Wing receives Distinguished Flying unit for third time

By Tech. Sgt. Emily F. Alley
190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The National Guard Bureau recently announced the 190th Air Refueling Wing as the recipient of the 2013 Distinguished Flying Unit Award. Every flying unit in the country is eligible to apply, but this is the third year out of the past five the 190th ARW won.

“The award is based on the culmination of work the wing has done,” said Maj. Brandi Staniec, who wrote the nomination packet. Staniec compiled examples of the wing’s work during the award period, January to December 2012. For example, she found that, over about the past two years, the total deployed days for the wing adds up to about 70 years.

“Deployment schedule was daunting,” said Lt. Col. Chuck Remboldt, a pilot who was tasked to command a detachment during a deployment in the Pacific region in late 2012. He helped supervise the largest presence of bomber and tanker aircraft in Guam in 15 years.

In addition to work in the Pacific, as well as flights supporting operations in the Middle East, aircrews from the 190th ARW accomplished daily flying missions in Kansas. “I can’t remember since I’ve been here, a time when we’ve had numerous and drastically different flying missions going on at the same time,” said Remboldt, who has been a member of the unit for 29 years.

“We just did it. To do that many things, without failure, that’s significant. While both Remboldt and Staniec, as members of the Operations Squadron, reflected on flying missions, they recognize it took accomplishments from the entire wing to win the award.

“I think putting together an award like this opens your eyes to the work everyone did,” said Staniec. “It’s not just flying airplanes. It’s so much more.”

Staniec was impressed with the Medical Group, which scored a 96.6 percent on an inspection in 2012, and the Command Post, which scored an outstanding on an assessment.

While Staniec emphasized the Distinguished Flying Unit Award represents the hard work of the Airmen of the 190th ARW, traditionally compete, Vail chose a different route.

“I played male-dominated sports and it made me feel better,” said Vail. “In the Miss Kansas Pageant, she became an advocate for empowering women through participating, as she did, in male-dominated sports such as boxing and bow hunting.

Since winning the Miss Kansas title, Vail receives numerous messages from young women that look up to her, many writing, “I want to be you.”

“Don’t be me, be you,” Vail counters. “Do what you want to do. Be what you want to be.”

In the interest of building confidence in the young women who reached out to her, Vail created the Empowerment Project. The project involves drawing on the experiences of 100 women, and at its core provides advice and confidence to younger women.

The program, which is still evolving, asks participants to use their life experiences to write letters of advice to their 22-year-old selves.

“I want to share their experiences with (Continued on Page 2)
Continued from Page 1
younger women and teach them to be fearless," said Vail. Vail learned fearlessness, as well as dedication and confidence, from watching her father serve in the Army as a dentist for 33 years. Being a self-described Army brat has taught Vail to adapt and overcome as well as be self-reliant and outgoing. “When you move around a lot, you have to be the one to approach other people,” said Vail. “You have to be the one to make friends.” Vail also got her drive to join the military from her dad’s example. “I saw the dedication and benefits of my dad’s service,” said Vail. “Serving our country made him happy and it makes me happy.” From an early age, Vail wanted to join the military. By the age of six she already had her own battle dress uniform. Vail, now 15, joined the Kansas Army National Guard, is a dental technician in the Medical Detachment, headquartered in Fort Leavenworth, Kan. “The Guard has given me leadership and life experience, which help out in the real world,” said Vail. During the pageant, she was asked why she would make a good representative for the state of Kansas. “I’ve been a representative of my state for six years as a ‘Guardian,’ ” said Vail. “It doesn’t get any more real than that.” Outside of serving in the military and as Miss Kansas, Vail is a student at Kansas State University, studying chemistry and Chinese, while focusing on the pre-dental program. “Somebody told me Chinese was the hardest language to learn, so I did,” said Vail. She also finds the time to mentor young women, including her neighbor. She uses her archery to teach not only marksmanship but life skills as well. “I teach her how to shoot, but we also work on communication and confidence,” said Vail. Communication is an important part of being a pageant queen. “I discovered, by moving around a lot, that too many girls are encouraged to hide their feelings and gossip behind each other’s backs. They do this rather than go directly to the person they are having a problem with,” said Vail. Vail has learned to confront her problems head-on from her time in the service and her childhood growing up around the military. “When you are around military guys, as a woman, you have to hold yourself up and be tough,” said Vail. “It’s a great feeling knowing you can hang with the guys and break their perceptions and stereotypes.” In the coming weeks, Vail will travel around the state making appearances as Miss Kansas, promoting her Empowerment Project and her website www.missoutdoorreport.com, and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to encourage young women to get outdoors and enjoy nature. All of Vail’s experiences and efforts are leading her to the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City, N.J., Sept. 15. “When you are around military guys, as a woman, you have to hold yourself up and be tough,” said Vail. “You have to be the one to be the one to approach other people,” said Vail. “You have to be the one to make friends.” plains guardians • mississippi guardians on America at pageant

Continued from Page 10
in the Kansas Army National Guard and to the Kansas National Guard, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, answers questions from Armenian television producers during an interview July 10 about the America National Response Plan Workshop held in Yerevan, Armenia, July 9-11. (Photo by Sharon Watson, Public Affairs Office) Medal of Honor ceremony brings family legacy alive for Kansas Soldier and Airman

Ray Kapuaan accepts the Medal of Honor from President Barack Obama on behalf of his uncle, the late U.S. Army Capt. Emil J. Kapuaan, during a ceremony April 11 at the White House. Capt. Kapuaan, a chaplain who served with the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, was recognized for his actions during combat operations in the Korean War. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Todd curl, Department of Defense)
Regional Training Site changes up training techniques

By Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy L. Gray
Kansas Regional Training Site – Maintenance

The Regional Training Site – Maintenance for Kansas is using different techniques for training ordnance Soldiers. One of these techniques is called Skills Based Training. The purpose of the SBT process is developing critical thinking skills for Soldiers to use in various areas of their military training and field experiences. The purpose of training Soldiers in their Military Occupation Specialty is to work in areas that make the military a self-contained organization.

The basic principles for SBT include critical thinking, repeating methodologies and understanding the broad areas and scope that are common throughout areas of MOs. It is necessary for Soldiers to think quickly and be adaptable in their operating environments. If we teach Soldiers the skill to accomplish their mission they are better prepared to react to and overcome different challenges.

One area where this can be highlighted is in building a step-by-step troubleshooting methodology. In electrical troubleshooting, Soldiers use the process of elimination to determine where the problem may be. This step is the first in building Soldiers’ foundation in electrical troubleshooting. They will make strides from being a parts replacement person to a diagnostician.

The ultimate goal of many ordnance instructors is to have students leave their area of training with a mental tool kit. This tool kit should contain basic mechanical knowledge, electrical, pneumatic and hydraulic troubleshooting principles, critical thinking and the ability to step back and diagnose the situation. These tools are essential for Soldiers to use in various areas of their military training.

The purpose of the SBT process is to make strides from being a parts replacement person to a diagnostician. These tools are essential for Soldiers to use in various areas of their military training.

(Continued on Page 18)

Tech Savvy

By Col. Christopher Stratmann
State Chief Information Officer

Changes in both the Joint Force Headquarters staff and Army network organization gave the Directorate of Information Management the staff ability to reconsider some of our traditional roles and terminology.

From DOIM to DOIT

For the Department of the Army the term DOIM, Directorate of Information Management, has been replaced with Network Enterprise Center or NEC. Army NECs will continue to handle the traditional services typically provided by G6 staff. During recent revisions in the Joint Force Headquarters, the NECs were decided to terminate traditional J6 functions. Replacing “Information Management” with “Information Technology” more accurately described the directorate’s role in the organization and helped differentiate it from functions such as Infrastructure as a Service. It will likely take some time for the change to permeate and take hold, but from this point forward the section will be known as the Directorate of Information Technology, or DOIT.

AKO-DISA Migration

Kansas, along with the rest of the Army National Guard community, has recently completed migration from AKO e-mail to DISA Enterprise Email. Under our previous architecture, all users had AKO accounts that were forwarded to the Kansas National Guard domain where the DOIT had local control and administration over its own exchange (email) server. DOIT created accounts for and managed all of its own users.

This is no longer the case. With DISA e-mail, all new account and change requests go to DISA for implementation. This significantly affects turnaround time for requests. In addition, it adversely affects the ability to have user issues since we do not have direct access to many areas of the system. Areas DOIT no longer has direct access to include Exchange, Blackberry Enterprise Server and the Global Address Book. Issues for these areas now either go through the DOIT Help Desk then to DISA, or need to be handled by the users themselves through the helpcenter/DMMC. DISA accounts are now directly tied to information in DMDC.

AKO traditional Soldier accounts migrated to DISA separately from the full-time account. That migration was completed at the end of March. Those AKO users should have received information and guidance directly from AKO regarding the transition.

Some users may have chosen to be deferred from migration for various reasons including lack of access to computers and/or Common Access Card readers. The Kansas DOIT should be receiving a list of those deferred DOIT should be receiving a list of those deferred users soon so that we may identify how to remedy their issues. This will include issuing CAC readers where necessary.

How all of this affects the future of AKO itself is yet to be seen. While e-mail has migrated, DOIT has seen no hard evidence regarding the longevity of AKO itself. For the time being, AKO accounts (not AKO email) remain. Several states still use AKO accounts for authentication for access. We will have to wait and see where this goes.

Defense Knowledge Online (AKO) is a shared learning environment for Soldiers and Civilian Personnel. AKO’s Antilles was delivered to the Kansas National Guard in August 2013.

Mobile Device Integration

Although DoD acknowledges that mobile device integration is the way of the future, it has been slow and painful, primarily due to the lack of a standard that accommodates several states had made a significant investment into mobile device integration prior to the DISA migration and have been forced to take a step backward awaiting DISA implementation.

A pilot program exists that should commence soon, allowing specific Apple iOS, Android and Windows devices on the .mil network. These devices will be government furnished equipment and will be provided to the participating states by NGB. Kansas is a participant in the pilot and will receive a limited number of devices for the trial.

There has also been acknowledged a need for a structure that is likely to be more secure. However, it will be quite some time before that is employed. Kansas will continue to deploy mobile devices (tablets, etc.) in a limited basis where solid value to the mission can be demonstrated and connectivity to the .mil domain is not required.

Traditional Soldier Connectivity

Several efforts are being made to improve connectivity for traditional Soldiers at Kansas armories. More than 200 computers dedicated to traditional Soldier use were deployed across the state. These machines have been set up to allow Internet access without a Kansas domain account.

National Guard Bureau has implemented a “guest user” capability for these purposes. Although some users have experienced spotty reliability with this, DOIT will continue to work with NGB to improve its performance.

Additionally, DOIT has recently completed the deployment of nearly 100 Wireless Access Points to armories across the state. These access points provide managed access to commercial Internet, allowing traditional Soldiers to complete many Internet-based training activities on their personal devices. DOIT will be exploring deploying iPv6 “thin client” machines or “thin client” machines to the field. This capability has already been tested in the State Emergency Operations Center. These machines operate in a virtual environment and will eventually replace the mentioned above. The IPv6 machines will allow for users to login to their own personal virtual “desktop” regardless of which physical machine they happen to be on. This capability can effectively provide every traditional Soldier in the state their own computing environment without requiring 5000+ computers in the inventory.

Windows 7

Beginning in May, the DOIT began an Army-mandated migration to the Windows 7 operating system. The update requires a new computer image be installed on every machine and will take place in phases by functional area and/or geographic location. The Help Desk will be providing software and support for the migration.

DOIT will also be utilizing a recently developed user checklist for machine re-image intended to capture all data and applications a user wishes to retain. Thorough completion of the checklist will help ensure customer expectations are met.

Help Desk

Over the past several years, DOIT has implemented numerous changes to the Help Desk Process that hopefully have resulted in improved customer service. DOIT has focused on reducing the number of dropped calls and the length of time of each individual call.

The current Help Desk software has reached end-of-life and DOIT is exploring new options. One possibility would consolidate DOIT and Public Works Help Desk call center functions. This course of action has many positive attributes and DOIT and Public Works are actively working it.

