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PLAINS GUARDIAN

VOLUME 55 No. 1

Serving the Kansas Army and Air National Guard, Kansas Emergency Management, Kansas Homeland Security and Civil Air Patrol

JANUARY 2012

Fighting Jayhawks awarded the Bronze Star

By 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht

184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

Three members of the 184th Intelligence Wing, Kansas National Guard, were recently honored for their achievements while serving in Afghanistan. The ceremony took place Dec. 3, 2011, in Hangar 41, crowded with family members, friends and co-workers.

Master Sgt. Clint Bradfield, first sergeant of the 184th IW Medical Group, and resident of Sedgwick, Kan., was recognized for being awarded a Bronze Star Medal for his service with the second Kansas Agribusiness Development Team from January 2010 to January 2011.

While deployed, he supported 75 Agribusiness Development Team missions and two combat missions. He was also attached to the 101st Airborne Division for security support as a combat medic during his deployment.

“My job as a medic is to take care of injured personnel and I didn’t feel like I did anything extraordinary other than what I was trained to do,” Bradfield said.

Two members of the 184th Civil Engineer Squadron, 184th Intelligence Wing, were also awarded the Bronze Star medal for extraordinary service during their de-

ployment. Lt. Col. James Culp, commander of the 184th Civil Engineer Squadron, and resident of Wichita, Kan., and Master Sgt. Homer King, a member of the Civil Engineer Squadron, and resident

of Augusta, Kan., were presented the award by Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general.

“The Bronze Star isn’t handed out often and when we have an opportunity to pres-

ent the Bronze Star for service and achievement above and beyond, it is truly a special event,” Tafanelli said. “I would like to congratulate each of the recipients today for all their hard work, effort and sacrifice upon earning the Bronze Star award.”

Culp and King were deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from March to August 2011. Under Culp’s command, the squadron completed projects that were essential to the operations of their area.

“I was really thankful that I went,” Culp said. “My team wanted to go and was able to make a huge impact on the mission.”

While in Afghanistan, the 184th Civil Engineer squadron completed 166 projects totaling \$76 million. The squadron also completed nine complete Master Plans; installed 182 tents, averaging one per day; supported 18 forward operating bases; completed 130 off-site missions and supported five operations.

Col. John Hernandez, commander of the 184th Intelligence Wing, complimented the Airmen for their achievements. “When you look at the contributions of you and all of

(Continued on Page 11)



Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general, and Col. John Hernandez (right), commander of the 184th Intelligence Wing, present the Bronze Star Medal to Master Sgt. Homer King for his outstanding achievements while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2011. (Photo by Master Sgt. John Vsetecka, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs Office)

National Guard gets seat at Joint Chiefs of Staff

By Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill

National Guard Bureau

The chief of the National Guard Bureau is now a statutory member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

With the stroke of a pen, the same month the nation’s oldest military institution celebrated its 375th birthday, Presi-

dent Barack Obama signed legislation that includes a provision adding the chief of the National Guard Bureau to the Joint Chiefs.

The provision, part of the fiscal year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act, ushers in a change some National Guard historians have called the most significant development since the Militia Act of 1903 codified the modern day dual-status structure of the Guard.

“We are grateful for the efforts the executive and legislative bodies have gone to in placing the chief of the National Guard Bureau on the Joint Chiefs of Staff,” said Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau.

“We look forward to working alongside the other Joint Chiefs to provide our nation’s senior leaders with a fuller picture of the non-federalized National Guard as it serves in support of homeland defense and civil support missions,” McKinley said.

The provision is part of a federal law that has for the last half-century annually specified the Defense Department budget.

The 2012 National Defense Authorization Act authorizes \$670 billion in spending for Defense Department programs and Energy Department nuclear weapons programs.

Other provisions of the bill that affect the National Guard include re-establishing the position of vice-chief of the National Guard Bureau at the three-star level while rescinding the two-star position of director of the NGB’s joint staff.

The bill also requires that National Guard general officers be considered for command of Army North and Air Force North and authorizes funding for the National Guard State Partnership Program.

Secretary of State receives ESGR Patriot Award

By Chuck Bredahl

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

The Kansas Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, an agency of the Department of Defense, presented an ESGR Patriot Award to Secretary of State Kris Kobach on Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012. During the ceremony, Kobach signed the ESGR Statement of Support.

“Our Guard members couldn’t do what they do without the support of employers,” said Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general. “We are grateful to all Kansas businesses and organizations who

take this step to support our men and women in uniform.”

“It is refreshing to see not only private sector employers being nominated for the My Boss is a Patriot Award, but state leaders being nominated, as well,” said Mick Allen, Kansas Chairman for ESGR. “Secretary Kobach is an example of a state leader that has a genuine concern for the men and women who serve, not only in the Kansas National Guard, but in all branches of the service. His leadership in supporting the men and women who serve is an example for all state leaders to follow.”

(Continued on Page 9)



Mick Allen, Kansas chairman for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, presents Kris Kobach, secretary of state for Kansas, with the ESGR Patriot Award and asks him to sign the ESGR Statement of Support for the state of Kansas at a ceremony in Topeka, Kan., Jan. 5, 2012. (Courtesy photo)

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Nangahar University plowing ahead for Afghanistan

By 1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza-Pangburn
Agribusiness Development Team 4

Members of the Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4 gathered with distinguished guests at the Research and Development Farm outside Forward Oper-

ating Base Mehtar Lam, Afghanistan, Dec. 20, 2011, to participate in a graduation ceremony for a class of 46 students.

The Nangahar University agricultural training program was conceived by the Kansas Agribusiness Development Team

two years ago with the goal of supporting local Afghan agricultural professions in offering a program of agricultural study to local Afghan students.

This is the final time that an ADT will play such a heavy role in the Nangahar University's curriculum. Nangahar University Dean of Agriculture Mohammed Asif Bawary and other facilitators of the academic institution have demonstrated that they are more than capable and willing to take the lead role of furthering the education of their country's young people.

"What they learn today will affect their future," said Lt. Col. Russell Richardson, Kansas ADT commander from Hamlin, Kan. "These graduates have the capability to help train the farmers of Afghanistan. They can become teachers, businessmen or future government employees."

Agricultural professionals are responsible for providing the instruction while the ADT supports them with training, resources and expertise. The Nangahar University agricultural training program is a recurring 11-week course that brings about 30 agricultural students to the Mehtar Lam Research and Development Farm and the orchard in Zio Haq to learn sound agricultural methodology.

"These students are enthusiastic, optimistic and bright," said Capt. Todd Stuke,

officer in charge of the agriculture section of ADT 4. "This is what makes some of us optimistic about the successful transition from coalition forces to the Afghan government."

The graduation ceremony included commencement speeches from Richardson Bawary and Mohammed Ismail Dawaltzai, Laghman director of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock.

As the students mingled with the ADT, many asked questions about farming in Kansas and many requested to have pictures taken with the Soldiers.

"What are ADT's plans for Afghanistan," asked one of the students at the end of their day's classes.

A member of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Dr. Eric Grant, stepped up to answer the question, "We are here to teach you, so that you can teach your countrymen," said Grant. "And you can dictate what you do with these resources."

During the 11-week course of study, students receive instructions specific to Laghman province in the following classes: drip irrigation, plant production, crop disease, marketing, soil science, gardening/orcharding, artificial insemination, pruning/graphing and designing of orchards, greenhouse operations, canning and winter feed mixing.



A graduate of the Nangahar University 11-week Agriculture Training Program receives his certificate from Mohammad Ismail Dawaltzai, Laghman Director of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, while members of the Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4 form a receiving line to extend their congratulations, Dec. 20, 2011. (Photo by 1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza-Pangburn, Agribusiness Development Team 4)

Kansas National Guard Military Funeral Honors Team needs you

By Rod Moyer

Kansas Honor Guard coordinator

During the past five years, there has been an important entity of the Kansas Army National Guard that is continuing to grow. There is little fanfare and the Soldiers supporting this team do not wear name tags. They quietly go about their business ensuring that every veteran receives proper honors. This team is the Kansas Military Funeral Honors Team.

What started with a handful of Soldiers performing 14 services the first year of existence has grown to a team that has six full-time Soldiers and more than 30 drill status, Active Guard and Reserve or military technicians performing more than 100 funerals per month. The MFH program has

a team in Topeka, Leavenworth, Wichita and Iola, Kan.

During the period when deployments by active duty were extremely high, the Department of Defense was mandated by Congress to ensure every state had a National Guard MFH team. Kansas came on board in 2006.

The requirements to be a member of the MFH team are high. In order to qualify for the team, the Soldier must make height and weight and pass the Army physical fitness test. Prior to this year, once the Soldier was deemed qualified to join, there was a 40-hour course that had to be passed. The reason for higher standards is because the MFH team follows the same standard operation procedures that are

used by the Old Guard at Fort Myer/Arlington National Cemetery.

Soldiers who volunteer for the program and training receive pay that amounts to half a day's drill status pay. They also receive one retirement point for every day they work. The requirements for Soldiers to earn the "Honor Guard" tab are 40 hours worth of training and testing. In order to retain the "Honors Guard" tab, the members are required to perform 10 services per year.

Kansas currently has drill status Soldiers who are dedicated to performing services. They do receive pay, but if you ask them, they will tell you they do it because of the sense of honor and pride of doing something that is so vitally important to families by honoring past veterans who have sacri-

ficed and given so much for their country.

With the operation tempo that the MFH team is conducting, it is important to recruit new members for the teams. In addition to recruiting new drill status, AGR or technicians, the program would like to recruit armories to stand up a team. At present, the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery units in Hiawatha and Abilene, Kan., have teams already trained and are performing services. The goal is to have teams at every armory around the state to ensure all veterans, regardless of their location, will receive honors.

If you or your organization is interested in becoming a member or team, please contact Rod Moyer, state coordinator, at 785-274-1520 or Sgt. Nick Churchill at 785-174-1208.

1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery officers encourage future leaders

By 1st Lt. William Joest

1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery

Many Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery Regiment, Kansas Army National Guard, attended or plan to attend University of Kansas or Kansas State University for their Army Reserve Officer Training Corps programs.

Both universities played a pivotal role developing many of the leaders currently deployed to the Horn of Africa. Four battalion officers received their commissions through KU: Capt. William Chuber, 2nd Lt. Kelly Draffen, 2nd Lt. Joe Kinsey and 2nd Lt. Tom Townsden. Chuber and Draffen are currently deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, in support of Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa, while Kinsey and Townsden recently graduated from the Field Artillery Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Sill, Okla.

