficient repairs.

The recent arrival of the new M1A2 SEP v2 and upgraded Bradley Fighting Vehicles comes after a recent push by the National Guard Association of the United States on Congress to fund the upgrades and allow National Guard units to be on par with their active-duty counterparts, who received the upgrades in 2013.

35th ID serves as higher command for training exercise

By Master Sgt. Michael Green
35th Infantry Division Public Affairs

For many, June typically signifies the start of leisurely summer vacations. Yet, for a number of Soldiers with the 35th Infantry Division, headquartered in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, June was a month to celebrate extensive training milestones that strengthened the division.

In June, Soldiers from the 35th Infantry Division served as a higher command in a tactical training environment at Fort Polk, Louisiana. The training allowed the division to play a key role in the exercise as a Division Tactical Command Post and provide realistic training by exercising mission command over live maneuver units in a force-on-force environment.

"The 35th Infantry Division is leading the way in being the first divisional headquarters to serve in the role as a higher command for a Joint Readiness Training Center, Brigade Combat Team rotation since 9/11," said Col. William Ward, assistant division commander and officer in charge of the 35th Infantry Division during the exercise.

Over the past 13 years, joint efforts and training exercises such as this have brought the National Guard and active-duty component counterpart's closer together. This Higher Command training simulation served as a natural continuation of those relations and a testament to the operational capability of the National Guard.

The Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk provided the infrastructure for the multitiered, full spectrum training.

"The Joint Readiness Training Center gives the Soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division a training experience as close to a deployed environment as possible in the continental United States," said Col. Russell Richardson, the division operations officer.

The training exercise, which spanned a

four-week period, proved to be a challenging experience. An advance team of Soldiers arrived a week prior to the exercise to ensure logistics and mission command systems and technologies were in place and functional before the arrival of the main body of participants.

"Soldiers were quickly able to coordinate with their counterparts in the main operation upon arrival, due to the fantastic job the advance team did in laying the groundwork for success," explained Ward.

Over the course of 10 days, the exercise maintained an intense 24-hour operational tempo, where Soldiers were continually faced with simulated battlefield engagements spanning a full-spectrum operation. The Soldiers of the 35th were responsible for coordinating and collaborating with both the Division Main, a role assumed by the JRTC Joint Operations Center, and with subordinate units. These organizations rarely get an opportunity to work collectively in a shared exercise environment, which sometimes leads to unexpected challenges within the training environment.

"The Soldiers of the 35th responded with determination and resilience to systematically work through each challenge," observed Ward. "The bottom line is that there was a mission to accomplish and the Santa Fe Division got it done."

"The 35th Infantry Division's insignia symbolizes the frontier spirit of those that led the western expansion of our great nation," said Ward. "To be the first National Guard Division to serve as a higher command element at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk since 9/11 exemplifies that same spirit. Hopefully, this will become the model that will serve as a fantastic training tool for divisions, as well as foster some future division to brigade combat team relationships."

Guardsmen anxious to try out new model Abrams tanks

By Spc. Jen Bjorgaard
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Kansas became the fourth state in the country to be issued the newly manufactured M1A2 System Enhancement Package version 2 Abrams tanks. Soldiers of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment received 15 of the advanced weapons systems May 31 at Fort Riley, where they spent the day performing inventory and system checks on the tanks.

"We were originally slated to receive M1A1 AIMS Abrams," said Capt. Jonathan D. Bjorgaard, commander of Company D, Emporia. "But at the last minute, the National Guard was authorized to receive an additional battalion set of the M1A2 SEP

v2 Abrams this fiscal year."

Competition between states to receive the tanks was fierce. Each was judged over a wide range of categories, but Kansas was ultimately selected.

"The CAB's high readiness metrics and strength numbers definitely played a role in our selection," said Bjorgaard.

With new equipment comes new training and a new group of instructors to educate Soldiers about the latest weapons in the Kansas arsenal. This team of instructors consists of retirees of both active-duty Army and National Guard Soldiers, all of whom are experienced tankers.

Jeff McCree, a veteran with 21 years of

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Soldiers of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment perform inventory checks on the new M1A2 System Enhancement Package version 2 Abrams tanks May 31 at Fort Riley. (Photo by Spc. Jen Bjorgaard, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

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**NATIONAL
GUARD**

137th Transportation Company supports Golden Coyote exercise

By Sgt. Dru L. Swann, UPAR
137th Transportation Company

Kansas National Guardsmen of the 137th Transportation Company in Olathe began annual training June 6 in route to Rapid City, South Dakota, to assist in the 30th annual Golden Coyote training exercises.

Hosted by the South Dakota Army National Guard, the two-week exercise, held in the Black Hills National Forest and Custer State Park, provided National Guard, Reserve and active-duty military units from all over the country and world an opportunity to support overseas contingency operations and homeland support missions. Every type of unit, from airborne to transportation, made up the components to a successful exercise mission.

The Golden Coyote Training Exercise is known for being the largest U.S. sponsored international exercise for the National Guard with military units representing 50 multiservice units from 15 states, and international military groups from the United Kingdom, Denmark, Canada and Suriname. Each unit provided their specialty function to make the training exercise a success. More than 4,400 Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen participated this year.

The 137th Transportation Company's primary mission was Operation Timber Haul, transporting large loads of timber to the Native American reservations across western South Dakota. Timber in past training missions was often transported by the Army's 915 series heavy trucks. This year the loads were hauled on the 137th's Palletized Load-

ing System vehicles. This type of transport was a first for the exercise.

The timber was cleared from the Black Hills National Forest to prevent forest fires and to provide aid to the Native Americans of South Dakota in preparation for the severe winter weather.

Soldiers of the 137th met Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, South Dakota adjutant general, and Maj. Gen. Judd H. Lyons, acting director of the Army National Guard, during the first haul to the Ogala Sioux Tribe of Pine Ridge, South Dakota, on June 11. Lyons spoke with a few of the 137th Soldiers to hear firsthand what the training was doing for the 137th Company, and for its individual Soldiers.

"As far as an annual training exercise for a transportation company, I couldn't think of a more ideal mission," said 1st Lt. Eric Gant, commander of the 137th Transportation Company. "As a unit, we experienced many of the same tasks and situations that we would have during a deployment. It was the perfect blend between tactical training and accomplishing a real-life humanitarian mission. It was a great experience for the 137th Transportation Company and its Soldiers."

"I couldn't be more proud of the way the Soldiers of the 137th performed during this AT," said Gant. "They worked long hours, typically 14-16 hour days in some unfavorable weather conditions. The 137th was responsible for 109 of the 201 loads hauled by the 190th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion out of Montana. The 201 loads were by far the most ever achieved during



Palletized Loading System trucks from the 137th Transportation Company, Olathe, are loaded with timber bound for Native American reservations in western South Dakota. The 137th hauled 109 loads of timber over the course of the Golden Coyote training exercise in June. (Photo by Sgt. Dru L. Swann, UPAR, 137th Transportation Company)

a timber haul mission."

Overall, the 137th drove over 100,000 accident-free miles during annual training.

Included in this mission was the Missouri River Crossing on June 7, where 41 vehicles belonging to the 137th TC and 1077th Medical Detachment were transported across the Missouri River near Chamberlain, South Dakota.

Soldiers from the South Dakota National Guard's 200th Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge Company) assisted in the movement using an improved ribbon bridge which can be configured as a full bridge or broken apart into rafts, as was done in this operation, to move the unit piece by piece safely across the water.

"I was amazed how fast they moved an entire company across the river," Sgt. 1st Class Mark Goforth, Detachment 1, 137th TC platoon sergeant. "It was the highlight of our annual training."

Other events included a Leadership Training Course and the South Dakota National Guard's annual Golden Coyote Cup Challenge. Participants in the Leadership Training Course used problem solving and teamwork skills to maneuver through a 10-obstacle course that challenged and

brought the company together as a unit.

Nine teams – three National Guard, one Navy, and the five international units including the United Kingdom, Denmark and Canada – took part in the Golden Coyote Cup Challenge, showing off each team's ability to handle several events back to back. Events included a 5k run, obstacle course, two-mile run, bike race, and a Humvee push. The 137th team placed fourth overall with the Dutch team taking the win.

"Competing against other countries was such a thrill," said Pfc. Julie Holthouse. "It was a great experience to see how they worked together, also how differently they each handled certain situations. Some teams were very outgoing and joyful, while other countries took it very seriously."

"Golden Coyote 2014 provided the 137th Transportation Company with a great opportunity to do transportation operations," said Lt. Col. Carla Hale, commander, 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. "The Soldiers did an outstanding job by completing over 100 haul missions without incident. This is a great exercise for the 137th Transportation Company and the company looks forward to working with the South Dakota National Guard again."



Vehicles belonging to the 137th Transportation Company and 1077th Medical Detachment are transported across the Missouri River near Chamberlain, South Dakota, on rafts from the South Dakota National Guard's 200th Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge Company). (Photo by Sgt. Dru L. Swann, UPAR, 137th Transportation Company)

Proclamation designates Kansas as "Purple Heart State"

Gov. Sam Brownback signed a proclamation Aug. 22 designating Kansas as a Purple Heart State to honor all Kansans who have earned the Purple Heart Medal. The signing took place in the governor's ceremonial office in the Kansas Statehouse, Topeka.

Kansas is the 14th state in the nation to become a Purple Heart State. In 2003, the Kansas Legislature passed a bill designating all interstate highways in Kansas as part of the Purple Heart Trail.

Brig. Gen. Scott Dold, chief of the Joint Staff, Kansas National Guard, was in attendance at the ceremony along with a representative from the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Also in attendance was Lisa Deghand, widow of Master Sgt. Bernard Lee "Bernie" Deghand, a member of the Kansas National Guard killed in action in Afghanistan in 2006.

Brownback noted their presence and called attention to the sacrifices made by those wounded warriors and their families.

"No matter how old the wounds may be, they're still fresh," said Brownback. "They still sting. Our hearts go out to these families and I hope we always, as a state, continue to recognize and honor what they did and the sacrifices they made. It's amazing, it's profound and it's the reason we can be as free as we are."

Chartered by Congress in 1958, the Military Order of the Purple Heart is composed of military men and women who received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat. Although membership is restricted to the combat wounded, the organization supports all veterans and their families through several of nationwide programs. The mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is to foster an environment of goodwill and camaraderie among combat wounded veterans, promote patriotism, support necessary legislative initiatives, and most importantly, provide service to all veterans and their families.

Guardsmen anxious to try out new model Abrams tanks

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service as an active-duty tanker, is one of these instructors.

"When it comes to tanks, if it's been broken or been done, we've done it," said McCree. "We try to share our successes as well as our mistakes. We bring a lot of experience to the training."

This group of trainers, based out of Michigan, will travel to Kansas to work side by side with Soldiers of the CAB for the next year, bringing them up to speed on the differences and improvements in the new tanks.

Externally, even an experienced observer would have trouble distinguishing the new M1A2 SEP v2 from its M1A1 predecessor, but according to McCree, the interiors are vastly different.

"It would take days to list the improvements," said McCree. "Everything has been improved."

One of the most noteworthy innovations of the SEP v2s is the new Common Remotely Operated Weapons Station system. The CROWS II allows the tank commander to acquire and engage targets without exposing himself to enemy fire. On the previous M1A1 model, the tank commander could only perform this task by looking out of the

hatch on the top of the tank, making himself vulnerable to enemy fire.

Spc. Gary Stone, a tank driver/loader with Company C, Lenexa, is excited to use the CROWS II system for the first time.

"The new features are exceptional," said Stone. "It helps you get situated faster and to be more efficient on the battlefield."

"I'm really looking forward to gunnery next year," said Stone. "We'll be performing multiple target engagements using the new CROWS II system. I can't wait to find out how it's going to work."

In addition to the improved technology, the new condition of the equipment will make a difference in the quality of training for Soldiers this year.

"Our previous tanks had seen many years of use and were not always reliable, often interrupting training with system failures," said Bjorgaard. "The new tanks will allow us to conduct better training as the reliability will be less of a concern."

The CAB is expected to receive 14 additional M1A2 SEP v2 tanks this September, bringing their total count to 29.

"They are the most advanced ground weapons system in the Army's arsenal," said Bjorgaard. "We are honored and excited to have the opportunity to train with them."

Vigilant Guard showed us where we are, what we have to do

By Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli
The Adjutant General

The benefits of our recent Vigilant Guard 2014 exercise will be seen in our state for years to come. Vigilant Guard 2014 was one of the larger multi-agency exercises our state has conducted, involving more than 2,000 civilian and military participants from local, state and federal government. It took more than a year to plan and involved numerous locations around the state.



Maj. Gen.
Lee Tafanelli

The exercise scenario was unique in that the outlined disaster events resulted in devastation so significant it required us to go through the process of requesting active-duty military to assist our National Guard members and civilian responders. This involved activating our designated Joint Task Force Headquarters, the 35th Infantry Division, and appointing a federally recognized dual-status commander to lead both National Guard Soldiers/Airmen and active duty forces.

In the scenario, Kansas experienced a number of tornadoes hitting populated areas and causing other effects including fires, hazardous materials spills and train derailments, all while flooding was occurring in southeast Kansas and incidents pointing to bioterrorism were happening in south central Kansas.

While we don't foresee disasters of this size happening simultaneously in Kansas, we do recognize weather is unpredictable and man-made events can be even more unpredictable; therefore, we must prepare for the worst and that is exactly what this exercise helped us do.

The magnitude of the exercise allowed

us to thoroughly assess the capabilities we have in Kansas to handle a combination of large-scale natural and man-made disasters, first looking at local capabilities and mutual aid, then expanding to the state. The exercise also required us to assess and test our plans to request additional help from other states through the use of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact and, eventually, federal assistance from U.S. Northern Command and FEMA.

A number of regional National Guard domestic response resources participated in the exercise including the Missouri National Guard's Homeland Response Force, the Nebraska National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosives Response Force Package team, the Iowa National Guard's 7th Civil Support Team and Oklahoma National Guard's 63rd Civil Support Team.

The exercise put civilian and military members side by side to assess problems and find solutions, which required them to have or gain an understanding of how differently each of their organizations operated, and it required a determination of participants to work together despite those differences.

In addition, the exercise allowed the state to test technology and communication equipment in a realistic setting, utilizing the very capabilities we rely upon in an emergency to reduce issues of interoperability that can occur between agencies that don't routinely work together.