Kansas Guardsmen compete in NGB Region V Best Warrior Competition

Sgt. Stephen Levins (with rucksack), a cannon crewmember of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery and Kansas Army National Guard NCO of the Year, competes as the Kansas junior enlisted. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Malcolm McClendon)
Strength, character and courage needed to overcome future difficulties

By Maj. Gen. Lee Tafarinni
Adjudant General

Our organization is made up of amazing people who must routinely take actions that affect our soldiers, their families, and the community. Whether on the battlefield, in disaster response, or in training in the office, the work we do here in the military, in emergency management and in homeland security requires a desire to serve and protect, and demonstrate acts of selflessness. Fortunately, we have many great people who understand this and live it daily. It’s not easy, though, especially in difficult times like we have recently experienced with the furloughs of our military technicians and federal civilians, and the layoffs of state employees at our Readiness Support Center. We recognize the challenges this presents and are committed to doing what we can to minimize the impact of future budget cuts. We will continue to look for ways to improve our agency’s situation, while protecting our employees as much as possible from budget challenges, and at the same time come up with creative and effective ways to serve our state and country.

PLAINLY SPEAKING

Warrior to Living within the NCO Creed

By Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Matticks
155th Regiment

When deployed to Africa, I was re-

minded of the importance of the non-com-
missioned officer in today’s Army. We have
worked hard to develop the best NCOs, but our
work is an ongoing process and we will continue
to develop and train the next generation
of NCOs. How? We use the NCO Creed as our
guide.

The idea behind the creed was to give
NOCS a yardstick by which to measure
themselves. It was developed by a group
of NCOs in 1973 who recognized that the
post-Vietnam NCOs needed direction and
guidance to bring the NCO Corps to the
next level and modernize the training and deve-
lopment necessary for their professional
promotion.

The Army gave formal recognition to the
creed in 1985. The creed is made up of three para-
graphs with each paragraph begin-
ing with a different letter; N – C – O.

The creed talks about professionalism,

 Leaders and NCOs. How? We use the NCO

155th Regiment

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Marvin Terhune
Safety Officer

As temperatures rise, people migrate to

lakes and local swimming pools. It shocks
me whenever I read the paper and see
that someone has drowned. Two fac-

tors that concern me most are alcohol and

knowing how to swim. Both of these factors are

preventable and these factors are

usually a requirement for children.

everyone that is swimming or required

to wear a personal flotation device.

If you are a weak or non-swimmer or even

if you are a good swimmer, it is a good

habit to wear a PFD whenever you are on the

water.

One of the best things that you can ever do

for your children is to ensure they learn how to

swim. I have known families where the

parents did not know how to swim and were

afraid of the water so they did not want their

children around water. This is a cycle that

is easily broken by someone as simple as

teaching your children in swimming lessons.

The earlier in life your children learn how

to swim the more comfortable you will feel about letting them be around

water. Check out the public and private

pools in your area for availability of les-

sons. Lessons are available for all ages and
eivities of swimmers. Learn-

ing how to swim and to respect the water

allows families to enjoy the outdoors and

keep cool during the summer months.

Command Chief Warrant Officer 5 Hector Vasquez

Kansas National Guard Depots

Kansas Warrant Officer Council

Command Chief Warrant Officer 4 Marvin Terhune
Safety Officer

Approach water activities with care and
ease broken by something as simple as en-

ter to dry weather or submerged log can cause severe damage

ing a watercraft or personal injury. Both of

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Miss Kansas

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The earlier in life your children learn how

To see the full story, visit http://www.kansasguard.com/102434.html.
Visual Inspection of Workplaces: Why did they do it?

By Chief Warrant Officer 4 Sandra Lashey
State Equal Opportunity Officer

We recently went through a statewide “visual workplace inspections.” We were given a short timeline in which to accomplish this inspection. The task at hand was to look at every workplace and ask: Where was the removal of offensive material not will someone who is in the army...

Gen. Frank Grass: National Guard is "all in" for deployments
By Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy
National Guard Bureau

The National Guard’s policy on providing education benefits is crystal clear in a recent memo from the National Guard Bureau chief to the Army and Air Force chiefs of staff. In short, the National Guard is fully accessible and “all in,” wrote Gen. Frank J. Grass.

“We commit the Army National Guard to boots-on-the-ground deployments for up to three periods of dwell time for unplanned contingency operations and one year within a five-year period for longer, steady-state operations,” wrote Grass.

A similar commitment applies to the Air National Guard, with one period of mobilization to three periods of dwell time for unplanned deployments and a one-to-five ratio for steady-state operations. That commitment of forces is also in line with current Air Force and Army force generation requirements and models, said Grass, adding that keeping the Guard in the recruitment and mobilization models for deployments helps maintain a healthy overall force.

“Effective use of the (Army and Air) National Guard should enable the active component to deploy on a deploy-to-dwell ratio necessary to maintain a healthy force,” said Grass, who also advocated for use of Guard forces in ongoing and continued operations outside of operations in Afghanistan.

“The Council of Governors, the adjutants general, and I also strongly encourage the Department of Defense and the (individual) services to fully apply (10 USC 12304b) by placing National Guard units into operations and for a longer-term, predictable requirements such as Kosovo, the Sinai, the Horn of Africa, Guantanamo Bay, sustained security force train and assist mission in Afghanistan and special operations deployments elsewhere,” said Grass.

Grass noted continued use of the National Guard as an operational force preserves the investment made in the Guard over the past 12 years of deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. It also benefits both the active and reserve components.

“Doing so allows for increased full-spectrum focus of the active component and the operational pressure necessary for maintaining seasoned leadership within Guard National units,” he explained.

Regardless of the amount of dwell time, Guard leaders also can be counted upon for no-notice events.

“In the event of a national emergency, the National Guard is intended to stabilize and provide pre-positioning support,” said Grass. “Two-year notice, nine-month readiness, always ready, always there.”

Grass, a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is confident National Guard Soldiers and Airmen will continue to meet future commitments, at home and abroad.

“The National Guard continually demonstrates its willingness and ability to accomplish all assigned missions,” said Grass.

“Our well-proven ability to achieve the commitments we give today ensures their worth for the future,” said Grass.

Presidential authority, as well as those of the secretary of defense, should be the governing factor for determining use of Guard forces in planning assumptions, said Grass, who cautioned against using other policies intended to stabilize and provide predictability.

“These additional policies and historical voluntary mobilizations should not drive hard and fast assumptions about the Guard,” said Grass.

“Two-year notice, nine-month boots on ground, 30-day individual notice, not more than 50 percent of a state’s force in structure determines the Guard, but they should not govern force planning assumptions for future contingencies.

By Capt. Matt Hakpe
Education Services Officer

As a new school year draws near, it is important to recognize those education benefits that are available to you and to know some of the things that have been put in place to help you.

Federal Tuition Assistance

Federal Tuition Assistance is available for Army National Guard members through GoArmyEd.com. It will pay up to $250 per credit hour, with an annual cap of $4,500. This can be used for Associate’s, Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees. Two major changes have come into FTA in the last few months. First, if you are flagged for annual Physical Fitness Test failure or for failing to meet height-weight standards, your GoArmyEd account will be placed on hold until the flag is lifted. If you receive a message from GoArmyEd and you do not have a record on file, please check with your unit administrator to ensure that your record is clear. The second change is you will have now from 60 days prior to seven days after the start date in order to request FTA. If you are extenuating circumstances which do not allow you to make a request within that time frame, please create a help desk ticket in GoArmyEd and we will try to assist you.

Post 9/11 GI Bill

This program has only had one major change implemented recently. As of Aug. 1, 2013, anyone wanting to transfer their benefits to their family members will be required to serve four additional years from the date of enlistment to request. Point of that date, all Soldiers and Airmen who were eligible for retirement prior to Aug. 1, 2012, had an opportunity to transfer benefits and serve a few additional service obligation. Remember that this benefit is available to anyone who deployed or served on active duty or AG or DSG since Nov. 11, 2001, who meets the eligibility requirements. It pays up to 100 percent of tuition and eligible fees, up to 100 percent of E-5 Basic Allowance for Housing, with the 10 percent premium rate for the zip code of the school, and up to $1,000 per year towards books. This benefit is based on a tier system based on number of months of qualifying service. A one-year deployment is recognized as 12 months or 400 standard hours, which equates to 60 percent of the benefit.

Montgomery GI Bill

There are currently no changes to the MGIB that change Reserve or MGIB-Active Duty. Those who paid into this program either through AGR service or active duty will be able to discharge, but it is important to contact us while attending school. These payments can depend on whether the service member is currently on active-duty orders (to include AGR tours) and number of credits taken. MGIB-SR is available to those Guardsmen who sign a six-year service contract, are a high school graduate or equivalent and complete their basic training and Military Occupation Specialty-producing school. Payment rates for MGIB-AD are $316 per month and number of credits taken.

Kansas National Guard Education Assistance Program

State Tuition Assistance is still available for all active-duty service, Army National Guard and Reserves. National Guard members are expected to use any and all available AFA funds before using STA. This program is administered by the Kansas Board of Regents. This information can be found on our website (see below). It is due to your school no later than Sept. 20, 2013. The application can be found at the participating institutions, which can be found on the application.

Make sure that if you are pursuing higher education, you have earned the benefits which you have earned. The Education Services Office is available for benefits and education counseling and will help you with any questions or concerns you may have. For a complete list of benefits available and contact information for everyone in the office, you can find it at the GoArmyEd site.

GoArmyEd and we will try to assist you.

State Chaplain’s Corner
Partners in Care… Saving lives

By Chaplain (Col.) William Jenkins

Kansas National Guard State Chaplain

Great wealth by suicide happens, we sort through all the “what-if’s” and “if-only’s” racking our brains, trying to figure out how we might have been prevented. Suicide may be an individual choice, but it is a choice that we do everything in our power to prevent. I firmly believe that it takes a human relationship to save a human life.

We live in an increasingly disconnected society. Text messages and Facebook postings are no substitute to sitting down and having a real conversation. From a text message or a posting we may get a sense that someone is right, but we need to check it out with a personal contact. A text message or a posting cannot communicate as effectively as making a phone call, or better yet going by the chaplain.

As members of the National Guard we receive ACE training each year to refresh our suicide identification and prevention skills. We are all your buddy, ESCORT your buddy to help if they are at risk. In addition, we have the two-day Applied Suicide Intervention Program (ASIP) training, which includes additional skills to help prevent suicide. These are excellent programs, but no program can replace the human relationship that cares enough to get involved.

Parents in Care is a new program endorsed by Maj. Gen. Lee Tafamelli, the adjutant general. The program is implemented by our chaplains. Parents in Care invites faith-based and civic or veteran organizations to work with the Kansas National Guard to provide additional support to service members that may be at risk. Parents in Care organization provides another layer of personal relationship and caring support.

It takes a relationship to save a human life. As a person of faith, my relationship to the RIFA plan is another tool that we can use to help people to confide in and provide support to me. Being a battle buddy is one of the fundamentals that bind us together as the National Guard.

Relationships are our strength.
Oldest jet in Air Force returns home to the 190th Air Refueling Wing

By Tech. Sgt. Mandy Johnson 190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Office

A century ahead of its flight mates, the KC-135 Stratotanker 57-1419, the oldest jet in the U.S. Air Force, returns home to the 190th Air Refueling Wing after being on loan to the active duty Air Force in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The KC-135 Stratotanker 57-1419 was located in Southwest Asia for more than five years. Martin transferred to the Kansas Army National Guard for more than five years. Martin transferred to the Kansas Army National Guard and pro


Adjoint general announces 35th Infantry Division commander

By Steve Larson Public Affairs Office


Navrkal currently serves as the assistant adjutant general for the Kansas Army National Guard. He is also the deputy commanding general for operations, First United States Army Division West and is responsible for conducting readiness oversight and mobilization of designated Active, National Guard and Reserve component forces. He has served in a variety of leadership positions including the 35th Infantry Division, 67th Infantry Brigade and the 168th Quartermaster Petroleum Supply Battalion. Navrkal deployed to Iraq as commander of the 8670th Corps Support Battalion from 2006-2007, leading an organization of 1,700 Soldiers providing logistical support.

