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Kansas Guardsman/Miss Kansas takes on America at pageant

By Spc. Brandon Jacobs
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Sgt. Theresa Vail, Manhattan, loves to take on challenges.

"It gives me a powerful feeling," said Vail, "and that's what I want to give to other women."

Tackling challenges led Vail into sports, joining the Kansas National Guard, and most recently, entering – and winning – the Miss Kansas Pageant.

Growing up in a military family fueled Vail's desire to serve and mentor others and acted as a springboard to joining the Kansas National Guard, which in turn eventually led her to enter the Miss Kansas Pageant. An officer told her she had the talent and ability to be a role model for young women. Vail decided pageantry was an ideal way to become that role model.

As part of the pageant, entrants must choose a platform to promote. Vail wanted a platform to enable young women to gain confidence and better themselves and recalled her own experiences as a youth, when she was bullied in school. For her, sports became an ideal outlet. Not content, however, with those sports where women



Sgt. Theresa Vail, Manhattan, a dental technician in the Kansas Army National Guard Medical Detachment, is crowned Miss Kansas 2013 at the conclusion of the state pageant held at Pratt County Community College in Pratt, Kan., June 8. (Photo used with permission, Miss Kansas organization)

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
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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.

"That 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,
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Medal of Honor ceremony brings family legacy alive for Kansas Soldier and Airman

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

1st Lt. Kristina Kapaun and her brother, Spc. David Kapaun, visited the White House April 11 to witness a ceremony honoring a man they had never met, a man who died decades before either was born, but a man of whom both were immensely proud.

During the ceremony, President Barack Obama presented a posthumous Medal of Honor to their great-uncle, Chaplain (Capt.) Emil Kapaun, who died in a North Korean prisoner of war camp May 23, 1951, after

seven months of imprisonment. But in those months, Kapaun, a Catholic priest, performed numerous acts of heroism and self-sacrifice. Stories of those acts became part of the Kapaun family history.

"What I knew about him was the stories, that he was in the Army and that he was really brave and that he did a lot of amazing things while he was captured in the Korean War," recalled Kristina, air battle manager with the 134th Air Control Squadron, Kansas Air National Guard. "It was one of

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Chaplain (Capt.) Emil Kapaun celebrates Mass during the Korean War using the hood of a jeep as his altar, Oct. 7, 1950. Less than a month later, Kapaun would, without regard for his own life, save a fellow Soldier from certain death. (Courtesy photo by Col. Raymond Skeehan)

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Kansas Guardsman/Miss Kansas takes on America at pageant

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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 confident 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 with six years of service in the Kansas Army National Guard, is a dental technician in the Medical Detachment, headquartered in Lenexa, 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 Guardsman," 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 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 Vail's platform.

"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.



Sgt. Theresa Vail, Manhattan, a dental technician in the Kansas National Guard and Miss Kansas 2013, sports her Modular Lightweight Load-carrying Equipment, known as a MOLLE pack, as she leaves the Miss Kansas Pageant at Pratt County Community College in Pratt, Kan., June 8. (Photo used with permission, Miss Kansas organization)

Vail has learned to confront her problems head-on from her time in the service and her childhood growing up around the military.

She likes breaking people's perceptions of women in the military.

"When you are around military guys, as a woman you have to hold yourself up stronger," 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.Missoutdoor-girl.com. More recently she partnered with 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. With continuing effort and a little bit of luck she will be able to add a new title to her resume: Miss America.

"I'm hoping my uniqueness will inspire people, and hopefully, that will bode well at Miss America," said Vail. "I like to shock people."

Kansas participates in Armenia National Response Plan Workshop

Sharon Watson
Public Affairs Office

Participants from the Kansas National Guard's State Partnership Program and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers traveled this summer to Yerevan, Armenia, for a National Response Plan Workshop and Table Top Exercise involving more than 100 people.

The event was the fourth major exercise of its kind in Armenia designed to test the country's National Response Plan. The exercise featured a disaster scenario involving the Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant.

Representatives from the corps' Civil Military Emergency Preparedness Program assisted the Armenian government in designing the exercise, while representatives from the Kansas National Guard, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Kansas City, Kan., Police Department and Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station in Burlington, Kan., provided presentations and input throughout the three-day event. The Kansas National Guard is routinely involved in these types of events through the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program, which pairs Kansas government



Cait Purinton, state exercise officer for the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, answers questions from Armenian television reporters during an interview July 10 about the Armenia National Response Plan Workshop held in Yerevan, Armenia, July 9-11. (Photo by Sharon Watson, Public Affairs Office)

officials with Armenia to exchange ideas on many common challenges, including the best way to respond to and recover from disasters in their respective countries.

"We are not as different as you may think," said Cait Purinton, Kansas Division of Emergency Management state exercise officer. "This was my first visit to Armenia, so I didn't know what to expect. It was reassuring that so many of our processes are similar, which makes it easier to exchange ideas and lessons learned between our governments."

The disaster preparedness event involved participants from more than 18 Armenian government agencies and organizations, including the Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant.

"This was a good opportunity to share our experiences at Wolf Creek in developing and executing emergency plan drills with another country and I am appreciative the state of Kansas and the Army Corps of Engineers invited me to participate," said Russell Smith, Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station. "I was excited by all the questions and participation during my presentation on the emergency planning process here in Kansas, and it was very evident

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Medal of Honor ceremony brings family legacy alive for Kansas Soldier and Airman

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those things where you grow up with it being there."

"Every year at Pilsen, Kansas, they have a dedication for him," she continued. "There, they would always tell stories about what he did. They called him the 'Good Thief,' they'd call him a hero. He rescued people and he also helped steal food to help feed them (because) everyone was starving in camp."

"He would break out of his side of the camp — they separated the officers from the enlisted — then he would break into the enlisted side," said David, a member of the Kansas Army National Guard's 35th Military Police Company. "The whole time he's scavenging for food or materials to make pans or pots to boil the water."

"It was kind of like the Robin Hood story," said Kristina. "He was doing it to help save his fellow prisoners. He didn't take it for himself, he took it for other people. So I always thought that was really amazing as an example of putting other people before yourself, no matter how bad the situation is."

"Growing up it was like 'Wow! Not only are you breaking out of one camp, but you're breaking into another, knowing the whole time if you get caught you're going to be punished,'" said David. "Just to serve your men like that, what drives a man to do that?"

David said his favorite story was "when he picked up Herb Miller."

"Here was a U.S. Soldier in a ditch, getting ready to be executed by the enemy because he couldn't walk," said David, "and my great-uncle just walks over, calmly,

with a mission in mind to take his Soldier back. He just pushes the enemy out of the way and picks up and carries a wounded Soldier with no reason other than 'That's my Soldier and you're not taking him.'"

"We listened to Herb tell it first-hand," said David. "It just sends chills down your spine."

Along with Miller, Kristina and David got to meet several other men who had lived with Kapaun and were saved through his efforts.

"They actually didn't like to talk about themselves," Kristina said, "but about Father Kapaun. They'll talk about him all day long, about what he did. By talking about what he did they were, in a way, talking about what they went through. Going through Father Kapaun was a safer way for them to share about that experience they went through, which was unimaginable."

It was through the efforts of such men that Kapaun was awarded the Medal of Honor.

"From what I understood (from the ceremony) they were trying to work on it as soon as the Soldiers came back from Korea," said Kristina. "They were wanting him to receive the Medal of Honor."

After 60 years of writing letters, talking to members of Congress and spreading the story about Kapaun, that richly-deserved honor became a reality. Proudly wearing their Kansas National Guard uniforms, the Kapauns traveled to Washington, D.C., in April to attend the ceremony.

"The ceremony was amazing," Kristina said. "It was a lot more emotional than I expected it to be. Meeting the prisoners of war that actually knew my great-uncle was prob-



Ray Kapaun accepts the Medal of Honor from President Barack Obama on behalf of his uncle, the late U.S. Army Capt. Emil J. Kapaun, during a ceremony April 11 at the White House. Capt. Kapaun, 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. Teddy Wade)

ably one of the best parts of it. That made it real. Growing up, you heard the stories, but then we actually met the people who were there with him. It brought it home."

David said he felt "Just immense pride, when you think of everything that my great-uncle had done and to be a part of the family, and part of the legacy. To be still serving in the Kansas Army National Guard and to be there in uniform, to be among some of the greatest men that have received the Medal, it was just an amazing event."

Kristina said the stories about her great-uncle had an indirect affect on her decision to join the Guard.

"It did affect how I knew I wanted to try to aspire to be in the military," she explained. "He was a very brave person and not only was he brave, he was kind and gentle person to everyone he ever met. So that was something I tried to aspire to. I have a long way to go, but he's somebody who's amazing to look up to as an example of how to be in the military."

David echoed her sentiment. "I've always had the desire to serve," he said. "Knowing that my great-uncle had served... you just kind of hope to live up to the name. It's more of an honor that I get to serve in the military with the same last name."

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 MOSs. 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

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Students at the Kansas Regional Training Site – Maintenance learn repair skills on a Mobile Integrated Remains Collection System trainer using the Skills Based Training process. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy L. Gray, Kansas Regional Training Site – Maintenance)

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, runs to the finish line in an eight-mile road march with the support of (left to right) Staff Sgt. Justin Zimmerman, a regional evaluator and member of the Kansas Army National Guard Pre-mobilization Training Assistance and Evaluation Team and 242nd Engineer Company; Command Sgt. Maj. James Moberly, Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas - Land Component command sergeant major; and Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth, state command sergeant major for the Kansas National Guard. The ruck march was part of the National Guard Bureau Region V Best Warrior Competition held at Camp Swift, near Bastrop, Texas, May 7-9.

Fourteen Army National Guardsmen from Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas competed in this year's competition, hosted by the Texas National Guard.

The competitors consisted of the overall noncommissioned officer and junior enlisted winners from each state's respective competitions. They were each tested on combat lifesaving, land navigation, marksmanship and other warrior-tasks skills. Additionally, they had an appearance board where they were tested on Army knowledge, and wrote an essay on how they, as a leader, can help prevent suicide.

Spc. Joshua Joynt, an infantryman of Company A, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment and Kansas Army National Guard Soldier of the Year competed as the Kansas junior enlisted. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Malcolm McClendon)

Tech Savvy Information Technology Updates

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 staff the opportunity 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 staff redesign discussions, it was decided to retain the term "Directorate" for each individual J-staff function. Replacing "Information Management" with "Information Technology" more accurately described the directorate's role in the organization and helped differentiate it from functions such as knowledge management. 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 EE, 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 troubleshoot issues since 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 milConnect/DMDC. DISA accounts are now directly tied to information in DMDC.