Vigilant Guard 2014 also tested our communication and information flow, internally and externally to the state, critical to every successful disaster response. To address the needs of the state affected by such a significant disaster, every exercise participant was forced to work quickly to get information to decision-makers to ensure the proper decisions would be made to effectively respond to the situation.

This exercise took numerous hours of planning and hard work to ensure a realis-



Crisis City teems with personnel and equipment from multiple National Guard units from Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma; local and state first responders; and federal agencies taking part in Vigilant Guard 2014, a multistate disaster preparedness exercise hosted by the Kansas National Guard. (Photo by 1st Lt. Margaret Ziffer, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

tic test of our capabilities, plans and communication processes, but it clearly paid off. However, we can't be too quick to set it behind us. Now we will begin the process of assessing all of the lessons we learned of what worked and what didn't work and begin to implement those changes before the next disaster in Kansas.

Thank you to everyone who took part in Vigilant Guard 2014 in our agency, in Kansas and across the region. We must continually improve our disaster response and recovery efforts in Kansas and fully utilize the resources we have at all levels of government to keep Kansans safe.

As we prepare for fall and winter in

Kansas, we must also assess our individual readiness for a disaster and ask our families and friends to do the same. This is a critical component to staying safe. September is designated as Preparedness Month each year in Kansas, emphasizing the importance of taking time to get our home and emergency kits ready or revamped, discussing our family emergency plan and staying informed.

Disaster preparedness is a team effort between individuals and government. We all have an important role to play, so let's take the time we must to be ready for the next challenging situation to come our way. It's never a matter of if a disaster will affect our state, but a matter of when.

Leadership witnesses benefits of Vigilant Guard 2014 exercise

By Spc. Anna Laurin
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

To understand the overall benefits of Vigilant Guard 2014, one must see all the moving parts and corresponding collaborations that make the exercise valuable and successful.

Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general of Kansas, and other leadership from nearby states took a tour of the large-scale emergency response exercise, hosted by the Kansas National Guard, at Crisis City, Salina, Aug. 5.

The leaders and distinguished visitors

saw firsthand how Crisis City hosted the event, and how the Kansas National Guard organized and brought together so many entities from across the nation.

"Crisis City has been phenomenal as a venue for this kind of exercise," said Tafanelli. "This being the first time that we've been able to do a national-level exercise and bring this number of folks, it has been very good."

The venue not only supported various state Guard units, and regional local first responders, who interacted with both Army and Air Guardsmen.

"We have units from Missouri, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Iowa, as well as U.S. Northern Command here," said Tafanelli. "This really works well for our local responders, as well as our state partners, to begin to work with some other states and how do we go through JRSOI, or Joint Reception Staging and Onward Integration."

The scope of the exercise provided multiple opportunities for interactions between participating entities.

"The biggest benefit from doing something like this, where you have everyone alongside each other working together, is they gain familiarity," said Tafanelli. "This exercise gives them the opportunity to be out there working together, so that when we do have a real-world exercise it's not the

first time that they have met each other."

The local response teams and community emergency management officials also recognized how beneficial Vigilant Guard has been for their own organizations.

"It's been really nice to see the interaction, especially for my local folks, to maybe help understand the processes that go into play," said Hannah Stambaugh, Saline County emergency manager. At a local level, Stambaugh's organization almost immediately saw opportunities to improve their emergency preparation plans.

"Our exercise hadn't even started yet and already we had improvement ideas for just our emergency operation center," said Stambaugh. "It's been very eye opening, but a great, great learning experience."



Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli (center), Kansas adjutant general, views operations in the triage tent at Crisis City staffed by the Nebraska National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosives Enhanced Response Force Package during the Vigilant Guard 2014 exercise. (Photo by 1st Lt. Matt Lucht, Public Affairs Office)

PLAINS GUARDIAN

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October is National Substance Abuse Prevention Month

October is national "Substance Abuse Prevention" month to educate and increase awareness with regard to substance abuse.

Substance use, including under-age drinking and improper use of prescription or over-the-counter drugs, adversely affects the readiness of the Kansas Army National Guard. Anyone who makes the personal decision to drink is responsible to do so in a low-risk manner. This includes understanding the definition of a standard drink as well as the 0-1-2-3 low-risk guidelines.

A standard drink is any alcoholic beverage that equals 0.6 ounces of pure alcohol. This is roughly the same amount of alcohol in one 12-ounce can or bottle of beer, one 5-ounce glass of wine or one 1.5-ounce shot of 80-proof liquor.

The 0-1-2-3 low-risk guidelines are: 0 for illegal illicit or non-prescribed prescription drugs. Zero is always a low-risk choice for alcohol, and it is the only low-risk choice for people with alcoholism. For most people, most of the time, the other low-risk choices for alcohol are: one standard drink in an hour; two standard drinks at the most if drinking daily, and for everyone else, no more than three standard drinks on any one day.

If you find that your substance use falls outside of the low-risk guidelines, your behaviors are considered "at-risk." For those who fall into this category, your substance use may contribute to poor decision making and long-term health problems, including substance-use disorder. Here are a few questions that you can ask yourself to measure your level of dependency:

- Do you use the substance in larger amounts or for longer than you intend?
- Do you desire to cut down or stop using the substance, but can't?
- Do you spend a lot of time and energy

getting, using or recovering from the substance?

- Do you often have cravings and urges to use the substance?
- Is your use interfering with your school, job or home life?
- Do you continue to use, even when it causes problems in relationships?
- Do you give up on social, occupational or relational activities because of use?
- Do you use the substance again and again, even when it puts you in danger?
- Do you use even if you have a physical or psychological problem that is made worse?
- Do you need more of the substance to get the effect you want (tolerance)?
- Do you have withdrawal symptoms which are relieved by taking more of the substance?

If you answered "yes" to six or more of these questions, it may mean that you struggle with substance abuse. While this is no way intended to be a medical diagnosis, it does act as a guideline to assist in your personal evaluation. If you feel that you need help, the Substance Abuse Program office wants you to know that "Help is within Reach." Participation in the Substance Abuse Program is outlined in AR 600-85, and in some instances protects a Soldier from disciplinary actions as a result of substance abuse if they "self-refer" themselves to their command.

If you think you have a substance abuse problem, know someone in the KSARNG who does, or have any questions, please contact Dan Pempin, alcohol and drug control officer, (785) 274-1549, robert.d.pempin.ctr@mail.mil, or Brian Sholar, prevention coordinator, (785) 274-1557, brian.k.sholar.ctr@mail.mil

235th Regiment completes TRADOC Accreditation Process

The 235th Regiment, Regional Training Institute in Salina completed the final phase of the 2014 accreditation process on July 10. A team from the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command conducted the accreditation over a four-day period. The 235th Regiment has been striving to replicate the success of the 2011 accreditation by earning the coveted "Institute of Excellence" rating.

"Our goal is to maintain Learning Institution of Excellence standards in our day-to-day business," explained Col. Judith Martin, commander of the 235th Regiment.

The success of the 2011 accreditation marked the 235th Regiment, Kansas Regional Training Institute as one of the best U.S. Army learning institutions in the nation.

The 235th is comprised of the RTI Headquarters and two battalions. 1st Battalion conducts the Officer and Warrant Officer Candidate Schools. These schools provide professional instruction to develop future leaders for both the Army and Army National Guard. The Modular Training Battalion conducts various Military Occupation Specialty specific classes to include the motor transport operator, Medical Refresher, and wheeled mechanic courses. Different accreditation standards are applied to various parts of the RTI, and include reviews of facilities and environment. The accreditation inspection team reviews mission functions, training resource management, safety, the effectiveness of faculty, staff development and training support.

Beginning in January, each of the Military Occupation Specialty courses underwent individual assessments by their associated proponents. The U.S. Army Proponent assessments include AMEDD, Field Artillery, Quartermaster, Ordnance and Transportation. Additionally 1st Battalion's Warrant Officer Career College and Officer Candidate School completed their proponent accreditation in June of this year. Each of the ratings from the proponents, as well as the headquarters, will constitute the 235th Regiment's overall rating.

The 235th began preparing for the accreditation immediately following the last assessment in 2011 with support from all regiment Soldiers.

"Earning the 'Institute of Excellence' rating means we have exceeded the TRADOC and proponent standards for training facilities and training delivery," explained Maj. Larry Leupold, training officer for the 235th RTI. "It also tells other state's training managers that the Kansas RTI is a great place to send their Soldiers for the training the regiment provides."

"Earning the 'Institute of Excellence' rating means we have exceeded the TRADOC and proponent standards for training facilities and training delivery."

*Maj. Larry Leupold
training officer, 235th RTI*

The accreditation process conducted by TRADOC teams occurs every three years. This process ensures each evaluated institute has all the necessary organizational structure, programs and resources to conduct training. Accreditation also ensures the quality and standardization of all available training, and that the training meets the needs of the operational force. The result of the accreditation process is feedback, which allows the training institute to stay current and relevant while preparing Soldiers for future operations.

In preparation for the accreditation team, staff members researched standards set by TRADOC and conducted site visits to several other Regional Training Institutes. These visits allowed Kansas RTI Soldiers the chance to observe the accreditation process and gain best practices to refine 235th Regimental operating procedures.

"We understood from the beginning of the process that achieving the 'Institute of Excellence' level of accreditation again would be a factor in maintaining future mission sets, student throughput, staffing levels and funding," said Lt. Col. Scott Henry, deputy commander of the 235th. "Therefore, we began the process early, developing a plan 18 months out."

The 235th Headquarters and 1st and 2nd Battalion have completed their accreditations with preliminary high scores. Their official accreditation rating will be issued by U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command before the end of the year.

"While this seems like a long and arduous process, the RTI staff, instructors, officers and noncommissioned officers, take tremendous pride in their level of professionalism and ability to excel," said Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Matticks. "This achievement was only made possible because of our Soldiers' ability, knowledge and experience and their commitment to translate accreditation standards into executing our assigned mission of training Soldiers."

Kansas Substance Abuse Program

The mission of the Kansas Substance Abuse Program is to increase the readiness and resiliency of Soldiers and Families through:

- Education and Training- Provide prevention education and training to Soldiers and command.
- Early Identification- Assist in identification of users through drug testing, medical evaluation, screening, investigation, apprehension or self-referral.
- Risk Reduction- Compile, analyze, and assess behavioral risks to identify trends and units with high-risk profiles. Provide methods to eliminate or mitigate risks.
- Deterrence- Help units initiate testing and advise Soldiers of command policies.
- Screening and Self-Assessment- Provide screening and self-assessment tools to Soldiers to evaluate their own risk.
- Rehabilitation- SAP is not a treat-

ment provider, but helps Soldiers find approved treatment facilities near to where they live to ensure successful completion of rehab.

- Targeted Intervention- Provide educational and motivational programs which focus on the adverse effects and consequences of alcohol and other drug abuse.

Dan Pempin is the alcohol and drug control officer for Kansas, and Brian Sholar is the prevention coordinator. Pempin coordinates all substance abuse and risk reduction activities, assists commanders in identifying and referring Soldiers with known or possible substance abuse issues and monitors and evaluates referral, separation and completion rates. Sholar provide units with prevention training and administer the Unit Risk Inventory to all units. Both serve as subject matter experts for the SAP program and Army Regulation 600-85, and act as a resource for Soldiers and command with any questions and concerns.

Volunteer receives award



Gen. Frank Grass, chief of the National Guard Bureau, presents the Region 7 Volunteer of the Year award for the 2014 National Guard Family Program Volunteer Awards program to Gail DuPuis-Cheatham. The award was presented Aug. 13 at the National Volunteer Workshop, Norman, Oklahoma. Cheatham, wife of Sgt. Danny Cheatham, 35th Military Police Company, Topeka, is the 35th MP Family Readiness Group leader. In 2013, Cheatham contributed 600 volunteer hours to the Kansas National Guard Family Program. (Photo provided)

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<https://g1arng.army.pentagon.mil>

Engineer training projects will revamp armories, save tax money

By 1st Lt. Matt Lucht
Public Affairs Office

As buildings age, repairs or improvements must be done or future problems could cost more time and money. Typically, repairs include contacting contractors or construction companies for an assessment of the needed updates. For the Kansas National Guard, the engineers can help. Recently several members from the Army and Air National Guard surveyed armories for potential training projects to improve the longevity of those building, while saving taxpayers money on improvement costs.

"We have talent, training and skill in a professional technical sense that has to do with construction, electrical, heavy equipment and plumbing," said Jeffrey Terrell, deputy director of public work, Kansas National Guard. "Let's get together and leverage those resources to improve the overall state of the Guard."

Maj. Gen. Lee Tafaneli, the adjutant general, met with the Guard's engineering leadership at a meeting held in Fort Riley June 5 to share his vision of joint engineering projects. Many engineers expressed enthusiasm about the training opportunities these projects meant for their Soldiers and Airmen.

"At first, I wasn't really sure how all the units were going to come together," said Master Sgt. Travis Schuler, 190th Air Refueling Wing's Civil Engineer Squadron, "but it has been a real blessing to work with

everybody, getting to meet people with different backgrounds and knocking down some of the walls between the different units and the Army and the Air Force. It has just been a wonderful experience."

Site survey teams from the 190th CES, 184th CES and 891st Engineering Battalion traveled to armories in Concordia, Junction City, Lawrence, Lenexa, Olathe, Ottawa, Salina and Wichita to see what type of improvements are needed.

"It is a team made up of Soldiers and Airmen from each engineer unit in the state of Kansas going out to look at the armories and assess what can be done to improve the armories, what needs to be done, what they would like to have done and identifying issues that we can fix," said Staff Sgt. Chad Moran, 226th Engineering Company.

The initial survey gave leadership information on how to prioritize each project and what each project might potentially cost. Issues that were discovered ranged from putting on a fresh coat of paint, updating existing infrastructure and installing brand new systems or building new structures.

"It is a little bit of this and a little bit of that," said Schuler. "A little plumbing, a little painting, some drywall work, little groundwork, ground pavement work and when all the people come together, I think that it is going to make some good work."

"Anywhere we can get some hands-on [training] will be a great opportunity," he said. "For the state of Kansas for us to

come in and use our skill set and start working on some of these armories."