For now, 57-1419 is being granted a little break before being placed on duty, after which it will be refueled and ready to fly again.

By Spc. Nicolas VanWyhe

Public Affairs Office

Lt. Col. Judith D. Martin, Topinka, took command of the 235th Regiment, Kansas Army National Guard, July 20 at the Kansas Regional Training Institute, Salina, Kan. During the ceremony, Col. Robert E. Windham, Junction City, relinquished his command. Martin is the first woman to command a brigade in the Kansas Army National Guard.

"I go out the door and the men and women of the 235th Regiment and their families with whom I have served for a number of years, and who have worked long, hard hours and produced magnificent results," said Windham.

Lt. Col. Judith D. Martin

Lt. Col. Judith D. Martin began her military career in the U.S. Army serving in Headquarters, VII Corps, Stuttgart, Ger-

meny, and Headquarters, III Corps, Fort Hood, Tex., from 1980-1984, followed by service in the Texas Army National Guard for more than five years. Martin transferred to the Kansas Army National Guard and pro

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Adjoint general announces 35th Infantry Division commander

By Steve Larson Public Affairs Office


Navrkal currently serves as the assistant adjutant general for the Kansas Army National Guard. He is also the deputy commanding general for operations, First United States Army Division West and is responsible for conducting readiness oversight and mobilization of designated Active, National Guard and Reserve component forces. He has served in a variety of leadership positions including the 35th Infantry Division, 67th Infantry Brigade and the 168th Quartermaster Petroleum Supply Battalion. Navrkal deployed to Iraq as commander of the 8670th Corps Support Battalion from 2006-2007, leading an organization of 1,700 Soldiers providing logistical support.
By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

Approximately 20 Kansas National Guardsmen received an enthusiastic “Welcome home” from families and friends June 18 at the Kansas National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility #2 in Salina, Kan. The Soldiers, members of Detachment 2, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion) returned from a year-long deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Kansas Guardsmen joined an Iowa National Guard unit under the command of Company C, 2-211th from Utah.

“First of all, welcome home,” said Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, assistant adjutant general – Army and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard. “We appreciate you being back in the state.”

“I know we talked to you briefly at three o’clock in the morning last week down at Fort Hood,” said Peck, “welcomed you back to the United States, but welcome home to Kansas now,” a statement that was whole-heartedely endorsed by the audience.

“For a job well-done,” said Peck. “To the families and supporters out there, each and every one of you, you have been a vast contributing member to the team and their success.”

Peck said the company flew more than 3,200 hours of flying time. “That’s quite a few hours for the time you were gone,” Peck said. “Being an aviator, I know that’s a lot of hours sitting in that seat.”

“To all those out there who are ready to get them back, a couple of messages for you,” Peck continued. “They aren’t really used to be back in the United States yet, so take care of them for us.”

“And each one of you, take care of your battle buddy,” he said, addressing the Soldiers. “Stay in touch. It is different. It takes a while to adjust.”

“Enjoy yourselves and the time you have off here for a few months, then we’ll look to getting you right back in the saddle, back in those UH-60s flying here in Kansas again.”

In Afghanistan, the helicopter company provided aeromedical evacuation support; rapid movement of patients, medical personnel and supplies and other support, ever mindful of the unit’s motto “Not On My Watch.”

“When I took the podium a year ago, we made a promise, a pledge to all the Soldiers out there and their families, that when they were fallen we would come,” said Capt. Ryan Bernard, detachment commander. “We never failed. It’s a testament to the dedication and devotion of this unit.”

Bernard thanked the staff of Joint Forces Command – Theater.

Field Artillery Soldiers share military experience with employers

By Spc. Jessica Haney
180th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Employers of Guardsmen have a difficult job of balancing their business needs with the needs of the National Guard at times. But on June 22 employers were able to see the other side of their employees’ lives.

During their annual training at Fort Riley, Kan., Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery exhibited a real-life setup of what they do during deployment, including the firing of the High-Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems.

“It is really a great thing to give the employers an opportunity to peek into the other side of their employee’s life,” said Lt. Col. Chris Burr, 2nd Bn., 130th FA commander. “These Soldiers work hard not only for their civilian jobs, but for us, as well, and it was a great opportunity to exhibit what they do.”

The 250th Support Company had also set up the operational area to deliver a full experience for the bosses.

The main player in coordinating this showcase was the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. They arranged transportation for employers from Abilene, Hays, Kansas City, Marysville, Russell and Wichita via the Boss Lift Program. A boss lift offers employers an opportunity to observe National Guard and Reserve members involved in training exercises. Employers see first-hand the quality of training and leadership activities their uniformed employees receive as part of the total force.

“It was a pleasure to see the reaction of the employer’s when their employer was able to actually see their employee doing their jobs in the Guard unit,” said Mick Allen, chairman, Kansas Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee. “Employers already step up and support our men and women who serve, but by seeing first-hand what they do it makes it much easier to understand the importance of why the service members need the time to train to do their mission.”

Boss lifts also provide employers the opportunity to share their insights on the challenges presented themselves early during the operation.

The 2nd Bn., 130th FA is headquartered in Hays, Kansas, Holton and Marysville, Kan. The 250th Forward Support Company, headquartered in Ottawa, has detachments in Hiawatha, Kan., with batteries in Abilene, Holton and Marysville, Kan. The 250th Forward Support Company, headquarterd in Ottawa, has detachments in Hiawatha and Clay Center.

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy
184th Public Affairs

Free medical services were offered to residents of Hawaii in June during Operation Tropic Care 2013, a joint operation spanning six locations which combined Army, Navy and Air Force medical personnel, including state and county officials. Forty-two Airmen from the 184th Intelligence Wing, Medical Group participated in the operation.

“The other services were very small so we really got to talk to them and see their operation work on a small scale,” said Staff Sgt. Ben Axman, aerospace medical services technician. “We got to see the actual logistics behind every operation.”

The operation also served as a training opportunity for more than 500 military doctors, nurses, dentists and other medical professionals from active-duty, Guard and reserve forces. The training provided experience in a rapid deployment scenario in which military personnel respond to disasters, whether man-made or natural.

“It brought a whole new aspect of training to the medical group. Not only did we get to refresh our typical skill set, but we did so in a very different environment,” said Axman. “It wasn’t a clinic or a hospital, or even a medical tent. It was great to see how flexible the medical field can be without proper facilities.”

“Having the staff working together, challenges presented themselves early during the operation. “Everybody came together really quickly, we adjusted to the conditions at first,” said Lt. Col. Chris Mills, director of staff.

During the first night in Hawaii, the group slept on the floor of an elementary school because of lodging complications. Logistics also played into the challenges when food shipments couldn’t be delivered due to big waves preventing ferry boats from docking.

“There was really nothing that we couldn’t overcome,” said Mills. “It was great to see the resilience of our people tested and, time and time again, watch them come up with a way to adapt to the situation.”

The mission was conducted under the National Guard Bureau’s Innovative Readiness Training program, which gave the
Soldiers brave weather to qualify on assigned weapons

By Spc. Lindsay Bogner
995th Support Maintenance Company

Going to the weapons range happens for many units in the state, most units will have fully met their mission and conducted safe, quality training. Fewer units will be able to boast of safely meeting and surpassing their mission with only a portion of the entire unit, while coming off of their first year back from a deployment. Battery E (Target Acquisition), 161st Field Artillery of Great Bend, off of their first year back from a deployment. Battery E, 161st Field Artillery of Great Bend, Kan., was able to do just that during their annual training (Target Acquisition), 161st Field Artillery of Great Bend, Kan., May 4. (Photo by Spc. Lindsay Bogner, 995th Support Maintenance Company UPAR)

190th Air Refueling Wing Force Support Squadron wins food fight

By Tech. Sgt. Emily Alley
190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

“Airmen of the 190th Air Refueling Wing’s Force Support Squadron, Sustainment Services Flight, shared the training area with the National Guard 129th Field Artillery out of Missouri. The units fired their 155mm field artillery from the Missouri National Guard that was scheduled to share the training area. Unit-level commanders quickly linked up and were able to coordinate ETAB’s support for their training needs. Leadership from the 1st Bn., 129th FA were appreciative of ETAB’s assistance considering support for their training was not part of the radar battery’s original annual training mission.

“Over the past few years the 1-129th had great difficulty in acquiring assets to provide the battalion with meteorological data, which is required for accurate predicted fires,” said Capt. Thomas White Jr., operations officer for the 1st Bn., 129th FA. “During this AT, the battalion again found itself without assets to provide meteorological data, which is required for accurate predicted fires.”

Meanwhile, ETAB radar operators gained benefits from the agreement since the unit was able to detect and process rounds fired by the 1st Bn., 129th FA. It was a training that proved especially valuable since most of the unit’s radar operators had not had the opportunity to detect live field artillery rounds since well before ETAB’s deployment to the Horn of Africa in 2011-2012.

“This is just one more example where unrelated units have been able to work together to meet shared goals, which in this case revolved around getting quality training,” said Capt. Brian Webb, ETAB commander. “This instance just happened to involve units from different states.”

Battery E (Target Acquisition) completes mission and more

By Sgt. Jerry Lofland, UPAR
Battery E (Target Acquisition), 161st Field Artillery UPAR

“As this year’s round of annual trainings continue for many units in the state, most units will have fully met their mission and conducted safe, quality training. Fewer units will be able to boast of safely meeting and surpassing their mission with only a portion of the entire unit, while coming off of their first year back from a deployment. Battery E (Target Acquisition), 161st Field Artillery of Great Bend, Kan., was able to do just that during their annual training June 10-24 at Fort Riley, Kan.

ETAB is a small unit with a highly specialized mission to conduct counterbattery target acquisition. It is the only unit of its kind in Kansas and just one of nine in the entire nation.

“In a wartime mission, our job would be to track the location of the enemy based on the trajectory of the artillery they fire” said 1st Sgt. Todd Alsup, first sergeant of ETAB. “We then provide those locations as targets for our own field artillery to engage. The meteorological and survey support we provide also helps our field artillery fire more accurately.”

“The weekend was challenging, but every Soldier stayed motivated and accomplished the mission,” said Capt. Wallace Miller, commander of the 995th SMC. “Overall, the unit qualified nearly 95 percent of those Soldiers who attended individual weapons qualification.”

All Soldiers qualified with the M16A2 rifle; officers also qualified with the M9 pistol.

“Soldiers are required to check out weapons from the vault, zero their rifles and qualify on a qualifying range annually. The Range at Fort Riley, W.I., includes a pop-up range where targets are computer controlled to pop up in sequence at timed intervals behind small mounds at 50, 150, 200, 250 and 300 yards. Once a Soldier hits a target, it falls and counts the hit for that record. There are three levels of proficiency – marksman, sharpshooter and expert. To score as a marksman a Soldier must hit 23-29 out of the 40 targets, for sharpshooter, 30-35 and 36-40 for expert.

Once finished on the live-fire range, Soldiers trained on the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000. When using the EST 2000, Soldiers wore a M40 Field Protective Mask during the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear training and in total darkness without night vision assistance during the night qualification training. The EST 2000 is a laser-based, indoor computer simulator. The system displays targets, terrain and weapons effects in a real-time presentation on a screen. The firing Soldier experiences an approximation of the actual weapon’s sound, weight and recoil. The system is used for CBRN and unassisted night qualification training, among other scenarios.

“Soldiers trained using the EST 2000 on unassisted night qualification and CBRN while also familiarizing with other weapon systems such as the M240, M2 and M249,” said Miller. “I am very pleased with the dedication and mission-first mentality shown by the Soldiers of the 995th SMC.”

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By Tech. Sgt. Emily Alley
190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

“Airmen of the 190th Air Refueling Wing’s Force Support Squadron, Sustainment Services Flight, were presented with the Air National Guard Senior Master Sergeant Kenneth W. Disney Food Services Excellent Award at a ceremony in Chicago at the end of May.