Chuber began his military career at KU Army ROTC in the fall of 1999. Following graduation from Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, Chuber was stationed at Fort Riley, Kan. Chuber left active duty to join the Kansas Army National Guard's 35th Infantry Division and started working at the KU Army ROTC program as a military science instructor. While at KU, Chuber was notified he would be reassigned to the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery as the new Battery B commander. He worked at KU for two years before being placed on orders in preparation for the battalion's deployment to Africa. While deployed to the Horn of Africa, Chuber is responsible for camp security operations.



Former and future University of Kansas cadets of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery show off their Jayhawk pride while deployed to the Horn of Africa. (From left to right) - Front: Spc. Travis Lamer, 2nd Lt. Kelly Draffen, Spc. Zachary Carroll and Spc. Philip Loth. Back: Spc. Travis Roberts, Spc. Brandon Patillo and Capt. William Chuber. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Chris Indermuehle, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery)

Even during his deployment, Chuber continued to support Cadet Command's mission of guiding and developing future officers for the U.S. Army. Chuber counseled 32 Soldiers deployed to CJTF-HOA about their educational opportunities and choosing an area of study. He informed each Soldier about ACT/SAT exams given at Camp Lemonnier. If a Soldier was considering a school unfamiliar to Chuber, he would ac-

tively seek out Soldiers who attended that college to act as a school liaison.

"It is crucial the Soldier gets accurate information on a college—everything from the application process, tuition and fees, degree programs, student life and so on," said Chuber. "I want to make the Soldier as informed as possible so there is no question they made the right choice for their future."

Of the 32 Soldiers Chuber assisted, he aided

10 with enrollment into ROTC at KU or KSU.

"We as leaders need to invest into our future leaders so they are set up for success in their career," said Chuber. "This is partly why our military is so dynamic and the best trained in the world."

Draffen began her military career during her senior year in October 2008 and was commissioned May 2010 into the Kansas Army National Guard, Forward Support Company, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery Regiment. She deployed with FSC 1-161st FA to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. While deployed, Draffen continued to serve with FSC 1-161st FA as the officer in charge of flight line force protection.

"ROTC is structured to develop not only a military leader, but also better students and citizens," said Draffen. "ROTC built a mentorship program designed to help cadets with their military studies, as well as their academic class work."

She noted that time management is a key skill instilled in the leadership training process and one of the easiest to apply to academic studies. Draffen hopes to continue building a stronger relationship between KU Army ROTC and the 1-161st FA. She plans on applying for an instructor position with an ROTC program after she returns to Kansas.

Those seeking more information on ROTC should contact the school ROTC admissions and scholarship officer: Lt. Col. John Clark at University of Kansas, telephone (785) 864-1113; or Maj. James Porter at Kansas State University, telephone (785) 532-5173.

Coyotes prep for Operational Readiness Inspection

By Capt. Joe Blubaugh
190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Office

Nearly 150 members of the 190th Air Refueling Wing deployed to 'Japan' as part of an exercise to help prepare the wing for an Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI). The mock deployment, which was actually held in Gulfport, Miss., featured multiple scenarios that put Coyotes in chemical suits and protective masks for extended durations.

The Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE) was designed to prep the wing for the next ORI, which is currently scheduled for June 2014. In particular, the 190th evaluation team wanted this two-day ORE to focus on communication up and down the chain of command.

"We wanted to work the command and control functions heavily," said Lt. Col. Scott McGregor, the wing Exercise Evaluation Team chief. "We also wanted to get some new members exposure to the deployed ORE environment."

While command and control training was the main focus of the exercise, McGregor was also hoping to refresh members on Mission Oriented Protective Posture levels and give them the opportunity to complete their missions in a simulated toxic environment.

Being able to demonstrate the ability to survive simulated attacks while still completing the wing's missions is critical during an ORI. Senior Airman Tyisha McNutt, 190th Operations Support Flight, served as a post-attack reconnaissance team member during the ORE. It was her responsibility to methodically search a predetermined area following an attack to make sure it was clear for other members, a job that had to

be done in full protective gear.

"I had the responsibility to check large areas around two buildings," said McNutt. "It was very tiring being in our gear multiple times for more than an hour."

Even though it was an exercise, there are still real-world efforts that go into moving 150 personnel from Kansas to Mississippi. McGregor said the wing's support functions all did an excellent job in making sure the exercise went off without a hitch. "All of the supporting agencies did a wonderful job of getting us there and back...handling the rooms, meals and transportation."

In addition to the training, McGregor wanted his fellow Coyotes to have fun while increasing camaraderie.

"Team building is a natural byproduct of these types of exercises," he said.

That is exactly what happened for McNutt. In addition to learning more about her job and how to operate in a war-time scenario, she said she really enjoyed meeting and working with people she did not know prior to the exercise.

While designed to exercise the wing, the ORE is also a busy time for the evaluation team, which was made up entirely of 190th members. The elaborate scenarios required intense planning and forethought in order to work certain areas and accomplish the stated objectives, said McGregor. The team must be in sync and communicating effectively so that exercise inputs and injects are made at the appropriate time.

McGregor was pleased with both the evaluation team and the wing and thought the ORE was a success. "I think the low key and nonthreatening level of this exercise was exactly where it needed to be for the 190th at this place and time in our run up to the 2014 ORI."

Brevity - the soul of Twitter

By 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht
Public Affairs Office

While attending conferences, meeting with coworkers or even out in the community, many times you will hear "Are you on Facebook?" or "Get more info on our Facebook page."

More and more Soldiers, Airmen and military organizations are adopting social media as a way to communicate. Social media gives everyone the opportunity to share opinions, interests, pictures, videos and more. While Facebook is a big contributor to the social media highway, Twitter is another tool that is used or should be considered for use.

President Barrack Obama is the first U.S. president to embrace social media. When campaigning in 2007, he was able to raise millions of dollars and gain support by using social media and technology. Obama still uses his Twitter account to reach the public.

The leadership of the Adjutant General's Department, Kansas Division of Emergency Management and the Kansas National Guard

see the benefits and are also using Twitter to inform and gather feedback from their followers.

Before signing up and using Twitter, you have to understand what it is and how it can be used. Twitter is a microblogging tool that allows you to post comments in 140 characters or less. As with other social media sites, you set up who you want to communicate with by following people or gaining followers. Millions of people are using Twitter, so finding friends, organizations or topics of interest is extremely easy.

Twitter has several benefits that many other social media tools don't. First, Twitter has the ability to connect to other social media sites. This makes the process easier to get your message out to your followers simultaneously. With a few clicks, you can send a message out on your Twitter account, your Facebook page or many other social media sites.

Second, Twitter has built-in tools to track how your message was received. For example, have you ever wondered how many people actually read your posts? Twitter allows the user to track how many people clicked on your message and how many people reposted your message. For the Kansas National Guard, this feature is im-

portant because it allows us to address issues that Kansas Soldiers and Airmen have, while tracking to see how effective our messages are at reaching you.

Third, Twitter allows you to track what others are saying about you. If anyone mentions your name in a post, that post will appear on your account. This allows you to address bad information or rumors.

Fourth, you can stay connected easier because of the nature of Twitter. Unlike other social media sites, Twitter can only be 140 characters, meaning that you don't have long posts that you have to read to stay connected.

As with other social media tools, you have to be careful about what you say and breaking operational security. Several celebrities have found the pitfalls of using Twitter. Ashton Kutcher tweeted an off-hand comment about the Pennsylvania State University sex scandal and received

some unfriendly responses. This forced Kutcher, the first account to get one million followers, to

re-evaluate how he should use Twitter.

Also, former U.S. Representative Anthony Wiener was forced to resign his position after tweeting an

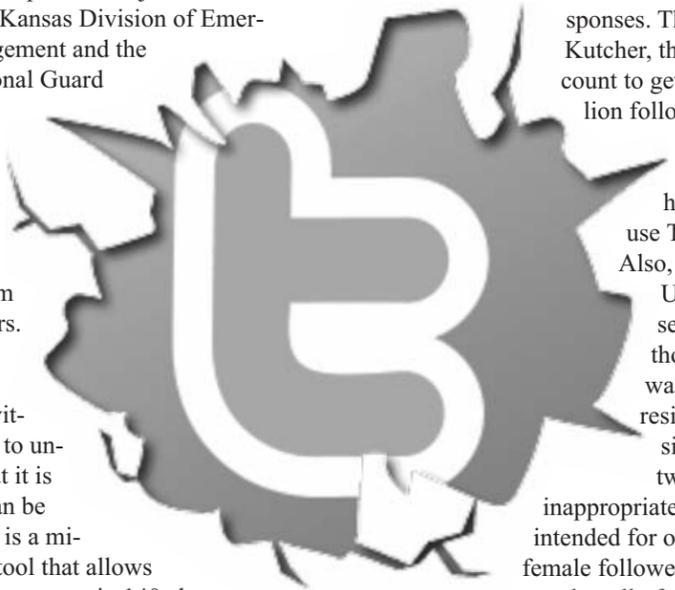
inappropriate picture, intended for one of his female followers, that was posted to all of them. Always remember that social

media is called "social" for a reason. The information or pictures that you post can be, and usually are, read by hundreds of people, regardless if they are your "friends" or not.

Things to keep in mind about using Twitter:

1. Don't post classified information.
2. Don't post casualty information before the next of kin has been notified.
3. Don't post information protected by the Privacy Act.
4. Don't post information that is for official use only.
5. Don't post personally identifiable information.

For Soldiers, Airmen and military organizations, Social media is fast becoming a popular way of communicating. If used properly, Twitter can help fill the gap left by other social media sites. But always pay attention to the information that is released because social media is "social," not private.



Airman 1st Class Lexi Green (right), Senior Airman Tyisha McNutt (center) and Tech. Sgt. Denton Stafford (left) prepare to cordon off an unexploded ordinance during the Operational Readiness Exercise, held in Gulfport, Miss. (Photo by Master Sgt. Allen Pickert, 190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Office)



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A new year full of challenges and opportunities ahead for 2012

By **Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli**
The Adjutant General

The new year presents a number of challenges to our organization, but also many opportunities as we seek new partnerships, utilize improving technologies and continue working closely together to keep Kansans safe. The most notable challenges of 2012 so far are the federal budget cuts announced in January by the Department of Defense, along with the tight state budget we've been working with for the past few years.



**Maj. Gen. (KS)
Lee Tafanelli**

Our department has been aggressively analyzing what's ahead externally and internally, constantly scanning the horizon for emerging threats and trends that we must prepare to face.

The following lays out the road ahead for us, based on the information we have today.

National Guard

Over the next decade, the Department of Defense will reduce its force structure dramatically. President Obama's new national defense strategy is based on Penta-

gon cuts of a half a trillion dollars over the next 10 years.