The troop projects are on a two-year training cycle with some projects starting

in 2015. The cost for each project will differ, depending on the scope of work, with the average cost saving of 50 percent to the taxpayer.



(From left) Lt. Co. John Adam, 184th Intelligence Wing; Tech. Sgt. Brandon Terhune and Master Sgt. Travis Schuler, both of the 190th Civil Engineering Squadron, inspect a Kansas National Guard armory, looking for potential repair projects for Kansas National Guard engineers. (Photo by 1st Lt. Matt Lucht, Public Affairs Office)

Kansas Guard history: Ceremonial platoon was joint endeavor

By Sgt. Zach Sheely
Public Affairs Office

A military funeral renders the final salute of gratitude to a fallen service member, one last dedication to respect and honor the honorable. It's a serious task of paramount importance, especially to the family of the departed.

When retired Maj. Gen. Philip B. Finley, former adjutant general, and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Jack Elliott, former state command sergeant major, Kansas National Guard, attended the funeral of a Kansas Guardsman in the mid-80s, they each recognized the need for a better funeral detail to properly honor deceased Kansas Guardsmen and veterans.

"The effort was there," acknowledged Elliott, a 41-year veteran inducted into the Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame in 1995. "But it wasn't very good and we wanted to make sure we were giving due honor and respect to those who gave everything."

Elliott reminisced that he and Finley spent the majority of the car ride back to Topeka from that funeral in western Kansas, talking about how to improve the funeral drill ceremonies. Elliott assured Finley that he had a fix.

The adjutant general placed his full confidence in his highest enlisted advisor, directing Elliott to establish a special unit, dedicated to funeral details and color guard duties.

This is how the Governor and Adjutant General's Ceremonial Platoon of the Kansas National Guard was born, officially established in 1988. The platoon was originally comprised of only Soldiers, but later, at the direction of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Warren "Bud" Smith, former state command sergeant major, included Airmen as well.

"I went to the Air Guard and explained that the adjutant general represented the Kansas National Guard, not just one branch," said Smith. "We were a purple organization thus we should have both Army and Air represented. The Air Guard leadership agreed and we became an integrated platoon."

Integration wasn't limited to that of the Air Force and Army joining forces. The platoon also included females. Retired Sgt. Maj. Becky Middendorf, former operations sergeant major for the 69th Troop Com-



The Governor and Adjutant General's Ceremonial Platoon renders honors at a ceremony in Hawaii in memorium for U.S. servicemembers who died during the attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941. (Photo provided)

mand, was a member of the original group.

"It was an awesome privilege," said Middendorf who served more than four years in the platoon.

Duties of the platoon included cordons, bugle playing, pall bearing, flag folding and presentation and firing parties for military funerals, and color guard ceremonies for government, community and military agencies. The platoon was on call whenever the adjutant general requested them, hence the name.

Participation in the GAGCP was voluntary and in addition to full-time duties. Members were required to be full-time Guardsmen and were selected by Elliott and subsequent state command sergeants major, based on an interview board and overall appearance. At one point, there were as many as 37 members.

"They had to look good," said Elliott. "It's all about appearance, so they had to be fit and look good in uniform."

In keeping a keen eye on appearance, Elliott enlisted the help of the 3rd U.S. Infantry

Regiment (The Old Guard), Washington D.C., whom he called, "the best in the business," to train his troops, bringing a small team of 3rd Infantry Soldiers to Kansas, and later sending a larger contingent of GAGCP members to Washington, D.C., to learn from and watch the Old Guard during ceremonies.

"I wanted our guys to train with the best," said Elliott. "We tried to do everything the way the Old Guard did it. Everything was slow, smooth and precise. After that training, (we) got real good."

Just because it tried to emulate the Old Guard doesn't mean the ceremonial platoon didn't develop a style of its own, according to retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 William Perry, former noncommissioned officer and officer in charge of the platoon.

Perry explained that honor guards in the National Guard today are trained to perform standardized routines, and there isn't much room for unit-specific flair.

"We were able to incorporate some individualized movements into our routine that would differentiate us from other honor

guards," he said.

Along with the varied movements and timing, the Soldiers and Airmen of the ceremonial platoon wore no name tapes/tags, and donned ceremonial medals as opposed to ribbons in addition to a ceremonial belt, similar to that of military band regalia.

That also meant fighting against learned reflexes. For retired Chief Master Sgt. Danny Roush, former member of the ceremonial platoon who also had experience with the Air National Guard color guard, adapting to the more Army-centric routine of the GAGCP was necessary, but proved relatively seamless.

"We worked well together," said Roush of the integration of Soldiers and Airmen.

There was even a badge Elliott designed, to be worn only by the members of the ceremonial platoon.

Quite literally a badge of honor, each member had to earn it through hours of training, practicing routines and uniform preparations, and immeasurable dedication, performing ceremonies that often fell on weekends and evenings.

Master Sgt. Mark Seats, senior aircraft maintenance sergeant with Joint Forces Headquarters-Land Component, an original member of the ceremonial platoon, estimated that he participated in more than 1,000 events.

"We took pride in doing ceremonies," said Seats. "Especially the funeral details for fallen Guardsmen. We really took that responsibility to heart. We tried to provide some comfort and closure to the families in paying our final respects to their family member."

Seats said there was a fraternal bond within the ceremonial platoon, comparing himself and his teammates to identical twins.

"We were like a band of brothers," he said. "We got to be so good, that we could do our entire routine in complete silence, not speaking a word to one another, moving as one unit."

Perry echoed the sense of family amongst members. "We were a special group and were very family oriented," he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Clay Winters also noted the tight bond of the team and that perfection was always their goal, although unattainable because they were their own worst critics.

"We were hard on ourselves and de-

(Continued on Page 13)

Security forces maintain order after simulated disaster

By Sgt. Zach Sheely

105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Aim High to become an Army of One.

That's the mentality of the Soldiers of the 35th Military Police Company, Kansas Army National Guard, and the Airmen of the 184th Intelligence Wing Security Forces and 190th Air Refueling Wing Security Forces Squadrons, Kansas Air National Guard, while training together during Vigilant Guard 2014, a multi-state, joint emergency response exercise hosted by the Kansas National Guard in Salina Aug. 4-7.

According to Staff Sgt. Walter Clayton, unit training manager with the 184th, training alongside the Army is a great learning experience for both sides.

"We're able to incorporate our different perspectives on how to conduct business during this exercise," said Clayton. "To borrow their slogan, 'An Army of One,' we aim to become one cohesive unit, which is paramount in what we do."

The overall scenario during Vigilant Guard 2014 involved catastrophic damage and chaos caused by massive, simulated tornadoes to test the capabilities of various military and civilian first responders

throughout the region.

The simulated fallout ultimately forced citizens from their homes and provided ample opportunity for subsequent looters. The security elements were then called upon to secure the area and to react as they would in an actual disaster with foot patrols and quick reaction forces.

Support Soldiers from the 35th MP Co. played the role of the scofflaws. Some of the role players took their job of causing havoc and stress for the security forces seriously, relentlessly rushing the area in an effort to evade them and penetrate the area of operation, sometimes blurring the lines of role playing and reality, but that's the name of the game, explained Spc. Brandt Cessna, generator mechanic with the 35th MP Co.

"I try to be as realistic as possible, safely," Cessna said.

It was left to the Soldiers and Airmen of the 35th, 184th and 190th to react and respond using appropriate, but minimal force in an effort to maintain order and establish community rapport, Clayton explained. Their ultimate mission in an actual emergency is to protect people and property.



Airmen 1st Class Aaron Aschenbrenner, a member of a joint security force comprised of Soldiers of the 35th Military Police Company, 190th Security Forces and 184th Security Forces, chases down a suspected "looter" during a training exercise for Vigilant Guard 2014. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

"We evaluate and initiate scenarios that the Soldiers and Airmen go through," said Sgt. Justin Hawks, team lead with 35th MP. "We try to initiate our scenario to provide a realistic experience for these guys."

Realistic experience that can't necessarily be gleaned in a class room, Spc. Eric Ward, military policeman with the 35th noted.

"I've never experienced training like (Continued on Page 14)

73rd Civil Support Team tests capabilities at Vigilant Guard 2014



A member of the 73rd Civil Support Team checks a simulated collapsed building for the presence of hazardous chemical, radiological or biological materials during the Vigilant Guard exercise at Crisis City. The mission of the 73rd CST is to assist local, state and national civil authorities during a chemical, radiological or nuclear event in identifying unknown chemical agents after a man-made or natural disaster. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

By Sgt. Zach Sheely

105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Nineteen members of the 73rd Civil Support Team, Kansas National Guard, spent Aug. 4-7 participating in Vigilant Guard 2014, a large-scale, multistate disaster response exercise sponsored by U.S. Northern Command and the National Guard Bureau, organized to test the capability of emergency response agencies at all levels of government, both military and civil.

The scenario of the exercise was the response to a prevalent and all-too real threat to the state of Kansas — a simulated, destructive tornado.

"Our role here at Vigilant Guard is site categorization of the damage done by a tornado," said Maj. Robert Cole, commander of the 73rd CST. "We're here to be the eyes and ears of other first responders to set the stage, so that we can help the people of Kansas in our most likely threat, which is a tornado."

The 73rd, headquartered in Topeka, is comprised of Soldiers and Airmen and is generally called upon to assist local, state and national civil authorities during a chemical, radiological or nuclear event in identifying unknown chemical agents after a man-made or natural disaster has occurred.

Utilizing the Crisis City facility at the Great Plains Joint Training Center near

Salina, the 73rd was able to integrate with their first-responder counterparts from across Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 7, as well as civilian authorities during the training exercise.

A civil support team is the only government or civilian first responder operation of its kind, designated specifically for site categorization and chemical identification, according to 1st Sgt. Greg Johnson, first sergeant of the 73rd.

Johnson noted that the CST is distinctive not only in their capabilities, but also their response time.

"We're on call 24/7 and required to report within 90 minutes," he said. "We've got three hours to deploy to a crisis situation when called, no matter the time of day."

Cole acknowledged the value of the Vigilant Guard exercise to his troops in the joint environment provided.

"It's been really exciting working with the units out of Nebraska and Missouri, and understanding how we fit in with them," he said. "We've learned a ton of lessons in the short time we've been working with them."

To Spc. Shawn Burns, survey team member, 73rd CST and relatively new member of the team, the benefit of this training is immeasurable.

"I've loved it," he said. "It's been absolutely awesome."

Vigilant Guard exercise provides hands-on experience

By Spc. Anna Laurin

105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers of the 3175th Chemical Company of the Missouri Army National Guard, St. Peters, Missouri, set up and practiced a decontamination service line Aug. 4 at Crisis City, Salina, as part of Vigilant Guard 2014.

The line was part of a collapsed building scenario in which a rubble pile was used to rescue mock victims, who were then through the decontamination lines as if the collapsed building contained various contaminants that may have leaked.

"We are reacting how we would actually react in a real-world situation," said 1st Lt. James Winfield, officer in charge of the decontamination element of the 3175th Chemical Company. The Soldiers of the 3175th Chemical Company decontaminate patients who have been exposed to hazardous materials and pathogens.

"We are like a human car wash," said Winfield.

Although this situation was for practice,

a lot of effort went into its preparation. The Vigilant Guard exercise allowed the 3175th to train in an isolated environment, but with the support of the medical and search and rescue elements.

"Up to this point, we have focused primarily on the physical set up of the line, the tents, the power and water sections," said Winfield. "This is our first big opportunity to actually operate the jobs, hands-on with casualties on the line."

The Soldiers were able to use their training and see how each element of the scenario interacts.

"We get to see it all work together," said Staff Sgt. Anthony Haungs, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist, 3175th Chemical Company.

For most of these Soldiers, this was their first experience with a large-scale training scenario.

"It's a very young crew here and not a lot of experience, but they are showing a lot of effort and motivation," said Winfield. "They really want to learn."



Soldiers of the 3175th Chemical Company, Missouri Army National Guard, cut the clothing off of a patient as part of the decontamination process. The Soldiers practiced their skills during the Vigilant Guard 2014 exercise at Crisis City near Salina, Aug. 4-7. For some of the Soldiers, the exercise was the first time they had the opportunity to use those skills in such a large-scale exercise. (Photo by Spc. Anna Laurin, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Joint Task Force Santa Fe coordinates successful military efforts

By Capt. Michael Sullivan
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

More than 2,000 local, state and federal personnel trained at various locations throughout the state Aug. 4-7 as part of Vigilant Guard 2014, hosted by the Kansas National Guard.

Vigilant Guard is a large-scale, multi-state disaster response exercise sponsored by U.S. Northern Command and the National Guard Bureau that tests the capabilities of military and civilian emergency response agencies at all levels of government.

Joint Task Force Santa Fe, which was primarily comprised of service members from the Kansas National Guard's 35th Infantry Division and the 190th Air Refueling Wing, managed Vigilant Guard's military assets, including hundreds of National Guard and Reserve service members from Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and a scattering of troops from other parts of the country. JTF Santa Fe helped coordinate disaster relief efforts in a variety of simulated scenarios including tornadoes, flooding and collapsed buildings.

According to Col. Russell Richardson, operations officer of JTF Santa Fe and the 35th Infantry Division, this is the first time a Joint Task Force has been set up in an incident command and all hazards environment in the state of Kansas.

"This is truly a joint environment that goes across states," said Richardson. "If there is an incident that occurs, we have emergency management compacts with our adjoining states and partners so that when something occurs and they need help we respond to help them out when they have an incident. It works the same way with us ... It is a very good environment, so we build our relationships with these states and units."

Richardson said Vigilant Guard is an ideal learning environment that allows the personnel involved to practice their skills so that Kansas National Guard is fully prepared when called upon to help when disaster really strikes.

"At the end of the day, that is really the whole purpose of this training," said Richardson. "So when an actual tornado, flooding event or blizzard for some hazard that occurs, we can go out there and execute. That is why we do exercises like this. We prepare, we identify what works, we identify what we need to fix and then we train and we prepare again."

Brig. Gen. Robert E. Windham Jr., dual status commander of JTF Santa Fe and the Kansas Army National

Guard Land Component, called the exercise "a great leap forward," and the joint work between the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Homeland Security and the Kansas National Guard has gone beyond what was written down as mission plans on paper.