The award followed a challenging inspection. Unit members across the base showed up to eat at the dining hall to support the flight during its evaluation. During that weekend, the dining hall set a new record of attendees.

“We usually serve about 400 a day,” said Capt. Ellisha Jones, Force Support operations officer. “During Saturday of the inspection, we served 640.”

“We’ve never served 600, let alone gone over,” said Tech. Sgt. Danielle Peavler, kitchen supervisor and meal scheduler. “I planned for 500, but the line was still out the door. Captain Jones and Senior Master Sergeant Mike Akers were in the kitchen making wraps. We ran out of everything.”

Services Flight used its entire stock of food for drill on the first day. That night, several members went to a grocery store to pick up additional supplies.

“It was awesome,” said Peavler. “The inspectors loved us. They saw how we adapted and made it happen.”

After their inspection, Master Sgt. Sean Cochran submitted the application award for his flight.

“What made me put it in was the great job the Airmen did,” he said. “They feel like they do something that is recognized and valued, even if it’s not glamorous.”

In addition to the flight’s award, Peavler was recognized as an outstanding performer and received the Hensssey Travelers Association Award of Excellence to attend a culinary course in Napa Valley, Calif.

“I hope it helps me get creative and expand options and recipes,” she said.

While she doubts she’ll be able to offer gourmet meal options and soufflés for five hundred people, she plans to continue improving services offered by her flight. In the last eight months, the dining hall has already seen a consistent growth in the use over drill weekend. Peavler is honored that she was personally recognized, but knows she couldn’t have succeeded alone.

“I want to make sure it stays about the flight,” she said. “We do this together.”


Sgt. John Whistler, Jetmore, a field artillery fire-finder radar operator with Battery E (Target Acquisition), 161st Field Artillery, makes adjustments to a Q-M6 Radar Antenna during radar operations while at annual training at Fort Riley, Kan., June 10-24. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Mead, Battery E [Target Acquisition], 161st Field Artillery)
Soldiers begin Phase I training at Officer Candidate School

By Officer Candidate Denny Tellez, Kansas Army National Guard, and Officer Candidate Jessica Pan, Nebraska Army National Guard

One hundred thirteen Soldiers and 120 staff and cadre, representing Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, arrived in Salina, Kan., June 8 to begin Officer Candidate School Phase I. Lt. Col. John Clark, commander, 1st Battalion, 190th Air Refueling Wing, welcomed the candidates during the opening ceremony that brought the separate companies together into one combined battalion for training.

“Our motto, ‘Molding Tomorrow’s Leaders’ is not something we take lightly,” said Clark. “Candidates, the training ahead of you will be difficult. Your cadre will test you. Our goal is to develop you into platoon leaders that will make decisions, that will accept responsibility that will take care of Soldiers and their families, and most importantly, that will lead by example.”

The two-week Phase I consists of a five-mile road march, classroom instruction and exams, field training, day and night land navigation, and flight movement on Black Hawk helicopters provided by the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment. Upon successful completion of all instruction and testing, candidates will return to their respective states to begin Phase II training. Prior to commissioning from the traditional OCS program, candidates will complete Phase III at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Wash., July 2014.

The training environment the candidates undergo is intense.

“Phase I is a very fast pace,” said Capt. Charlie Heath, a platoon trainer from the Texas National Guard. “Every second is accounted for. It requires staying focused while battling fatigue. This is the hardest the candidates have been pushed for a sustained period. Considering time constraints, it is a nice balance of classroom and hands-on training.”

Officer Candidate Travis Wickham from the Kansas National Guard agreed the training was intense, but called it valuable.

“I was assigned to be the acting platoon leader and I was running around trying to get everything done,” said Wickham. “I learned I had to rely on my platoon sergeant and my squad leaders.”

Officer candidates dismount a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from Company B, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment upon arrival to the Kansas Army National Guard Range and Field Training Site. They will prepare their sleeping area prior to the field portion of Officer Candidate School Phase I June 9-22 in Salina, Kan. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jamie J. Baxter - Kansas Army National Guard UPAR)

Helicopter detachment returns from Afghanistan deployment

Continued from Page 7

Headquarters, 69th Troop Command and 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation regiment for their support.

“Most importantly,” he continued, “the most critical link to our team is you, the family. I know it’s been a long nine months. Thank you for your love and support, especially to my wife, thank you. I could not have done this without you.”

Moments later, the “Dismissed” command was given and the Soldiers rushed to their long-awaited reunion with family and friends.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kristopher LeMaster, a pilot with Detachment 2, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, is greeted by his daughter, Ava, age 7, as he returns home from his deployment to Afghanistan. This was the fourth deployment for LeMaster. The aviation regiment was welcomed home during a ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility #2 in Salina, Kan., June 18. (Photo by Jane Welch, Public Affairs Office)
A group of Soldiers rehearse movement as an “arrest team” as part of a mock civil disturbance training exercise at Fort Riley, Kan., June 9. (Photo by Spec. Jen Bjorgaard, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

A group of Soldiers train mock scenario for state civil disturbance response

By Spec. Jen Bjorgaard
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

For many Soldiers of the Kansas Army National Guard, a drill weekend may often consist of somewhat boring, but necessary tasks. Mandatory training seminars, equipment inventory and paperwork are only a few of the missions that are a less than exciting reality for today’s Soldiers. However, occasionally they get the opportunity to put their classes for training to practical use and spend drill weekend doing something a little more exciting.

During their June drill, Soldiers of the 69th Troop Command, Topeka, Kan., got to do exactly that.

From the highest-ranking officer at the brigade level down to the newest private, Soldiers used a mock emergency scenario to train for state emergency response. Training took place in Topeka and Fort Riley, Kan., June 9.

The exercise has been in different stages of planning since January. 69th Troop Command is the parent unit of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, which acts as the state rapid reaction force. Should it be called into action, an exercise scenario like this could become a reality in a matter of hours.

Capt. Brent Buckley, assistant operations officer of 69th Troop Command feels that it is important for Soldiers to be given an opportunity to practice the roles that they would fill if the governor called the unit into action in emergency circumstances.

“We’re doing a dry run, a staff exercise,” said Buckley. “What that does is offer a training environment for the brigade staff and the battalion staff to work on our systems, our communications and the products that we would build for a domestic support type of mission.”

According to Buckley, this is the first opportunity that some staff members have had to practice their roles in an emergency response situation. He believes that a dry run like this is very important so that Soldiers are always prepared for the Army National Guard’s main priority, state assistance.

“The primary mission of the Kansas National Guard is exactly what we are looking at in this scenario,” said Buckley. “Even though the scenario might be different, be it a tornado or a flood, the systems and the functions that we do are identical.”

For the purposes of the exercise, the Tactical Operations Center for the brigade was located in Topeka. Their primary mission was to organize and disseminate information to subordinate units such as the 2nd CAB, 137th Inf. Regt.’s tactical command post in Manhattan.

Soldiers there were working hard to ensure that missions were being carried out as ordered and communication was flowing between troops on the ground at Fort Riley and the brigade staff in Topeka.

Sgt. Justin M. Folsom, headquarters staff for 2nd CAB, 137th Inf. Regt., Kansas City, Kan., was one of the non-commissioned officers manning the radio in the Manhattan TCP, communicating information to the appropriate channels.

This was Folsom’s first time acting in this role and he found the overall training to be a positive experience.

“I think these kinds of training are very helpful,” said Folsom. “Recently we’ve done a lot of indoor, sitting at a computer, briefing-type of training and this actually lets us get some real-world experience.”

“Instead of talking about the exercises, we’re doing them,” said Folsom. “That’s awesome. We should do that all the time.”

The information that he has received from the Soldiers on the ground at Fort Riley has been encouraging.

“The guys that are out in the field right now are having a blast doing this stuff,” said Folsom. “It boosts the morale of the Soldiers to be able to get out, have fun and do a mission.”

More than 300 Soldiers from 69th Troop Command were on the ground at Fort Riley to complete their own emergency response training. They were joined by members of the 190th Air Refueling Wing, Kansas Air National Guard.

At Fort Riley, service members teamed up with local law enforcement to rehearse the roles they would fulfill if the Guard were called to assist civilian authorities in the event of a crisis.

The training covered tactics such as individual control methods, movement in a line formation and riot control methods.

For Spec. Joshua Joynt, Company A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf. Regt., Lawrence, the course was a great refresher for training that he completed several years ago.

“It’s really good to get away from home station,” said Joynt. “It’s definitely a motivating course to go through.”

Joynt said this event is the first opportunity for many of the service members to participate in this type of training. He feels that because of weekend’s instruction, everyone involved will be better prepared if they are called to duty and will better able to handle any situation that might arise.

“We are getting Soldiers prepared in the case the state needs to activate us to neutralize situations that could cause a threat to the community,” said Joynt. “It’s a great team-building exercise.”

Kansas participates in Armenia National Response Plan Workshop

Continued from Page 2

that the Armenians are proud of their nuclear power facility and take great responsibilities in protecting the public is protected.”

“The challenges of emergency preparedness are very much the same and many revolve around communications,” Smith continued. “Nuclear power is a complex technology and communicating to a diverse population in a timely manner is key.”

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assisted Armenia in a similar disaster response exercise in 2008 and has since involved various scenarios ranging from earthquakes to floods to nuclear power plant issues. Each exercise brings in similar government agencies and allows participants to improve how they work with one another to solve the challenges put before them.

“Disaster planning and exercising is a two-way street at the international level,” said Spencer Schargorodski, assistant liaison officer to FEMA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “While the U.S. delegation assists and evaluates the participants, we also learn from their experiences and different methods to respond and recover from a disaster.” In addition, we work together to build lasting relationships and institutional knowledge.”

“The Corps of Engineers has the right expertise in emergency management and geographic information systems to help the Republic of Armenia advance and improve their emergency response capabilities,” said David Schafer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“Over the past 15 years or so, the CMEP program has done a great deal to promote not only the in-country capacities, but also cooperation between countries throughout the region. The corps’ consistent involvement brings a vital element of continuity to the program.”

The United Nations Disaster Management Team also participated in the disaster response exercise. Similar exercises involving the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Kansas National Guard’s State Partnership Program are being discussed for Armenia.

The discussion that occurred throughout the exercise revealed an overall desire by participants to work together to resolve the challenges presented in the exercise.

“I believe the open forum and exchange of information that occurred made the exercise very valuable to the Armenians and helped them to use the exercise as a means to further their own goals towards improving their response capabilities, which is exactly what we hope for in all of our CMEP events,” said Schafer.

For those who have participated in similar exercises in previous years in Armenia, progress is very apparent and relationships have resulted in improved discussions.

“During my first trip in 2010, our team provided much more input into the exercise,” said Tony Hill, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “This year, the Armenian leadership had a plan when we arrived and did an excellent job executing the plan and engaging all of the exercise participants.”

“Building and sustaining relationships is a critical component of emergency management,” said Parrinton. “The similarities between Kansas and Armenia truly allow us to share ideas and lessons learned that are applicable to respective programs. Although we are very similar, events such as this also challenge us to think outside of the box and step out of our comfort zone from the many standardized processes that we have in the U.S.”
Engineers from the 184th Intelligence Wing, Civil Engineering Squadron, dig a trench for a new sewer and water system to an existing house during their annual training June 15-29 in conjunction with the Southwest Indian Foundation located between Window Rock, Ariz., and Gallup, N.M., area. Some homes have been without running water and sewer for more than seven years. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

“We have been doing this for 15 years, having built right around 220 homes during that time,” said Jeremy Boucher, deputy director of Southwest Indian Foundation. “When the military comes during the summer, they provide crucial manpower for us.”

Building new homes at the Southwest Indian Foundation warehouse for qualified applicants was only one work site where the team had a great experience. Airman spent the majority of the time at Saint Michael’s Association for Special Education remodeling and improving three existing buildings.

“We have redesigned a HVAC system for a house that didn’t have a heating and cooling system,” said Gee. “They were using a potbelly stove to heat the home during the winter and had nothing for the summer time.”

In addition to installing a new HVAC system, windows were replaced, doors reinstalled, complete plumbing systems removed and replaced, and new electrical wires and panels installed.