However, if Congress fails to address required spending cuts outside of defense as part of the budget deficit agreement and automatic cuts occur, defense budget cuts will more than double to \$1.2 trillion.

As you might imagine, there is considerable disagreement on how best to transform the military to best address 21st century threats such as cyber-attack, transnational terrorism, nuclear proliferation, the use of biological agents, and the U.S. economy's ability to sustain expensive national security infrastructure and programs. There are calls for a smaller force, much less active in large-scale land wars, but more active in limited conflicts or problems areas.

The future role of the National Guard, with its unique dual mission of fighting the nation's wars and protecting the homeland, is an ongoing point of discussion. The National Guard has proven itself as an operational force that is ready, relevant and accessible when called upon. At one-third the cost of its active component counterpart, it is a cost effective solution.

Homeland Security/ Emergency Management

Similarly, homeland security professionals have seen a 25 percent reduction in our fiscal year 2011 federal homeland security grant funding from fiscal year

2010. Current projections indicate that we may see up to an additional 40 percent reduction in our fiscal year 2012 homeland security grant funds.

This reduced federal funding trend is expected to continue as the federal government focuses diminished resources on high-population urban centers, leaving Kansas and many other states with fewer resources for homeland security.

Time of Transformation

For the past year, we have been thoroughly examining our organizational structure, our infrastructure, our staffing, and our business processes in light of the budgetary challenges in our future. Additionally, we have developed some guiding principles for Kansas' future public safety/homeland security actions to ensure we are best organized to deal with future problems, are structured to maximize sustainability, and are focused on long versus short-term benefit to the state. These principles include:

- **Identify essential functions (core capabilities)** – We must clearly identify essential public safety/homeland security needs for the state, given budget restraints. This must be the first step in re-engineering organizational structures to best meet future public safety/homeland security challenges.
- **Analyze future trends** – We must conduct thorough analysis of potential future environments to determine the likely types of budgets, emerging threats, demographic trends, etc., that Kansas will face in the years ahead.
- **Transform organizational structures** – We must transform organizational structures and existing business practices to make

sure we are best prepared to deliver needed capabilities.

- **Shared use facilities** – We must pursue a long-term strategy that encourages the construction of shared use, resilient, low maintenance facilities between all levels of government.
- **Expansion of public/private partnerships** – We must significantly enhance and formalize the inclusion of the state's private sector partners in public safety/homeland security collaboration. Since 80 percent of critical infrastructure (energy production, food production, transportation, communications, financial networks, etc.) resides in the hand of the private sector, inclusion makes sense and will become increasingly important for everyone involved.
- **Maximize Kansas assets** – We must increase utilization of Kansas-based assets (universities, private sector, military facilities) that can be valuable to public safety/homeland security.

Going forward, we will use these principles to ensure that our actions are coordinated, strategic and focused on providing Kansas with dependable and sustainable capabilities.

After a decade of war, our Soldiers and Airmen are still deploying and still performing valiantly. The men and women of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security continue to stand watch, endlessly coordinating and preparing for the unthinkable, and responding quickly when it occurs.

We remain committed to finding solutions and opportunities amidst the challenges.

Warrant Officer Corps in review

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

As we enter the new year, I would like to thank you all for your continued service and the sacrifices that you and your families make. I would also like to thank those Soldiers and Airmen who are currently deployed protecting our great nation and are not with their families right now. Less than one percent of Americans today choose to serve this great country and many of the population do not know the sacrifices you make, but without you all we couldn't enjoy the liberties that we do every day. So again, Thank you.



**Command Chief
Warrant Officer 5
Hector Vasquez**

I want to briefly point out some of the achievements that was made within the Kansas Army National Warrant Officer Corps this past year:

1. The Senior Warrant Advisory Council was implemented. With this council we developed a Warrant Officer Mentorship Program that focuses on the mentorship of candidates through senior warrant officers.

2. A Warrant Officer Strength Maintenance Program was developed with the help of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, the Kansas Regional Training Institute and the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment. This program explains the process in becoming a warrant officer and explains the duties and responsibilities of each group that was mentioned above. This pamphlet will serve as a guide for Soldiers interested in becoming a warrant officer and will include examples of memorandums that are required for the packet. This pamphlet is currently in the staffing process and I hope to release it soon.
3. We also conducted a Warrant Officer/Officer/ROTC symposium in November. We had 15 Soldiers express interest in becoming Warrant Officers. To date, there are still over 30 warrant officer vacancies, so if you're interested, please contact the Warrant Officer Strength Manager, Warrant Officer 1 Sam Bonham; 785-817-3197 or samual.c.bonham@us.army.mil.
4. Chief Warrant Officer 5 Gary Nisker, the National Guard Bureau Command Chief Warrant Officer, was the guest speaker at the Kansas National Guard Association Warrant Officer luncheon. He updated us with progress made concerning the new warrant officer promotion system.

(Continued on Page 5)

Soldier to Soldier

A New Year, A New Beginning!

By **Command Sgt. Maj. John Ryan**
Joint Forces Headquarters

I hope each of you had a great holiday season. I was able to take some time off and spend it with my family and grandchildren (always a delight). During my time off, I was scanning through the channels on the television and came across the classic movie, "It's a Wonderful Life."



**Command Sgt. Maj.
John Ryan**

As I watched it, I began to think how

wonderful it was to see how George Bailey, played by James Stewart, was beset by many challenges and how he met each one head on. For example, how he did the right thing when Mr. Gower put the wrong medicine in the prescription and would have poisoned the patient. How he risked his life to save his brother when he broke through the ice. How he stayed home from college to run the family business after his father died and the compassion he showed to the people of Bedford Falls. I also noticed how his wife, Mary, played by Donna Reed, was always supportive.

In the end, George was able to see what Bedford Falls would have been like if he had not been there doing the right things. As leaders, we can do or not do

(Continued on Page 8)

Practice winter driving skills

By **Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marvin Terhune**
Safety Office

I was reading an article on winter driving tips. It was a very good article on how to prepare your vehicle by cleaning all of the windows and even mentioned to carry a winter survival kit in the trunk. What jumped out to me in the article was how to control your vehicle when weather conditions create driving hazards. Those thoughts reminded me of when I was learning how to drive.

How did we learn to drive in the snow and ice? I don't know about you, but I learned from experience. If you got stuck you knew what the conditions were that you could not get out of. You learned the limitations of your vehicle and what it could do for you, or in some cases, could not do.

Four wheel drive just meant you were further from the road when you got stuck.

My point is this: When was the last time you went to an empty parking lot covered in snow and ice and "practiced" winter driving skills? How does your car handle? Practice accelerating and then hit the brakes. Which way does your car pull? Did your vehicle turn into a bobsled if your brakes locked up and you did not "tap" them? When you did accelerate, which way did your car want to go? Practice turning and hitting your brakes and then accelerate through a turn. Does the back end of your car want to come around on you?

With today's front wheel drive, all-wheel drive and anti-slip technology all vehicles will handle differently. The best thing that you could do is practice these skills with all of your family members that are licensed drivers.

Controlling your vehicle is the number one thing that a driver has to do. Everything else that we do, or don't do (driver distractions) is aimed at assisting us to do the number one thing! Practice makes perfect! Be safe!

PLAINS GUARDIAN

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The deadline for all submission is the first Wednesday of the month: February, April, June, August, October and December. Submissions may be e-mailed to Jane Welch (jane.e.welch1@us.army.mil).

Circulation: Approximately 16,000

Printed under contract with the U.S. Government Printing Office

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Start the new year with a plan!

By Capt. Amy Blow
Occupational Health Manager

Every year many Americans head into the month of January with a hope for doing "something" better, whether it is better health, less stress or just general thoughts about being more positive when conducting their daily activities. The gyms become full and the diet craze begins!



Capt. Amy Blow

Unfortunately though, by mid-February the gym crowding and dieting is not as noticeable, which leads us to believe the newness of the New Year has started to fade once again.

Obesity is on the rise in adults and children throughout the nation. As National Guard employees, we have responsibilities other Americans do not have when thinking about our overall health and wellness. As a term of our employment, we are expected to be ready to go at a moment's notice to assist our community and nation in its time of need.

National Guard employees are generous people and naturally want to serve. However, sometimes it is our own health needs that we forget in the process.

The key to achieving and maintaining a healthy weight isn't about short-term dietary changes. It's about a lifestyle that includes healthy eating, regular physical activity and balancing the number of calories you consume with the number of calories your body uses.

Organizations all over the country are leaning towards preventive medicine in the form of company-wide wellness programs. Research shows education and planning go a long way in helping people adopt healthier lifestyles to feel better and be more productive in their daily lives.

In October 2011, a new education series was launched via Defense Connect Online. The 10-lesson program "Basic Nutrition for Everyday" was developed to provide basic

nutrition information to Soldiers and Airmen struggling to meet Army and Air Force Physical Training Program Height and Weight standards as part of the Adjutant General's Remedial Physical Training Program. The thought was, if Soldiers and Airmen can refresh their memory of basic nutrition concepts or even learn them for the first time, they could have better success in adopting a lifestyle to support better overall health and wellness. The information was provided through weekly, one hour live sessions over the lunchtime, to anyone with access to DCO.

During the first week, a small group of employees participated in the live session, but it wasn't long before many employees across the state "tuned in" for the live discussions on topics ranging from water consumption guidelines, to advice on being smart dietary supplement consumers. Group diversity evolved, as well, starting with members of the Army Guard, then to the Air Guard and very quickly grew to include state employees of the agency. The participation from all of our agency employees is what made the program possible!

This year, be part of the growing numbers to join in on the concept of "prevention." You can become healthier for yourself, your family and your team here at work with some education and determination. If you missed the series and want to refresh your knowledge on basic nutrition principles, the Powerpoint slides are posted to the agency website at www.kansastag.gov/STATEHRO.asp?PageID=436. All of the lessons have been saved on DCO as recorded sessions and are available if your organization would like to present them in a group format or through independent study.

Diet and exercise are not concepts meant to be chosen as one or the other. It is the combination that is crucial for us to truly become healthy and well. Future health promotion topics will be provided through DCO sessions throughout the year, so look for the reminder messages and advertisements to be posted.

Grow the good. Education equals action!

Annual retiree update briefing

By Sgt. Jessica Barnett
105th Mobile Public Affairs

Kansas National Guard retirees joined together for a retiree briefing at Nickell Armory, Nov. 6, 2011, hosted by Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general.

During the event, retirees were briefed on the latest actions and initiatives of the Kansas National Guard. To start the briefing, Tafanelli showed a short video encompassing the Kansas Guard from its beginning to today.

The retirees also heard from Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, and Brig. Gen. Keith Lang, chief of staff of the Kansas Air National Guard, on events that have happened over the past year from each component.