"If called upon, (the division) can much more rapidly get to a state of being a Joint Task Force and do that competently and much more quickly," said Windham. "I think it has shaved off a great deal of time it will take for the division to hit the ground and be fully functioning."

Windham said he was pleased with the positive attention Vigilant Guard has received with the public, but publicity is not what the exercise is about. It is about the service

members in the state and making sure the Kansas National Guard is ready to respond when the citizens of Kansas need them.

"This is not a commercial about the Kansas National Guard," said Windham. "This is truly the Guard doing what the Guard does best. It is really relevant. We do it right here and you do it for your neighbors. I look at young Soldiers and Airmen ... it's been really hot and humid and they have been at some of these venues all day working hard, and they are going to talk about this. When they go back to work they have something to brag about. Other young people will hear that message, and they will want some of that action."



The 35th Infantry Division of the Kansas Army National Guard provided a Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter system as the headquarters for Joint Task Force Santa Fe, which managed military assets during Vigilant Guard 2014. The large-scale exercise was hosted by the Kansas National Guard in Salina Aug. 4-7. (Photo by Capt. Michael Sullivan, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Army, Air and civilian teamwork results in smooth operation

By Capt. Kevin Anderson
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

"Like a hurricane."

That was the motto of the Joint Reception Staging Onward Integration team at the Kansas National Guard's Vigilant Guard 2014 emergency preparedness exercise, according to Maj. Courtney Prewitt.

Looking at the numbers, his assessment of the situation is not far off the mark. Over the course of three days, a joint unit of Army, Air Force and civilian personnel successfully in-processed 456 service members. The Soldiers and Airmen are flowing in from all over Kansas and four surrounding states to Salina to test and hone their skills in response to a variety of simulated natural disasters.

For the primary planning, officers of the JRSOI included Prewitt, Maj. Penny

Jamvold and Capt. Richelle Shannonhouse. All were pleased with how well their respective services were able to work together to accomplish the complex mission of personnel accountability and in-processing.

"Really, the best and most successful part of the entire operation has been the 'joint' aspect," said Jamvold. Joint refers to any operation that includes more than one branch of the United States military, in a single operation.

Shannonhouse echoed the sentiment that the Army and Air Force and have truly come together during this exercise to create a seamless operation for checking service members in and performing accountability, briefing them on the exercise, and sending them back to their units ready to begin training.

All of the officers admitted that there

was some hesitancy during the initial planning phases of the operation. "There were a lot of personnel changes throughout the year-long planning process and the different acronyms used by the Army and Air Force led to some initial confusion," said Jamvold. "But through all of our dedicated efforts, Vigilant Guard has been a resounding success when it comes to personnel accountability."

"Throughout the entire check-in process, we have not had a single unit wait more than one hour from the time they walk through the flight line door, to when they

are leaving, ready to begin their training mission," Prewitt was quick to point out.

All three of the primary planning officers acknowledged that this operation would not be successful without the dedicated efforts of not only their Soldiers and Airmen, but their civilian counterparts at the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, or KDEM, as well.

"KDEM provided a lot of useful guidance and were very helpful to ensure all civilians involved in the exercise were properly accounted for during their arrival in Salina," Prewitt stated.



Capt. Kendrea Shingleton briefs Soldiers of the 35th Military Police Company on safety, rules of engagement and range procedures for the Vigilant Guard 2014 exercise, hosted by the Kansas National Guard in Salina, Kansas, Aug. 4-7. (Photo by Capt. Kevin Anderson, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

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Civilians, military units team up to practice medevac operations

By Spc. Robert I. Havens
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Emergency responders from military and civilian organizations came together to practice medical evacuations during Vigilant Guard 2014, a multi-state large-scale, natural disaster emergency response exercise hosted by the Kansas National Guard at Crisis City, Salina, Aug. 4-7.

"Helicopters in both the military and civilian world are a key piece in moving patients in need of immediate care to initial care facilities," said Terry L. David, Major Emergency Response Group and commander of the Kansas Emergency Medical Service Disaster Group. "This allows for a quicker manner than you can do with actual ground ambulances.

"This exercise allows us to fine tune things we need to know," said David. "It is our first exercise we've done with the military and one of the objectives is to see just how well these entities work together, and thus far has worked very well."

That's not to say that the military and civilian groups do not have to work at the ability to complete missions together.

Military aircraft in the state of Kansas do have the ability to talk on the state 800

megahertz radio system, but other states had to reprogram their frequencies or get additional radios to talk to civilian entities, explained David.

But there is a lot of experience and work to ensure that exercises successful are beneficial to both parties.

"People should be confident in the fact that there is a medical operations team that is well established and has been on five deployments," said David. "Because of this, the air medical part of this has worked very well in the past in real life disasters."

"In the National Guard, we are both civilians and military members, so in the civilian world I am a physician in Des Moines, Iowa," said Lt. Col. Jim Duong, commander, Expeditionary Medical Support Systems. "This allows me to see what a civilian can do, as well as the military aspect of it."

In exercises like Vigilant Guard, when the civilian hospitals are being overwhelmed with casualties, the military can step forward and help triage those patients, Duong explained.

"Local hospitals have their own helicopters and they're limited by the number of helicopters they have in an emergency situation," he said. "So just like the emergency



Members of 1077th Ground Ambulance Company, Kansas Army National Guard, Olathe, Kansas, clear the area after loading a patient into a Lakota helicopter from Company D, 1st Battalion, 376th Aviation Regiment, Nebraska National Guard, as part of Vigilant Guard 2014. (Photo by Spc. Robert I. Havens, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Realistic conditions allow Guardsmen to hone rescue skills

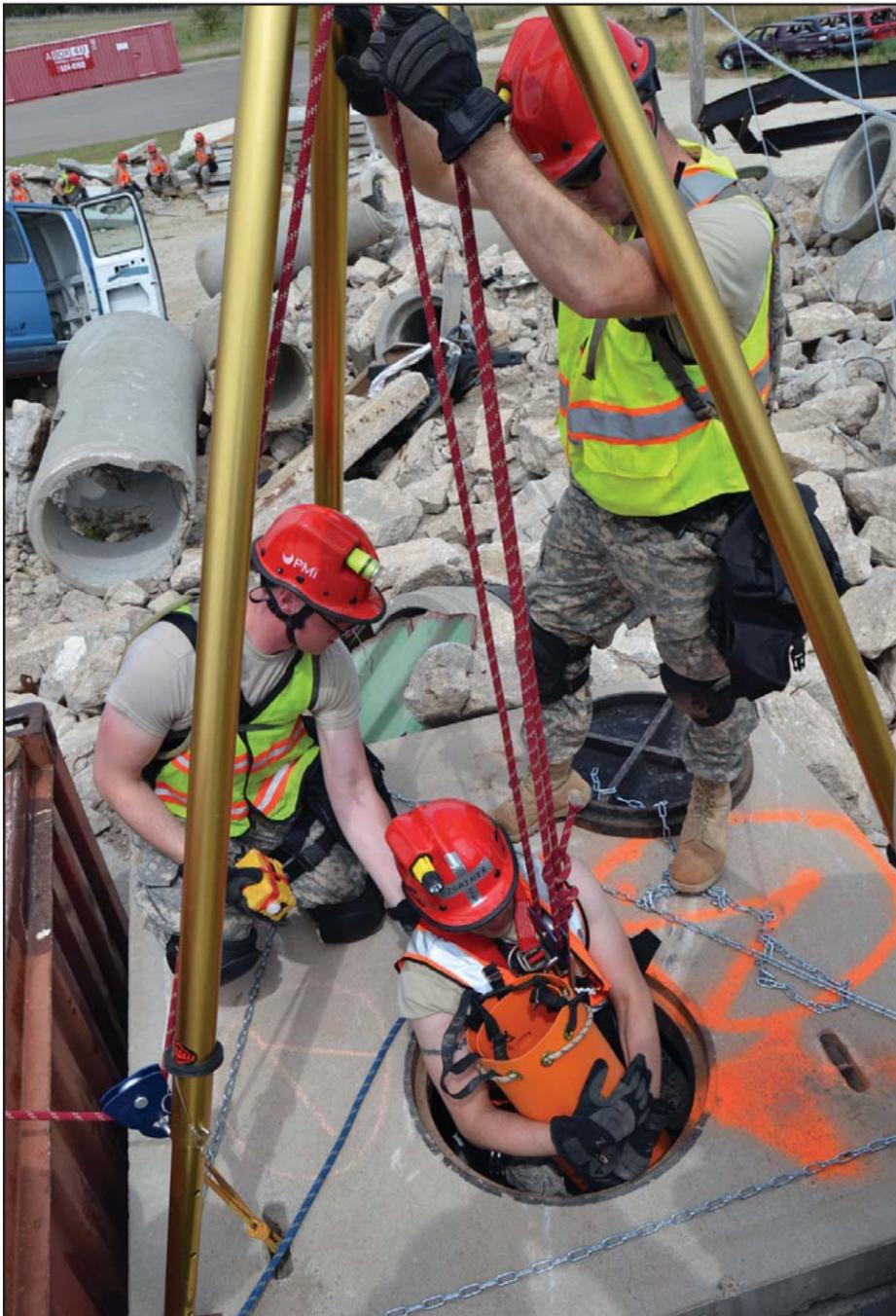
By Spc. Robert I. Havens
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Tight spaces and unstable surfaces can make for a dangerous environment, which is why the proper training is important for the rescue teams of the Nebraska National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Enhanced Response Force Package, or CERFP. The Soldiers practiced search and rescue drills using the rubble pile to hone their skills at Vigilant

Guard 2014 hosted by the Kansas National Guard, at Crisis City, Salina, Aug. 4-7.

"We're out here teaching the CBRNE elements in the five disciplines of rescue which are shoring, breaching and breaking, ropes, lifting and hauling, and some of the medical element," said Ronnie Sallee, subject matter expert and rescue technician with Response International Group. "A lot of these service members have been through the basic

(Continued on Page 15)



Members of the 623rd Vertical Engineer Company, Nebraska National Guard, Wahoo, Nebraska, prepare to lower Senior Airman Johnathon Zgainer, a medic with the 155th Medical Group, Nebraska National Guard, during confined space training at Vigilant Guard 2014. (Photo by Spc. Robert I. Havens, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

rooms and hospitals can only handle a certain number of patients, the helicopters can only handle so many medevacs."

"Military aircraft can call up any number of hospitals and respond to any number of places and decide on a proper destination.

This is a force multiplier that allows us to link all the region's hospitals and make them more capable," said Duong. "Training between the Army and Air allow us a better understanding of what the military can do, so we can better hit the ground running."

Emergency response operations move into the "Final Frontier"

By Capt. Benjamin Gruver
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

"Space, the final frontier." That intro from the classic Star Trek TV series seems appropriate as the Army incorporates more space capabilities into its operations, including domestic emergency response operations.

The use of space operations was tested as part of Joint Task Force Santa Fe during the multi-state emergency response exercise Vigilant Guard 2014 hosted in Salina by the Kansas National Guard Aug. 4-7.

"Space operations and the capabilities that we normally bring to wartime are fairly new to the domestic operations realm for Kansas," said Lt. Col. Eric Bishop, chief of the Space Support Element, 35th Infantry Division.

Those capabilities include satellite and geospatial imaging with a gamut of software programs used to provide data quickly so leaders can determine solutions to problems.

Augmenting Kansas' small three-person

contingent was Army Space Support Team 30, 117th Space Support Battalion, a unit unique to the Colorado National Guard.

"They have a lot more experience than we have," said Bishop. "We are still learning, so having them here with their expertise is a great opportunity."

The Colorado team, consisting of two space operations officers, two geospatial engineers, a satellite communications systems operator/maintainer and information technology specialist, was able to bring a new dynamic to an area of the exercise that can only be simulated.

"We are able to define the situation and help our domestic operations and civil authorities by providing them information that, before this exercise, Kansas had not been able to do," said Bishop.

For example, the team used a real world terrain map of the Neosho River to analyze flooding at different stages.

"They are able to look at the computer and, given the stage level, could tell you exactly whether this house would be

(Continued on Page 15)



Three members of the Space Support Element, 35th Infantry Division, teamed up with Army Space Support Team 30, 117th Space Support Battalion, Colorado National Guard, to provide satellite and geospatial imaging for civilian and military responders involved in the Vigilant Guard 2014 exercise in Salina Aug. 4-7. (Photo by Capt. Benjamin Gruver, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Showers and clean uniforms: Almost all the comforts of home



Spc. Raymond Bringewatt and Pvt. Dwayne Endecott, 1013th Quartermaster Reserve Company, Nebraska National Guard, load up the Laundry Advance System in preparation to return home from Vigilant Guard 2014, Aug. 6. The unit provided laundry access and showers to fellow Guardsmen participating in the exercise. (Photo by 1st Lt. Margaret Ziffer, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

**By 1st Lt. Margaret Ziffer
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

A Soldier flopped down victoriously on top of a gigantic tent he had just finished folding – a small celebration over accomplishing a not-so-small task. 1st Platoon, 1013th Quartermaster Reserve Company, Nebraska National Guard, was packing up to head home.

Led by 1st Lt. Tyler Plasencio, 13 Soldiers of the unit were about to head back to North Platte, Nebraska, after participating in Vigilant Guard 2014 Aug. 4-7.

Using a Laundry Advance System, Plasencio and his Soldiers provided laundry access and showers to fellow Soldiers participating in Vigilant Guard 2014.

“It’s a pretty impressive machine,” said Spc. Raymond Bringewatt, LADS operator.

Bringewatt explained that the LADS recycles most of the water, so it ends up really only producing 20 gallons of wastewater per day. The two-time combat veteran has been working with the LADS for six years.

“I’m nowhere near to mastering it,” said Bringewatt. “I would say I’m proficient at it. And that’s taken me the whole six years.”

Bringewatt also holds two additional military occupational specialties: mechanic and truck driver, which give him a complimentary skill set.

“I can haul it to where it needs to go,” he said. “Once it gets there I can set it up, and if it breaks, I can fix it.”

Plasencio served as a transportation officer before joining the 1013th last March, so this was his first opportunity to participate in a LADS operation on this scale.

“It’s a small setup, but there are a lot of moving parts,” said Plasencio. “It was a big learning experience for me – it’s certainly different [from a transportation unit], but this was a lot of fun. Coming out here with these guys has been great. It’s a bonding experience.”