AKO traditional Soldier accounts migrated to DISA separately from the full-time accounts. 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 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 sites still use AKO account authentication for access. We will have to wait and see where this goes.

Defense Knowledge Online ended May 31 and all data on it was deleted. Non-Army users who had AKO access via DKO, will need to secure an Army sponsor to AKO.

Mobile Device Integration

Although DoD acknowledges that mobile device integration is the way of the future, application has been slow, primarily due to security concerns. Several states had already made 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 this pilot and will receive a limited number of devices for the trial.

DoD has also acknowledged that a "Bring Your Own Device" architecture is likely inevitable. However, it may be quite some time before that is employed. Kansas will continue to deploy mobile devices (tablets, etc.) on 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 PCoIP 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 PCs mentioned above. The PCoIP machines will allow for users to log in 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 issuing information and instructions regarding the change.

DOIT will also be utilizing a recently developed user checklist for machine re-imaging intended to capture all data and applications a user wishes to be retained. 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 utilized 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.

Strength, character and courage needed to overcome future difficulties

By **Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli**
Adjutant General

Our organization is made up of amazing people who must routinely take actions that affect lives, whether on the battlefield, in disaster response, in training or 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.



Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli

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 furloughs of our military technicians and federal civilians, and the layoffs of state employees at our Readiness Sustainment Maintenance Sites. Fortunately, the furloughs have ended, but we can't be sure they won't be brought back as a future way to cut the federal Department

of Defense budget. As you can see, these are financially challenging times, with no indication of improvement in the federal budget situation. The difficulties ahead will take strength, character and courage as we must make tough choices about our agency. At the same time, we must balance these decisions with our organization's role of serving our state and country.

Our success depends greatly on individual character and integrity, both of which have been explained as doing what is right even when no one is looking. We should each ask ourselves if we are doing this. There is a lot at stake. Reputations of individuals and organizations take years to build, but can be brought down in a day with one wrong decision.

Fortunately, we have many examples of right choices and right actions in our ranks and it's important we don't overlook some of these accomplishments. For example, our 190th Air Refueling Wing deserves congratulations for the hard work and dedication that resulted in the 2013 Distinguished Flying Unit Award, an award the unit has won three times.

Four Kansas National Guardsmen deserve recognition for recent actions they took to save the lives of Kansans. Two Soldiers with

our 778th Transportation Company assisted a stabbing victim in Junction City Aug. 10. Sgt. Ace Thompson and Sgt. Monty McWilliams had completed the Combat Life Saver course and utilized their skills to help save the individual while also trying to prevent a further attack. In a separate incident, Staff Sgt. Matthew Crawford, with the 190th Air Refueling Wing Maintenance Squadron, risked his life to save a child who was gravely injured in Topeka. Crawford came upon an accident involving the child and a car May 6. He rendered aid to the child by controlling severe bleeding from her badly injured leg. Last winter, Tech. Sgt. Shawn Rucker, with the 184th Intelligence Wing, helped save the life of an individual whose home was on fire. A resident was still asleep in the basement when Rucker went in and carried her to safety. It is selfless acts like these we must continue to recognize and honor. Please join me in congratulating and thanking these four individuals for their bravery and heroic actions.

In addition, I would like to call attention to the hard work of Lt. Col. Judith Martin, our first female brigade commander in the Kansas National Guard. Martin recently took command of the 235th Regiment, which instructs the officer candidates and Warrant Office Candidate Schools as well as courses in many occupational specialties.

Congratulations are also in order for Sgt. Theresa Vail, a dental technician in the Medical Detachment in Lenexa, who was crowned Miss Kansas recently and will now

represent our great state at the national level when she competes for the title of Miss America. Her commitment and dedication as a student, Soldier and a contestant are paying off for her as she strives to serve as a role model for females across our state and nation with her platform of empowering women. Vail has also agreed to assist the department in recruiting prospective Guard members. We wish her the best in her competition and know she will represent the Kansas National Guard well in her endeavors.

Our 184th Intelligence Wing recently made an impact through its efforts as several personnel with the medical group conducted clinics for the medically-underserved in Hawaii this summer, and the wing's Civil Engineering Squadron deployed to New Mexico and Arizona to build homes and install sewer and water systems for local Native Americans. It is projects like these that make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Despite all the good we are doing, unfortunately, funding reductions continue to make it more difficult to do our jobs as we once did. We recognize the challenges this presents and are committed to doing what we can to minimize the impacts 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 commit to searching for efficient and effective ways to serve our state and country.

Practice safe water activities

By **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 factors that concern me are alcohol and knowing how to swim. Both of these factors are preventable and easy to fix.



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Marvin Terhune

Approach water activities as you would if operating your vehicle. If you are out in a boat fishing, skiing or tubing or out on a jet ski, don't drink. Observe speed rules and stay within designated boating lanes. A floating or submerged log can cause severe damage to your watercraft or personal injury.

Personal flotation devices are a must and

are usually a requirement for children. Everyone that is skiing or tubing is 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 out 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 something as simple as enrolling 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 lessons. Lessons are usually available for all ages and skill levels of swimmers. Learning how to swim and to respect the water allows families to enjoy the outdoors and keep cool during the summer months.

Kansas Warrant Corps update

By **Chief Warrant Officer 5 Hector Vasquez**
State Chief Warrant Officer

Candidates at our state Warrant Officer Candidate School completed Phase II Aug. 18, having completed a five-month course consisting of academic, leadership and teamwork skills. The candidates had to pass two college-style exams, as well as a 6.2-mile road march with a 45-pound ruck sack in 90 minutes and the Army Physical Fitness Test. The candidates also had three projects, which consisted of their class song, class sign and motto rock, and a humanitarian project. This warrant officer class will begin their final phase at Camp Atterbury, Ind., which will consist of classroom and field exercises in which cadets will be tested. Upon completion the 15-day Phase III, the candidates will graduate from WOCS Sept. 21 and become our newest warrant officers.



Command Chief Warrant Officer 5 Hector Vasquez

advise, counsel officers during Phase II: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Smith, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Stephen Patterson, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Mike Whisler, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ronnie Fankhauser and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Brent Campbell. Fankhauser will be attending TAC Officer Certification at Fort Rucker, Ala., in September and I look forward to seeing him work with next year's WOCS class.

If you are interested in becoming a TAC officer or instructor, please contact Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Smith, WOCS Battalion course manager, at (785) 822-6688 or michael.w.smith293.mil@mail.mil, or myself. We are still looking for male and female chief warrant officers to assist in this role. For those of you who are proud of the Warrant Officer Corps and looking to participate in something that will truly give back, this is an excellent opportunity. No one knows the Warrant Officer Corps better than those of us who are in it. Being a TAC officer enables you to directly affect the growth of our corps and convey what you've learned to future warrant officers.

For any Soldiers interested in becoming a warrant officer, now is the time to start or finalize your predetermination packets. Completing the predetermination

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Warrior to Warrior Living by the NCO Creed

By **Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Matticks**
235th Regiment

When deployed to Africa, I was reminded of the importance of the noncommissioned officer in today's Army. We have worked hard to develop the best NCO Corps, but our work is an ongoing process and we must continue to develop and train the next generation of NCOs. How? We use the NCO Creed as our guide.



Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Matticks

The idea behind the creed was to give NCOs a yardstick by which to measure themselves. It was developed by a group of NCOs in 1973 who recognized that the post-Vietnam NCO needed direction and guidance to bring the NCO Corps to the next level and modernize the training and development for the next generation. The Army gave formal recognition to the

creed in 1985. The creed is made up of three paragraphs with each paragraph beginning with a different letter; N - C - O.

The creed talks about professionalism, tradition and integrity. Professionalism isn't just about how you act; it is more about how you think. Do you live the Army values or do you use the Army values when it is convenient? It is easy to see when someone else is not professional in their actions. The danger with that is others will accept that behavior as normal and even begin to emulate what they see.

Traditions can't be bought and don't happen overnight. They are developed over time. Every day, when you put on your uniform and salute the flag, you are a part of a tradition that is hundreds of years old. A perfect example of tradition is when newly promoted NCOs recite the NCO Creed from memory during their promotion.

You build upon that tradition with your actions and integrity. Think of it this way: all of the countless things you do right on a daily basis bring credit to the NCO Corps but probably go unnoticed by your

(Continued on Page 18)

PLAINS GUARDIAN

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Visual Inspection of Workplaces: Why did they do it?

By Chief Warrant Officer 4 Sandra Lashley
State Equal Opportunity Officer

We recently went through a statewide "Visual Inspection of Workplaces." We were given a short timeline in which to accomplish this inspection and much discussion was generated.

What was the point? What good will this do? Everyone knows not to hang up pictures of 'babes' and 'buff guys.' Some are saying the removal of offensive material will not change someone who intends harm.

These questions are valid. So, why would the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army and the National Guard conduct these visual inspections? Is it just a show put on for Congress? The question is; where would you start? We know that in the past years incidents of sexual assault have increased. There are either more cases occurring or individuals are finding it safer to report the assaults.

Where does equal opportunity fit into the

picture of sexual assault? It has been theorized that letting the little incidents of comments, jokes or inappropriate pictures hanging on the walls create an environment where this type of conduct is considered 'okay.' If that is considered 'okay' then why not take it a step further. If verbal harassment is not 'all that bad,' then just touching someone or 'accidentally' rubbing up against them in the hallway is not 'all that bad.' The theory is if we don't stop sexual harassment it leads to sexual assault. Is it only a theory? Allowing sexual harassment creates an environment where those that would commit sexual assault feel safe in doing so.

Where do we make the changes if not starting with visual workplace inspections? It is about creating trust and showing respect! If we have 'de-humanized' others when we treat them as objects it can turn into making it morally okay to mistreat someone because they are not human anyway.

DoD is looking for the behaviors that will help change that attitude. Did they miss the mark with the visual inspections? That may be something you will have to decide. There is a need to look at our Army values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. If we are living the Army values, how can we abuse fellow Soldiers or condone that abuse by others? That may be the bigger question to ask ourselves.



Chief Warrant Officer 4
Sandra Lashley

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 forces was made 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.