"As General Bunting used to say about retirement checks, that it's just really a retainer fee," said Tafanelli. "What I am going to ask each and every one of you to

do is be an ambassador for the Kansas National Guard and, more importantly, tell the National Guard story.

"You run into groups of people frequently who don't even realize what the Kansas National Guard is, how long we have been around, what we have done, who we are and what we do on a daily basis. That is a constant education that we need to do and I can't think of anyone better in our communities to be our ambassadors and tell the Guard stories other than our retirees."

"I have been away for a couple of years, so it was nice to come in and get a short briefing on where the Guard has been over the past year, where it is presently and where they look to be in the next couple of years," said retired Lt. Col. Craig Fox.

"This gives us a feeling when we go out and talk to the community with a better understanding of the current mission and where it is going in the future."



Brig. Gen. Keith Lang, chief of staff of the Kansas Air National Guard, speaks to Kansas National Guard retirees during the annual retiree briefing at Nickell Armory, Nov. 6, 2011. (Photo by Sgt. Jessica Barnett, 105th Public Affairs Detachment)

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Warrant Officer Corps in review

Continued from Page 4

As we reached the end of the year, I began to look into topics that I want to work on in 2012. Some of those items include:

1. Looking into the possibility of establishing a Warrant Officer Hall of Fame.
2. Placing a warrant officer brick at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard. We have ordered a brick and it is in the engraving process. Once the engraving is complete, the brick will be placed at the museum during a dedication ceremony.
3. Since October, I've been working with Chapter 303 of the USA Warrant Officer Association at Fort Riley. I'm trying to develop a partnership with this organization that will allow us to pool our knowledge, expertise and resources to help with mission accomplishment throughout the Active, Reserve and National Guard components. Chapter 303 is dedicated to supporting local communities and will also be giving out college scholarships to students whose family members are warrant officers. As a warrant officer, I believe the USAWOA is a good organization worth looking into, and I would like to encourage all Kansas National Guard warrants to support Chapter 303.
4. I will begin visiting units with the Warrant Officer Strength Manager starting this spring. These visits will focus on recruiting Warrant Officers within the same units where vacancies exist. I will also be talking to the current warrants to discuss any issues that they might be challenged with to see how I can assist them in the field.
5. I will also continue to refine the Advisory

Council and ensure that topics brought up for discussion are given due attention.

In my last article, I mentioned that I have been thinking of ways to generate more involvement and interaction among Kansas Army National Guard warrant officers, both technicians and aviators. So, I decided to establish a Warrant Officer's call. The first Warrant Officer's call will be held in Topeka on Feb. 17. The intent is for us to interact as professionals, but in a casual atmosphere. I have seen many good ideas and many problems solved as a result of these interactions, plus it allows us to break the monotony of our everyday routine. I'm taking suggestions for other places for future meeting.

In every issue of the Plains Guardian I try to give out helpful advice to junior warrant officers. Now is a good time to update your biographies, Interactive Personnel Electronic Records Management System and Officer Evaluation Report support form. You have to be proactive in maintaining your record, because if you don't, no one else will. By updating your records at one time you can better track and update the schools and training you have received the past year. Promotion boards are looking over your records and if you don't update your records or Officer Evaluation Reports, then you can be overlooked because you don't meet promotion requirements.

Finally, if you know of any warrant officer news, such as promotions, graduations, retirements or changes that affect warrant officers and you would like to see them in the Plains Guardian, please send them to me at 785-274-1903 or hector.vasquez@us.army.mil.

Guardsmen gain applied suicide intervention skills

By Sgt. Jessica Barnett
Public Affairs Office

Soldiers and Airmen of the Kansas National Guard gathered, Dec. 13-14, 2011, at the Nickell Armory in Topeka, Kan., for Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training.

ASIST training helps Guardsmen feel more comfortable, confident and competent in helping to prevent the immediate risk of suicide in the military. Approximately 30 Guard members participated in this two-day, highly interactive, practice-oriented workshop.

The ASIST workshop overall teaches suicide first aid, on helping a person at-risk stay safe and seek further help.

"We are providing immediate suicide prevention," said Sgt. Shawn Evans, ASIST instructor for the Kansas National Guard and Tricare Reserve Select manager for Joint Forces Headquarters. "One of the examples we use in class is if you come across someone having a heart attack, you're not going to do heart surgery, you are going to do CPR to sustain them until you can link them to permanent resources."

ASIST goes beyond the annual ACE training all Soldiers and Airmen receive which teaches the basics of knowing the signs and symptoms of someone who might be contemplating suicide. Through the workshop students are taught to implement a suicide intervention model which goes more in-depth than ACE training.

In the two day, 15-hour workshop students learned to look for the invitations for help and the proper ways in responding. The three-step model helps the students perform an intervention of a person at-risk by connecting, understanding and then assisting the person considering suicide instead of jumping straight in.

The main goal is to try and have them admit they are having suicidal thoughts by exploring the reasons they want to die, helping them see the reasons to live, coming up with a safe plan and escorting them to professionals.

ASIST is a vital tool in training first responders. In 2010, the Army National Guard surpassed active duty suicide rates. The Kansas Army National Guard lost three

Soldiers in 2010 to suicide. Since 2001, statistics show a significant increase in suicides within society, not just the military.

"Suicide numbers are continuing to grow in the military," said Chaplain (Capt.) John Potter, ASIST instructor and chaplain. "One thing that isn't always brought out in those figures is the large number of people that have never deployed and are suicidal. It's not always a deployment-related issue or a combat-related issue. Many reasons people are suicidal are common things at home, regarding a relationship that is no longer in existence, someone having financial problems, losing a job or can't find a job. That's actually at the very high end of why people are suicidal."

"Two years ago, 60 percent of the people in the Army that completed suicide had never deployed," said Potter. "Last year, it was still 55 percent versus 45 percent. So, there is still a majority of people that have never gone down range, but are having normal stresses of life. So again, it can happen to anyone. Suicide is an equal opportunity offender."

By completing the ASIST course, students are able to help bridge the gap between people at risk and mental health professionals. The people around each other in everyday setting are going to be the first to notice any trends or changes that might lead toward suicidal thoughts. Having servicemembers that are trained to be more cognizant of such behaviors will help the Kansas National Guard.

"I have gotten positive feedback from the students that are now ASIST certified," said Potter. "Because it changes how you see things, it changes how you hear things. So a comment that could be made during drill weekend, now all of a sudden is that person at risk? Yes or no. They might be more willing now to find that Soldier and pull them aside and ask them questions and find out what is going on. I hear that more frequently once people do take the class."

Many of the servicemembers chose to attend the class due to previous experiences they have encountered in the military or their civilian life.

"Most of them have had some experi-



As part of the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, Chief Master Sgt. Lynn McConnell, a personnel systems manager for Human Resources in Joint Forces Headquarters, role plays a scenario as she tries to stop Sgt. Michael McClellan, a chaplain's assistant and ASIST instructor, from committing suicide by jumping off a bridge as one of their class assignments for the training held at the Nickell Armory, Topeka, Kan., Dec. 14, 2011. (Photo by Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

ence, whether it's another Soldier in their unit that has attempted or completed suicide or a family or friend in the same situation," said Evans.

After learning how to implement the three-step intervention model, students had to role-play different scenarios to get a feel for what they might encounter in a real situation. Many times this helps get the classic mistakes out of the way, like wanting to get someone off the bridge before understanding their mindset and thoughts. It is human instinct to want to fix things and stop them right away.

"Role playing was the best part," said Chief Master Sgt. Lynn McConnell, a personnel systems manager for Human Resources in Joint Forces Headquarters. "It makes me start to think, 'Okay yeah, this actually can happen.' There are some good steps to take and things to think about when you are trying to talk somebody down at such an emotional level of that magnitude. It has helped me realize that, if we follow the steps in the model, we would be most

successful."

A State Suicide Prevention Program policy will be in effect in the near future stating a new additional duty for a staff sergeant or above as a suicide prevention officer for each Kansas Army National Guard company along with a requirement of two ASIST-certified personnel at minimum per company.

Currently, the Kansas National Guard has certified 100 people since the fall of 2010 and has five ASIST trainers. A follow-on refresher course will be conducted this year for those already certified. It is recommended every two years.

Four to five ASIST courses will be conducted in the 2012 fiscal year. If you are interested in having a course conducted at your unit during drill or annual training or in attending one already scheduled, please contact Sgt. Michael McClellan at (785) 274-1514 or mike.mcclellan@us.army.mil. All state and federal employees of the Adjutant General's Department and Kansas National Guard are welcome to attend.

Detachment 37th Aerial Sensor Operations team observes from above



Days are flying by for Detachment 37, Operation Support - Aviation (OSA) Command, which deployed Aug. 13, 2011, to Afghanistan. The unit, which consists of six pilots and two aerial sensor operators, is part of a six state Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance combat mission. Their unit, Task Force ODIN-Afghanistan utilizes C-12 aircraft and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. ODIN (observe, detect, identify, neutralize), a largely classified U.S. Army program was first created in 2006 for use in Iraq. The Task Force deploys manned and unmanned aircraft to spread an intelligence and surveillance blanket over the area of operations, providing real-time intelligence to ground troops while keeping watch for insurgents planting roadside bombs and disrupting insurgent operations. When asked what a typical mission involves, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ron Jackson, stated "Although I cannot elaborate on our specific mission I can say ODIN provides a valuable service to the Soldiers on the ground." With more than four months completed of their tour, the eight Soldiers have a combined 2,128 combat hours flown. The unit is slated to return mid-summer of 2012.