When the unit returns home, they anticipate being called into action to utilize their newly polished skills by assisting local organizations like the Salvation Army.

“It’s a pretty young unit, so now they have hands-on experience and will get to bring what they learned here back to their peers at the unit and hopefully the knowledge will spread out and as a whole the company will become stronger,” said Plasencio.

He added that the unit didn’t hesitate when asked to extend the operating hours in an effort to accommodate all the Soldiers who were working late. And the long hours paid off in the form of thank yous and barbecue invitations from grateful Soldiers.

“Sometimes it’s something that’s taken for granted,” said Plasencio, “but not out here. It was definitely appreciated.”

Vigilant Guard 2014 tests state emergency response plans

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pany; 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 1989th Contingency Contracting; and the 1077th Ground Ambulance Company. The 190th Air Refueling Wing and 184th Intelligence Wing of the Kansas Air National Guard also participated in the exercise.

Joining the Kansas National Guard and civilian responders were the Missouri National Guard -- Homeland Response Force, 70th Troop Command; and the 7th Civil Support Team; Nebraska National Guard -- Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosives Enhanced Response Force Package; and 1st Battalion, 376th Aviation; Iowa National Guard - 71st Civil Support Team; and Oklahoma National Guard - 63rd Civil Support Team. The U.S. Army Reserve’s 1013th Quartermaster Company, North Platte, Nebraska, also took part.

State participants included the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas State Fire Marshal, North Central Kansas Hospital Region, North Central Kansas Public Health, and Mobile

Emergency Response Group and Equipment, Wichita.

Local and county participants included Saline County Emergency Management, Overland Park Fire Department, Geary County Emergency Management, Kansas Incident Management Teams, Johnson County Sheriff’s Office, Johnson County Public Health, Riley County Emergency Management, Salina Fire Department, Search and Rescue Task Force 2, Sedgwick County Emergency Management, Sedgwick County Health Department, and Cities Readiness Initiative Wichita.

Federal agencies present included the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region VII, U.S. Northern Command, Disaster Assistance Response Team - West, National Guard Bureau Joint Enabling Team, FBI Weapons of Mass Destruction Tactical Analyst, and Fort Riley Emergency Management.

“We sincerely hope that nothing of this magnitude ever occurs that would require such a response in the state,” said Tapanelli. “However, this exercise will make us more prepared to protect the health and safety of the people we serve, if it ever does.”

Good food boosts morale

**By Capt. Kevin Anderson
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

“They say that in the Army, the coffee is mighty fine. It looks like muddy water and tastes like turpentine,” a classic Army marching cadence states, which most members of the Kansas National Guard have probably heard at one point or another.

Without a doubt, whatever coffee the cadence was based on, their morning joe was not coming from the dining facility at Company B, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, Salina, during Vigilant Guard 2014. Vigilant Guard is a large-scale, natural disaster exercise hosted by the Kansas National Guard at Crisis City, Salina, Kansas, Aug. 4-7.

“The DFAC coffee is certainly one of the highlights during my day,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jason Garr, tactical operations officer for the 35th Infantry Division. “Coffee is certainly necessary during these training exercises, but it is great that the DFAC also offers cold drinks because of the recent heat.”

The DFAC worked hard to bring quality meals each day to the Soldiers and Airmen taking part in the Vigilant Guard 2014 exercise. Sgt. 1st Class Michael Brissett, 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Olathe, is one of the senior noncommissioned officers leading that charge. Brissett said his 10 Soldiers were up at 4 a.m. to start cooking breakfast for service members who ambled into the DFAC around 6 a.m. before conducting their emergency management training. After breakfast was finished, Brissett’s Soldiers had a few hours of down time, but were back at 1 p.m. to start preparations for dinner.

Though Brissett was restricted to a scheduled, 14-day meal rotation, he made

it clear that, “the Soldiers certainly enhance” the meals for flavor to provide tasty nutrition. All of the Soldiers, including Brissett, are food service specialists, or military occupational specialty 92G. According to www.goarmy.com, all 92G Soldiers can bake, fry, braise, boil, simmer, steam and sauté Army recipes. Moreover, MOS qualified Soldiers can maintain all kitchen and field kitchen equipment.

Spc. Amanda Hrabe, food specialist, 995th Maintenance Company, finds her Army training useful in her civilian career. Hrabe is a chef at the Olive Garden in Salina, where she regularly uses the skills that she learned during food service specialist school. She said she always enjoyed cooking before she entered the Kansas National Guard, so becoming a food service specialist was a natural fit. Hrabe has also brought many lessons learned from working in a national restaurant chain to benefit the operations of the Kansas National Guard.

Over the course of the exercise, the DFAC in Salina served more than 5,000 A rations, standard Army meals, and more than 2,800 Meals, Ready-to-Eat. Although nutritious, MREs have long been a contentious issue with Soldiers, mostly because of the taste and lack of variety. According to the Meals, Ready to Eat website (www.mreinfo.com) the menu has expanded from 12 items to 24 entrees and 70 new items have been added. The menu options have become quite varied, ranging from classic chili and macaroni to Southwest beef and black beans.

“The older MREs really didn’t have much flavor,” said Spc. Anna Laurin, print journalist with the 105th MPAD. “There is much more variety now and all of the meals taste better than they used to.”



Pfc. Crysti Michalski, 1st Battalion, 376th Aviation, Nebraska National Guard, and Spc. Chaquille Slay, 250th Forward Support Company, Kansas National Guard, serve Soldiers dinner out of the Company B, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation armory in Salina during Vigilant Guard 2014. (Photo by Capt. Kevin Anderson, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Vigilant Guard exercise requires planning and preparation

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WebEOC and email. Ploger-McCool said that, although the exercise injects were timed, sim cell operators had some discretion.

“We can actually slow them down or speed them up based on what the needs are,” she said. “We have control staff at each one of the sites that we can communicate with to kind of help us facilitate the flow of that.”

“With so many levels of government involved, sometimes we throw too many in at once and they haven’t had time to process that because it is a simulated event, it’s not a real event,” she continued. “We want to make sure that we don’t overwhelm them. We just want to challenge them, but not overwhelm them.”

Although the Vigilant Guard exercise is over and everyone has gone home, the work is still not done. Military participants conducted an after action “hot wash” Aug. 8 and a separate after action review will be conducted in September with civilian and other emergency support function partners to analyze what went well, what areas need improvement and what planning and training activities need to occur to enhance future response actions.

“We expect to have a lot of input into this, some suggestions and recommendations,” said Ploger-McCool. “Any suggestions for improvements, we document and track those in an after action report and improvement plan.”

Lakota helicopters provide real-time images for ground forces

By Spc. Anna Laurin

105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

When a disaster occurs and leaders need to know what the area looks like they are able to call up distinctive help, like the UH-72 Lakota helicopters of the 1st Security and Support Battalion, 376th Aviation Regiment, Nebraska National Guard.

At Vigilant Guard 2014, hosted by the Kansas National Guard at Crisis City, Salina, the teams were able to show off their capabilities to Maj. Gen. Michael D. Navrkal, commander of the 35th Infantry Division, Kansas Army National Guard.

“As part of the exercise, the 35th Infantry Division is providing the Joint Task Force headquarters,” said Navrkal. “In domestic response it is always good to have situational understanding of what’s going on out there and these unique aircrafts provide some tremendous capabilities for us

within the JTF.”

The large-scale exercise provided many opportunities for interactions between different military and civilian entities.

“Historically, we train for a wartime mission, but this gives us the opportunity to plan for domestic support to civilian authorities,” said Navrkal. “This gives us the ability to look at our systems and processes and how we would adapt those to working with the civilian responders and others agencies.”

Integrating with other agencies is beneficial on all sides. The Lakota helicopter crewmembers found the exercise very valuable to their mission.

“The Security and Support Battalion’s role is primarily domestic operations,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jeff Caniglia, battalion standardization instructor pilot, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st SS Bn., 376th Avn. Regt. “Anytime that

we can come out and actually do the mission that we were created for it’s a huge advantage. We do individual training, but when we can do collective training at this level it’s amazing for us.”

The Lakota helicopters provide a lot of immediate information that can help leaders in a disaster emergency response map out the damage.

“Anytime there are floods, tornadoes, or any time that a joint operation center or a higher command needs real time imagery, we are going to put that aircraft on station overhead as an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platform collecting the live time imagery and pushing it back for information,” said Caniglia,

He explained how the helicopters uses

FLIR® thermal heat sensors to view bodies within the rubble pile.

“We have folks on the ground working through the debris and rubble from the destruction and if we see victims with the heat sensor, we can guide the ground guys to find the victims,” said Caniglia.

Working closely with a division as well as supporting local first responders keeps the Lakota teams motivated while doing the job they love.

“They have been worked really hard,” said Caniglia. “We are in the field, temperatures have been extremely hot, but the crews’ enthusiasm has been extremely high because they are doing the jobs that we train to do all year round, and now we get to execute those missions.”

Firefighters, engineers practice their rope-handling skills

By Spc. Anna Laurin

105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Not all military training is for a direct company mission, which is exactly what type of training the Soldiers of the Nebraska Army National Guard were doing in an extraction drill during Vigilant Guard 2014, an exercise hosted by Kansas at Crisis City, Salina, Aug. 4-7.

The 632nd Vertical Engineer Company assembled teams to practice their rope-handling skills in a drill to prepare the Soldiers for a real disaster.

“Our exercise today was to extract three victims out of an elevator shaft,” said Sgt. John Langley, carpentry and masonry specialist, 632nd Vertical Engineer Company of the Nebraska Army National Guard, and team leader for the mission. “We were focused on how to hook up a proper rope system to successfully rescue victims.”

Handling ropes and rescuing civilians is not a common opportunity for all members of the 632nd Vertical Eng. Co.

“We only do this type of training two or three times a year,” said Langley. “Practic-

ing with the ropes on the drill floor and tying knots was a lot of the preparation we did for this exercise.”

The teams are made up of different elements, such as firefighters attached to the engineers to assist during these exercises and actual emergency situations.

“They practice handling the ropes a lot more than we do,” said Langley. “They are more proficient.”

Although not all of the Soldiers work with rescue skills on a first-line mission, they understand how important the training is.

“Becoming more proficient in our search and extraction skills is very important,” said Langley. “It’s our job stateside and when we come out here to train we just get better and better at it.”

Overall, the mission was a success and the team leader was very happy with the teamwork his Soldiers put forth.

“The team did great,” said Langley. “The teamwork was fantastic. Everyone worked together and had great communication. This was probably one of the best rope missions I’ve been on.”



A UH-72 Lakota helicopter from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Security and Support Battalion, 376th Aviation Regiment, Nebraska National Guard, takes off to fly over Vigilant Guard 2014, hosted by the Kansas National Guard at Crisis City, Salina, Aug. 4-7. The Lakota helicopters collected real-time imagery of a selected location and sent it back to a command that requested the data. (Photo by Spc. Anna Laurin, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Canine Search and Rescue: Man’s best friend training to save lives

By 1st Lt. Margaret Ziffer

105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

When disaster hits and people go missing, search and rescue teams could use an extra hand, or in this case, an extra nose.

Heather Jones, handler and training coordinator, talked enthusiastically about her work over the sound of barking dogs. Behind her, Taryn, a 10-month-old Labrador retriever, was anxious to get to work.

Jones and Taryn are members of the Kansas Search and Rescue Dog Association/Kansas Task Force K-9 Unit, a non-profit organization comprised of volunteers

dedicated to the search and rescue of missing persons. The handlers and their K-9s are located across Kansas. They provide highly trained canine search and rescue services to local response agencies across Kansas. They came to Crisis City, Salina, to train as part of Kansas’ multi-agency emergency preparedness exercise, Vigilant Guard 2014, hosted by the Kansas National Guard, Aug. 4-7.

Even though they are volunteers, sometimes handlers can put in 20, 30 or even 40 hours a week to train with their dogs.

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Sgt. Dave Hampton, plumber with the 632nd Vertical Engineer Company, Nebraska Army National Guard, is hoisted from an elevator shaft after rescuing a “victim” during Vigilant Guard 2014, a joint exercise hosted by Kansas at Crisis City, Salina, Aug. 4. (Photo by Spc. Anna Laurin, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



Taryn, a 10-month-old Labrador retriever, training as a member of the Kansas Task Force K9 Puppy Program, isn’t hindered by uneven footing as she searches for casualties as part of Vigilant Guard 2014, Aug. 5, 2014. Vigilant Guard is a multi-state emergency response exercise hosted by Kansas at Crisis City, Salina, Kansas. (Photo by 1st Lt. Margaret Ziffer, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Henry receives command of 2nd Battalion, 235th Regiment

Lt. Col. Scott Henry took command of the Kansas Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion (Modular Training Battalion), 235th Regiment during a change of command ceremony June 7 at the Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina. During the ceremony, Lt. Col. Douglas A. Hinkley turned over command to Henry.

Col. Judith Martin, commander of the 235th Regiment, presided over the ceremony.

"Lieutenant Colonel Hinkley has done an outstanding job over the last four years as the Modular Training Battalion commander at the Kansas Regional Training Center," said Martin. "Lieutenant Colonel Hinkley has balanced personnel challenges, never-ending accreditation assessment standard changes, budget fluctuations and high operational tempo to realize the superlative achievements."

"Lieutenant Colonel Henry is no stranger to hard work and challenges," said Martin. "He has done an outstanding job as the regiment deputy commander. Lieutenant Colonel Henry's ability to quickly understand the standards, refocus and organize the team was central to the regiment's earning the Learning Institution of Excellence in 2011."

During the ceremony, Hinkley was presented with a Meritorious Service Medal.

Lt. Col. Scott Henry

Lt. Col. Scott T. Henry currently serves as the deputy commander of the 235th Regiment, Salina. Previous assignments include senior intelligence officer, Joint Forces Headquarters; Work Force Support branch chief, Joint Forces Headquarters; commander, 73rd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction); deputy commander, 73rd Civil Support Team; and commander, 35th Military Police Company, 35th Infantry Division. He has also served in various staff positions, including intelligence collection manager for the 35th



Lt. Col. Scott Henry



Lt. Col. Douglas Hinkley passes the guidon of the 2nd Battalion, 235th Regiment to Col. Judith Martin, regimental commander, to signify he is relinquishing the battalion command. Martin subsequently passed the guidon to Lt. Col. Scott Henry to invest command authority with him. (Photo provided)

Infantry Division, Fort Leavenworth.