Gen. Frank Grass

"We commit the Army National Guard to boots-on-the-ground deployments for one year within a three-year cycle period 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 operations 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 rotational model for deployments helps maintain a healthy overall force.

"Effective use of the Army (and Air) National Guard should enable the active component to achieve 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 operational commitments 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 operational use throughout the world against long-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 said 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 National Guard units," he explained

Regardless of deployment dwell times, Guard leaders also can be counted upon for no-notice events.

"In the event of a national emergency, the National Guard is committed to supporting all requirements for forces regardless of rotational periods, up to the limits imposed by presidential and congressional authority," said Grass.

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. The National Guard remains always ready, always there."

Presidential authority, as well as those of the secretary of defense, should be the governing factor for rotational usage 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 future," said Grass. "Two-year notice, nine-month boots on ground, 30-day individual notice, not more than 50 percent of a state's force structure deployed at once and other policies were helpful over the last decade, but they should not govern force planning assumptions for future contingencies."

Changes come to education benefits for service members

By Capt. Matt Hapke
Education Services Officer

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

Federal Tuition Assistance

Federal Tuition Assistance is still available for Army National Guardsmen 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 to 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 valid flag in your record, please check with your unit administrator to ensure that your record is clear. The second change is you will now have from 60 days prior to seven days after the class-start date to request FTA. If you have 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 anyone wanting to transfer their benefits to their family members will be required to serve four additional years from the date of the transfer request. Prior to 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 lesser or no additional service obligation. Remember that this benefit is available to anyone who deployed or served on active duty or AGR since Sept. 11, 2001, and 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 at the with-dependent rate for the zip code of the school, and up to



Capt. Matt Hapke

\$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 for a traditional Guardsman equates to 60 percent of the benefit.

Montgomery GI Bill

There are currently no changes to the MGIB-Selected Reserve or MGIB-Active Duty. Those who paid into this program either through AGR service or active duty service will receive monthly payments 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 currently \$1,564 per month for a full-time student. MGIB-SR users can expect \$356 per month for a full-time student.

Reserve Educational Assistance Program

This GI Bill program is available to those who deployed or were mobilized after Sept. 11, 2001. This is based on your longest, single amount of active duty, not to include AGR service, only deployments. No changes to the program are currently being tracked. The current 60 percent payment rate for REAP for a full-time student is \$938.40.

Kansas National Guard Educational Assistance Program

State Tuition Assistance is still available for all National Guardsmen. Army National Guardsmen are expected to use any and all available FTA funds before using STA. This program is administered by the Kansas Board of Regents. The application can be found on our website (see below). It is due to your school no later than Sept. 20, 2013. It will pay up to 100 percent of tuition and fees at the participating institutions, which can be found on the application.

Make sure that if you are pursuing higher education that you use the benefits which you have earned. The Education Services Office is available for benefits and educational 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, please see our web page at www.kansastag.gov/NGUARD/asp?PageID=497.

State Chaplain's Corner

Partners in Care... Saving lives

By Chaplain (Col.) William Jenkins
Kansas National Guard State Chaplain

When death by suicide happens, we sort through all the "what-ifs" and "if-onlys" racking our brains, trying to figure out how it 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 something is not 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, stopping by to check on the person.

As members of the National Guard we

receive ACE training each year to refresh our suicide identification and prevention skills (ASK your buddy; CARE for your buddy; ESCORT your buddy to help if they are at risk). In addition, we have the two-day Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training that provides additional skills to help prevent suicide. These are excellent programs, but no program can replace a human relationship that cares enough to get involved.

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

It takes a relationship to save a human life. As a person of faith, my relationship with God is foundational, but I also need 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.

Pro Deo Et Patria... For God and Country.



Chaplain (Col.)
William D. Jenkins

First female assumes brigade command in the Kansas Guard

By Spc. Nicolas VanWyhe
Public Affairs Office

Lt. Col. Judith D. Martin, Topeka, took command of the 235th Regiment, Kansas Army National Guard, in a ceremony 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.

The 235th Regiment instructs the Officer Candidate and Warrant Officer Candidate Schools, and courses in many military occupational specialties. The regiment provides military training to all services.

"It is my distinct honor to take command of the 235th Regiment," said Martin. "Command Sergeant Major Matticks, commanders, noncommissioned officers and Soldiers of the 235th Regiment, it is my privilege to start this command journey with you."

Martin's primary focus will be to prepare for the triennial accreditation next year and to stand up the Food Service School.

Windham is to be the next assistant division commander at 35th Infantry Division, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

"I give thanks to 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, Germany, and Headquarters, III Corps, Fort Hood, Texas, 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-

moted to the senior noncommissioned ranks. She commissioned as an officer in 1992 at the Kansas Military Academy in Salina.

Her past assignments include battalion commander of the 1st Battalion, 235th Regiment (OCS/WOCS); deputy directorate of Joint Strategic Plans and Policy, Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas; deputy chief of staff for Logistics, 377th Theater Sustainment Command (Operation Iraqi Freedom); officer recruiter, Recruiting and Retention Battalion (National Guard Bureau Officer Recruiter of the Year); Drug Demand Reduction administrator/executive officer, Counterdrug Special Operations Group; and company commander, 74th Quartermaster Company.

Her civilian education includes a Bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Central Texas (National Dean's List), and a master's in public administration at the University of Kansas. Her military education includes U.S. Army War College, Command and General Staff Officer and Advanced Operations Warfighting School, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Ordnance Officer Advanced Course and the Adjutant General's Officer Basic Course.

Martin works full time for the Kansas Army National Guard as the deputy U.S. Property and Fiscal Officer. She is married to retired Col. Henry M. Martin, Ph.D. They have five children - Alycia, Anastasia, Marion, Kristina and Klint. Sgt. 1st Class Kristina Griffin, Staff Sgt. Marion Martin and Spc. Klint Williams are all members of the Kansas Army National Guard.

Col. Robert E. Windham

During his career, Col. Robert E. Windham has served as the Joint Forces Headquarters deputy chief of staff for Logistics; commander, Task Force Hurricane (Operation Iraqi Freedom); deputy commander,



Lt. Col. Judith Martin, incoming commander of the 235th Regiment, fires off a cannon as a ceremonial symbol of assuming command following the change of command ceremony at the Great Plains Joint Training Center, Salina, Kan., July 20. (Photo by Sgt. Dustin Furrey, 235th Regiment UPAR)

130th Field Artillery Brigade; and deputy commander, Task Force Tornado (Operation Iraqi Freedom). He has also served in various command and staff positions at the battalion and battery level.

Windham is a 1986 graduate of the Officer Candidate School at the Kansas Military Academy.

His military education includes the Communications - Electronics Staff Officer Course at Fort Sill, Okla.; Signal Officer Basic and Advanced Courses at Fort Gordon, Ga.; Combined Arms and Services Staff School and Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth; the Joint Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence Staff and Operations Course at the Joint Forces Staff Col-

lege, Norfolk, Va.; and the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa. He also attended the Chief of Staff of the Army's Senior Leader Seminar.

His civilian education includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in management and human resources, a Master of Arts degree in telecommunications management, and a Master of Arts degree in strategic studies. He has attended Mid-America Nazarene University, the University of Kansas and Webster University. He is a graduate of Leavenworth High School, Leavenworth, Kan.

In his civilian job, Windham serves as the director of the Network Enterprise Center, Fort Riley, Kan. His formal civilian education includes graduation from the Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville, Va.

Oldest jet in Air Force returns home to the 190th Air Refueling Wing

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

The oldest jet in the U.S. Air Force has returned 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 on a 60-day deployment. Tech. Sgt. Michael Tremblay, the assistant crew chief, brought 57-1419 home June 3.

Regular scheduled maintenance is key to keeping the seasoned aircraft airborne, said head crew chief Master Sgt. Bradley Roberts.

"Although the KC-135 came off the assembly line in 1957, it receives a complete overhaul every five years, which is similar to 1957 Chevy frame restoration," said Roberts.

"It is stripped inside and out, repainted and the engines are replaced, if needed. It is also inspected and x-rayed."

57-1419 is the oldest in the Air Force, but it doesn't have too many years ahead of its flight mates.

"That 57-1419 is not that much older than the rest of the KC-135s we have," Roberts said.

The number on the tanker tells the tale of its journey off

the assembly line. The 57 means it was built in 1957. The other numbers indicate its order in the assembly line.

Roberts started his career as a crew chief in 1991, he was assigned to 57-1460, but the 190th had several 56 models at the time.

"It's really a source of pride for me," said pilot Capt. Emma House. "So many generations of the KC-135 pilots have flown her."

"I can't even begin to imagine all the places she's been and the fact I get to fly her on an OEF mission in 2013 is really something special," she said.

The 57-1419 may be the oldest jet in the Air Force, but it only has 22,300 flight hours, which is much less than most commercial planes.

Its age, however, hasn't hindered its usefulness, nor has it dampened its crew's eagerness to throttle up and take to the sky.

For Roberts, lending 57-1419 to his active-duty counterparts didn't come without hesitation.

"It's like lending out your vehicle. You don't like to, but it is necessary to support the mission," he said.

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



KC-135 Stratotanker 57-1419, the oldest jet in the Air Force, returns home to the 190th Air Refueling Wing headquartered at Forbes Field, Topeka, Kan., after having been on loan to the active duty for Operation Enduring Freedom mission support. (Photo by Master Sgt. Allen Pickert, 190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs)

Adjutant general announces 35th Infantry Division commander

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

Maj. Gen. Lee Tafaaneli, the adjutant general of Kansas, has announced Brig. Gen. Michael D.

Navrkal to succeed Maj. Gen. John E. Davoren as the commander of the 35th Infantry Division. Davoren is retiring with 37 years of military service.

The change of command will be held Saturday Oct. 5 at 1 p.m. at the main parade field at Fort Leavenworth.

Navrkal's selection was a joint decision of the 35th Division Council made up of the adjutants general of Illinois, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. Tafaaneli chairs the council.



Brig. Gen. Michael D. Navrkal

Navrkal currently serves as the assistant adjutant general for the Nebraska Army National Guard. He is also the deputy commanding general for operations, First United States Army Division West and is responsible for conducting training readiness oversight and mobilization of designated Active, National Guard and Reserve component forces.

"It will take a leader of considerable experience and knowledge to replace Major General Davoren," said Tafaaneli. "I am confident that Brigadier General Navrkal possesses those qualifications and I am certain the division will continue to excel in its missions under his leadership."