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MILITARY ONESOURCE 1-800-342-9647 www.militaryonesource.com	SUICIDE HOTLINE 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
CHAPLAIN Providing religious, spiritual and general life counseling. 100% confidential.	MILITARY FAMILY LIFE CONSULTANTS (MFLC) CONSULTATION SERVICES Provides complimentary, confidential consultations to Servicemembers and their families. The services covered include but are not limited to: anger management, stress related issues relationships, finance, children acting out and problems at school.
<p>State Chaplain Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Jenkins Office: (785) 274-1515 Cell: (785) 213-4742 Cell #: (785) 438-9145 william.david.jenkins@us.army.mil</p> <p>190th ARW Chaplain Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Oliver Bergeron Office: (785) 861-4001 Cell: (316) 210-7956 DSN: 720-4001 oliver.bergeron@ang.af.mil</p> <p>184th IW Chaplain Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Terry Williams Office: (316) 652-9601 Cell: (316) 304-2306 terry@rivercc.org or terry.williams@ang.af.mil</p> <p>Full Time Support Chaplain Chaplain (Capt.) John Potter Office: (785) 274-1515 Cell: (785) 220-9480 john.r.potter@us.army.mil</p> <p>Full-Time Support Chaplain Assistant Sgt. Michael McClellan Office: (785) 274-1514 Cell: (785) 215-4067 mike.mcclellan@us.army.mil</p>	<p>Adult MFLC John Kriss Cell: (785) 289-3386</p> <p>Youth, and Child MFLC John Merritt Cell: (785) 217-6518 john.x.merritt@mhn.com</p> <p>Personal Financial Counselor MFLC Doug Spencer Cell: (785) 250-9713 douglas.r.spencer@healthnet.com</p>
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<p>Chuck Bredahl Mobile: (785) 217-4828 Office: (785) 274-1559 chuck.bredahl@us.army.mil</p>	<p>Kansas State Director of Psychological Health Pat Herrera-Thomas Cell: (785) 338-6951 pat.herrera@ceridian.com</p> <p>190th ARW Director of Psychological Health Robert Johnson Office: (785) 861-4792 Cell: (785) 217-7325 DSN: 720-4792 robert.johnson.8@ang.af.mil</p> <p>184th IW Director of Psychological Health Jeri Kennedy Office: (316) 759-8901 Cell: (316) 617-6401 DSN: 743-8901 jeri.kennedy@ang.af.mil</p>
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These resources are for all KNSG servicemembers and their families regardless of their duty status.	

State chaplain retires after 28 years of service to God and country

By Pfc. Anna R. Laurin
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

There was standing room only Jan. 8, 2012, as Chaplain (Col.) Don Davidson gave his last speech as the state chaplain for the Kansas National Guard, at the Joint Forces Headquarter Nickell Armory in Topeka, Kan. His wife, retired Master Sgt. Marcella Davidson of the Kansas Air National Guard, family, friends and co-workers were present to show their appreciation for the time Davidson has spent as a compassionate chaplain dedicated to helping his fellow servicemembers. The atmosphere was full of gratitude, endearment and a sense of sadness knowing that a beloved chaplain has retired and would no longer be serving in uniform.

Davidson retired with more than 28 years served as a chaplain in the Kansas National Guard. Along the way, he made many friends, including members from his first unit, the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery. Davidson believes that the best years of a chaplain's career are the years of being a battalion chaplain.

"The battalion chaplain is the guy who is most closely associated with Soldiers and has an opportunity to meet with and to spend time, one-on-one, with as many Soldiers as possible," said Davidson. "The best ministry in the Army is on that battalion level. My first eight years were with the 2-130th in Hiawatha. I really loved being with them and still consider myself to be a part of that family. That's my first battalion, always will be. I had a very strong connection and still do."

Serving with Soldiers of the battalion may have been one of Davidson's favorite memories from the many moments he has from over the years.

"A long, long time ago I got the opportunity to lead a single Soldier's retreat to Berchtesgaden, in Bavaria, Germany," said Davidson. "I remember having the chance to lead a very short prayer service ... in the Austrian Alps. You really feel like you're on top of the world because the scenery is just absolutely unbelievable."

"I remember just stopping there and thinking to myself, 'OK, does it get any better than this?' That was just a wonderful experience being clear up there, the air is so clean and it's so beautiful. There were a lot more meaningful moments with Soldiers, at extreme times in lives, families, babies being born, and people dying and all the things that happened in the cycle of life, but for me that was just a real meaningful moment."

Davidson dedicated his career to being a supportive figure in every Soldier's life. From the beginning, being a chaplain was all about serving Soldiers, being with them, being with units and having a purpose for Davidson.



Chaplain (Col.) Don Davidson, Kansas National Guard state chaplain, receives a picture of a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System from Lt. Col. Chris Burr during his retirement ceremony at Nickell Armory, Jan. 8, 2012. Burr, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, presented the photo on behalf of the battalion, where Davidson had served as chaplain early in his Kansas National Guard career. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Hanson, 35th Infantry Division Public Affairs)

As a Soldier and a chaplain, Davidson brings a new aspect of the spiritual perspective to others.

Even in the scariest of situations, Davidson strived to be that fellow Soldier in whom servicemembers could come to when they needed a friend. During deployments, Davidson saw this position as a supportive friend more important than ever.

"I'm there, too," said Davidson. "We wear the same boots, and we go the same places. How much does that mean to a Soldier who has been deployed, to talk to a chaplain who has literally walked in the same steps, who has been to the same places, who understands what it's like to be away from family?"

When counseling a Soldier or giving advice, Davidson is passionate about pastoral care and knows that there is one phrase that gives hope to those in doubt.

"Anybody that knows me will probably tell you that when it all comes down to pastoral care there is only one

quote or one comment that makes any sense to anybody," said Davidson. "There, there, it will be alright."

Davidson understands the relationship Soldiers have between having religious or spiritual beliefs and being a Soldier on the frontline and how having those beliefs can ease the mental stresses of being a Soldier.

"If you really believe in the benevolence and grace of an almighty God, if you really believe that we are not alone in this world, that there is a higher power looking over our shoulder and helping us. If you really believe in that kind of grace, then to say to somebody in the worst moment of their life, 'There, there it will be alright,' says all that you need to say."

As Davidson handed over his authority and acknowledges his retirement, family, friends and co-workers gave him a standing ovation. The Kansas National Guard welcomed a new chapter, as Chaplain (Lt. Col.) William David Jenkins takes over as state chaplain.

Lt. Col. Jenkins becomes Kansas National Guard state chaplain

By Sgt. Jessica Barnett
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) William David Jenkins became the state chaplain for the Kansas National Guard at a transfer of authority ceremony, Jan. 8, 2012, at Nickell Armory, in Topeka, Kan.

During the ceremony, Chaplain (Col.) Donald Davidson put on the official state chaplain's stole for the last time as Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli took it and placed it upon Jenkins' shoulders signifying the transfer of authority over the Kansas National Guard's Chaplain Corps to him. Davidson is retiring from the military, having served 28 years in the Kansas National Guard.

"Chaplain Jenkins, we welcome you and your experience to the command team," said Tafanelli. "I know we have significant challenges ahead, but I can think of no one better equipped to handle those challenges and lead us, and set the force up spiritually to meet our needs in the future as we face some very difficult and challenging times. So, again, welcome and congratulations on this assignment and certainly, on behalf of the Kansas National Guard, we all look forward to working with you."

During the ceremony, Jenkins thanked Davidson for his efforts in strengthening the Chaplain Corps during his time as the state chaplain.

"The Kansas National Guard chaplaincy is stronger than it has been in years," said Jenkins. "Chaplain Davidson has left a solid legacy to build upon. I hope to use my experience from multiple deployments in ways that will continue to strengthen our chaplaincy as we care for Kansas Guard



Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general, places the official state chaplain's stole over Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Jenkins' shoulders as he entrusts to him the spiritual welfare of the Kansas National Guard's servicemembers and Chaplain Corps during a transfer of authority ceremony at Nickell Armory, Topeka, Kan., Jan. 8, 2012. (Photo by Pfc. Anna R. Laurin, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Jenkins was born and raised in Fredonia, Kan., and was the command chaplain of the 35th Infantry Division, Kansas Army National Guard.

Jenkins resides in Topeka, where he serves as bereavement coordinator for Grace Hospice. As a pastor of the Disciples of Christ, he has served churches in Southeastern Kansas. He is currently a candidate for Holy Orders in the Episcopal Church.

Jenkins received his Bachelor of Arts de-

gree in Bible Ministries from Manhattan Christian College in 1978 and his Master of Divinity degree from Phillips Graduate Seminary in Enid, Okla., in 1984. He completed clinical pastoral education in 1983 and received certification in family systems therapy at the Menninger Institute in 1986.

He is currently a Doctor of Ministry student at the University of the South at Sewanee, Tenn., and will graduate from the U.S. Army War College in July 2012.

Prior to his current assignment, Jenkins served the 1st Battalion, 635th Armor; 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment and was brigade chaplain for the 35th Division Artillery and the 635th Regional Support Group.

Jenkins was deployed in support of Stabilization Force 13 and 14 as the deputy command chaplain in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He later served as deputy command chaplain for the 377th Theater Support Group in Kuwait and in 2007-2008 was the command chaplain for Kosovo Force 9.

Jenkins' military awards include the Meritorious Service Award with three oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Army Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters and several other medals and ribbons.

Jenkins is an avid gardener and can be seen in his neighborhood on daily runs with the family basset hound, Penelope.

Jenkins is married to Mary Anna. They have two grown children, Tim, a graphic designer who resides in Wichita, Kan., and Anna, a teacher with the Auburn-Washburn School District in Topeka.

The day Jenkins was announced to be the next state chaplain, will forever be a highlight of his career.

"I felt honored to be asked to be the state chaplain. As a chaplain it is the pinnacle in terms of being able to serve, to maximize experience," said Jenkins, "especially in terms of training and mentoring of the younger chaplains, subordinate chaplains and chaplain assistances, and to build a strong state National Guard, Army and Air. I feel very honored to be given that opportunity."

Headquarters trains on the latest protective chemical gear

Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson
Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
Joint Forces Headquarters UPAR

The Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Joint Forces Headquarters, Kansas National Guard, conducted Chemical, Biological, Radiology and Nuclear, training during drill weekend, Jan. 7 and 8, 2012. Members of the 73rd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) conducted the training for the detachment.

On Saturday, the detachment drew their M40 protective masks for the weekend's training. Members of the 73rd CST ensured that each mask fit properly and was sealed air tight by using testing equipment that hooked up to the mask. This process took about five minutes for each Soldier. Once fitted, the Soldiers of the Headquarters staff carried their masks for the rest of the day.

On Sunday, the detachment went through three training stations. In sequence, the training started with performing preventive maintenance on the M40 protective mask. They were instructed on how to do operator level disassembly and repair of the mask. After the masks were reassembled, they completed DA Form 2404 Equipment Inspection and Maintenance Work Sheet noting any problems that needed attention.

"It has been over a year since I have trained with my protective mask," said Sgt. Tina Rios, an accounting technician with the United States Property and Fiscal Office, from Topeka, Kan. "I am glad that we are having this training."

The second station trained Soldiers on

how to conduct decontamination of themselves and their equipment using M291 skin decontamination kits and M295 Individual Equipment decontamination kits. Both kits allow decontamination through physical removal and absorption of chemical agents. Volunteers demonstrated how to use the M291 pad to clean their hands and exposed skin. They then illustrated how to clean their face from contamination while still wearing the mask.

"I have spent the last few years in recruiting where we do not receive much hands on training with this type of equipment," said Staff Sgt. Kelly Perry, supply sergeant for information management, from Wakarusa, Kan. "For example, this is the first time that I have seen the new decon packets. I am enjoying this training."