While most of the engineers worked on building or remodeling homes, a small crew of four travelled to three homes installing water and sewer lines. Some of these homes had gone years without water and sewer.

“What surprises me is this is 2013 and a lot of the people don’t even have running water,” said Shouse. “This house has been here since 2004 without running water. We are here to put in water and septic systems for the families that need it.”

The trenching crew put in three septic systems, 265 linear feet of waterlines and 315 linear feet of infiltration systems, all while getting valuable real-world training with real-world dilemmas.

“Every situation is different, you know,” said Shouse. “We hit rock on this project six inches down. We have to do something, so you get a jack hammer or dig it out by hand. You can’t plan for that in a textbook. There is only one way and that is getting dirty out in the field.”

The annual training was a great opportunity for all career fields to get hands-on training for their specific trades. The 184th CE Squadron spent approximately 3,500 hours helping a community that welcomed them with open arms.

“We are actually working in the community and they understand why we are here and that we are here to help them,” said Maj. John Adam, emergency management flight officer. “It’s heartwarming you are actually helping someone that needs this,” says Airman 1st Class Kathy Smith, structures technician.

Airman 1st Class Elise Terrell, finance specialist, 184th Intelligence Wing, uses a grease gun on a backhoe during the 184th CW Civil Engineering Squadron’s annual training to Window Rock, Ariz., and Gallup, N.M., June 15-29. Terrell gained valuable experience outside of her career field when she deployed on the humanitarian mission building, rehabbing and digging water and sewer lines for local Native Americans. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)
Public safety professionals assemble for combined exercise

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett
Public Affairs Office

More than 230 people came together for a two-day, large-scale training exercise at Crisis City May 29-30. First responders, emergency managers and other members of public safety professions were invited to observe the exercise and tour Crisis City training venues.

Crisis City is a multidisciplinary training facility near Salina, Kan., operated by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. The facility’s training venues are designed to offer and start thinking about how our facilities can help them maximize their training dollars,” said Dennis Colson, Kansas Division Emergency Management regional emergency management coordinator. Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general of Kansas and director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. “It was a long and challenging process, but receiving this accreditation is an indicator of the skill, dedication and commitment of our team.” Angee Morgan, deputy director of KDEM, led the staff through the nearly year-long process to become accredited.

“I have extremely dedicated people working with me,” said Morgan. “They are willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done and this accreditation is well-earned.”

The state began working toward accreditation early in 2012 providing documentation on how it prepares for and responds to disasters. These documents were uploaded to a website for EMAP officials to review for compliance with EMAP standards. These standards cover:

- Program Management
- Administration and Finance
- Laws and Authorities
- Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Consequence Analysis
- Incident Management
- Prevention
- Operational Planning
- Incident Management
- Resource Management and Logistics
- Mutual Aid
- Communications and Warning
- Operations and Procedures
- Facilities
- Training
- Exercises, Evaluations and Corrective Action
- Crisis Communications, Public Education and Information

An on-site assessment was conducted in Topeka Dec. 10-14, 2012, to review the documentation. KDEM staff then had 30 days to provide additional information to the EMAP council for review and was recently notified of the state’s successful completion of the accreditation process.

Paraguayan first responder

Members of the Emergency Preparedness Area for Kansas Paraguay Partners of the Americas joined public safety professionals in observing the large-scale training exercise at Crisis City near Salina, Kan., May 29-30.

Capt. Ramon Grange, a firefighter with the Bomberos Volunteer Fire Company, San Lorenzo, Paraguay, toured the facility’s multiple venues with the help of his sponsor Steve Richards, chairman for the Emergency Preparedness Area for Kansas Paraguay Partners of the Americas.

“This is a very good opportunity for them to observe how we manage rescue and emergency incidents in Kansas,” said Richards.

Grange was given an invitation from the United States government and the state of Kansas to come for emergency preparedness training. One of the many things on his schedule was to visit Crisis City.

“I am most interested to see how they assess the damage and what their answer is or how they will respond,” said Grange.

Grange is no stranger to major incidents. In 2004, he responded to the Yuen Balonas supermarket fire in the Paraguayan capital of Asuncion where more than 400 people died.

The mission of Partners of Americas is to create connections between states and regions in the United States and the Latin America and the Caribbean to develop mutual understanding and support. (Photo by Sharon Watson, Public Affairs Office)

On behalf of the state of Kansas and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Deputy Director Angee Morgan accepts a plaque from Gov. Sam Brownback for receiving full accreditation during a press conference held in the State Emergency Operations Center at the State Defense Building in Topeka, Kan., July 8. KDEM received the accreditation through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office) that went into receiving this accreditation,” said Tafanelli, the adjutant general of Kansas and director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. “It was a long and challenging process, but receiving this accreditation is an indicator of the skill, dedication and commitment of our team.” Angee Morgan, deputy director of KDEM, led the staff through the nearly year-long process to become accredited.

“I have extremely dedicated people working with me,” said Morgan. “They are willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done and this accreditation is well-earned.”

The state began working toward accreditation early in 2012 providing documentation on how it prepares for and responds to disasters. These documents were uploaded to a website for EMAP officials to review for compliance with EMAP standards. These standards cover:

- Program Management
- Administration and Finance
- Laws and Authorities
- Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Consequence Analysis
- Incident Management
- Prevention
- Operational Planning
- Incident Management
- Resource Management and Logistics
- Mutual Aid
- Communications and Warning
- Operations and Procedures
- Facilities
- Training
- Exercises, Evaluations and Corrective Action
- Crisis Communications, Public Education and Information

An on-site assessment was conducted in Topeka Dec. 10-14, 2012, to review the documentation. KDEM staff then had 30 days to provide additional information to the EMAP council for review and was recently notified of the state’s successful completion of the accreditation process.

Public safety professions for combined exercise

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

The state of Kansas, through the efforts of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and key partners in emergency preparedness and response, has received full accreditation through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program. This accreditation is a significant ‘stamp of approval’ that validates the commitment this state has to emergency management and protecting the health and safety of Kansans,” said Gov. Sam Brownback.

“Having the best emergency management and preparedness possible is a priority for us in the state of Kansas. It is a high priority because it means saving lives.”

“I congratulate the director of KDEM, Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, and his staff on a job well done.” KDEM worked jointly with its state partners, including Kansas Highway Patrol, Health and Environment, Agriculture and the Kansas National Guard, and successfully demonstrated compliance with all 104 standards to attain accreditation.

EMAP is a voluntary review process for state and local emergency management programs that is a means of demonstrating through self-assessment, documentation and peer review that a program meets national standards for emergency management.

“I am extremely proud of our KDEM team and our state partners for the efforts of approval’ that validates the commitment this state has to emergency management and protecting the health and safety of Kansans,” said Gov. Sam Brownback. At the Kansas Regional Training Institute, 2930 Scanlan Ave., Salina. The evening will include Breach and Break, Shoring Operations, Technical Rope Rescue and K-9 Search and Rescue.

Information on the course can be found online at www.ContinuingEd.ku.edu/fire or by calling toll-free 866-804-8841 or 785-826-3771 for Tamrya Shea.

On Memorial Day, more than two dozen homes were affected when a tornado touched down in Marshall County and Smith County damaging at least 22 homes, followed by tornadoes in Nemaha and Ottawa Counties, shared Tafanelli.

“These recent events certainly bring the importance together about what we do with emergency response personnel that we have here. When we do have a disaster, we’re all going to respond together. Crisis City provides us an opportunity to train together before ... a real-world event.”

During the exercise, participants responded to a simulated, widespread disaster involving a number of the Crisis City training venues.

“It’s an opportunity for some teams that have never been out here to hone those skills before they’re out working a tornado and they aren’t as nervous about their abilities,” said Traci Rankins, incident commander of the Southwest Incident Management Team. “Everyone receives the same training state wide. We had teams from all over the state, that we had to pull in to help us and it worked like we were one big team the whole time.”

“I’m the kind of guy that likes to do the research and rescue. I like to climb around things,” said Bob Owens, incident commander of the Community Emergency Response Team.

2013 Kansas Technical Rescue Conference set for Sept. 24-26

Search and rescue professionals from across the state will meet in Salina, Kan., Sept. 24-26 for the sixth annual Kansas Technical Rescue Conference sponsored by the Kansas Search and Rescue Working Group, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Adjutant General’s Department, Great Plains Joint Training Center, Crisis City and Kansas Fire and Rescue Training Institute.

This is one of only a few times that all seven disaster regions within Kansas collectively train to the same standards.

A vendor appreciation night will be Wednesday, Sept. 25, at 6:30 p.m. in Building 365 at the Kansas Regional Training Institute, 2930 Scanlan Ave., Salina. The evening will include a presentation of the second annual William C. Brubaker Memorial Award.

The remainder of the conference will be conducted at Crisis City, a state-of-the-art first responder, military and private industry training center located approximately 10 miles southwest of Salina. Classes will include Technical Rope Rescue, Breach and Break, Shoring Operations, Lift/Move, Technical Search and K-9 Search and Rescue.

Information on the course can be found online at www.ContinuingEd.ku.edu/fire or by calling toll-free 866-804-8841 or 785-826-3771 for Tamrya Shea.
Joe Pruitt, new manager of Crisis City, is eager to hit the road and spread the word about the facility to fire departments, law enforcement agencies, emergency managers, emergency medical technicians and all other public safety professionals.

(Photograph by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)

Crisis City manager eager to share his new “big playground”

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

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Kansas Division of Emergency Management

New staff at Kansas Division of Emergency Management team

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett
Public Affairs Office

The Kansas Division of Emergency Management recently welcomed several new employees to their team. Jamie Schwartz joined KDEM in July as an environmental scientist. She was responsible for the management and coordination of the hazardous materials database, conducting facility assessments and providing technical assistance.

Joe Pruitt came to KDEM with a vast amount of experience having been the executive training coordinator in the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. She resides in Topeka. She enjoys being an aunt to two nieces, Quinlan and Elise, and her nephews, Josh. In her spare time, Pruitt enjoys being an aunt to her two nieces, Quinlan and Elise, and her nephews, Josh. In her spare time, Pruitt takes pleasure in reading, going to concerts and spending time with her family and friends. Pruitt is a licensed skydiver and spends most of her free time at the drop zone.

Keith Jeffers is one of the newest members to Crisis City. Salina, Kan., working as a Program Consultant II: training and exercise specialist.

Prior to joining the KDEM team, Jeffers worked as the preparedness director of Bourbon County Emergency Management from April 2008 to August 2012. Throughout his emergency management career, Jeffers became a Kansas certified emergency manager; a member of the Kansas Regional Council Coordinating Committee and Kansas Strategic Planning Committee; served as a vice-chairman of the Southeast Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council; Chairman of Southeast Kansas Regional Council Planning Committee, Geographic Information Systems Committee and Grants Committee; and served on Southeast Kansas Incident Management Team as logistics section chief, planning section chief, public information officer or liaison officer.

Jeffers deployed to Louisiana during Hurricane Gustav recovery, serving as deputy branch director for Critical Infrastructure Planning. He was responsible for transportation, communications, energy, agriculture and coastal.

(Continued on Page 14)

Kansas Division of Emergency Management

Cait Purinton, new manager for Crisis City, is eager to share his new “big playground”.
International officers visit capitol
By Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett
Public Affairs Office
Seventy military officers from 65 nations visited Topeka July 18 to learn about state government and the state judicial system. The international officers, who are students at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., came to Topeka to fulfill their course requirement to learn about state government.

The officers arrived at Memorial Hall where they were greeted by Brig. Gen. Scott Dold, chief of the joint staff, Kansas National Guard, followed by a catered breakfast. Dold gave a brief overview of the Kansas National Guard’s history and current structure.

Shortly after, the officers toured the State Capitol, including the House of Representa- tives and Senate chambers. At the end of the tour the officers took a photo with Sen. Jay Emler of the Kansas 35th District at the rotunda.

“We are here learning about the state government and to compare it to ours, what we have in our countries,” said Lt. Col. Mamaka Kavtaradze, of Georgia. “The nations represented this year were Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Colombia, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Georg- gia, Germany, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Nether- lands, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom.