"Brigadier General Navrkal brings a wealth of command and leadership experience to this position," said Maj. Gen. Judd H. Lyons, the adjutant general of Nebraska. "He is an excellent choice for the 35th ID commander."

"I am honored to be selected as the next commander of this outstanding unit," said Navrkal. "The 35th Infantry Division has

such a great tradition of service to this nation and I look forward to serving with the outstanding Soldiers who make up the division."

Navrkal received his commission from the Officer Candidate Course at Fort Benning, Ga., June 5, 1981. He has commanded at the company, battalion and brigade levels. Navrkal commanded Company A, 2nd Battalion, 134th Infantry Regiment, 67th Infantry Brigade and the 168th Quartermaster Petroleum Supply Battalion. Navrkal deployed to Iraq as commander of the 867th Corps Support Battalion from 2006-2007, leading an organization of 1,700 Soldiers providing logistical support. Most recently, he served as commander of 92nd Troop Command.

Davoren assumed duties as the division commander in August 2010. He was commissioned in 1976 from the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of Kansas. After completing the Infantry Officer Basic Course and Ranger training

he served as a rifle platoon leader, Company A, 503rd Infantry at Fort Campbell, Ky. In July 1979 he was assigned to Troop B, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; and in 1982 became the executive officer for the 1st Aviation Battalion at Fort Riley, Kan.

Since joining the Kansas Army National Guard his assignments have included commander, Company A, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Battalion; intelligence officer, 69th Brigade; operations officer, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf.; commander, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf.; commander, 69th Troop Command; assistant division commander, 35th Infantry Division; commander, Multi-national Task Force - East (KFOR 9); and assistant adjutant general, Kansas Army National Guard.

The 35th Infantry Division, headquartered at Fort Leavenworth, is comprised of Soldiers from Illinois, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

Helicopter detachment returns from deployment to Afghanistan

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 Soldiers 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-heartedly endorsed by the audience.

“Thanks for a job well-done,” said Peck. “To the families and supporters out there, each and every one of you, you have been a



Capt. Ryan Bernard (right), commander, and Sgt. 1st Class Shaun Carter, acting first sergeant of Detachment 2, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, accept a welcome home flag from American Legion Riders Post 62, Kansas Chapter, on behalf of their unit during their homecoming ceremony from Afghanistan at the Army Aviation Support Facility #2 in Salina, Kan., June 18. (Photo by Jane Welch, Public Affairs Office)

vast contributing member to the team and their success.”

Peck said the company flew more than

670 missions as a company with about 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
(Continued on Page 9)

Field Artillery Soldiers share military experience with employers

By Spc. Jessica Haney
105th 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 that.”

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 opportu-

nity 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 they were 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 and benefits of having employees that serve in the Reserve components. Participants are asked about their concerns regarding their employees. They are encouraged to offer recommendations and ideas for improving the employer/employee relationship with respect to the consequences of military service.

“When the employer’s boarded the Black Hawk helicopters for the trip to Fort Riley, you could see the excitement in their eyes,” said Allen. “When we landed and their em-



High-Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems fire during the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery’s annual training supported by the 250th Forward Support Company at Fort Riley, Kan., June 22. The battalion was able to display their job to civilian employers through the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve’s Boss Lift program. (Photo by Spc. Jessica Haney, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

ployee greeted them it was evident that the employer was even more excited to share their experience with other employers when they returned home.”

The 2nd Bn., 130th FA is headquartered

in Hiawatha, Kan., with batteries in Abilene, Holton and Marysville, Kan. The 250th Forward Support Company, headquartered in Ottawa, has detachments in Hiawatha and Clay Center.

184th Intelligence Wing’s Medical Group takes part in Tropic Care 2013



Airman 1st Class Michael Lane, a member of 184th Intelligence Wing’s Medical Group, takes the vital signs of a local resident in Lanai, Hawaii, in support of Tropic Care 13. (Photo by Staff Sgt. N. Alicia Goldberger, 176th Wing Public Affairs)

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.”

With so many services working together, challenges presented themselves early during the operation.

“Everybody came together really quickly under some rather adverse 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 resiliency 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
(Continued on Page 14)

Soldiers brave weather to qualify on assigned weapons

By Spc. Lindsey Bogner
995th Support Maintenance Company UPAR

Going to the weapons range happens every year for units in the Kansas Army National Guard. In Kansas, that drill weekend may be nice and sunny or cold and blustery. The 995th Support Maintenance Company, Smith Center, and its detachment in Concordia, had the latter type during May's drill.

The 995th SMC saw temperatures close to freezing with 30-40 mph winds and even some rain at the M16 Training Weapons Range at the Great Plains Joint Training Center near Salina, Kan., May 3-5. Although the weather may not have been the best, the unit's mission was still accomplished.

"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 M16 Training Weapons Range includes a pop-up range where targets are computer controlled to pop up in sequence at timed intervals behind small mounds at

50, 100, 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 M240B, M2 and M249," said Miller. "I am very pleased with the dedication and mission-first mentality shown by the Soldiers of the 995th SMC."



Sgt. Jonah Stafford, Manhattan, Kan., a member of Detachment 1, 995th Support Maintenance Company, Concordia, fires at the M16A2 qualification range at the Great Plains Joint Training Center near Salina, Kan., May 4. (Photo by Spc. Lindsey 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, 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. Elisha 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 award application 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 Hennessy 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 500 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."



Staff Sgt. Jason Dolan (right), 190th Air Refueling Wing's Force Support Squadron, Sustainment Services Flight, talks with evaluators during an inspection for the Kenneth W. Disney Food Services Award. (Photo by Master Sgt. Allen Pickert, 190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs)

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 radar 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."

During this year's annual training, the unit was able to provide support for two in-state field artillery battalions they regularly support: their parent battalion, the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery headquartered in Wichita, Kan., firing M109A6 Paladins; and 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery headquartered in Hiawatha, Kan., firing rockets from their M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System launchers.

A relatively short time before annual training began 1st Bn., 161st FA leadership became aware of a third unit, the 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery firing M-777 towed

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 the out-of-state unit.

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 met (meteorological information). Once on the ground at Fort Riley, ETAB graciously provided regular met data throughout the remainder of our training, which greatly improved the accuracy of our fires."

Meanwhile, ETAB radar operators gained benefits from the agreement since the unit was able to detect and process rounds fired from the 1st Bn., 129th FA. It was 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 de-

ployment 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."



Sgt. John Whistler, Jetmore, a field artillery fire-finder radar operator with Battery E (Target Acquisition), 161st Field Artillery, makes adjustments to a Q-36 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)

Comptroller Flight makes sure the books are balanced

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

The 190th Air Refueling Wing Finance Office is charged with ensuring 190th Airman get paid, but they do much more than just process drill pay. Finance is an essential element to keeping the 190th mission-capable.

“Nothing happens without finance,” said Maj. James Wehrli, Comptroller Flight commander.

The 13-member Comptroller Flight (finance office) performs three major functions: budget, quality assurance and financial services. The office efficiently processes, on average, 3,500 military pay and 600 civilian pay transactions and 400 travel vouchers every month. This is in addition to other duties, such as budget monitoring and contract management.

The finance office has taken their mission of quality financial management to heart. Some of their recent accomplishments include being ranked seventh out of 104 units by the National Guard Bureau. This ranking is based on an evaluation of various aspects of flight operations, including turnaround time in military and travel pay, travel card delinquency rates, budget management and execution, contract management, and travel debts and advances.

Capt. Casey Montgomery, budget officer, credits several factors for the ranking. “Accumulation of training, good work ethic, the right management, and most of all, great people who take pride in their work,” said Montgomery.

Wehrli said the office has always taken care of the wing’s Airmen. “Even when they were down to a four-person office.”

“They handled that situation much like they are handling the uncertainty of the future budget and 100 percent auditability required by NGB,” he said. “So the finance office must develop a process to handle the uncertainty of the budget world, and they must do this with the least amount of impact on the Airman and on the mission.”



Senior Airman Camry Gayer (left), Fiscal Year 2013 second Quarter Airman of the Quarter, and Tech. Sgt. Alyshia Leisure (right), Satellite Noncommissioned Officer Academy 190th Top Graduate (2012), help with the 190th Air Refueling Wing’s finances. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mandy Johnson, 190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs)

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)

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, 235th Regiment, 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 Camp Murray, 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)

WANTED

Positions Available	Enlisted Feeder MOS(s)
120A (Construction Engineering Tech.)	12H, K, N, P, Q, R, T, W
131A (Field Artillery Targeting Tech.)	11C, 13B, D, F, M, P, R, T
913A (Armament Systems Maint. Tech.)	91F, 91A, M, P, S
919A (Engineer Equipment Maint. Tech.)	91B, C, D, H, J, L, X
922A (Food Service Tech.)	92G, 68M

Positions are filling up fast, so contact me to get your packet started today!

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Sam Bonham
(785) 817-3197
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Soldiers train mock scenario for state civil disturbance response

By Spc. 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 classroom 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, Manhattan and Fort Riley, Kan., June 7-9.

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."



A group of 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment Soldiers rehearse movement as an arrest team as part of a mock civil disturbance training exercise at Fort Riley, Kan., June 9. (Photo by Spc. Jen Bjorgaard, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

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 techniques, movement in a line formation and riot control methods.

For Spc. 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 a 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."



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 Spc. Jen Bjorgaard, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

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 responsibility for operating it safely and ensuring 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 is challenging to say the least."

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 Schaefer, 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 Schaefer.

For those who have participated in simi-

lar 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 Purinton. "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."

Civil Engineers make a difference with skills

By 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht

184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

The sound of pounding hammers, heavy equipment moving dirt, duct work being placed and pipe wrenches on plumbing fixtures are common noises for a construction site. For more than 30 Airmen of the 184th Intelligence Wing, Civil Engineering Squadron, these sounds are music to their ears, because it means hands-on training.

"It is the only way that we learn our job," said Staff Sgt. Brett Shouse, heavy equipment operator. "It gives us relevant experience. So much of our training is computer-based and the hands-on stuff is the only way to learn construction type jobs."