The final station trained Soldiers on how to transfer from a contaminated protective suit to a clean one while still wearing the M40 protective mask. This is a demanding task. The goal is to keep the Soldier with contaminated clothing from being recontaminated while putting on a clean protective suit. Members from a chemical team or company would assist the contaminated servicemember in removing their contaminated protective clothing. The servicemember is then assisted in putting on a clean protective suit

This requires practice and coordination between both the contaminated Soldier and the Soldiers assisting him. Soldier practice with the new protective suits is hard to come by, so any training is good training.



Sgt. Shawn Wise, a financial management technician with Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Joint Forces Headquarters, is assisted with taking off his contaminated chemical suit by an instructor from the 73rd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) during drill at the Nickell Armory in Topeka, Kan., Jan. 8, 2011. (Photo by Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment Joint Forces Headquarters UPAR)

Soldier to Soldier A New Beginning! A New Year

Continued from Page 4
the right things.

As I watched the movie I began to think how George Bailey could have been a leader in the Kansas Army National Guard as a noncommissioned officer. The things we, as noncommissioned officers (leaders), should be doing are the same.

We should serve with selfless service, doing for others (our Soldiers). We should make sure our Soldiers are getting to the right schools so they are ready for the next step and meet the mission. We should be working with our Soldiers to make sure they meet the Army Physical Fitness Test, height and weight and periodic health assessment. Our Soldiers don't know what they don't know and it is up to us to ensure that our Soldiers are doing the right thing

and getting the right things done.

Well, this is not Bedford Falls and we are not George Bailey. However, this is a classic movie that we can learn from. In this current environment of decreasing budgets, everyone may not be able to attend school and we may not get everything we need to maintain the force the way we have been able to in the past. We need to be tracking our Soldiers at the name tape level to ensure they are medically ready, Military Occupation Specialties qualified, Noncommissioned Officer Education System qualified and meet the standards. This will ensure the Kansas National Guard, remains a relevant, ready and reliable force able to meet any challenge or mission that we are given.

This is a New Year, a new beginning. Now go do the right thing!

Equal Opportunity News: Mentor the leaders of the future

By Chief Warrant Officer 4 Sandra Lashley
State Equal Employment Manager

Mentoring is defined in many different ways. One definition is "a relationship between an experienced person and a less experienced person for the

purpose of helping the one with less experience." —Cicely A Richard

This seems to be the typical definition of mentoring. I would argue on the point of who it helps. It does indeed help the one receiving the mentoring, but it also benefits the one providing the mentoring and in the long run benefits the Kansas National Guard.

The person mentoring is challenged to remember and to research the questions asked by the less experienced person. Throughout a person's career they are exposed to a lot of information and experiences that can't be found in a book or documented anywhere. Once that person retires where does that institutional knowledge go? If they have never

mentored someone in their career, that knowledge walks out the door with them.

Mentoring is critical in enabling the Kansas National Guard to continue to grow and to thrive. It is a way of paying back to the National Guard and paying forward to those Soldiers coming after you with the experience, knowledge and other benefits received during your career.

Leaders must mentor their subordinates to help them accomplish the work assigned but also to develop the leaders of the future.

There is a belief held by some that knowledge is power, but when you do not share your knowledge gained from experience there is a void left when you are gone. Our goal should be to leave the National Guard moving into the future.

Do not hide the footprints you have made and paths you have already blazed. Mentor like you are retiring tomorrow!

"A single conversation across the table with a wise man is worth the month's study of books."

- Chinese Proverb

Kansas teen receives Civil Air Patrol's highest cadet honor

By Command Chief Master Sgt. James Brown, Kansas Air National Guard

On Jan. 19, Brig. Gen. Keith Lang, chief of staff of the Kansas Air National Guard, and State Command Chief Master Sgt. James Brown of the Kansas Air National Guard, presented the Carl A. Spaatz Award to Cadet Nate Chaverin of Lenexa, Kan.

The Spaatz Award is named in honor of Carl "Tooley" Spaatz, the first chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force.

Chaverin is the 1,818th Civil Air Patrol Cadet to achieve the prestigious Spaatz award since its inception in 1964. Founded in 1945, the Civil Air Patrol has grown to 65,000 civilian volunteer members serving our communities as the Official Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. CAP's three-fold mission delivers air and ground search-and-rescue, cadet programs, and aerospace education to communities nationwide. CAP's unique cadet program provides teens challenging leadership and character develop-

ment opportunities and prepares them for success in college and career.

Chaverin's Spaatz Award achievement required more than four years effort, 17 grade promotions, leadership schools and the successful completion of a rigorous four-part exam consisting of a challenging physical fitness test, an essay exam testing his moral reasoning, a comprehensive written exam on leadership and a comprehensive written exam on aerospace education. Col. Rich Almeida administered the final Spaatz test to Chaverin in December at Whiteman Air Force Base.

Chaverin serves as the cadet commander for the Kansas City Composite Squadron and is active in encouraging the cadets under his leadership to grow and reach their full potential. Chaverin has also been recognized as a National Merit Scholarship semi-finalist and finalist applicant and has volunteered 300 hours a year in our community through CAP.



(Left to right) State Command Chief Master Sgt. James Brown of the Kansas Air National Guard and Brig. Gen. Keith Lang, chief of staff of the Kansas Air National Guard, present the Carl A. Spaatz Award to Cadet Nate Chaverin of Lenexa, Kan., with his squadron commander, Maj. Cathy Metcalf, by his side at the Westside Family Church in Lenexa, Jan. 19, 2012. (Photo by Dan Chaverin)

Join the Civil Air Patrol

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

The Civil Air Patrol is an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force.

Go to www.kswg.cap.gov
for a Civil Air Patrol Squadron near you.



War and Peace quilters adopt deployed unit

By Spc. Mandy Ebert, UPAR
1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment

When it comes to preparing for deployment, there is a long list of things a Soldier needs to take. Now that list includes a handmade quilt from the ladies of the War and Peace Quilters.

Connie Lamascus, who answers to the loving nickname of Grandma Hugs, had been quilting regularly with a group of women when a fellow quilter, Beverly Alstatt, commented that she'd heard of other groups making quilts for Soldiers.

That was enough of a spark for Grandma Hugs. Lamascus and others from a group formerly called the Brethen came together under the name War and Peace Quilters. When these women of faith began, they were making quilts with no designated recipients.

"When we started, two ladies were concerned that we would make quilts and have no one to give them to," recalled Lamascus.

Then a conversation with retired 1st Sgt. John Degand, a former member of the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, changed that. Degand and Lamascus worked together and she knew he had been deployed, so she presented him with the gift of a quilt.

Little did she know that one thing would lead to another and one day Degand asked her if the War and Peace Quilters would make quilts for all the Soldiers in his unit.

"When...he asked and I answered yes, he then said 'You know there are 130 of them?' It was very silent at my end [of the phone] then out of my mouth came 'We will make them one at a time!'" she recalled.

That's what they did. Through the help of Staff Sgt. Patrick Crawford, a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-108th Avn., a list of names was compiled and quilts were handmade and sent one at a time to the Soldier they were specifically designed for. Many of the quilts are rich with sentimental value and include aspects of that Soldier's life, such as their civilian jobs, favorite sports teams, hobbies or interests. The crafty quilters have stitched everything from an intense green Ferrari, proud Puerto Rican flag and heartfelt memorial quilts just to make sure that each Soldier feels that he or she is

personally cared about.

Thus far, 83 quilts have been made and shipped to members of Company D, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment.

Deploying Soldiers aren't the only ones receiving this kind of special attention. Lamascus listed many other groups to which they have provided quilts.

"We have made quilts for veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, servicemembers who are now serving, children of servicemembers, Gold Star Mothers [mothers of Soldiers killed in action], Iraqi Freedom and Desert Storm."

The group has made and are giving quilts to the Veterans Affairs hospice at Robert J. Dole Medical Center, Wichita, Kan. They make red, white and blue ones specifically for them. They also gave 32 quilts to the VA nursing home.

Two homes have been built in Emporia, Kan., for returning veterans that need a place to live. One houses 14 women and

the group has seen that the house received quilts. They have also made quilts for homeless veterans in Wichita. All of the quilt recipients come to them solely by word of mouth.

Their work is funded entirely through donations. Items such as cotton or polyester material, single-double knit material, sewing thread, special patriotic material, batting, crochet thread for tying, straight pins and sewing machine needles are necessary to keep the operation in order, not to mention the cost of shipping each quilt.

In light of all this, when asked what the quilters needed most, Grandma Hugs said, "Prayers that we continue to have the strength and health to keep on making the quilts, would be nice. We are 'gently aged' ladies. We will continue making them as long as we can."

For information about War and Peace Quilters or to donate, go to www.warandpeacequilters.blogspot.com or find them on Facebook.



The women of War and Peace Quilters display their pride by simultaneously sewing a quilt together. The War and Peace Quilters provide patriotic quilts for deployed Soldiers. (Courtesy photo)

Security Forces return from Afghanistan

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

A group of deployed 190th Air Refueling Wing Security Forces members safely returned from Afghanistan in mid-October.

The 18 Airmen provided security at Bagram Airfield and their responsibilities included supervising the automated security system, guarding gates and runways and responding to incidents.

Originally, their tasking would have taken them off-base. They began training for outside-the-wire missions. During pre-deployment training, however, the group was re-tasked to secure Bagram Airfield.

"Everyone wants outside the wire adventures," said Master Sgt. Mark Peterson, who said some of his Airmen were disappointed to have a change in mission. "But they maintained a good attitude and that goes a long way."

Staff Sgt. Brian Beatty still got the chance to put his training to use while on a routine patrol on the runway at Bagram Airfield.

He was driving when a rocket exploded about 20 feet from his vehicle and hit an aircraft. Beatty pulled his truck around and gave emergency medical treatment to another staff sergeant by putting a tourniquet on his gashed leg and dressing his neck wound.

Beatty said the staff sergeant had just been promoted that day. They found his new rank had fallen off his uniform and was laying, covered in blood, on the ground. With Beatty's help, the staff sergeant was able to get quick medical treatment and was doing fine.

"He didn't hesitate," said Master Sgt. Brett Higginbotham, the senior enlisted security forces member on the deployment. "It's the type of thing I'd expect from any of them. We did stellar work."

Higginbotham explained that in Afghanistan, particularly in the security forces career field, accidents can be common. However, none of the members of the 190th Air Refueling Wing Security Forces Squadron were hurt.

"We had professionalism, we stayed motivated and did phenomenal work," Higginbotham added. "To come out without anybody getting hurt, I couldn't be happier."

The deployment was not what they had originally planned on, but it was a job well done.