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State Senator Jay Emler of the Kansas 35th District meets with international officers, who are students at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., during a tour at the State Capitol in Topeka, Kan., July 18. (Photo by Spec. Nicolas VanWyhe, Public Affairs Office)

Kansas Warrant Corps update
Continued from Page 4

packet can be a lengthy process; it takes about three months (on average) for a packet to be compiled and approved. The Kansas Warrant Officer Corps has more than 40 vacancies. If you are interested in joining, please contact Chief Warrant Offi- cer 2 Sam Bonham, state warrant officer strength manager, at (785) 274-1823, or samuel.c.bonham.mil@mail.mil.

There will be a Warrant Officer Symposium Sept. 7 from 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Bldg. 688, Room 231, Armed Forces Reserve Center, Gary Ormsby Drive and “J Street,” Fort Leavenworth, Kan. The symposium will define warrant officer requirements and what vacancies are currently available.

Annual training visits
The past two months Maj. Gen. Lee Jeffers held numerous jobs prior to emergency management including Extension secretary, state command sergeant major; and I visited several units during their annual training. We had the opportunity to observe these Sol- diers and their training and talk to them about their experiences. The morale and motivation of all the Soldiers was very high.

Now that deployments have slowed down, it is very important not to lose the skills learned while deployed. Exercising by a Native American presentation and a tour of the museum.

“It’s just the same as when we visit, we learn about our host country’s cultures and systems,” said Dold. “Most of the officers come from very strong allies of ours. This interchange is important.”

Over the years, many of the international officer students have gone on to key posi- tions in their nations. Twenty-six have become heads of state, more than 300 have become minister of defense or repre- sentatives, approximately 2,300 have be- come general officers in the armies of the world, while more than 300 have become chiefs of staff of their armed forces.

The tradition of international officers at- tending the General Staff College Officer began in 1894. This year marks the 119th year international officers have attended Fort Leavenworth. Since 1894, more than 7,300 officers from 153 countries have come through the doors.

The nations represented this year were Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Colombia, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom.

These perils are important during annual training and it also keeps your Sol- diers motivated and excited about attending annual training.

Warrant Officer Calls
I have held two Warrant Officer Calls this year, the latest in Salina with aviation and technical warrants in attendance. The warrant officer candidates were in attend- ance as well as the warrant officer strength manager, the 184th Medical Group warrant officer and the senior information technology warrant officers from Okla- homa. I plan to have the last WO Call of the year in Wichita sometime in October. More information on this call will be sent out when available.

The WO Call has been increasing in size, allowing great dialog among technical and aviation warrants. The WO Call allows Kansas warrant officers the chance to meet with others in the state and receive certification necessary to perform their duties.

Medical Group an opportunity to meet mission essential training requirements and receive certification necessary to perform their duties.

Communities that lack medical services or may be underserved are considered for the design/locality when the IRT is re- leased.

“This IRT has been a great training plat- form for our medical group,” said Col. Rhin Hamilton, 184th Medical Group com- mander. “It has allowed us to train for rapid response and sustainment and provide free health care to the underserved people of Lanai and Molokai. This joint training has also given 184th Medical Group members the opportunity to work with the Army and Navy and to see we are all part of the same team. Overall, this was excellent training.”

New staff at Kansas Division of Emergency Management
Continued from Page 13

New staff at Kansas Division of Emergency Management
Continued from Page 7

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Confident that he gained while in the wing.

“I’m not nervous anymore. I jump in there and get things done,” said Douglas. “I’ve seen a change in myself and, while the award is an honor, it’s because I’ve had really good mentors.”

If Douglas’ award was a reflection of a successful career within the medical group, the Distinguished Flying Unit Award recognized the wing as a whole. After three wins, it’s a culture recognized for its success.

New staff at Kansas Division of Emergency Management
Continued from Page 13

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Team. “Today I am managing. So now I know of what the manager is up against. I am really learning a bunch about communication. There are 10 people call- ing in at the same time and these girls are taking care of it wonderfully. They are just feeding me the information I need. So, even if I am not a commander in the next scenario or the incident, I have a better feel of what is going on at all levels.”

Participants included members of the South Central Incident Management Team, Southwest Incident Management Team, Kansas Task Force 5, Kansas Highway Pa- trol, state Search and Teams and Commu- nity Emergency Response Teams. Participants from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Kansas State Fire Marshal’s Office, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Salina Fire De- partment, University of Kansas Fire & Res- cue Training Institute and other local and

First responders from the Hutchinson Fire Rescue 4 assess tornado damage during a mock incident. First responders and public safety professionals gathered at Crisis City, Salina, Kan., for a multiple-venue training exercise May 29-30. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

Operation Tropic Care 2013
Continued from Page 7

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First responders from the Hutchinson Fire Rescue 4 assess tornado damage during a mock incident. First responders and public safety professionals gathered at Crisis City, Salina, Kan., for a multiple-venue training exercise May 29-30. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

Wing receives Distinguished Flying unit for third time
Continued from Page 1

she did choose to highlight the work of a few individuals in the packet.

Senior Airman Jeni Douglas, who was recognized as the National Guard’s Oph- thalmic Apprentice of the Year in 2012, was named in the award. Douglas often managed the wing’s optometry office inde- pendently when Col. William Hefner, the wing optometrist, was unavailable. While Douglas described herself as a timid Air- man, she said the award was indicative of confidence she gained while in the wing.

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New staff at Kansas Division of Emergency Management
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“This IRT has been a great training plat-
By Spc. Nicolas VanWyhe
Public Affairs Office

Two Kansas Guard families learned firsthand that good deeds do not go unrewarded. These Guardsmen serve their community and, in return, their community rewarded them with a much-needed vehicle as a token of appreciation during a ceremony at the Progressive Service Station, Kansas City, Kan., June 12.

The cars were provided through Progressive Insurance Company’s Keys to Progress program. Recycled Rides is a nationwide community service project where members of the National Auto Body Council repair and donate recycled vehicles to families and service organizations in need, in their own communities.

Net, Chad Brewer, Overland Park, with the 778th Transportation Company, was one of the recipients. He is a single father with four kids ranging from nine to 19 years of age.

Brewer deployed with the Kansas National Guard 778th Transportation Company in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2010-2011. He said receiving the vehicle has made life better.

“It’s a dependable car, a newer car than I had,” said Brewer. “My truck’s transmission went out.”

The other family chosen to receive a vehicle was husband and wife Spc. Christopher Grove and Spec. Alisson Smiley, both with the Company C, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, out of Salina. They have been members in the National Guard for a little over two years.

“It will definitely make a big difference,” said Grove. “It will give us a lot more time with family and gives us opportunities for family activities. It will help get more accomplished in one day and really save time when needing to go places.”

They reside in Salina with their three children, 12, 13 and 17 years of age. Tammy Alsup, with family assistance, had entered

By 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht
184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

The Wichita Fire Department recognized Tech. Sgt. Shawn Rucker, a member of the 161st Intelligence Squadron, for heroic steps he took to help two individuals save another from a house fire.

Rucker was honored during a ceremony June 13 at the Wichita Fire Department’s Regional Training Center in Wichita, Kan.

Rucker was driving home after his shift at the 184th Intelligence Wing, Nov. 24, 2012, when he noticed a plume of smoke near his home. Following the smoke, he discovered a house partially engulfed in flames. Rucker immediately called 911 and ran toward the house to help.

While on the phone with dispatch, he found the homeowners standing on the front porch. After relaying the information to the 911 operator, he realized that someone was still in the basement of the house.

Rucker entered the house with the homeowner and found the still-sleeping resident. Together they were able to carry her to safety. Rucker stayed with the woman until the Wichita Fire Department arrived. The house sustained significant damage.

“We’re all proud of Technical Sergeant Rucker’s heroic actions last November,” said Col. Kreg Anderson, commander of the 184th Intelligence Group. “We have great Airmen in this unit and Shawn’s selfless act represents the Jayhawk tradition of service to the military and the community.

Shawn’s been in the Guard for almost 10 years and is always willing to take on the toughest challenges. It was no surprise that he was willing to risk his life to help a neighbor.”

At the awards ceremony, he humbled about his role in the rescue.

“Honestly, I think that most, if not all, the members of the military would have done the exact same thing,” said Rucker. “I work with people like that everyday.”

By Spc. Nicolas VanWyhe
Public Affairs Office

The cars were provided through Progressive Insurance Company’s Keys to Progress program following a ceremony at a funeral service in the Kansas City, Kan., service center. Brewer is a single father with four kids ranging from nine to 19 years of age. (Photo by Sharon Watson, Public Affairs Office)
New website unveiled to help veterans

Kansas Department of Commerce

The state of Kansas announced a new website July 1 that will serve as a central, comprehensive resource for services that the state provides to veterans. KanVet will connect veterans with higher education information and job searching tools designed specifically for veterans. The website address is www.KanVet.ks.gov.

“Tafanelli, the adjutant general, announced a new website unveiled to help veterans.

The state of Kansas, along with Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, unveiled the new KanVet website at a news conference. They were joined by representatives from the Kansas Board of Regents, the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs and Black & Veatch, a KanVet sponsor and a company that has hired more than 600 veterans.

“This new website will be invaluable to our National Guard, reserve and active duty troops and veterans across Kansas,” Tafanelli said. “Helping them to find employment, training, education and other assistance is one way for the state to give back to them for their willingness to serve their state and country and to thank them for the many sacrifices made to fight for our freedoms.”

KanVet houses employment and education information in an easily navigable website with links to Kansas programs available for veterans. Employment resources include information about KANSASWORKS, the KanSERVE program, opportunities with the Kansas Army and Air National Guard and explanations of other employment services. Education tools provide the ability to search for higher education programs for veterans at all Kansas Board of Regents universities, community colleges and technical schools. Several agencies were involved in developing KanVet, including the department of Commerce, Labor and Children and Families; the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs; Kansas Board of Regents and the Kansas Adjutant General’s Department.

“KanVet is a valuable resource for the veterans who have served this county,” Kansas Commerce Secretary Pat George said. “It’s great that this state organizations have partnered to provide this website, and KanVet’s sponsors also deserve recognition for their support of veterans.”

CAP supports Heartland Park Military Day

By CAP Maj. Michael Mathewson

Kansas Civil Air Patrol Wing Public Affairs Officer

Soldiers in olive drab had just concluded their game of capture-the-flag in field gray uniforms. Attacked. The Americans were forced to withdraw, only to counter-attack, supported by an M2A1 halftrack with a .50 caliber machine gun and artillery support from a 40 mm anti-aircraft gun mounted on a 1-1/2 ton truck. The Americans fell back and continued to move forward.

“To anyone who had been near the Normandy coastline 69 years ago, these scenes, re-enacted June 6 on the grounds of the Museum of the Kansas National Guard in Topeka, Kan., may have seemed all too real.

Members of the Civil Air Patrol and Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron were involved in organizing and running this year’s event, the Rolling Thunder Chapter of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association, this year’s event was organized by CAP 2nd Lt. Thomas Nicholson and his son, Cadet/Staff Sgt. Kyle Nicholson, Vassar, Kan. The Heartland Military Day was started by William Nicholson’s father. It is conducted on the weekend closest to June 6, the anniversary of the Allied invasion of France, commonly known as D-Day. At the First Military Day there were six vehicles and two re-enactors. This year there were over 60 re-enactors. Cadet Nicholson was one of the re-enactors wearing olive drab.

“I had fun and I know that the other cadets had fun,” said Kyle Nicholson, “and I am glad they could come out.”

Civil Air Patrol cadets served as a color guard and provided crowd control during the 30-minute re-enactments. The cadets also setup and staffed a booth where they were able to educate visitors on the mission and activities of the Civil Air Patrol.

Between the re-enactments, the cadets were able to examine the vehicles of the Rolling Thunder and the museum’s military equipment that was on display. “I enjoyed using the 40mm anti-aircraft gun,” said Joachim Settanni. “I was surprised how easy it was to use the gears to turn it.”

“I’m glad I went,” said Dominic Settanni. “That was fun.”