The 184th CES deployed to Gallup, N.M., and Window Rock, Ariz., for their two-week annual training June 15-29. But this training was a little different than what the squadron is used to. The 184th CES worked with the Southwest Indian Foundation as three separate teams, at three sites, building homes, remodeling buildings and trenching new sewer and water systems. Every project directly improved the living conditions of local Native Americans.

"When I first found out that it was humanitarian work, I thought that it was a great way to come here and show support and do the work that they need help with," said Senior Airman Justin Hoppe, utilities technician.

"We get to use our expertise and skills to improve the quality of life for these people," said Staff Sgt. John Gee, heating and cooling systems technician.

The Southwest Indian Foundation is a small organization that has a big mission. The partnership with the military is extremely important in order to get as much accomplished as they can each year.

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



Senior Airman Chris Ruhlen, electrical technician with the 184th Civil Engineering Squadron, drills a hole to run electrical wire while working at the Southwest Indian Foundation's warehouse. Ruhlen and 30 other engineers built and remodeled homes for local Native Americans in Window Rock, Ariz., and Gallup, N.M., for their annual training June 15-29. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

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 Kathryn Smith, structures technician.



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 the 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 worked. Airmen 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 relocated, complete plumbing systems removed and replaced, and new electrical wires and panels installed.

While most of the engineers



Master Sgt. Steve Cussins, a heavy equipment operator with 184th Intelligence Wing, Civil Engineering Squadron, welds an equipment rack for the Southwest Indian Foundation's warehouse during annual training June 15-29. The Southwest Indian Foundation, located near Window Rock, Ariz., and Gallup, N.M., builds approximately 20 houses a year for qualified Native American applicants. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

Finance Airman takes on power tools

2nd Lt. Matt Lucht

184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

Airman 1st Class Elise Terrell usually spends her annual training days processing short orders, long tours and forms.

Terrell, who works in finance, had a chance to try something different this year. She was assigned to a building crew as part of the 184th Intelligence Wing's Civil Engineering Squadron. The CES deployed to Gallup, N.M., and Window Rock, Ariz., June 15-29 for their two-week annual training, where they worked with the Southwest Indian Foundation building homes, remodeling buildings and trenching new sewer and water systems.

"With me being in finance, I never thought that I would come out here and build houses," said Terrell. "It is a nice thing to do because it makes me feel more a part of the Air Force, not just in customer service, but actually getting hands-on experience."

At the foundation's warehouse, houses are built from ground up. Terrell helped where she was needed and gained additional skills that might benefit her outside of the military.

"She mastered laying floor and taught some of our younger Airmen," said Maj. John Adam, emergency management flight officer. "She is doing great. For her and others out here, a lot of these projects are things that they can do in their homes."

Being from a different discipline, the engineers wanted to give Terrell opportunities to operate different tools and machinery. Staff Sgt. Brett Shouse, heavy equipment operator, showed her how to work and maintain a backhoe and excavator.

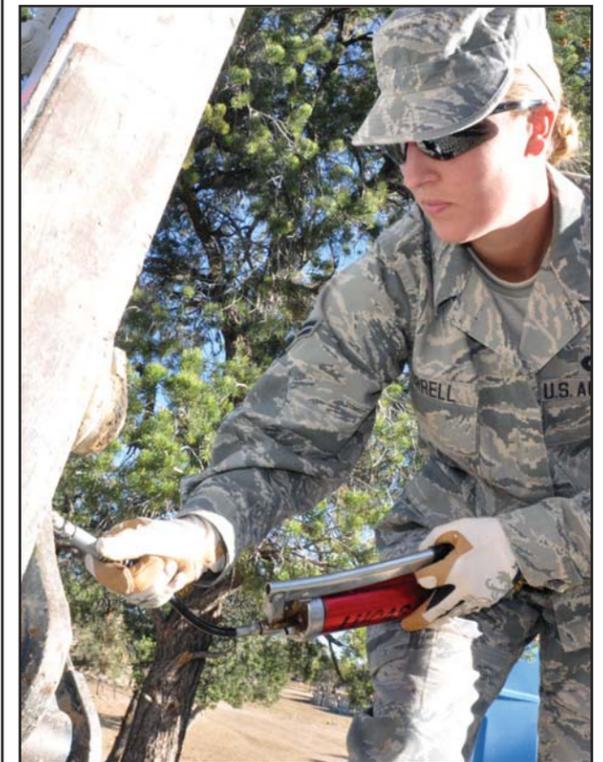
"I gave her a grease gun," said Shouse. "It is one of the dirtiest jobs that you can do, and she jumped in and tackled it. She is really eager and she wants to learn."

Like many other squadrons, CE is made up of different trades and career fields. On annual training, Airmen might be pouring concrete, installing HVAC systems, building structures or all the above.

"We typically bring other disciplines with us on our annual trainings," said Adams. "They are curious about what civil engineers do and I think that it is important for others in the wing to learn about our squadron."

The 184th CES worked with the Southwest Indian Foundation as three separate teams at three sites, building homes, remodeling buildings and trenching new sewer and water systems. Every project directly affected and improved the living conditions of local Native Americans. The humanitarian mission was something that Terrell really enjoyed.

"I love being a part of something that helps other people," said Terrell. "I love that it is for the local community. You actually are getting to see the people that it is going to benefit and which makes it a little more rewarding."



Airman 1st Class Elise Terrell, finance specialist, 184th Intelligence Wing, uses a grease gun on a backhoe during the 184th IW 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)



Kansas Division of Emergency Management receives accreditation

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



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
- Hazard Mitigation
- 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 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 the 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

give law enforcement, fire departments, emergency medical personnel, military and other first responders practical, hands-on training tailored to their professional needs.

"This is a great opportunity for those who have never been to Crisis City to get an up-close look at what it has 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 Kansas Division of Emergency Management, joined local response officials at a media briefing, held the first day, to address the objectives of the exercise and value of the training for the state.

"This facility allows emergency responders from all over the state to come together and train for a disaster exactly as they would respond to a real event," said Tafanelli.

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 Rankin, incident commander of the Southwest Incident Management Team. "Everyone receives the same training statewide. 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 search and rescue. I like to climb around things," said Bob Owens, incident commander of the Community Emergency Response

(Continued on Page 14)

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 7, 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 Ycau Balonas supermarket fire in the Paraguayan capitol 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)

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, Cut/Burn and 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.





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 will be responsible for the management and coordination of the hazardous material spill database, conducting facility assessments and providing technical assistance.



Jamie Schwartz

Schwartz joins the team with nine years of experience in the environmental field. She began her career with an environmental consulting firm and then joined the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in 2010 in the Bureau of Environmental Remediation. She provided regulatory oversight of soil and groundwater remedial activities at sites formerly used by the U.S. Department of Defense.

Schwartz graduated from the University of Kansas with a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental studies.

Schwartz resides in Lawrence, Kan., with her husband, Jeff, and two-year-old son, Jackson. They enjoy spending their spare time at Clinton Lake.

Cait Purinton is one of KDEM's newest exercise officers. She coordinates the statewide exercise program, which includes monitoring compliance of emergency management program requirements for exercises, as well as providing technical assistance to local and state partners on developing and conducting exercises.

Purinton came to KDEM with a vast amount of experience having been the exercise and training coordinator in the preparedness program at the Kansas Department of

Health and Environment. She was responsible for the design, development and implementation of exercise and training components for the public health and hospital preparedness grants from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Division of the Strategic National Stockpile and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Purinton is certified as a Master Exercise Practitioner and an instructor for the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program.

Purinton joined KDHE July 2008 as a contingency planner to work with local partners in developing emergency preparedness and response plans. During the H1N1 response in 2009, she was activated in KDHE's Incident Command as a planning section chief and a member of the Community Mitigation Team. Purinton is a graduate of the 2010 Kansas Core Public Health Program and a Cycle VIII Fellow in the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute. She also served as the Preparedness Program representative on KDHE's Accreditation Team.

Prior to joining KDHE, Purinton was a publications writer at the Kansas Highway Patrol, working in public and legislative affairs from 2005-2008. She had the opportunity to deploy to Greensburg in May 2007 as an assistant public information officer.

Purinton graduated from Kansas State University in 2000 with a Bachelor of Science degree in mass communications with a minor in cultural anthropology. She has worked in both radio and print journalism, earning awards from the Missouri Press Association and Kansas City Press Club. She studied in the Master of Public Health program at the



Cait Purinton

University of Kansas Medical Center in Wichita, Kan.

Purinton resides in Topeka. She enjoys being an aunt to her two nieces, Quinlan and Elise, and her nephew, Josh. In her spare time, Purinton takes pleasure in reading, going to concerts and spending time with her family and friends. Purinton 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 Committees; 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



Keith Jeffers

(Continued on Page 14)

Crisis City manager eager to share his new "big playground"

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

Starting a new job can be a little overwhelming to a lot of people, so it helps to go in with a positive attitude, something Joe Pruitt has in spades.

"I'm enthusiastic about this," said Pruitt, the new manager for Crisis City. "I'm looking forward to this. As an instructor and having trained people for close to 20 years in different venues, whether it's fire service or corrections, it's like you opened up a big playground for me, a big toy box."

Crisis City is a multidisciplinary training facility near Salina, Kan., operated by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management.

Born and raised in Ellsworth, Pruitt was an active member of the community, emceeding high school athletic events, serving on the Cowtown and fireworks committees. He spent 20 years as a member of the local fire department specializing in fire prevention for elementary and pre-elementary students. From 1987 until recently, he worked with the Kansas Department of Corrections.

"I worked as an investigator and the last seven years I spent running the training academy at Ellsworth Correctional Facility," said Pruitt.

It was in the latter capacity that Pruitt had his first exposure to Crisis City.

"I was impressed with the facility and the venues," he recalled, "what you can do out here. Where we were limited with what we could do on our ranges, out here it gave us the opportunity to do search and rescue, building entry and high-angle rappelling with our Special Operations Response Teams. There were so many venues that gave us options that we didn't have locally."

"If we wanted to rappel, in Ellsworth the highest building has two stories," he explained. "If you wanted to jump off something, the best thing we could do is go jump off a bridge."

Over time, Pruitt developed a working partnership with Crisis City and got to know the staff. When word came that Crisis City was seeking a new manager, Pruitt applied and was accepted. Although still somewhat new to the position, ("We're in my third

week," he said with a smile), Pruitt has plans of how he wants to proceed.

"My vision and my goal is to grow Crisis City," he said. "My intent is to make it a common household name. It's amazing to me how often you can often say 'Crisis City' even in Salina, Kansas and people don't know what you're talking about."