Henry deployed for the National Intelligence Agency, Central Command Forward Headquarters, to Doha, Qatar, where he performed intelligence missions and managed a forward logistics site.

Henry enlisted in the Army in 1984, and served as a military policeman in Leavenworth. He earned a commission through the Western Illinois University ROTC program in 1992. His military education includes the Military Intelligence, Officer Basic and Advanced Courses at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. He attended the Combined Arms and Services Staff School and Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth for the intermediate level education and various courses in emergency incident management.

Henry's awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with two oak

leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Nation Defense Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

His civilian education includes a Bachelor of Science in law enforcement administration from Western Illinois University, and a Master of Arts in management and leadership from Webster University.

Henry and his wife, Michele, have two children, Allyson and Hannah.

Lt. Col. Douglas A. Hinkley

Lt. Col. Douglas A. Hinkley joined the Army in 1983, where he served in the Utah Army National Guard as an enlisted soldier and noncommissioned officer. In 1990, he was commissioned from the California Military Academy in San Luis Obispo, California. After completing the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course as the distinguished graduate, he returned and served in various positions within the California, New York,

and Kansas Army National Guard, including the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery as operations officer and battery commander.

In 2003, he deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as the battalion executive officer for the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery. In 2005 and 2006, he served as operations officer in the Army Operations Center in the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

Hinkley has served in numerous other positions, including battery and battalion fire direction officer, battery executive officer, battalion logistics officer, operations officer for the 130th Field Artillery Brigade, chief of Operations and chief of Plans for the 35th Infantry Division, Fort Leavenworth, and battalion commander of the 2nd Battalion, 235th Modular Training Battalion, Salina.

Hinkley's military education includes Army Battle Skills Course, TAC Officer School, Field Artillery Officer Basic and Advance Courses, Pre-Command Course, the Combined Arms Services and Staff School, and the Command and General Staff Officers Course. He will graduate from the U.S. Army War College in July 2014. His civilian education includes a bachelor's degree in engineering from Utah State University, master's of business administration from the University of Phoenix and a master's in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College and numerous other civilian and military courses.

His military awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with silver oak leaf cluster, the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Army Staff Badge.

Hinkley and his wife, Claire, live in Colorado, where he is director of operations and quality at GPS Source and Claire is a school teacher. They have three children, Spencer, 20; Hunter, 18; and Skyler, 16.

Topeka Eagle Squadron conducts missing person exercise

By CAP Maj. Michael H. Mathewson
Kansas Wing Public Affairs Officer

One of the emergency services performed by the Civil Air Patrol is searching for missing persons. The Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron conducted a missing person exercise June 16 on the grounds of the State De-

fense Building complex, Topeka.

The squadron commander started the telephone recall list at 3 p.m. The only information they had was that the squadron would be assisting the Topeka Police Department in the search for a missing toddler. By 7 p.m., the squadron members had

formed at Nickell Armory.

As squadron members arrived, Ron Hollar and Mark Hilt, middle school resource officers with the Topeka Police Department, were already interviewing the missing child's grandparents who were the last ones to see the child, Michelle Jo Angel, 18 months, in this exercise played by a doll. The grandparents were played by Larry Lang and Katie Wallentine. Lang and Wallentine are members of the Senior Class, an improvisational group with the Topeka Civic Theater and Academy. They used their improv skills to develop and expand the story line driving the exercise.

"I just went with what popped into my head," said Lang. "The police officers went right along with whatever I said. The way things were going, I thought that I was going to be arrested."

CAP Maj. Henry Hickey, Topeka, Kan., incident commander for the exercise, took charge of the squadron members and conferred with Hollar and Hilt. Based on the information the officers provided, Hickey briefed the squadron. Then, working with Senior Member Greg Miles, exercise Ground Branch director, they developed search areas and formed ground search teams. CAP 1st Lt. Thomas Cowin established and ran the communications network that kept the search teams in radio contact with mission base.

As the ground teams started their search, two additional witnesses came forward. Senior Member Jayne Pugh, and a short time later Abby Phillips, daughter of CAP Capt. Bryan Phillips, provided eyewitness statements that conflicted with each other

and the grandparents' stories. This information forced Hickey and Miles to readjust their search areas.

"This was fun," said Abby Phillips, "The officers wanted my identification and then I told them where I had seen a child. It just happened to be in the opposite direction that they were looking."

With all this going on, three journalism students from Washburn University's Washburn Review arrived at mission base. Editor-in-Chief Jennifer Lauber, Jacquelyn Savage and Adam Vlach were there to cover the story and interview as many people as they could. Cadet/2nd Lt. Katie Mazos, the squadron's public information officer, provided them with official information and to keep them from interfering with the conduct of the search.

"This was a great experience outside of the classroom," said Lauber. "There was so much professional activity, it felt like a real event."

"This was the first time that I had to work with the press," said Mazos. "Before this, the most that I have done as PIO is take pictures. This was hard and fun at the same time."

Around 8 p.m., one hour after the squadron had arrived, the first clue was found. A shoe matching one worn by Angel was beside a tree. Mistakenly, one of the round team members picked up the shoe. Arriving on the scene, Hollar and Hilt explained that the shoe should have been left where it was and the area protected until the forensics team arrived.

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Topeka Police Officers Mark Hilt (gesturing), Jardine Middle School School Resource Officer and Ron Hollar, Robinson Middle School Resource Officer brief Civil Air Patrol ground team members on what to do and not do on finding a clue during a search. The officers assisted the members of the Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron in a search and rescue exercise conducted on the grounds of the State Defense Building complex June 16. (Photo by CAP Maj. Michael H. Mathewson, Kansas Wing Public Affairs Officer)



Workshop focuses on public information needs during a crisis

By Sharon Watson
Public Affairs Office

When an emergency happens, getting important safety information to the public is primarily the responsibility of public information officers for first responders and emergency management agencies. Unfortunately, sometimes the constant demand for information in a crisis is greater than available staff can manage and states must reach out for public information help through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

A two-day workshop in Memphis, Tennessee, this summer brought together state EMAC coordinators and state emergency management public information officers to determine how to better address the needs for more public information staffing and resources during a crisis. The July 28-29 event was sponsored by the National Emer-

gency Management Association and focused on providing attendees with a better understanding of the EMAC process and the development of mission ready packages, or MRPs, for public information needs.

An MRP is a complete packaged resource ready for deployment that other states can request in an emergency through the EMAC process. These have been developed for a variety of needs in emergency management, but not many exist across the country for public information staff or resources.

Several states, including Kansas, have provided public information officers to other states in emergencies through EMAC, but without developing an MRP for the PIOs. Kansas provided two PIOs to Oklahoma during the Moore tornado in 2013 and two teams of PIOs from Kansas were sent to Alabama during the tornado

outbreak of 2012. During the workshop, a panel of state emergency management PIOs talked about the support they provided and received for events ranging from floods to ice storms to tornado responses.

"We've been fortunate in Kansas to be able to assist our emergency management partners in other states with public information support including media relations, community relations and social media," said Angee Morgan, deputy director of Kansas Division of Emergency Management. "This workshop is helping to get us all on the same page regarding public information resources and how to best work together to deploy those during an emergency."

Emergency management personnel discussed the benefits of an MRP for public information resources, one of which is to provide the requesting states with better information on the specific resources they are going to receive. It also allows states to see in advance of a crisis the specific PIO resources available across the country for public information needs.

A significant part of the workshop was spent determining the best way to identify the various skill sets of public information officers and identifying what resource type those skills fall into. Resource typing has been used for several years in emergency response efforts and is a way to specify ex-

actly what skills or capabilities are available in a deploying resource or person. Currently, there is only one resource type identified for public information officers, a type III, which represents the minimum capabilities needed and is the least of three typing categories.

"By defining the skills needed to be a resource type I or type II public information officer, emergency management personnel will know exactly what skills, experience and qualifications the person possesses when they request them or send them to a disaster scene," said Jonathan York, Kansas Division of Emergency Management EMAC coordinator. "This information is critical to states asking for specific public information help, as well as for those states sending PIO help. We all want to make sure the person deploying to do a job has the right skills to succeed and help another state through its emergency."

"Public information officer skills can vary significantly," York noted, "from writing news releases, conducting news interviews, updating social media and websites, to assisting with setting up community meetings. That's why it's important for us to define the skills each type of public information officer has and determine the PIO resources each state has to improve

(Continued on Page 14)



Keli Cain, public information officer with Oklahoma Emergency Management, briefs her peers during the Emergency Management Assistance Compact/Public Information Officer Workshop in Memphis, Tennessee, July 28-29. State EMAC coordinators and PIOs met to discuss best practices for deploying PIO resources to other states during emergencies. (Photo provided by NEMA)

Ceremonial platoon

Continued from Page 6

manded perfection because each event meant so much," he said.

Visibility of the ceremonial platoon increased with each ceremony performed, with some members even appearing in the 1993 TV movie, "A Matter of Justice," starring Martin Sheen.

"We were pretty high brow by that point," Seats joked. "We were used in government commercials and performed at Kansas City Chiefs and Kansas City Royals games."

Along with local ceremonies, the GAGCP had the opportunity to perform in a ceremony for Kansan Medal of Honor recipients at Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin.

There was also a trip to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in 1999, accompanied by former Kansas Governor Bill Graves and former adjutant general retired Maj. Gen. Greg Gardner, along with five Kansas veterans

who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor, to lay a ceremonial wreath on the U.S.S. Arizona in remembrance of the Kansans and Americans who died there Dec. 7, 1941.

Demand for the platoon's services grew so great within the state, that Seats and tenured members began training other KSNG units to conduct their own funeral ceremonies for their fallen Soldiers and veterans.

Perry said that, while never officially disbanded, the GAGCP ultimately fizzled out due to overseas deployments of members and the formation of the Funeral Honors team.

The ceremonial platoon has reunited for several missions, mostly the funerals of relatives of the ceremonial team, said Perry.

Their memory lives on though, in photos, videos and especially among those who served.

"It was the highlight of my life," said Seats.

CAP missing person exercise

Continued from Page 12

About 15 minutes later, a second shoe was found. This time, after radioing mission base, no one approached the clue until Hollar and Hilt told them it was all right to do so. Although the ground team found the shoe, they had missed the stuffed cat toy that Angel had dropped between losing her shoes.

With two clues found, the other search team was moved from its search area to support the first. The two teams moved out together, locating Angel sleeping under a bush.

Normally, a medical and forensics team would have responded. However, with the find, the exercise was ended. It had taken the squadron a little over 90 minutes from when the first member walked into mission base to the discovery of Angel.

"This was one of the most realistic exercises that I have been on," said Hickey. "This is the first time that I have worked with agencies outside of the Civil Air Patrol. I do believe that what we did tonight was realistic."

Volunteers share preparedness knowledge at annual summit

By Michael H. Mathewson
Kansas Division of Emergency Management

The spirit of volunteerism was shown as more than 200 volunteers attended the sixth annual Kansas Preparedness Summit at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka, July 25-26. The summit was hosted in partnership by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Kansas Citizen Corps, Kansas State Animal Response Team and Kansas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.

The summit was open to the public and created to offer valuable knowledge and training to citizens, emergency management professionals and volunteers, Citizen Corps groups, Medical Reserve Corps, and animal response volunteers. In addition to the two daily general sessions, there were 39 breakout sessions covering a wide range of subjects such as Long-Term Community Recovery: What I Wish I Would Have Known; Gardening for Food Storage Preparedness; and Preparedness for the Whole Family: Prepare Your Pets Today.

"This is an opportunity for volunteers from various agencies and organizations to come together and share ideas," said Bob Stamey, Kansas Citizen Corps coordinator. "A disaster is not the time for volunteers to meet each other for the first time."

Over the six years that the summit has been conducted, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management has made efforts to make the summit available to more individuals by offering lodging to individuals traveling to the summit, offering sessions at no cost, and offering the summit in varying locations such as Salina, Topeka and Wichita.

"Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters are key to any community in the event of a disaster no matter what size or scope," said Devan Tucking-Strickler, KDEM Human Services officer. "Training and networking opportunities such as the summit greatly benefit future response and recovery coordination among these agencies."



Attendees of the Kansas Preparedness Summit receive their badges and welcome packet from members the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. The summit, conducted at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka, July 25 and 26, brought together volunteers to share new ideas in disaster preparedness. (Photo by Michael H. Mathewson, Kansas Division of Emergency Management)

Misplaced Medal of Honor donated to Kansas National Guard museum

A Medal of Honor was donated to the Museum of the Kansas National Guard during a presentation Aug. 29 as part of the Vietnam Traveling Wall on exhibit there Aug. 28-31.

The Medal of Honor – the highest award a military member can receive – was awarded to Kansas native 1st Lt. William B. Trembley in 1899 for his act of valor while serving with the 20th Kansas Volunteer Regiment in the Philippine campaign of the Spanish-American War. The medal had gone missing until recently discovered in a dresser drawer by a Leavenworth woman.

Distant relatives of Trembley were notified of the discovery and decided to donate the medal to the museum. Retired Col. Donald Ballard, a Medal of Honor recipient



1st Lt. William B. Trembley

and former Kansas National Guardsman, officially presented Trembley's medal to the museum.

"Colonel Ballard convinced the family that the museum here is the best place for this artifact of Kansas military history," said retired Command Sgt. Maj. Jack Elliott, former state command sergeant major of the Kansas Army National Guard and volunteer at the museum.

Ballard earned his Medal of Honor for courageous actions during the Vietnam War. Ballard and Trembley share another distinction: both men are inductees into the Museum of the Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame.

According to the 1902 award citation, Trembley "...swam the Rio Grande de Pampanga in face of the enemy's fire and fastened a rope to the occupied trenches, thereby enabling the crossing of the river and the driving of the enemy from his fortified position."