Other groups at the event were the Topka Big Band, the Kansas City, Betty’s U50 troop, the Fairlawn Road Swing Band, Civil War re-enactors and Vietnam Veterans of America. The Kansas Wing of the Civil Air Patrol has almost 200 cadets and 250 senior members. The Civil Air Patrol is a private, volunteer, nonprofit 501(c) (3) corporation and by congressional charter is an auxiliary of the United States Air Force. In 1998, the Kansas Wing was placed under the Kansas Adjutant General’s Department for administrative and control of state resources and funding. The Civil Air Patrol is charged with three balanced primary missions, aerospace education, cadet programs and emergency services.

Civil Air Patrol conduct missing person training

By CAP Maj. Michael Mathewson

Kansas Civil Air Patrol Wing Public Affairs Officer

Senior members and cadets from the Lawrence and Topeka Civil Air Patrol Squadrons conducted a search and rescue exercise May 6 on the grounds of the State Defense Building complex, Topeka, Kan.

“I had great fun,” said Topeka Civil Air Patrol Cadet Cadet/Staff Sgt. Kyle Nicholson, Vassar, Kan. During the exercise, a camper had gone out Friday night for a weekend camping trip alone. He was to be home Sunday afternoon but did not return Sunday evening.

Monday evening, family members became worried. It was now Monday evening and the Civil Air Patrol had been asked to help in the search. The camper had equipped himself with everything he needed, including a personnel emergency locator transmitter. Using a radio direction finder, a map and good old-fashioned legwork, the search team located a plastic water bottle, then a second water bottle and a blue bag. Using these clues, the team broke into two-person elements to search in three directions. One element found a lean-to made from a poncho. Hearing a whistle, the CAP team followed the sound and found the missing camper, dehydrated, but otherwise fine.

“This was a great learning experience for me to serve as the team leader,” said Topeka Squadron member Cadet/Captain Master Sgt. Thomas Pugh, Topeka, Kan. “I learned that I can’t do everything myself.”

“This is the most realistic exercise that I have been on,” said Lawrence Squadron member Cadet/Senior Member Ellie Page, Lawrence, Kan.

DoD appoints Paul Mock as Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve National Chair

Courtey by Department of Defense

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel has selected retired Maj. Gen. Paul E. Mock as the national chair for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). ESGR’s national chair is an official Defense Department volunteer position.

Mock took an oath of office and was sworn in May 31. The position carries a three-year term and the protocol status of a military four-star flag or general officer. A retired lieutenant with the Los Angeles Police Department, he also has extensive experience serving as an attorney and public servant.

“I am humbled by my selection as the National Chair for ESGR and excited about furthering employer support for the men and women in the National Guard and Reserve. I look forward to supporting ESGR’s cadre of volunteers and assisting Mr. Ron Young, ESGR’s executive director, in advancing our mission.”

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense operational committee, seeks to foster a culture in which all employers support and value the employment and military service of members of the National Guard and Reserve in the United States. ESGR facilitates and promotes a cooperative culture of employer support for National Guard and Reserve members and their families through outreach and education, developing mutually beneficial partnerships, recognizing outstanding employer support, increasing awareness of applicable laws and policies, and helping resolve potential conflicts between employers and their employees who are service members. Paramount to ESGR’s mission is encouraging employment of Guardmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce.

Join the Civil Air Patrol

The Kansas Wing of the Civil Air Patrol is looking for adults and teens ages 12 to 18 to join our current volunteers on important missions.

The Civil Air Patrol is an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force with three primary missions: Aerospace education Cadet programs Emergency services www.kswg.cap.gov
Kids Camp and Teen Camp

Rewarding experiences abound for kids and counselors alike

By Steve Larson

Public Affairs Staff

When the last bell rings at the end of the school year, many kids say goodbye to their school friends for the summer, knowing they’ll see them again in the fall. For some kids, however, that bell signals a short countdown to a time they’ll see friends they haven’t seen in a year. Each year, the Kansas National Guard Family Programs sponsor two two-week-long summer camps in Salina for children from military families. Held during separate weeks in June and July, Kids Camp, for children ages 9–12, and Teen Camp, for ages 13–17, give these kids a chance to connect with others like them from all over Kansas, sharing a special bond that their school friends may not understand.

“They can instantly start talking about deployments, things they’ve gone through in military life in general and it’s understood,” said Darcy Seitz, Child and Youth program lead coordinator. “I think that’s one of the main reasons kids come back time after time.”

“Some of these kids I’ve known since fourth grade,” said Taylor Dunbar, a second-year Teen Camp participant. “Some of them live close by my house, some have track meets and home football games, but others that live far away, this is the only time I see them.”

“I have been to Teen Camp twice and every time I leave I have a friend that I don’t get to see for a year,” said Cameron England, “but I get to stay in contact (online) with some of the friends I’ve made here.”

“It helps the kids relate with other kids that are in the Guard,” said Dan Fox, the first sergeant for Kids Camp. “Whether they’re Army Guard or Air Guard, they have moms and dads that go away one weekend a month, several months or a year at a time. To know that there are other kids out there that have the same experiences, they can relate to that.”

“It has shown me that I am not alone,” said Dunbar. “I can lean on other people and rely on other people to help me through tough situations. Teen Camp has really helped me get through rough spots.”

Although making connections is important, there are plenty of fun activities for kids and teens at both camps. Nine-year-olds in a straight line, that’s a jodie,” said Fox. “If we can keep little kids engaged and interested in what we’re doing, we are undoing them and doing them.”

“The biggest kick they get out of it is being a leader,” said Fox.

“Most of the kids take those leadership responsibilities,” said Fox. “We have a young lady that started as an eight-year-old camper and now she’s one of our adult squad leaders as a matter of fact. She just progressed. We didn’t have enough adult volunteers this year so we solicited one of our junior squad leaders from last year and Karen’s doing a great job.”

Fox said he was in his “ninth or tenth” year as a Kids Camp counselor, but for Tech. Sgt. Emily Alley, 190th Air Refueling Wing, this was a whole new experience.

“It’s very rewarding to see some of the kids take those leadership responsibilities,” said Fox. “The kids want to be leaders. They want to be the people that people listen to.”

“I like the lockers. They’re cool. I like undoing them and doing them,” Ella Vesler enjoyed “all the buttons inside” the Black Hawk helicopter made available for the kids to see and climb inside. Although this is her first year at Kids Camp, Vesler said she had already made a friend, Elise.

“She’s really nice and she plays with me,” said Vesler. Fox said in addition to helping kids and Jeems make those connections, part of the Kids Camp goal is to expose the campers to some of the aspects of military life that their parents deal with, such as marching.

“We try to do some cadences, some jodies,” said Fox. “If we can keep little eight-year-olds in a straight line, that’s a good march for them. Every once in a while they get in step. But by the end of the camp they start learning how to march two-by-twos.”

“I think the biggest kick they get out of it is being the jodie songs that the squad leaders come up with,” he continued. “Usually by the end of the camp we have some of the kids wanting to call out cadences.”

“Kids Camp 2013 campers try out the safety harnesses in a Black Hawk helicopter at the Army Aviation Support Facility #2 in Salina. The visit was one of many activities and experiences given to the campers during the camp, held July 8–12. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)”

From such beginnings, Kids Camp participants learn and grow.

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“This is my first year to volunteer at Kids Camp, so I didn’t really know what to expect,” said Alley. “I had the opportunity, so I figured ‘Why not try it?’ It’s been fun. It’s definitely been a learning experience. I don’t have as much experience working with little kids as other people, but I feel like I’m growing from the experience.”

“Here at Kids Camp this week I am supervising twelve amazing nine-year-olds and helping them through this experience,” she continued. “I’m calling cadences, I’m taking them to do all these awesome activities to help give them some insight into what it is to be a mother, father, whoever goes through in the military.”

“I think the most fun thing for me was the first night we played kickball,” said Alley. “It was sort of a last-minute thing. My little girls challenged their brother to a game of kickball and they were bringing it! They’re about nine years old and we have this big ball and they’re kicking and they’re out there talking trash and we’re having a fantastic time. One of the girls comes up and says ‘It’s the first day but I am having a blast.’ She was just so excited. It was just an impulsive thing. It wasn’t even one of the big activities, but that was really rewarding for me to see them having fun.”

Alley said the experience also gave her the opportunity to be a role model for her girls.

“On a personal level, one of the things that I love is the fact I’ve got my camouflage pants on and they are seeing that not everyone in the military is a man,” said Alley. “I want my little girls to know that sending me in charge, it’s little girls. It’s a great learning experience for them and for the girls. I think all the kids are growing from the diversity they’re seeing.”

“If I had about a year to recover from it, absolutely I would volunteer next year,” said Alley.

Kansas Guard youth travels to D.C. as backpack journalist

Courtesy story

Three military youth, Hannah Rauhut, Daniel Jones and Jessica Herlinger, traveling as Backpack Journalists, attended the Points of Light Conference on Volunteering and Service Military Mission in Washington D.C., June 18-23.

For Herlinger, daughter of retired Sgt. 1st Class Robert Herlinger and Cherie Herlinger, a family assistance coordinator with Family Program, this was her third time attending a Backpack Journalist trip. The Backpackers interviewed over 100 volunteers from across the nation at the conference.

“Here at Kids Camp this week I am super excited,” said Alley. “It’s not just the little girls seeing me on the line, it’s the little boys seeing me, and they’re out there talking trash and they’re kicking it! They’re about nine years old and we have this big ball and they’re kicking and they’re out there talking trash and we’re having a fantastic time. One of the girls comes up and says ‘It’s the first day but I am having a blast.’ She was just so excited. It was just an impulsive thing. It wasn’t even one of the big activities, but that was really rewarding for me to see them having fun.”

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“I graduated from West Point with a degree in engineering,” said Dempsey. “In today’s world, you have to be able to communicate in order to succeed. You can have an IQ of over 200, but if you can’t communicate, you are going nowhere. So I went back to school. It wasn’t that easy either. I worked hard.”

To listen to the pod casts, see pictures, video, interviews and more, visit the A Backpack Journalist website at www.abackpackjournalist.com.
Continued from Page 4

peers. The one thing you do sometimes to discipline yourself and the NCO Corps, everyone notices. No matter how small it may be, someone noticed and is forming an opinion based on your actions.

Over the years I have seen a fundamental change in how NCOs see themselves compared to their Soldiers. More than ever, it is about taking care of your Soldiers, every single one of them. You care of them and they will take care of you. Being an NCO isn’t about having a position of power over someone else’s life, it is about training and Soldier care. Training requires discipline and enforcement of the standards, but that is not to license to use your position for personal gain. Taking care of Soldiers require communication. In the Army, communication is the first priority. About your vehicle is dead-lined if you do not have communication with others. Do your Soldiers understand your expectations? When they ask you for an issue, how long does it take you to respond? I know perseverance is not one of the Army values, but as an NCO, it is a key character trait. I do believe respect is earned as an individual. In the Army, we show respect to many of the time-honored institutions such as the flag and recognition of rank. The respect I am talking about is what you earn by your actions. If you are looking to earn my respect, show me you live the Army values. It is not about the values and the actions, it is about understanding the values of duty and selfless service come to mind. As I look through the NCO Creed, I can’t help but notice how many of the Army values are expressed in this creed. They state that Soldiers “take care of them and they will take care of you.” Being an NCO isn’t about having a position of power over someone else’s life, it is about training and Soldier care. Training requires discipline and enforcement of the standards, but that is not to license to use your position for personal gain. Taking care of Soldiers require communication. In the Army, communication is the first priority. About your vehicle is dead-lined if you do not have communication with others. Do your Soldiers understand your expectations? When they ask you for an issue, how long does it take you to respond? I know perseverance is not one of the Army values, but as an NCO, it is a key character trait. I do believe respect is earned as an individual. In the Army, we show respect to many of the time-honored institutions such as the flag and recognition of rank. The respect I am talking about is what you earn by your actions. If you are looking to earn my respect, show me you live the Army values. It is not about the values and the actions, it is about understanding the values of duty and selfless service come to mind. As I look through the NCO Creed, I can’t help but notice how many of the Army values are expressed in this creed. They state that Soldiers “take care of them and they will take care of you.”
“A Home Front Concert” by the 35th Infantry Division Band

By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

As part of annual training, Soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division Band conducted a series of open-air concerts. One of the “A Home Front Concert” series concerts was hosted at Garfield Park, Topeka, Kan., July 1.