"When I told them I was leaving the Department of Corrections and going to KDEM to run Crisis City the response was 'What's a Crisis City?'," he continued. "And so we want to push it to first responders and push it to the private sector so that people understand where we're at and what we do, the services that are available to them. Rather than have a slow, two-lane entry going in and out of here, we want to see a four-lane where people are coming from not just Kansas, but from the Midwest in general to utilize the services we have here."

That goal is not to just concentrate on the big cities, but to open dialogues with small, rural departments.

"I'd say 'Come give us a look. Do you have a train where you can practice hazardous materials in your backyard? What's it going to take to get that?'" said Pruitt. "They probably can't do it because they can't just shut down a train that's passing through the community. We have that opportunity here at Crisis City. We can give them a full venue with a locomotive, overturned cars, derailment, those kind of items that they don't have. With minimal travel, halfway across the state rather than having to go to clear across the state, you can be in the location and train all day long."

Pruitt wants to make using Crisis City as accommodating as possible for limited budgets and tight training schedules. Speaking from his own experience as an instructor, Pruitt said "You're always looking for the best quality training for your people. 'How well is my training going for my small-town department? Can I train my people better?' This gives you your best-quality training for the buck for your people."

"If you want to train on weekends, call us," he offered. "We'll have our doors open for you so that you can make it whatever



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. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)

your schedules might be. Training is free for first responders. There are minimal costs for consumables, but there's nothing we can't work out. We'll try to find a way for your budget to fit you getting out here."

"We will set up the training venues for you so you come in and have it all ready to go," he continued. "You tell us what kind of scenario you want or what you want to happen in that scenario and we can coordinate those agencies and within ourselves to make sure the training venue is set up for you when you arrive for your exercise. You supply your instructors, we'll oversee safety and keep an eye out for our own integrity of the facility, but we'll help you in any way we can with resources."

Pruitt plans to promote Crisis City to as many entities as he can.

"We want to make our doors open so that we're serving not only first responders and those entities, but also private and public entities as well so that they have the ability

to train their staff and maybe work right alongside those entities that they may be working with in an emergency situation so they can work as one unit under whatever situation they may have."

Pruitt cited K-9 teams as just one group that can make use of multiple venues.

"We have a K-9 venue where you can certify your dogs with an agility course," said Pruitt. "We have a wooden structure that's built out of pallets to give your dogs the opportunity to walk on those kind of uneven environments. We also have the rubble pile for search and rescue teams."

Pruitt sees few, if any, constraints on training possibilities at his new "toy box."

"We're limitless," he said. "We're sitting on 44 acres inside the fence with venues that are still in the process of being built. There are visions down the road for where this place can go and only by bringing people in and utilizing it can we make those things happen."

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., come to Topeka once during their course 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 Representatives 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. Mamuka Kavtaradze, of Georgia. "The major difference is that the state has its own government and there is a federal government also. The sharing of responsibilities and governing, what falls under federal government law and what falls under the state, was very interesting to hear."

The officers walked to the Judicial Building, where they heard a presentation by the Kansas court system Chief Judge Thomas E. Malone.

Before traveling back to Fort Leavenworth the officers enjoyed a catered lunch at the Kansas History Museum, followed

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 positions in their nations. Twenty-six have become heads of state, more than 300 have become ministers, ambassadors or representatives, approximately 2,300 have become 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 attending the General Staff Officer College 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 for training.

The nations represented this year were Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Columbia, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Kosovo, 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.



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 Spc. 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 Officer 2 Sam Bonham, state warrant officer strength manager, at (785) 274-1823, or samual.c.bonham@mail.mil.

There will be a Warrant Officer Symposium Sept. 7 from 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Bldg. 688, Room 231, Armed Forces Reserve Center, Gary Ormsby Drive and "J" Street, Forbes Field, Topeka. Find out requirements and what vacancies are currently available.

Annual training visits

The past two months Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general of Kansas; Col. James Nickolas, inspector general; Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth, state command sergeant major; and I visited several units during their annual training. We had the opportunity to observe these Soldiers and their training and talk to them about their experiences. The morale and motivation of all of the Soldiers was very high.

Now that deployments have slowed down, it is very important not to lose the skills learned while deployed. Exercising

these perishable skills is important during annual training and it also keeps your Soldiers 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 attendance as well as the warrant officer strength manager, senior state personnel warrant officer and the senior information technology warrant officers from Oklahoma. 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 and get to know one another, express concerns and share ideas. If you know of someone interested in becoming a warrant bring them with you so they can ask questions.

If you know of any warrant officer news such as promotions, graduations, retirements or changes and you would like to see them in the Plains Guardian, please send them to me at hector.a.vasquez4@mail.mil or call me at (785) 274-1903.

Public safety professionals assemble for combined exercise

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Team. "Today I am managing. So now I kind of know what the manager is up against. I am really learning a bunch about communication. There are 10 people calling 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 Patrol, state Search and Teams and Community Emergency Response Teams. Personnel from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Salina Fire Department, University of Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute and other local and

state agencies operated the simulation cell providing exercise injects, conducted exercise evaluations, served as safety officers and fulfilled other support functions.

Crisis City training venues include a simulated rail disaster, collapsed building, high angle rescue tower, pipeline isolation and repair, active shooter building, K-9 agility course, urban village and the Crisis City operations building, which includes classroom space and an observation deck that gives trainers and evaluators an overview of all the training areas.

"When I see an airplane fuselage, I can just image what we could do with that," said Owens. "The train wreck is absolutely fantastic with power lines underneath one of the cars. So you can just imagine all the scenarios that they could play."

For information about Crisis City or to book a venue, call Tammy Shea, (785) 826-3771; email Tamrya.k.shea.nfg@mail.mil. Crisis City is also on Facebook.



First responders from the Hutchinson Fire Rescue 4 assess tornado damages 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 Ophthalmic Apprentice of the Year in 2012, was named in the award. Douglas often managed the wing's optometry office independently when Col. William Hefner, the wing optometrist, was unavailable. While Douglas describes herself as a timid Airman, she said the award was indicative of

confidence she 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 culture 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

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barriers - emergency support functions, providing relief to Louisiana Planning directors.

Jeffers also responded to the Joplin tornado for search and rescue, flooding in Doniphan County as the planning chief, two train derailments, hazardous materials spills, four local tornados and other natural and manmade disasters.

Jeffers held numerous jobs prior to emergency management including Extension secretary for Linn County, a title insurance officer with First American Title Company, technical writer for DataTape Incorporated and six years in the U.S. Navy as a submarine sonar technician and supply officer.

Jeffers lives in Solomon, Kan., with his wife, Liz. They have two children, Kyle and Graecin.

Operation Tropic Care 2013

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

Communities that lack medical services or may be underserved are considered for the designated location when the IRT is selected.

"This IRT has been a great training plat-

form for our medical group," said Col. Rohn Hamilton, 184th Medical Group commander. "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."

161st Intelligence Squadron Airman honored for lifesaving actions

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 and 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.



Tech. Sgt.
Shawn Rucker

Rucker was driving home after his shift at the 184th Intelligence Wing, Nov. 24, 2012, when he noticed a large 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 was humble 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."



Wichita fireman assess the fire damage of a house belonging to a neighbor of Tech. Sgt. Shawn Rucker, a member of the 161st Intelligence Squadron. Rucker noticed the fire on his way home and called 911. Shortly after Rucker risked his own safety to help one of the homeowners rescue a residents that was still in the basement Nov. 24, 2012. (Photo courtesy of Tech. Sgt. Shawn Rucker, 184th Intelligence Wing, 161st Intelligence Squadron)

State Command Sgt. Maj. Haworth: Taking charge of your career

By Sgt. Iris N. Marston
635th Regional Support Group UPAR

Members of the Kansas National Guard leadership traveled to the Black Hills of South Dakota to observe Kansas Guardsmen participating in Golden Coyote 2013 exercises.

Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, was accompanied by Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, assistant adjutant general – Army and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard; Chief Warrant Officer 5 Hector Vasquez, state chief warrant officer; and State Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth, senior enlisted advisor of the Kansas National Guard, to Golden Coyote, where the 635th Regional Support Group conducted annual training.

In addition to a visit to several Forward Operating Bases and a review of the Tactical Operations Center of the exercise, Haworth led a question-and-answer session with enlisted Soldiers regarding the changes to the Enlisted Promotion System board.

"Besides using the Automated Board System for all the boards, we made the four following changes to our system for this year's boards," continued Haworth. "First, was the online review of the individual's 4100s. Soldiers reviewed their 4100 online prior to the EPS board and were able to submit documentation to update or correct any mistakes or omissions in their records."

The second change to the EPS did away with sending acceptance letters to Soldiers

and, consequently, promotions. It should be noted that as of mid-June 2013 Kansas is at the top of the list for medical readiness.

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State Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth, senior enlisted advisor of the Kansas National Guard, talks with Soldiers of the 635th Regional Support Group about the latest changes to the Enlisted Promotion System during a visit to their annual training at the Golden Coyote 2013 exercises in South Dakota, June 12. (Photo by Sgt. Iris N. Marston, 635th Regional Support Group UPAR)

retirements in the near future. Therefore, serious consideration should be given to becoming a warrant officer.

Tafanelli challenged Soldiers to each tell two Soldiers who might not have been present during the question-and-answer session about the changes to the EPS board.

Soldiers were also informed that medical readiness has a direct impact on availability of not just equipment and resources but strength

and, consequently, promotions. It should be noted that as of mid-June 2013 Kansas is at the top of the list for medical readiness.

Haworth continued by reminding Soldiers to meet APFT and height and weight because that is what prevents a Soldier from being promoted.

"Take charge of your careers," said Haworth. "It is every Soldier's responsibility to manage their careers."

Kansas Guard families receive 'Recycled Rides' from Progressive

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 National Auto Body Council Recycled Rides program. In total, 60 vehicles at 55 service stations were donated to families in need nationwide that day. 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.

Sgt. 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.



Sgt. Chad Brewer, Overland Park, a motor transport operator with the 778th Transportation Company, poses in his new car which he received from Progressive Insurance as part of Recycled Rides program following a ceremony at 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)

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 Spc. Alison Smiley, both with the Company B, 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 Alsop, with family assistance, had entered

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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.