Information on Trembley can be found at <http://www.kansasguardmuseum.org/disphof.php?id=8>

Awards and Decorations

KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Legion of Merit



Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Col. Barry L. Adams, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Maj. Sean Linn, HHC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola
Chief Warrant Officer 4 Armon Pollack, Det. 37, OSACOM, Topeka

Meritorious Service Medal



Col. John Campbell, 635th RSG, Hutchinson, with three oak leaf clusters
Col. Clinton Moyer, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
Col. Roger Murdock, HHD, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with four oak leaf clusters
Lt. Col. Douglas Hinkley, 2nd Bn, 235th Regt, Salina, with two oak leaf clusters
Lt. Col. Barry Manley, 69th TC, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
Capt. Ryan Peters, 73rd CST, Topeka
Chief Warrant Officer 2 William Davis, HHD 69th Troop Command, Topeka
Command Sgt. Maj. Harold Whitley, 69th TC, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
Sgt. Maj. Christopher Kuti, HHD, 69th TC, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster
Master Sgt. Dwayne Burgoon, Counterdrug Task Force, Topeka
Master Sgt. Stephen Finch, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
Master Sgt. Michael Riblett, Counterdrug Task Force, Topeka
Master Sgt. Montie Stewart, 635th RSG, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Harry, HHC, 169th CSSB, Olathe
Sgt. 1st Class David Johnson, Rec & Ret Bn, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class John Karr, FSC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola
Staff Sgt. Christopher Dix, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Melvin Eubanks, FSC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola, with oak leaf cluster
Staff Sgt. Peleula Maiava, Det 1, 778th Trans Co, Manhattan
Staff Sgt. Gary Merrick, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Elisa Montoya, HHC, 287th SB, Wichita
Staff Sgt. Joshua Moore, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lenexa
Staff Sgt. David Newacheck, 287th STB, Hays

Army Commendation Medal



Capt. Jonathon Wood, 105th MPAD, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
1st Lt. Benjamin Moore, Rec & Ret Bn, Topeka
1st Sgt. Timothy Prine, Counterdrug Task Force, Topeka, with three oak leaf clusters
1st Sgt. Matthew Rubin, Counterdrug Task Force, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster
Master Sgt. Mack Beatty, Counterdrug Task Force, Topeka
Master Sgt. Jared Nickel, Counterdrug Task Force, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Chad Allen, Rec & Ret Bn, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Shelly Mann, Counterdrug Task Force, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster
Staff Sgt. Christopher Benjamin, Counterdrug Task Force, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
Staff Sgt. Michael Brent, Counterdrug Task Force, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Samuel Lyle, 35th ID Band, Olathe
Sgt. Aaron Jones, 35th ID Band, Olathe, with oak leaf cluster
Sgt. Dru Swann, Counterdrug Task Force, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
Tech. Sgt. Dorothy Henry, Counterdrug Task Force, Topeka

Army Achievement Medal



Sgt. Sarah Cowell, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster
Sgt. Johanna Forgy, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with three oak leaf clusters
Sgt. Dustin Furrey, Counterdrug Task Force, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
Spc. Kenneth Nichols Jr., JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Meritorious Service Medal



Lt. Col. Stephen Mizak, 184th IW, Wichita, with two oak leaf clusters
Lt. Col. Brian Riniker, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster
Lt. Col. Eric Schoenberg, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster

Lt. Col. Steven Shook, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
Maj. Matthew Franke, 184th IW, Wichita, with two oak leaf clusters
Maj. Michael Hagerty, 184th IW, Wichita
Maj. Nancy Harper, 190th ARW, Topeka
Maj. Shawn Jones, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
Maj. Brian Pacchelli, 184th IW, Wichita
Capt. Jeremy Cook, 184th IW, Wichita
Senior Master Sgt. Paul Arnold, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
Senior Master Sgt. Keith Daley, 184th IW, Wichita, with four oak leaf clusters
Master Sgt. Shad England, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Fredric Johnson, 184th IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. Andrew Nelson, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Robert Ogan, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Basil Pepper, 184th IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. Deborah Selby, 190th ARW, Topeka
Tech. Sgt. Charles Anderson, 190th ARW, Topeka

Air Force Commendation Medal



Lt. Col. Christopher Gnagi, 190th ARW, Topeka, with four oak leaf clusters
Maj. Jeremy Brandt, 190th ARW, Topeka
Maj. Kevin Cline, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster
Senior Master Sgt. Dena Swisher, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster
Master Sgt. Jennifer Bjerken, 184th IW, Wichita, with two oak leaf clusters
Master Sgt. Richard Longberg, 184th IW, Wichita, with two oak leaf clusters
Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Conary, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
Tech. Sgt. Edmund Gutierrez, 190th ARW, Topeka
Tech. Sgt. Christopher Schulte, 184th IW, Wichita
Tech. Sgt. Tiffany Smith, 184th IW, Wichita
Tech. Sgt. Heath Wilson, 184th IW, Wichita
Staff Sgt. Vincent Casper, 184th IW, Wichita
Staff Sgt. William Davis, 184th IW, Wichita
Staff Sgt. Abigail Smith, 184th IW, Wichita

Air Force Achievement Medal



Lt. Col. Eric Schoenberg, 190th ARW, Topeka
Maj. Amy Blow, 190th ARW, Topeka, with three oak leaf clusters
Maj. Allison Proctor, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
Capt. Mark Dixon, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster
Capt. Bradley Rees, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster
2nd Lt. Aaron Farris, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
Chief Master Sgt. Denise Montgomery, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Norman Foster, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Matthew Rollins, 184th IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. Eric Smith, 184th IW, Wichita, with three oak leaf clusters
Master Sgt. Marla Urban, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
Tech. Sgt. Elana Bupp, 184th IW, Wichita
Tech. Sgt. Chris Guild, 184th IW, Wichita, with two oak leaf clusters
Tech. Sgt. Andrew McGhee, 184th IW, Wichita
Tech. Sgt. Jake Meyer, 190th ARW, Topeka
Tech. Sgt. Ryan Miller, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster
Tech. Sgt. Gabriel Moulden, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster
Tech. Sgt. Graham Moulden, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster
Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Neal, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
Tech. Sgt. Dustin Pieschl, 190th ARW, Topeka
Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Price, 184th IW, Wichita
Tech. Sgt. Alex Raveling, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Schneider, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
Tech. Sgt. Tiffany Smith, 184th IW, Wichita
Staff Sgt. Andrew Appelhans, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
Staff Sgt. Heather Bolden, 184th IW, Wichita
Staff Sgt. Keri Christian, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
Staff Sgt. Benjamin Hanke, 190th ARW, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Jerling Hidalgo Mendez, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
Staff Sgt. Mary Remboldt, 190th ARW, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Matthieu Statler, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
Senior Airman Shawn Allen, 190th ARW, Topeka
Airman First Class Maria Garcia, 190th ARW, Topeka
Airman First Class Joshua Jenkins, 184th IW, Wichita
Airman First Class Routh Taylor, 190th ARW, Topeka

Retirements

Kansas Army National Guard

Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Col. Barry Adams, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Lt. Col. Andy Price, KSARNG Med Det, Lenexa
Sgt. Maj. Gary Peterman, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita
1st Sgt. Richard Heuertz, 369th BSC, Kansas City
Master Sgt. Montie Stewart, HHD, 635th RSG, Hutchinson
Sgt. 1st Class Darryl Blocker, Det 1, 170th Maint Co, Colby
Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Carriger, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg
Sgt. 1st Class Norman Doughty, HHD, 635th RSG, Hutchinson
Sgt. 1st Class David Johnson, Det 1, Rec & Ret Bn, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Julie Kempel, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Gene McCreight HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita
Sgt. 1st Class Aimee Plankinton, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th MPAD, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Markus Chamberlin, 226th (-) Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Christopher Day, Det 1, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Foston, HHC, 169th CSSB, Olathe
Staff Sgt. Samuel Lyle, 35th ID Band, Olathe

Staff Sgt. Gary Merrick, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Edward Nearing Jr., Det 1, 778th Trans Co, Manhattan
Staff Sgt. James Veasey, Det 2, 731st Trans Co, Liberal
Sgt. Marvin Bunting, 778th Trans Co (-), Kansas City
Sgt. Jennifer Butler, HQ, 235th Rgmt (RTI), Salina
Sgt. Jack Elliston, HHC (-), 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
Sgt. Richard Freel Jr., 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville
Sgt. Michael Hensley, Det 1, 778th Trans Co, Manhattan
Sgt. William Levitt, Btry A (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Holton
Sgt. Chuck Lowe, HHB (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha
Sgt. Michael Mann, HSC (-), 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth
Sgt. Charles Quigley, Ops CO (-), 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth
Sgt. James Schildman, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Edward Wheeler, Det 3, 731st Trans Co, Hays
Spc. Koi Law, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson
Spc. Christopher Voeller, Det 1, 1161st FSC, Pratt
Pvt. 2 James Scott Jr., Det 1, 137th Trans Co, Topeka

Kansas Air National Guard

Lt. Col. Steve Shook, 184th IW, Wichita
Senior Master Sgt. Amy Buchanan, 184th IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. Jennifer Allen, 184th IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. Karl Herken, 190th ARW, Topeka

Canine Search and Rescue

Continued from Page 11

"We call it our unpaid job," joked the team members.

Jones and her own dog, a Dutch shepherd named Brock, are both seasoned volunteers. They were called up five times in 2011 alone for real search and rescue missions. At five-years-old, Jones says Brock has already experienced more real-life searches than most dogs will see in a full career lasting 10 to 12 years.

"[The dogs] wouldn't do it if they didn't love it," Jones said. "What we ask them to do is hard and it's scary. We fly them in helicopters, put them on ropes, all sorts of crazy stuff. I've been in buildings that are still partially on fire ... it's scary. They enjoy getting called out, they get excited. Mostly, they do it for a paycheck, which, for all the dogs here today, is a toy."

Volunteer victim role players in the exercise are instructed to hide with a toy and wait to be found. The dog has to bark 5 - 6 times upon discovery of a victim in order to alert the handler. Then, the dog gets a few minutes of play time as a reward, according to Jones. The dogs stay motivated to search because they are trained to assume that every person on the pile, whether it's a simulation, a practice or an actual disaster, will have a toy.

As Daisy excitedly combs the pallets for mock victims, Dave Meek, a volunteer dog handler with the Kansas Task Force K-9 Unit, remains perched atop the mound of pallets. Acting as the training exercise safety specialist, he provided oversight of the entire training area.

He emphasized the importance of having someone "to monitor the condition of the area we're searching with the canines. That person can sometimes see the dog when the handler can't."

Meek has been with the organization for more than 20 years helping train dogs to become certified in wilderness and disaster

"[The dogs] wouldn't do it if they didn't love it... They enjoy getting called out, they get excited.

*Heather Jones
Kansas Search and
Rescue Dog Association*

searches. Meek and his newest partner, Wiley, a three-year-old border collie, are working to get certified on collapsed structures by the end of the year.

One of the challenges the volunteer-based organization faces is numbers, said Jones.

"The hard thing for us is we currently have five operational dogs on our team," she said. "Hopefully, we will be adding a few more to the ranks here quickly, but there are a gazillion guys who are tech search [certified], so they are bringing in fresh crews constantly. These guys, the dogs, it's not uncommon for them to work 16-18 hours per day. They are a limited resource."

Though they only participate in joint-agency training opportunities like Vigilant Guard once or twice a year, the canine unit tries to conduct training exercises at Crisis City every four to six weeks on their own.

Last May, the Kansas Search and Rescue Dog Association/Kansas Task Force K-9 Unit hosted an open training event at Crisis City, which received participation from volunteers and FEMA units from six states. They plan to host another training event incorporating the New York Police Department and several more states in November.

Because training facilities like Crisis City provide a realistic training environment, interest in the facility has been growing, and K-9 units are helping raise awareness.

As far as joint training with National Guard units, Jones said, "we'd like to do more of it. [National Guard] guys are always there and are a great resource for us."

Security forces team up

Continued from Page 7

this," Ward said. "It's one thing to talk about what you would do in a classroom. Getting out and doing it is another thing. Experiencing the initial confusion is discombobulating, but it is an adrenaline rush."

Master Sgt. Jared Nickel, team lead with the 184th, believes that getting those initial jitters out of the way and ironing out the wrinkles of working in a joint training en-

vironment is a great benefit.

"Integration with their Army counterparts is a new experience for a lot of the younger Airmen," said Nickel, an 18-year security forces veteran. "This training is invaluable in preparing the troops in an actual training area, as opposed to learning in a classroom environment, and increases our potential and preparedness immensely in responding to an actual emergency."

Public information workshop

Continued from Page 13

our EMAC process for future disaster response efforts."

NEMA's PIO subcommittee members are continuing to further develop the definitions of the PIO resource types dis-

cussed at the workshop and they are encouraging states to develop MRPs for PIO resources. This will help to ensure all state emergency managers know what PIO resources are available to them in a disaster through EMAC.

Your P@\$\$w0Rd protects you

By Chief Warrant Officer 3 Scott Sackrider
Cybersecurity Office

It seems every site requires a password, personal identification number, security question, account number, or a combination to prove one's identity.

What trips up most people is that different sites require different standards in passcodes such as multiple uppercase letters or a certain number of special characters. This makes it difficult for most people to remember what password goes to what site.

It's recommended you use separate passwords depending on security level. For social sites, where your identity isn't as important as a banking or commerce site, a strong password isn't as necessary. Some people only use four or five passwords, depending on the information they want to protect.

One good way to remember a password is to create a phrase, so there needs to be only one word that reminds you of the entire password. For example, you could use animals and the number of legs they possess. For the example of a cat, the password would be "ACathas2+2legs!". This password has 15 characters, and contains all the usual requirements. Changing the keyword and its associated leg count changes the entire password (a computer cannot distinguish between passwords that are somewhat close). To change the key word to a fish, the password becomes "AFishhas0+0legs!". You can rotate through animals (or furniture, or anything that has legs).

For banking, commerce, and sites that require high security, ensure you set your web browser to never remember your password. Also, never keep your passwords on

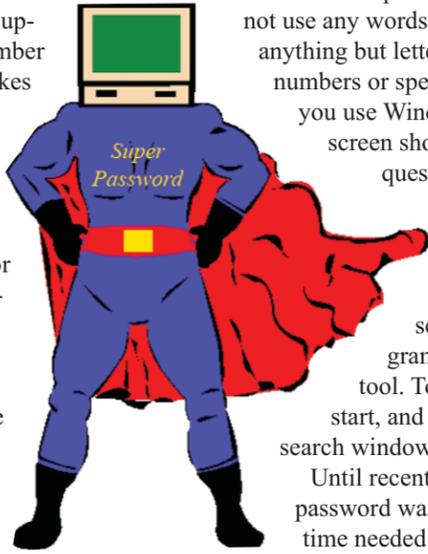
a file on your computer, in case it's stolen. After visiting a secure website, ensure you log off and close your browser before going to any other web sites. This ensures the secure session is closed and your credentials are not still in memory.