Several hundred members of the local community brought folding chairs and blankets to enjoy the live music coming from the band stand. The 90-minute program consisted of military marches, vocals, patriotic selections and big band music.

“The audience was larger than normal,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Steve Patterson, commander and band conductor of the 35th Infantry Division Band, headquartered in Olathe, Kan. “Topeka has always been good to us.”

“We have been doing these concerts on top of our other annual training missions,” said Sgt. Andres Sladky, Olathe, Kan., percussionist and trumpet player with the 35th Infantry Division Band. “For example, we have just finished with the rifle range.”

“I am really proud of our unit's performance during annual training,” said Sgt. 1st Class Nathan Fabrizius, readiness noncommissioned officer for the band. “We performed in a different city almost every day of annual training, and still managed to do weapons qualification, record Army Physical Fitness Test, warrior training briefings and a great family day activity.”

Each concert featured a special salute to veterans and their families. Toward the end of the concert, the band played a medley of songs for the five armed services: United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard.

The band performed in Andover, August, El Dorado, McConnell Air Force Base, Melvern, Osage City, Overland Park, Parsons, Topeka, Wichita and Winfield from June 23 to July 4. The band performed in the Lenexa Independence Day Parade, the Merriam Flags for Freedom and in Overbrook July 4.

“It was pretty amazing what we accomplished during these two weeks,” said Fabrizius. “Working together as a team has been one of the most important parts of our success.”

The 35th Infantry Division Band plays a tribute to the Armed Forces during its concert in Garfield Park, Topeka, Kan., July 1. The performance was part of the band’s “A Home Front Concert” series. The Topeka concert was one of several concerts performed in a different city almost every day of annual training, and still managed to do weapons qualification, record Army Physical Fitness Test, warrior training briefings and a great family day activity.

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By Mike Berry

The Wichita Eagle

Fred Speer's eyes twinkle as he recalls seeing the brand-spanking new 1949 Mercury convertible for the first time.

"I was fresh out of the service," Speer recalled. "I came back in 1948 and Dick Price had a new building on Waterman. I got to talking to him and I said I was looking for a car. New cars were hard to find at that time."

"He took me down to the basement... there were no lights down there at the time. I had to look at it with a flashlight. It was the first car sold out of that building. They cleaned it up and delivered it to me a couple of days later," he said.

A former Air Force A-26 bomber pilot stationed in Japan, Speer paid $3,036.95 for the Lima Tan Metallic convertible. He met his wife, Connie, and courted her in the car, with its luxurious leather and tan cord interior.

"We met and six months later we were married," Connie said. "It was more him than this car," she said, grinning.

"We used it as a family car for quite a while," said Fred.

"But it was not a very good car for business... it was too cold in winter," Connie added.

"We put 100,000 miles on it... and for a '49 model, that's a lot of miles," he added. "It was a very good car."

Sometimes in the early 1960s, the old Mercury top was retired to a farm shed. It wasn't long before it literally was a "rag top," as the roof deteriorated and critters began taking up residence.

Fast forward a half century. Joshua Moyer, the Speers' grandson, had his eye on the old convertible.

"He and his grandpa are about as close as they can be," said Clinton Moyer, Joshua's dad. "He's a mechanic at Cummins Diesel, so we pulled the car down here and tried to restore it. It was full of sticks and trash and there were three or four possum skeletons in it."

About two years into the project, with the car half disassembled, they realized they needed a professional to finish the job.

"We took it to Steve Nicholson at Classic Body Works in Wellington," Clinton Moyer said. "He took it clear down to the frame."

"I never expected to see it that way... it looks better than it did when it was new," he said.

The car, one of only 16,735 Mercury convertibles built in that landmark 1949 model year, was outfitted with hydraulically controlled windows, top and front seat, which all needed attention. New glass was also in order.

With the body work done and fresh two-stage paint applied by the Classic Body Works crew, that left only the interior restoration. But a deadline was looming: Joshua Moyer was getting married and everyone wanted the Mercury convertible done in time for wedding photos.

Scott Downey at Downey's Upholstery took on the task and re-created the leather and fabric seats and door panels in exacting detail. A new folding cloth top was fabricated and mounted over the beautiful Chromed chrome. The Mercury was finished just in time for the festivities.

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"And Fred Speer was almost giddy when he saw his old car made new."

"I never expected to see it that way... it looks better than it did when it was new," he said.

Clinton Moyer said the car was restored as a tribute to his father-in-law, out of his respect for the man and his family. For now, Clinton is the caretaker. One day, Joshua Moyer will park the car in his garage and take it out for an occasional spin.

But it will always carry the personalized license plate that reads "FRED549."
Patriot Business Program aims to grow across state and nation

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett
Public Affairs Office

Saline County formally committed to supporting Kansas National Guard service members and their families at a Joining Community Forces Covenant Signing July 10.

Joining Community Forces is a collaborative effort to develop and communicate initiatives that expand on the national-level “Joining Forces” campaign by focusing on grassroots solutions in support of veterans, military members and families. The primary goal is to foster a sustainable network of local support through government/nongovernmental, non-profit, corporate partnerships and local community collaboration to fill service and information gaps. The JCF initiative seeks to educate, leverage and promote existing grassroots efforts and build community capacity to better support local military communities.

“There is a nationwide push for Community Covenant Signings. This is pushed by the Army to have communities stand up and say ‘We support those that support us,’” explained Mary Nesbitt, chair of Joining Community Forces and director of the State Family Program of the Kansas National Guard.

Just such a program has already been recognized as communities and giving support to them for supporting our service members, veterans and families in Salina, Kan.

Co-founders Melissa McCoy and Rachel Hinde said the Patriot Business Program aims to grow across the state and beyond the borders to a national-level with the help of JCF. “I’m so proud of where we are going with this program,” said McCoy.

The mission of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce’s Patriot Business Program is to create valuable savings for military members and their families by encouraging local businesses to offer meaningful discounts to current military identification cardholders. The voluntary action by the business to offer military discounts raises awareness about service members visiting or living in a community and fosters a positive relationship between the military and their civilian community.

The Patriot Business Program is an agreement between local chamber of commerce, military affairs councils or other veterans organizations and an area business operator to offer a 10 percent or more discount to current military identification cardholders. The store must honor the discount at all times to display the logo in their place of business or any place of business where produce or fresh produce is sold. The eligible for the discount are active duty, Guard, reserve, retirees and their dependents. This does not include veterans who do not have a current military ID card or family members who do not hold a dependent ID card. The store is only required to honor the discount for those who produce proper military identification.

Wichita and Manhattan have been talking with Hinde and McCoy about possibly adopting the program.

“It would be great,” said Sgt. Brenda Jennis, a Fort Riley resident and member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment. “It helps save money and it shows us the community actually cares about the military.”

To learn more about the programs visit www.patriotbusinessprogram.com and www.jointpartnersupport.org/community forces/. For further information regarding the Patriot Business Program, call Rachel Hinde at the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce at 785-827-9314. For further information regarding the Joint Community Forces Initiative call Mary Nesbitt at 785-274-1171.

When the Soldiers of Company D, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment arrived at Fort Riley for their June drill weekend, they were expecting the usual long hours in the motor pool, hot water and cold food. This time, they were delighted to learn the Company D Family Readiness Group would be selling hot pizza, snacks, homemade baked goods and cold drinks to refresh the Soldiers. Soldiers loved the opportunity to purchase a tasty lunch while supporting the efforts of the FRG.

The FRG plays a vital role for Kansas National Guard. The FRG builds Soldier and family cohesion and morale, prepares families for separation during deployments, enhances family readiness after deployment and acts as an information conduit between the unit and its families.

“The FRG is really important to me,” said Katie Pawlosky, a co-leader of the Company D FRG. “We are a support network for each other while our husbands are gone. It’s only once a month that all share something in common; our husbands are in the National Guard.”

With the money that was raised, the Company D FRG hopes to host a family picnic later this summer. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremie Carlos, Company D, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment)

995th Maintenance Company sends contact team to engineers

By Sgt. Amanda Mayfield

995th Support Maintenance Company UPAR Detachment 1, 995th Support Maintenance Company is was recently given the opportunity to participate in a mission to support the 242nd Engineer Company headquartered in Coffeyville, Kan. The mission was set forth for the 995th Maint. Co. was to send out a contact team to assist the engineers with equipment readiness and offer the team an opportunity to train in their Military Occupational Specialty. Staying true to their title “Support Maintenance Company” and exhibiting their dedication to exceeding the standards in maintenance made for a successful and beneficial mission for all involved.

The expert team was made up of more than 70 years of combined mechanical experience and service. Soldiers of the crew hold a variety of maintenance MOS. Staff Sgt. William Warner, a wheeled vehicle mechanic and a motor transport operator; Staff Sgt. Phil Hebert, a track vehicle repairer and wheeled vehicle mechanic; Sgt. Jonathan Stafford, a wheeled vehicle mechanic; and Spc. Chris Munson, a wheeled vehicle mechanic; led by Sgt. 1st Class Randy Kohlman, a maintenance supervisor, completed the five-man team.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Andy Laffery, unit’s motor officer, coordinated the event with the intent to benefit the current company, 242nd Eng., as well as his former unit, 995th Maint. Co. Not only would the mission reduce the 242nd Eng. backlog, it would also offer the opportunity for the 995th Maint. Co. troops to perform the level of maintenance often only experienced at annual training.

“Being from the 995th originally, I liked the idea of providing them with hands-on maintenance opportunities along with reducing our own workload,” said Laffery.

While on site, the team worked on a 621B scraper tractor. Soldiers were able to train on how to use electrical systems, as well as complete an overdue service. Noteworthy, the group performed a repair of dead timing issues on the vehicle.

“The guys were able to get the scraper up and running in half the time projected,” said Laffery. “This was huge for us because our AT begins in July. Functional equipment is mission essential and it took a monumental workload off of our shop.” Pointblank interaction was in check during training.

“The guys from 242nd were really helpful and easy to work with,” agreed Stafford and Munson. “They provided lots of positive feedback and made sure we had everything we needed to get the job done.”

“It was a great pleasure to help the engineers with their maintenance,” said Kohlman. “The idea of the 995th sending out support teams only makes sense. After all we are a “support” maintenance company. It increases the maintenance warfighter’s knowledge base and allows them to sustain their MOS skill, while increasing the supported unit’s mission readiness by allowing the practice of basic skills such as mission planning, pre-combat checklist, problem combat inspection, mission execution and after action review. These types of missions will only make the Kansas National Guard stronger. The amount of support goes to our team from the 242nd was outstanding.”

Training opportunities such as these could be a new trend for the Kansas National Guard. Headquarters Company, 995th Maint. in Smith Center, Kan., sent out their own contact team to Field Maintenance Shop 1 during July’s drill weekend with the same goal intended.

“The purpose of these types of missions is two-fold,” said Capt. Wallace Miller, company commander for the 995th. “Soldiers are building proficiency in their MOS and we’re building readiness in the state.”

It was generally agreed among that concerning training in this fashion benefits both the visit, host and the Kansas National Guard as a whole.

“The mission was a great opportunity to refine our essential skills,” said Warner, “and build inter-unit relations and operational cohesiveness.”

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT EVENTS

Sept. 20-22
Overland Park – Married Couples

Childcare is provided for all events.
Register by emailing Sgt. Jimmy Boss at 786-274-1514 or jimmy.d.boss.mil@mail.mil

Whether you’ve celebrated one anniversary or 20, as an Army couple you can anticipate more excitement — and expect more challenges — than the average civilian couple. Long separations, the stress of military life, deployments and relocations as a couple can be tough. One home can subject Army marriages to extreme hardship.

The marriage enrichment retreat is designed to strengthen relationships, inspire hope and rekindle the spark in marriages.