"The women and men who have served our country deserve our support when they transition out of the military," said Gov. Sam Brownback. "KanVet will be a wonderful resource for the veterans in our state by providing them an easy way to access the educational and job searching programs available in Kansas."

Brownback and 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 resource will be invaluable to our National Guard, reserve and active duty troops and veterans all 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 departments 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 state organizations have partnered to provide this website, and KanVet's sponsors also deserve recognition for their support of veterans."



The state of Kansas, along with Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, announced a new website July 1 that will serve as a central, comprehensive resource for services that the state provides to veterans. KanVet, www.KanVet.ks.gov, will connect veterans with higher education information and job searching tools specific to veterans. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)

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



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 consolidated their gains when soldiers in field grey 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. They regained their ground and continued to move forward.

To anyone who had been near the Normandy coastline 69 years ago, these scenes, re-enacted June 8 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 Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron were involved in organizing and running the event. Although sponsored by the Rolling Thunder Chapter of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association, this year's event was organized by CAP 2nd Lt. William 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 Cadet Nicholson. "I am glad they could come out."

Civil Air Patrol cadets served as a color guard and provided crowd control during the two 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 Topeka Big Band, the Kansas City, Betty's USO troupe, 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 1997, the Kansas Wing was placed under the Kansas Adjutant General's Department for administrative support 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.



(Left to Right) Standing in the pulpit of an M2A1 WWII vintage halftrack, Cadet/Master Sgt. Austin Robberson, Topeka, Kan., is shown how to operate a M2 .50 cal heavy machine gun by Cadet/Tech. Sgt. Kyle Nicholson, Vassar, Kan., during the Heartland Military Day at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, Forbes Field, Topeka, Kan., June 8. Nicholson is not only a Civil Air Patrol cadet, he is also a third generation World War II re-enactor. (Photo by CAP 2nd Lt. William Nicholson, Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron.)

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.

"It was great to be out of the classroom and do hands-on training," said Topeka Squadron member, Cadet/Senior Airman Kyle Nicholson, Vassar, Kan.

For the exercise, a camper had gone out Friday night for a weekend camping trip alone. He was to be home Sunday afternoon. When he did not return Sunday 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 emer-

gency 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/Chief 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

Courtesy 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's national chair is an official Department of Defense 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 military members and their families through work with the Association of the United States Army, Fisher House Foundation and the Military Child Education Coalition. Mock will provide leadership and vision for a team of more than 4,900 dedicated volunteers spanning all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam-CNMI, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Honorable Jessica L. Wright, acting under secretary of defense for Personnel and Readiness, praised the selection, noting, "Mr. Mock comes to us with a wealth of experience in the employer community, the Reserve Components and supporting military families. His leadership and management expertise are a tremendous asset for the Department of Defense."

With almost half of our Nation's military force residing in the Guard and Reserve, Mock will have a direct impact on these brave men and women and their civilian employers.

"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 service by developing and advocating mutually beneficial initiatives, 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 Guardsmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce.



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 will see friends they haven't seen in a year.

Each year, the Kansas National Guard Family Programs sponsor 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 8-12, 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 me so I see them at 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-old Mallory Bellows thinks Kids Camp is "awesome!"

"There's all these fun things," she said. "The first year, I thought it was pretty cool."



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)

It's really fun out here. We get to go to the pool. We march and sing. We do dances sometimes."

Her favorite part?

"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 teens 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 singing the jody 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."

"It's very rewarding to see some of the kids take those leadership responsibilities."

**Dan Fox
Kids Camp first sergeant**

Kansas Guard pins new chaplain



Chaplain (Col.) William Jenkins (right) pinned Chaplain (Capt.) Robert Pempin as the newest member to the Kansas Army National Guard Chaplain Corps July 11. Present at the ceremony were members of Pempin's family and the Chaplain's office. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

From such beginnings, Kids Camp participants learn and grow.

"It's very rewarding to see some 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.

"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 marching them around, I'm calling cadences, I'm taking them to do all these awesome activities to help give them some insight into what it is their 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 flight 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 interacting and having a great time."

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. "It's not just the little girls seeing me be in charge, it's the little boys. 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 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. Herlinger said her favorite part of this trip was mingling with these volunteers.

They also had the opportunity to interview Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of

the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Each of the three military youth were given the opportunity to ask Dempsey a question. While he answered all of them, he also gave them some advice of his own.

"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 will go nowhere. So I went back to school. It wasn't that easy either. I worked hard."

To listen to the pod casts, see pictures, videos and more from the trip visit the A Backpack Journalist website at www.abackpackjournalist.com.



Jessica Herlinger (center), a member of the Kansas National Guard Teen Council, interviews Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, with her fellow military youth Backpack Journalists at the Points of Light's Conference on Volunteering and Service Military Summit in Washington D.C., June 21. (DoD photo by Staff Sgt. Sean K. Harp, Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Public Affairs Photo Team)

Awards and Decorations

KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Legion of Merit



Col. Robert Schmitt, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Sgt. Maj. Becky Middendorf, HHD, 69th TC, Topeka

Bronze Star Medal



Maj. Jeffrey Cryslar, 102nd MHD, Topeka
Master Sgt. Lyle Babcock, 102nd MHD, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Kelly Perry, 102nd MHD, Topeka

Meritorious Service Medal



Col. John Muther, KSARNG Med Det, Lenexa, with 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
Col. Robert Windham, 235th Rgmt, Salina, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Maj. Henry Camarin, Co C (Ord), 2nd Bn, 235th Rgmt, Salina
Maj. Daniel Matthews, HQ, 235th Rgmt, Salina, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Maj. Alma Whitelaw, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita
1st Sgt. Danny Crumpton, HHC, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita
1st Sgt. David Miller, Co D, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Emporia
1st Sgt. Paul Purdham, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
Master Sgt. Larry Henry, Rec & Ret Bn, Topeka
Master Sgt. Paul Johnston, HHD, 69th TC, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Sherwood, 235th Rgmt, Salina, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Paul Thompson, Det 2, 778th Trans Co, Wichita
Staff Sgt. Jay Wilson, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Sgt. Kristin Ricard, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Sgt. Sarah Shafer, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Army Commendation Medal



Staff Sgt. Kenneth Coyle, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. Shawn Evans, 35th ID Band, Olathe

Army Achievement Medal



Sp. Brandon Jacobs, 105th MPAD, Topeka

Afghanistan Campaign Medal



Maj. Jeffrey Cryslar, 102nd MHD, Topeka
Master Sgt. Lyle Babcock, 102nd MHD, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Kelly Perry, 102nd MHD, Topeka

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal



Maj. Jeffrey Cryslar, 102nd MHD, Topeka
Master Sgt. Lyle Babcock, 102nd MHD, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Kelly Perry, 102nd MHD, Topeka

Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device



Maj. Jeffrey Cryslar, 102nd MHD, Topeka
Master Sgt. Lyle Babcock, 102nd MHD, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Kelly Perry, 102nd MHD, Topeka

NATO Medal



Maj. Jeffrey Cryslar, 102nd MHD, Topeka
Master Sgt. Lyle Babcock, 102nd MHD, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Kelly Perry, 102nd MHD, Topeka

Kansas National Guard Achievement Ribbon



Capt. Benjamin Gruver, 105th MPAD, Topeka
Capt. Michael Ogle, 105th MPAD, Topeka
Capt. Michael Sullivan, 105th MPAD, Topeka
Capt. Jonathon Wood, 105th MPAD, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th MPAD, Topeka, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Eric Dahlquist, 105th MPAD, Topeka

KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Meritorious Service Medal



Col. Joseph Jabara, 184th IW, Wichita, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Lt. Col. Lin Dehning, 184th IW, Wichita, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Lt. Col. Bradley Hinkle, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Lt. Col. John Smith, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Senior Master Sgt. Layne Hauserman, 184th IW, Wichita
Senior Master Sgt. Jay Honey, 184th IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. Dustin Land, 184th IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. Ralph Lilley, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. John Vsetecka, 184th IW, Wichita
Tech. Sgt. Teresa Jones, 184th IW, Wichita
Tech. Sgt. Ivy Pinkston, 184th IW, Wichita
Tech. Sgt. Cade Sisson, 190th ARW, Topeka
Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Zuercher, 184th IW, Wichita

Air Force Commendation Medal



Chief Master Sgt. Chad Johnson, 184th IW, Wichita, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Senior Master Sgt. John Kill, 184th IW, Wichita, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Master Sgt. Richard Schwarz, 184th IW, Wichita, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Master Sgt. Zachary Washington, 184th IW, Wichita
Tech. Sgt. Ricky Canlan, 184th IW, Wichita
Tech. Sgt. Neal Jensen, 190th ARW, Topeka
Tech. Sgt. Teresa Jones, 184th IW, Wichita
Tech. Sgt. Bonita Lumpkins, 184th IW, Wichita
Staff Sgt. Nathan Cheney, 184th IW, Wichita
Senior Airman Brett Eastman, 184th IW, Wichita

Air Force Achievement Medal



Staff Sgt. Thomas Belgard, 184th IW, Wichita, with Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Jeremy James, 184th IW, Wichita, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Senior Airman Shana Sanders, 190th ARW, Topeka
Airman 1st Class Sean Titterington, 184th IW, Wichita

Staff Sgt. David Rogers, HHC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola
Staff Sgt. Wayne Ryba, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Concordia
Staff Sgt. Timothy Stock, Btry E (TA), 161st FA, Great Bend
Staff Sgt. Paul Thompson, Det 2, 778th Trans Co, Wichita
Staff Sgt. Paul Vancleave, HHC, 169th CSSB, Olathe
Sgt. Garth Adams, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
Sgt. Michael Cochran, Co B (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Salina
Sgt. Jerry Doby, FSC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola
Sgt. Michael Fitzpatrick, Det 3, 731st Trans Co, Hays
Sgt. Brian Harvey, Co G, 2nd Bn, 135th Avn (GSAB), Topeka
Sgt. Jacky King, KSARNG Med Det, Lenexa
Sgt. Timothy Lang, 778th Trans Co (-), Kansas City
Sgt. Joshua Parker, Det 1, 250th FSC, Hiawatha
Sgt. Benjamin Romero, Co A, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka
Sgt. Ian Schmitt, HHC, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita
Sp. Jason Branstetter, Det 1, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
Sp. Kevin Bronson, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Concordia
Sp. Tonya Carson, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita
Sp. James Jackson, Btry E (TA), 161st FA, Great Bend
Sp. Jane Lervold, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Concordia
Sp. Brandon Lundin, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
Sp. Norman Merritt, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe
Sp. Elijah Nichols, HHC (-), 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
Sp. Curtis Turpin, Det 1, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Liberal