Secretary of State receives ESGR Patriot Award

Continued from Page 1

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve conducts an awards program designed to recognize employers who support a strong National Guard and Reserve force. Employers qualify for recognition when they practice leadership and personnel policies that support employee participation in the Guard and Reserve. Patriot Award nominations may come only from National Guard and Reserve members or their spouses.

The ESGR Statement of Support Program seeks to inform and educate employers about their rights and responsibilities to their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve, and to recognize and reward employers who go "over and above" the

requirements of the law.

The mission of the Kansas Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is to promote public understanding and employer support of the critical role of the Kansas Guard and Reserve components to advance national interests and protect our nation's security and gain and maintain active support from all public and private Kansas employers for the men and women of the Kansas National Guard and Reserve as defined by demonstrated employer commitment to employee military service.

For more information about ESGR Employer Outreach Programs and volunteer opportunities visit www.esgr.mil.

Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron promotes first Cadet/Airmen

Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson
Topeka Eagle Squadron, Civil Air Patrol

The Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol promoted its first Cadet/Airman. A Civil Air Patrol composite squadron is one that has both cadet and senior members. The Topeka squadron started its cadet program after a break of several years.

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with more than 61,000 members nationwide. CAP, in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 113 lives in fiscal year 2010.

The spark for restarting the cadet program came when Christopher Smith, a physics teacher at Topeka West High School, joined the squadron. As a teacher and a pilot, he wanted to be involved with young men and women through a cadet program. He was named the deputy com-

mander for cadets and preparations were made to start the program. It took a lot of effort from a number of people to make it all come together.

In October, the first six prospective cadets started to meet at the Kansas Army National Guard's Nickell Armory. Of the six, Adrian Appelhanz was the first to complete all the tasks required for advancement. On Dec. 19, 2011, Lt. Col. Michael Madden, squadron commander, with the assistance from Cadet Appelhanz's father, Jason, promoted Appelhanz from Cadet/Airman Basic to Cadet/Airman, with a date of rank of Nov. 14, 2011.

In the same ceremony, Appelhanz was presented the Gen. J. F. Curry Award for completing Phase I of the cadet program. The award was named for Gen. J. F. Curry, an Army Air Corps officer, selected as the Civil Air Patrols' first national commander. He served in this capacity from December 1941 to March 1942.

Even though Appelhanz was the first, he will not be alone. Other cadets will soon follow in his footsteps for their first stripes.



Cadet/Airman Basic Adrian Appelhanz is promoted to Cadet/Airman by his father Jason Appelhanz (left) and Lt. Col. Michael Madden (right), squadron commander of the Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, Dec. 19, 2011. (Photo by Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, Topeka Eagle Squadron, Civil Air Patrol)

A young 284th prepares for first overseas combat role

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy
184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs Office

Over the course of three days in November in Salina, Kan., the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron loaded six cargo planes with heavy equipment and headed toward the west coast. The aircraft took off from Salina Regional Airport bound for the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., where the 284th linked up with the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Ohio National Guard. The training completed their final preparations for the brigade's deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Although it only took three days to load and leave, the squadron has spent much more time preparing for their first combat mission since their activation in 2009.

"People think we just go out and drop bombs," said Staff Sgt. Cameron Carlson, a tactical air control party. "I don't think they realize everything it takes to get to that point."

The 284th ASOS is a tenant unit of the 184th Intelligence Wing while stationed in Kansas during peacetime operations. As the 184th IW has evolved, it's picked up various missions with many different roles. The 284th embodies the diverse operations of the wing, being one of many squadrons within it with unique capabilities.



Tech. Sgt. Carl Denuna, 284th Air Support Operations Squadron, augmented from the Georgia National Guard, responds to small arms fire during convoy patrol training at Smoky Hill Weapons Range. (Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs Office)

During their training at Smoky Hill Weapons Range, part of the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, the unit members experienced a variety of learning opportunities. They conducted combat lifesaver training, weapons qualifications, helicopter insertion and extraction, Improvised Explosive Device defeat lane training and

months is to fulfill the requirements from our deployed parent unit," Arnold said.

Throughout their training, the unit had support from expert equipment operators representing various organizations, including Rockwell Collins, the National Guard

PAK Energy Systems, a North Carolina developer of light-weight batteries used to run battlefield equipment.

Once the training at Smoky Hill came to an end in October, the 284th spent a few more weeks at Camp Shelby, Miss., conducting battle drills. Upon completion of those drills, the squadron was set to move to the final phase of their training at Fort Irwin before heading overseas.

On Nov. 19, 2011, members of the squadron began loading a C-17 from the 183rd Airlift Squadron, Mississippi Air National Guard with Humvees and trailers.

Col. J.J. Hernandez, commander of the 184th IW, was on location to show his support for the squadron. Members of the 184th Logistics Readiness Squadron and the 134th Air Control Squadron were also on hand to help the 284th carry out joint inspections of vehicles and equipment.

"It may seem like another working weekend, another nagging task, until you see the Humvees being loaded on a C-17. That's what it's all about," said Hernandez.

"There are thousands of variables that go into a deployment like this and that is where the rest of the wing comes in."

As a former B-1 bomber crew member, Hernandez has gone through many training exercises throughout his career.



Staff Sgt. Alejandro Saldivar, 284th Air Support Operations Squadron, augmented from the Indiana National Guard, loads ammunition prior to firing his weapon during a predeployment training exercise at Smoky Hill Weapons Range in October 2011. Approximately 40 Tactical Air Control Party members trained on the Common Remotely Operated Weapon System. (Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs Office)

The 284th began putting their team together for this deployment in June 2010. The mission and location of the deployment changed four times before being finalized, making planning for training, personnel and equipment requirements extremely difficult.

"One of the biggest challenges to overcome was keeping the guys motivated," said Senior Master Sgt. Matt Foote, the squadron's superintendent. "When the mission changes like that, it's easy to get frustrated and lose focus."

The unit is so young that the manning and training hasn't caught up with the requirements, as it takes four years to fully train a joint terminal attack controller. This forced the squadron to pull resources from five other units across the United States.

Once the team was built and the mission was set, training kicked off in late September 2011. Most of the training was conducted in Kansas.

"That's what makes the 284th unique," explained Lt. Col. Michael Arnold, director of operations for the 284th ASOS. "Our training facilities are located on Smoky Hill. Most ASOSs go to Army locations for training."

Not only does the local training keep troops with their families longer, it reduces extensive traveling costs.

"We did all kinds of stuff with a lot of help from outside agencies and we did it all right here in Salina," said Lt. Col. Gary Nash, commander of the 284th ASOS.

vehicle rollover training. The squadron trained with many weapons systems on different types of terrain and learned various tactics while incorporating close air support missions.

"Everything we've done for the past two



Members of the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron loaded equipment onto a C-17 at Salina Regional Airport Nov. 19, 2011. The Mississippi Air National Guard offered a C-17 from the 183rd Airlift Squadron to pick up and deliver the Airmen and their equipment to Fort Irwin, Calif. (Photo by Maj. DeAnn Barr, 184th Intelligence Wing)

Pre-mobilization Training Assistance and Evaluation team, as well as other support organizations. With the experts on hand, the team was able to ask questions and work out any malfunctions before heading down range.

"If I can't be with them in Afghanistan, I can sure be with them while they're training," said Laura Thiel, president of Medi-

"I've been to Red Flag, Silver Flag, and other training, but they were nothing like the war fighting exercises these airmen are about to receive at the NTC."

"This was a tremendous undertaking," he continued. "This training saga, now in its final phase, graduates into combat and that's something few in the Kansas Air National Guard have done before."



Members of the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron prepared themselves for responding to dangerous attacks while conducting convoy patrols at Smoky Hill Weapons Range near Salina, Kan. The training was part of predeployment exercises during November 2011 as they prepared for combat in Afghanistan. (Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs Office)

Sergeant Major of the Army visits Soldiers in Africa

By Spc. Michelle C. Lawrence
1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery UPAR

The 14th sergeant major of the Army made his first trip to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Dec. 16, 2011, visiting Soldiers with Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa and other units.

His visit afforded him the opportunity to discuss various important topics with Soldiers stationed there.

“I want to talk to you about what’s going on in the Army and where it’s going in the future,” said Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III. “We’ve been working

an idea - relearning what it means to be a professional.”

Chandler explained how in some aspects, Soldiers are the same as any professional in the world and the devotion to professionalism engenders trust among Americans.

“The American people implicitly trust you because you wear this uniform to support the (U.S.) Constitution and defend the American people in our nation’s wars,” he said. “They believe you’re going to do what’s right.”

Maintaining the trust of the American people is what defines a Soldier as a professional, Chandler said. A Soldier must have character. They do what they are supposed to do

all the time. It’s a constant challenge for Soldiers to be true to themselves and the uniform they wear, he added.

Chandler emphasized the importance of professional pride and how it’s everyone’s responsibility to maintain high standards. He said he tries leading by example, not direction. As the senior enlisted member of the Army, Chandler wants to be remembered for taking care of the Soldiers who come after him. The future of the Army rests with them.

“I try to do what is right and take care of Soldiers and their families,” Chandler said. “You’ll decide my legacy, not me.”

Chandler also noted part of being professional was maintaining a professional appearance and physical fitness. He encouraged Soldiers to break the mold of physical fitness and push themselves to new heights.

An ongoing challenge the Army faces is developing and improving the fitness level of all its Soldiers, said Chandler. He would like to move away from a physical fitness test to a physical readiness test.

A physical fitness test measures specific areas of a Soldier’s body, while the physical readiness test measures muscle strength and endurance of the entire body. The battlefield today requires Soldiers to be dynamic, focusing on challenges presented to the entire body and mind, he said. He emphasized appearance and fitness have everything to do with professionalism. His goal is to develop a fighting force capable of handling any possible situation that may arise.

“This is the standard,” he said. “And this is all about meeting a standard that’s even more difficult.”

While meeting the Army standards is a cornerstone of professionalism, there are still other aspects to consider when developing a Soldier, Chandler said.

Soldiers’ development is about commitment, selfless service and confidence, he said. Chandler added that he wants every Soldier to fulfill the obligation they signed up for – to realize they, personally, come last and to gain the confidence to do their job right.

“I hope the younger generation of Soldiers took away the intent of his part on professionalism,” said 1st Sgt. Steven Sprawka, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery. “We need to get back to the basics and be professional Soldiers.”



Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler discusses what his post duties entail with Spc. Charlie Beuttel, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, of Pomona, Kan., as they look out from the tower overlooking an entry control point on Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Dec. 16, 2011. Chandler visited with Soldiers at a variety of work sections on the camp and at the Djibouti port. (Photo by Spc. Michelle C. Lawrence, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery UPAR)

Ambitious new market sells hope to locals of Gerdy Katz

By Staff Sgt. Luke Graziani
Combined Joint Task Force - Afghanistan

Just off the busy Afghan Highway 7, near the village of Gerdy Katz, a little market has emerged out of the dust and debris. Although small, the shop is bursting with promise and hope for the villagers.