As for security questions, it's good practice to never capitalize words and do not use any words or phrases with anything but letters (no spaces, numbers or special characters). If you use Windows, take a screen shot of the security question page, physically print it out, and keep it for reference. Windows has a screen capture program called a snipping tool. To access it, click start, and type "snip" in the search window.

Until recently, the longer the password was meant the more time needed to hack. This is now only true for passwords longer than 14 characters. There are programs hackers utilize which can break a password under 15 characters within 20 minutes.

When creating a PIN, do not use easily guessed numbers (1234, 1111). Using keyboard pattern (7410, 8520) provides medium protection, but for information that needs to be secured the best practice is using a PIN that is random. Again, don't keep your PIN on a file on the computer.

Many sites will require you to change your password depending on their policies. The usual lifetime for a password is 60-90 days. And always remember: If you receive an email from a site notifying you of an action that is required, do *not* click on any links in the email. This tactic is used frequently by hackers to give up your information. Instead, visit the website directly.



Realistic conditions

Continued from Page 9

rigging class in Oklahoma City and this allows them to put that to use."

This particular exercise focused on confined space rescue.

"Confined space rescue is one of the most realistic situations that we might have to do in an actual CERFP event," said Staff Sgt. Reggie Barent, search and extraction second team squad leader, firefighting team, Nebraska National Guard CERFP. "Anytime someone gets below grade, there's a good chance the air quality is not good, so we need to make sure we monitor that when we are working to get someone

down there to them."

The rescue team must learn how to set up a stable tripod atop a very unstable surface when lowering a rescuer into the confined space. One misstep and the rescuer becomes the next victim.

"The more training that we do, the better it will allow us to respond to an actual event," said Barent. "When things go bad, you always fall back on the training that you've had."

"It's a great training venue, and anytime we get to come out here to use our training equipment we only get better," concluded Barent.

Emergency response operations move into the "Final Frontier"

Continued from Page 9

flooded or this bridge would be under water," said Bishop.

During the exercise, planners were asking for specific locations of service members and trying to determine which areas could safely be managed by local emergency responders and which areas needed Guardsmen deployed to support the hardest hit areas. The benefit of using space technologies, according to Capt. Kevin Trabert, team leader for ASST 30, is that information can be provided quickly from a safe location.

In addition to the flooding, the team was able to analyze a simulated plume from a leak at a chemical plant and show areas directly affected and in need of evacuation.

The information and products the ASST provided enhanced the areas of the exercise that were more difficult to simulate.

"There is no real way to simulate what a destroyed city is going to look like from a tornado unless we use an example from re-

cent history," said Trabert. "So the way we've been kind of doing that is with a lot of extras on the map to make it look like the areas are damaged to try to bring some of that exercise to the real world.

"In Colorado, we supported the Black Forest fire last summer, which was a very large fire on the outskirts of Colorado Springs," said Trabert.

Trabert said the fire caused one of the largest evacuations in Colorado history, displacing almost 30,000 at one point. ASST 30 was able to provide imagery of the fire and used satellite sensors to pick up heat energy to show exactly where the fire was. They were also able to integrate that with the Blue Force Tracking system military forces use overseas to track emergency responders.

"We really appreciate using the ASST," said Bishop. "They were a huge asset during Vigilant Guard, bringing with them the experience of having already responded in that role to other domestic emergencies."

Explore your options for Federal Tuition Assistance

By Brad Jacobs

Education Services Specialist

Many changes have plagued the Federal Tuition Assistance program due to budget constraints and limited resources, but the program is still strong and can greatly benefit your education goals for the future.

Capt. Warth outlined the Post 9/11 GI Bill in the April Plains Guardian. If you missed the article, you can find all the details at http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911_gibill.asp. The program requires active duty time (or a deployment) to be eligible and this program can greatly benefit your education or that of your dependents. Ensure you look at the rules and guidelines before separating in any capacity.

There are program changes that became effective Jan. 1, 2014, governing FTA. The highlights you need to be aware of:

- FTA will pay for 16 semester hours, up to \$250/hr for a total of \$4,000 per fiscal year (change from \$4,500)
- Undergraduate degrees require "C" or better (change from "D" or better)
- Advanced degrees require "B" or better (change from "C" or better)
- FTA will no longer pay for fees previously covered

You'll notice immediately that you cannot be a full-time student and use FTA to pay the bills. This is the nature of the program. It's meant to supplement the part-time education needs of a service member. Also, you have to keep on top of your studies or you will be dropped.

Do you qualify? Check the list below:

- You have to complete one year of service after graduation from Advanced Individual Training, Warrant Officer Basic Course, or Basic Officer Leaders Course (or have prior active duty service fulfilling this requirement).
- You must have 10 years of service to use FTA for a master's degree if you used Tuition Assistance for any portion of your undergraduate degree.
- You must be in a satisfactory status and have no flagging actions.

Undergraduate and graduate degrees will benefit your service, your future employment, and strengthen your résumé with the critical skills needed to get strong, salaried positions.

- If you're a commissioned officer, you will be subject to a four-year service obligation.

FTA does not cover:

- Inactive National Guard/Individual Ready Reserve Soldiers
- Recipients of Reserve Officers' Training Corps scholarships
- Professional degrees or multiple undergraduate degrees

So, with all the doom and gloom, realize that this is still a great path to achieving your educational success. Undergraduate and graduate degrees will benefit your service, your future employment, and strengthen your résumé with the critical skills needed to get strong, salaried positions. Combined with your available VA benefits (Chapter 30, Chapter 33, 1606, 1607 and Kicker), and State Tuition assistance (offered by the Kansas Board of Regents) you can still get your entire full-time schedule paid for.

It's not an automatic process and requires homework on your part. As an example, if you choose to go to the University of Saint Mary, you will likely be paying out of pocket, but work with the Education Office and we'll help you find schools that waive fees for military students, and have tuition rates matching the FTA benefits to assist those in uniform.

Explore all of your options at the Kansas National Guard Education Services website at www.kansastag.gov/nguard.asp?pageID=497. Call the Education Office for counseling and direction at (785) 274-1063.

Scholarship committee selects four

Four applicants were selected from a long list of candidates for a \$500 grant from the 635th Armor Regiment and 137th Infantry Regiment Scholarship fund.

The recipients are Corey Cochran, Topeka; Danielle Burrell, Washington; Taryn Oborny, Manhattan; and Valerie Swisher, St. Mary's.

Eligibility for scholarships is linked to honorable service of parents and/or grandparents in the following past and present military organizations.

- 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Battalions of the 137th Infantry Regiment
- 1st or 2nd Battalions of the 635th Armor Regiment
- 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment
- 635th Tank Destroyer Battalion

The scholarship program is managed by former members of the 137th Infantry and 635th Armor Regiments along with infantry and armor officer and enlisted representation from the 2-137th CAB, headquartered in Kansas City, Kansas.

This joint scholarship fund is held at the Topeka Community Foundation, which assists in managing the funds and providing donors with proper documentation for

their tax exempt donation. Scholarships have been granted over the years to a wide range of students, including descendants of World War II veterans who served in the 635th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Scholarship recipients have reflected immense appreciation for the assistance and have honored their recognition through exceptional effort in their post high school academic endeavors.

The committee, in conjunction with the Topeka Community Foundation, manages the 137th/635th Regiment Scholarship Fund. Anyone interested in donating to this scholarship may contribute via the web site, www.topeka-communityfoundation.org or mail to Topeka Community Foundation, Attn: 635th/137th Scholarship, 5431 SW 29th Street, Suite 300, Topeka, KS 66614-4486. Contributions are income tax deductible and easy to accomplish and 100 percent of the administration fees are paid by investment return or donated.

For information on the committee representatives, periodic updates on the fund or scholarship applications, contact retired Col. Robert Bloomquist at 785-234-2688 or bbloom843@aol.com

A little learning is a dangerous thing
drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring:
there shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
and drinking largely sobers us again.

Alexander Pope (1688 - 1744)
An Essay on Criticism, 1709

Medical Detachment recognized as No. 1 for Medical Readiness



A medical team from the Kansas National Guard Medical Detachment learns how to stabilize a mandible fracture. The detachment was recognized as No. 1 in the nation in medical readiness for a medium-size state at the annual Army National Guard Medical Team Conference at Camp Dawson, West Virginia. (Photo by Lt. Col. Charles Radmer)

By Capt. Laura Webb
KSARNG Medical Detachment

The Kansas National Guard Medical Detachment was recently recognized as No. 1 in the nation in medical readiness for a medium-size state. The announcement was made at the annual Army National Guard Medical Team Conference at Camp Dawson, West Virginia.

“Through the efforts of the Medical Detachment and G-1 Medical, Kansas held number one for medical readiness for 12 consecutive weeks for all 50 states and four territories and has remained in the top 10 percent for medical readiness over the past six months,” reported Col. Gordon Kuntz, commander of the detachment. “The work done by the officers and Soldiers of the Medical Detachment to meet this mission is nothing short of fantastic.”

The mission of the Kansas Medical Detachment, headquartered in Lenexa, is to plan, program, provide and sustain health force protection and medical/dental support to meet operational, training and mobilization medical readiness requirements of Army National Guard units and Soldiers.

“Medical Detachment personnel are extremely dedicated, committed and talented,” said Kuntz. “They maintain a high degree of professionalism and flexibility during Periodic Health Assessment Missions and work proficiently in a resource constrained environment. I’m very proud of the personnel assigned to and that work in support of the Medical Detachment.”

Medical readiness is directly tied with funding for medical operations within the United States. The Medical Detachment conducts PHA missions on two Fridays every month and during their monthly drill.

While medical readiness is the primary mission of the Medical Detachment, the unit members must meet the same requirements as any other Soldier in the National Guard, as well as the requirements of their individual medical specialties. The unit recently completed its annual training in Salina to conduct the exercises required and usually accomplished by other units

throughout their year-long training schedule. This training included the APFT, land navigation and weapons qualification.

New training was added to the schedule this year that was not only challenging, but entertaining, as well. One of the favorite events for the year was the litter obstacle course. During this training scenario, four-person teams extricated a victim from a roll-over vehicle accident, loaded the victim onto a medical litter and navigated an obstacle course that included two low barriers, a simulated barbed-wire field and a water obstacle which required the victim to be carried over the heads of the medical teams. The exercise was concluded by safe passage of the victim and team over a high wall barrier and a race to the finish line.

Another favorite event was supported by the 1077th Ground Ambulance Company and Company C, 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation. Teams practiced loading and unloading the ground ambulance, called in a nine-line medevac request to the aviation support and loaded fellow members of their team onto the medevac. Once loaded, the team members were flown over the training site and surrounding area.

During the same time, other teams practiced Soldier movement exercises, including navigating a danger area, movement along windows and doors, and clearing a building. The culminating event put these techniques into practice as the officers of the unit took on the enlisted personnel during a lively match of paintball in order to capture the target individual, played by Kuntz.

The final days of annual training were completed with a unit dining-in and training tailored to leadership, professional development and medical practice.

“This is the one time of the year that specific time is set aside for the unit to come together for internal training, team building and administrative business,” said Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Goza, acting first sergeant.

“This past year has provided many challenges, but I have been impressed with the growth of the personnel within the unit and the great things they have accomplished.”

Topeka Civil Air Patrol Squadron receives new aircraft

By CAP Maj. Michael H. Mathewson
Kansas Wing Public Affairs Officer.

After an almost two year absence, Topeka is once again the home base for a Civil Air Patrol aircraft. The aircraft, tail number N98175, landed at Phillip Billard Airport at June 24.

The aircraft was met by a group of CAP cadets, who saluted as the aircraft parked on the ramp. The aircraft was transferred from the Kansas City Composite Squadron to the Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron, flying in from Fremont, Nebraska, where it took part in the Civil Air Patrol’s North Central Region’s flight clinic.

“It is great that we once again have a plane in Topeka,” said CAP 1st Lt. Thomas Cowin, Topeka Eagle Squadron pilot. “It has been too long since we had one.”

Now safely parked in its new hanger, N98175 will be in a position for the Civil Air Patrol volunteers to support the citizens of Topeka and Shawnee County. The plane is a Cessna 172, built in 1985, but kept to the highest standards of airworthiness.

The Kansas Wing has three additional planes. They are all Cessna 182s, slightly more powerful than the 172. They are located in Kansas City, Junction City and Wichita.

The Civil Air Patrol operates the largest fleet of Cessna aircraft in the world. The

aircraft are used in a variety of missions. In addition to search and rescue, the aircraft are used to monitor river water levels during flooding, summer wildfires and cadet orientation rides. N98175 has a glider tow hook and is used throughout the North Central Region to tow Civil Air Patrol gliders.

“It is just so nice to know that we have a plane in Topeka,” said Cadet/Staff Sgt. Adrian Appelhanz, Topeka Eagle Squadron.

The cost of Civil Air Patrol planes, their maintenance and fuel during missions is provided through funding from United States Air Force. However, the squadron must raise the funds for the hanger rental. This will require numerous fundraisers and activities.

Also, for the squadron, and for that matter the wing, to keep aircraft, they must be flown. Therefore, the Topeka Eagle Squadron is looking for pilots. If you are a single engine land private pilot, you are invited to join the Civil Air Patrol. More pilots will mean greater support to Topeka, Shawnee County and Kansas.

“You do not need fly to be part of the Civil Air Patrol,” said CAP Maj. Henry Hickey, Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron. “CAP needs every type of ground support personnel that you can imagine.”

To learn more about the Civil Air Patrol, please visit <http://www.kswgcap.com>, or <https://www.capnhq.gov>.



Members of the Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron push the squadron’s Cessna 172 into its new home at the Phillip Billard Airport, Topeka, June 24. The Topeka Squadron had been without an aircraft for almost two years. (Photo by CAP Maj. Michael H. Mathewson, Kansas Wing Public Affairs Officer)

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