Kansas Air National Guard

Col. John Hernandez, 184 IW, Wichita
Lt. Col. Lin Dehning, 184 IW, Wichita
Senior Master Sgt. Mark Angelini, 184 IW, Wichita
Senior Master Sgt. Tim Graves, 190th ARW, Topeka
Senior Master Sgt. Layne Hauserman, 184 IW, Wichita
Senior Master Sgt. Jay Honey, 184 IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. William "Lyle" Brown, 184 IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. Mary Jo Douglas, 184 IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. Ralph Lilley, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Lenice Turner, 184 IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. John Vsetecka, 184 IW, Wichita
Tech. Sgt. Dale Wright, 190th ARW, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Steven Blowers, 190th ARW, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Dennis Davis, 184 IW, Wichita

Warrior to Warrior Living by the NCO Creed

Continued from Page 4

peers. The one time you do something to discredit 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. 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, it is about training and Soldier care. Training requires discipline and enforcement of the standards, but that is not a license to use your position for personal gain. Taking care of Soldiers requires communication. In the Army, communication is the first priority. Think about it. Your vehicle is dead-lined if you do not have communication with others. Do your Soldiers understand your expectations? When they ask you to fix 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 saluting 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. In a working environment, 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 specifically stated: loyalty, duty, respect, integrity and personal courage. Even though it is not stated specifically, it still alludes to selfless service and honor. If I had to sum up the final paragraph of the NCO Creed, it would be to always live by the Army values.

Finally, we must always remember that NCOs before us have worked hard to earn the right to be considered professionals. Never forget we are an Army of professionals, individuals who are entrusted with the responsibility of defending our nation to the best of our ability. Being considered a professional means doing the right thing no matter how tough it gets. We are responsible for training the next generation of professionals. They are watching us, learning from us, justifying their actions based on ours.

Regional Training Site changes up training techniques

Continued from Page 3

any Soldier in the maintenance community.

Every Soldier's mind is similar to a tool box. The more tools a Soldier has the better equipped they are to handle a variety of conditions. The greatest impact of these tools is directly related to how well they are developed. The task of using mechanical ability, troubleshooting and prior experience is imperative to how well Soldiers will perform.

The SBT process gives Soldiers the critical thinking fundamentals to work within their discipline as well as the ability to cross over into other fields.

"There are basic principles you can use regarding troubleshooting, whether it is pneumatic, hydraulic or any electrical troubleshooting," said Staff Sgt. Ken Hare, an RTS-M instructor.

"When I worked at a John Deere implementation dealership, I worked on four wheel drive tractors and the person in the next bay worked on utility tractors," said Sgt. 1st Class David Larson, a master instructor. "When needed, we could switch areas because of our skill set we learned at a technical college. We can use SBT in the same way."

This moves Soldiers towards being a diagnostician verses Soldiers that use a book and follow a step-by-step flowchart. The answers to troubleshooting are not always in the book. Critical thinking is a key area for ordnance Soldiers to maintain

proficiency in many areas.

The purpose of the SBT is to train Soldiers to perform their jobs in an efficient amount of time. When Soldiers learn methodologies, principles and techniques that are repeatable and focus on increased production, unit readiness is positively impacted. One principle that Soldiers receive when they are trained using the SBT process is the ability to work on like pieces of equipment using like skills. One analogy is taking your personal vehicle to a local mechanic shop to have your alternator replaced. The skills for changing an alternator from one vehicle make to another are the same.

Currently, the ordnance community trains Soldiers on individual pieces of equipment and certain tasks using technical manuals and flow charts. The main issue with this type of training is when Soldiers come across a problem that is outside the traditional scope of what the manual covers. This training is equipment specific and not as efficient or effective. The weaknesses in this type of training show that SBT can be a viable option for Soldiers.

Ordnance instructors can utilize the SBT process by developing tasks and utilization of SBT basic principles. Equipment-based training was effective in the past, but with the fast pace of technology and the current operating environment, we need Soldiers who can use a skill set of technical areas and not equipment.

Retirements

Kansas Army National Guard

Col. Robert Schmitt, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Lt. Col. Gregory Platt, Det 1, HHD, JFHQ-KS (GPJTC), Salina
Lt. Col. Antonia Vaiskunas, 35th Div, Fort Leavenworth
Maj. Allen Moore, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Maj. Clarence Raymond, 35th Div, Fort Leavenworth
Capt. Darin Fahey, Rec & Ret Bn, Topeka
Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ronnie Jackson, Det 37 OSA CMD, Topeka
Chief Warrant Officer 5 Terry Patton, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Chief Warrant Officer 4 Darrell Linenberger, Det 37 OSA CMD, Topeka
Sgt. Maj. Becky Middendorf, 69th TC, Topeka
1st Sgt. Kevin Rieschick, Btry A (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Holton
Master Sgt. Annette Frenzl, KSARNG Med Det, Lenexa
Master Sgt. Larry Henry, 105th MPAD, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Steven Collins, HHC (-), 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
Sgt. 1st Class Randy Cox, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg
Sgt. 1st Class Rickie Davidson, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Carline Long, HHC, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita
Sgt. 1st Class Sheila Powell, 731st Trans Co (-), Great Bend
Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Sherwood, HQ, 235th Rgmt (RTI), Salina
Sgt. 1st Class Marty Tatum, 2nd Bn, 235th Rgmt, Salina
Sgt. 1st Class David Viegra, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson
Sgt. 1st Class David Wymore, 242nd Eng Co (Horz), Coffeyville
Staff Sgt. Michael Carlson, 1077th Med Co (GA), Olathe
Staff Sgt. Earl Chism, Det 1, HHC, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Marysville
Staff Sgt. Stephan Drury, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita
Staff Sgt. Kevin Durkes, 69th TC, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Daniel Haines, Det 1, 778th Trans Co, Manhattan
Staff Sgt. Tyron Hudgins, 778th Trans Co (-), Kansas City
Staff Sgt. Kenneth Isaac, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Michael Kelly, 778th Trans Co (-), Kansas City
Staff Sgt. David Moore, Btry E (TA), 161st FA, Great Bend

to an even bigger scale."

There have been several service stations that have done this before but not all of them at one time like on this day.

"Progressive donates the cars," Barrows explained. "The body shop plays a huge part in doing the car repairs. They spend their own money and partner with their vendors as well. Their paint supplier may give them their paint; their part supplier, like OEM, may donate the parts. Midway donated the engine that went into one of the vehicles for example."

Kansas Guard families receive 'Recycled Rides' from Progressive

Continued from Page 15

their name to receive the vehicle. Prior to receiving the 2007 Ford Five Hundred, they had been without transportation for almost two years, requiring them to walk or ride bicycles everywhere they needed to go.

"Here in Kansas City this is the fourth event, [but] the first year Progressive corporately has been a part of it," said Robert Barrows, Progressive service station manager in Kansas City, Kan. "They have let us at a local level basically get involved with it and this year we've just expanded it

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“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 perform-

ance 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, Augusta, 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 is 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 concert performances conducted as part of the band’s 2013 annual training. (Photo by Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

‘Rag top’ stays in the family

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 babies... 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.”

Sometime in the early 1960s, the old Mercury ragtop 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.

He said the \$25 undercoating had saved the frame. He did a lot of rust repair on it... the rocker panels and the spare tire well, which he fabricated himself. He did just an unbelievable job on it.”

Moyer, who is a colonel in the Kansas Army National Guard, and a special education teacher in Clearwater, was deployed to Iraq during the restoration. Joshua took over as the parts-runner/project coordinator, keeping in touch with his dad with daily e-mails.

The 255-cubic-inch flathead V-8 was rebuilt and the 3-speed overdrive transmission was taken to Fisher’s Transmissions for a complete rebuild.

All the chrome trim was removed and shipped to Paul’s Chrome Plating in Evans City, Pa., for show-quality replating. Choctaw Buffing Co. in Clearwater handled polishing the stainless steel and other trim pieces to a high shine.

The car, one of only 16,735 Mercury convertibles built in that landmark 1949 body style, was outfitted with hydraulically controlled windows, top and front seat, which all needed attention. All 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 recreated the beige leather and fabric seats and door panels in exacting detail. A new folding cloth top was fabricated and mounted over the beautiful chromed top ribs. The Mercury was finished just in time for the festivities.

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 “FREDS49.”



Owner Col. Clinton Moyer entered his father-in-law’s restored 1949 Mercury convertible into the O’Reilly Auto Parts World of Wheels held at Bartle Hall in Kansas City, Mo., this past February. The convertible won Best of Class for Restored Originals. It also won for Outstanding Interior - Restored. (Photo by Col. Clint Moyer)

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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 expands 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 governmental/nongovernmental, non-profit, corporate partnerships and local citizen 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 recognizing those 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 the 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 commerces, 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 promotional materials. Those 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 business 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 Jennings, a Fort Riley resident and member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment. "It helps us 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.jointservicesupport.org/community-forces/. For further information regarding the Patriot Business Program by call Rachel Hinde at the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce at 785-827-9310 ext. 129 or Melissa McCoy at the Salina Airport Authority at 785-827-3914. For further information regarding the Joint Community Forces initiative call Mary Nesbitt at 785-274-1171.

Company D's Family Readiness Group treats Soldiers



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 weather 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, helps families reunite after a 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, even if it's only once a month. We 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 year. (Photo by Spc. Jamie 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 was recently given the opportunity to participate in a mission to support the 242nd Engineer Company headquartered in Coffeyville, Kan. The mission 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. Jonah 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 his 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 troubleshoot airbrake, hydraulic and electrical systems, as well as complete an overdue service. Noteworthy, the group performed a repair of dead lining faults on the vehicle.

"These 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."

Positive unit 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 warrior'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, pre-combat inspection, mission execution and after action review. These types of missions will only make the Kansas National Guard stronger. The amount of support given 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 continuing training in this fashion benefits visitor, host and the Kansas National Guard as a whole.

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



Representatives of the Salina community, military services and businesses take part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony signifying the nationwide start of the Patriot Business Program. The ceremony took place July 10 during a press conference in Salina for Joining Community Forces. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

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