The market is only the most recent, albeit essential, addition to a list of achievements the Kansas Agribusiness Development Team and their Afghan counterparts have worked to reach together.

Two years ago, the ADT cleared 10 Jaribs, roughly 50 acres, of land, adjacent to a combat outpost. That initiative resulted in a boom of farming and agriculture greenhouses, a well-supplied irrigation system and a citrus fruit tree and nut tree orchard. Roughly 120 farmers were trained in greenhouse technology, soil analysis, drip irrigation, pest management and animal husbandry.

The culmination of all these projects was the ribbon cutting ceremony of the market, owned and operated by Wasir Kahn, a local. Kahn and his team of laborers worked hard to see the fruits of their labor evolve to a business that would help bring hope to their district.

“Because it’s close to the highway, the people of Kabul and Jalalabad, they want to buy something from here, so we have market here,” said Kahn.

“One of the keys to this marketplace is

that there really is not much in the way of commercial, particularly commercial agriculture, products in this part of the district,” said Phil Blake, USDA agricultural advisor. “This is really the perfect place in this western part of the district to have a facility where we can have a diversity of products.”

At the moment, the humble market can only boast having poultry selling services, tailoring services and fresh locally grown produce. It holds the potential for growth to other areas.

“We were recently funded to set up a micro-dairy here,” said Blake. “This will be the only place in this part of district where people can stop and pick up fresh cheese and yogurt-milk products.”

All of the perishable products for the local villages were brought in by trucks in the past. Before the market, getting fresh products was not cost effective.

“We go to Jalalabad or Mehtar Lam city so we spend more money as a transportation cost,” said Kahn, referring to the way they used to conduct business. “For example, one kilogram of sugar you buy (at) 100 Afghani, but we spend 300 Afghani here for transportation cost, so one kilogram was almost 400 (Afghani). Now (that) you (can) buy the sugar here, the transportation cost will sever.”

The market has already been a success story just by being there. Locals can enjoy the benefits of fresh products, but not have to dig as deeply into their pockets.

The Gerdy Katz villagers are expected to take this development on their own to expand it as their village grows. The future is in their hands.

“The most important thing here is this district has now been declared transitioned,” said Blake. “We are seeing more

and more of a pull-back of advisors and U.S. forces here, so in the coming months the Afghans are pretty much going to be on their own. We see this as a perfect opportunity for them to stand up for themselves and stand up the business here that is already proving to be successful.”



Lt. Col. Russell Richardson (far right), commander of the Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4, joins members of the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the USDA to take a moment to speak with Wasir Kahn, the proprietor of a new marketplace, just before the ribbon cutting ceremony near Gerdy Katz, Afghanistan, Dec. 3, 2011. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Luke Graziani, Combined Joint Task Force - Afghanistan)

Three Fighting Jayhawks awarded the Bronze Star

Continued from Page 1

your civil engineering team, improving the capability to operate unmanned air systems, that is a direct contribution of the war effort. That’s a direct contribution of actions engaged and enemy threats neutralized.”

“Some of your work reduced the response time of close air support call by 45-minutes,” Hernandez continued.

“That is a 45-minute reduction of time for air support to help our ground troops under fire. I don’t know, no one has ever shot at me, but I think that I can speak for our Soldiers

in this room that a reduction of even five minutes would be a godsend, so well done.”

The 45-minute reduction was due to the 15 Airmen of the 184th Civil Engineer Squadron making history. They were able to complete a \$17 million, 454,000 square foot heliport at Kunduz. The completed heliport is the largest in Air Force civil engineer history, which allowed a faster response time for aerial support. This project was challenging for the squadron, but one that King will remember his entire life.

“It was rewarding to be part of history,” King said. “It

was a project that was much needed. At points, we would stop working to allow it to be used. Once they would take off, we would continue the work.”

The Bronze Star Medal was established in 1944 for any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard of the United States, after Dec. 6, 1941, distinguishes, or has distinguished, himself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service not involving participation in aerial flight.

Kansas National Guard combat medic covers Horn of Africa

By Staff Sgt. Stephen Linch
Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa

"I wanted to make my dad proud."

The pen struck the paper leaving her signature – Michelle C. Lawrence – above her father's, she recalled.

Weeks later, on her 17th birthday, she became the third generation of her family to raise her right hand and recite the Oath of Enlistment, said Spc. Michelle Lawrence, a combat medic with the 35th Military Police Company, currently serving as a unit public affairs representative for the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard.

"That was her goal (to join the Army National Guard). That's what she wanted to do and I wasn't going to stop her," said John Lawrence, her father, a resident of Dighton, Kan., and a U.S. Army veteran.

A little more than three years after joining the Kansas Army National Guard as a combat medic, Lawrence is covering the efforts of Soldiers deployed to Africa thanks to a vacancy within the unit and leadership who realized her potential.

"Specialist Lawrence is one of a select few very influential public affairs representatives in my battalion achieving my communication plan," said Lt. Col. Thomas Burke, commander of the 1-161 FA. "I knew coming into this mobilization that communication with our military supporters, the general public in the state of Kansas and employers was vital to maintaining both public support for the mission

back to her unit and received the unexpected news that she would be deploying.

"I happened to call my unit ... out of nowhere they said 'By the way, we are going to Africa next year and you are going with us,'" said Lawrence.

After the initial shock, Lawrence said she was excited to deploy to Africa.

"I was pretty much pumped," said Lawrence. "I had never been outside the U.S."

A year after the phone call, 20-year old Lawrence arrived at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, and once again received unexpected news.

The mission she was assigned to had one too many people. Although she was a combat medic, she was being reassigned to meet the needs of the battalion and would be working as a unit public affairs representative.

"I didn't know anything about public affairs. I didn't know how to write a story. I didn't know how to take a good photo. I didn't even know how to use one of these cameras," Lawrence said.

Upon being assigned to the 1-161 FA public affairs office, Lawrence was placed in the Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa public affairs office as the battalion's public affairs liaison with the task force.

It was there that a U.S. Air Force staff sergeant, skilled in public affairs, helped her tell the story of the Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers serving at Camp Lemonnier and throughout the African continent, she said.



Spc. Michelle Lawrence, a combat medic with the 35th Military Police Company, currently serving as a unit public affairs representative for the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, adjusts her camera settings at Camp Lemonnier, June 30, 2011. (Photo by Master Sgt. Dawn Price, Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa)

and employer support for the Soldiers."

Lawrence wrote stories highlighting what U.S. Soldiers did in countries such as Tanzania, Rwanda, Mozambique, Burundi and Kenya.

"They tell the story of how relationships with our counterparts are going beyond the skills of building partner nation capacity. Soldiers from both countries are learning that both countries want peace, stability and better futures for ourselves and our children," said Burke. "Specialist Lawrence tells how working together, we can strive to meet that goal."

"Lawrence does a great job of telling the story from the Soldier's perspective," he added.

Although she receives praise for her stories and photos, Lawrence never thought she would be serving her country as a journalist or a photographer.

Lawrence looked forward to becoming a combat medic and serving her country.

Although she was inspired by her father to become a Soldier, it was her mother, a nurse, who led her to become a combat medic.

"My mom is a nurse. I have always wanted to help people like she does," said Lawrence.

It was while attending advanced individual training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, to become a combat medic, Lawrence called

"I don't think I would be where I am now if he had not taken me under his wing like he did. He took time out of his day off of his work schedule to teach me photography and how to write," said Lawrence.

Ever since learning the tricks of the trade, Lawrence has been highlighting what Soldiers deployed to Africa are doing, said Sgt. Daryl Davis, the public affairs office, noncommissioned officer in charge for the 1-161 FA.

"Within a short period of time she began to churn out remarkable articles and photos," said Davis. "She is always willing and very capable of handling all assignments. She even volunteered for several others and continues to impress."

According to her father, it is no surprise Lawrence has proved capable of serving her country outside of her skill set as a combat medic.

"That is the way Michelle is," he said. "She will go after any task with the best of her ability and not complain."

Her beliefs probably have a lot to do with her diligence and work ethic, he said.

"President Kennedy made a statement ... 'Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country,'" said John Lawrence. "I believe in that whole heartedly. I think Michelle does too."



Operation Iraqi Freedom/New Dawn

They [Soldiers] will cross the border out of Iraq with their heads held high. One of the most extraordinary chapters in the history of the American military will come to an end. Iraq's future will be in the hands of its people. America's war in Iraq will be over.

President Obama, 14 December 2011

The magnitude of what this Nation and our Soldiers have accomplished in Iraq is unprecedented. We have never been more proud of our Army – our Soldiers, Civilians, and our Families. You freed over twenty-five million people from tyranny and given hope when hope was forsaken. Our Army provided new opportunity for the people of Iraq. No other Army in the world could have accomplished what you have done – Only American Soldiers.

Throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn, our Soldiers embodied physical and mental toughness and courage under fire. Over the past eight years, the quality of our Soldiers has stood in stark contrast to the desert sands. Just as the WWII generation defeated tyranny across the globe, a new generation – galvanized by the attacks of September 11th – bravely defeated tyranny once again. Even during the darkest days in Iraq, our Soldiers never wavered in the face of growing doubt. They continued to risk life and limb for a cause larger than themselves. For their heroic action, they received nearly 9,000 awards for valor including two Medals of Honor, 16 Distinguished Services Crosses, and 408 Silver Stars.

We remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, our Wounded Warriors, our Gold Star Families, and all of our loved ones who have been touched by the horror of war. Their sacrifices have given meaning to our values and ideals. For that, we thank them. A grateful Nation will always remember, respect, and appreciate these heroes as the Next Greatest Generation.

We are extremely proud of all of our Soldiers, Civilians, and Families. Our Army has once again proved that it is America's Force of Decisive Action. Thank you for a job well done. Army Strong!

Raymond F. Chandler III
Sergeant Major of the Army

Raymond T. Odierno
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army

Kansas team a national leader

By Maj. DeAnn Barr
Great Plains Joint Training Center
Public Affairs Office

The Services Command and Control Team, Joint Forces Headquarters and Kansas Air National Guard, commanded by Maj. Trent Shepherd, briefed state leaders in early December. The National Guard Bureau has their eye on the team as one to emulate.

"Our FEMA team is taking the lead nationally in developing the regional FEMA team's primary focus and mission. We are briefing that mission and seeking acceptance of it on a broad scale, to include incorporating it into our Joint Operation Center. NGB A1 is following our lead on this, so it is definitely a big deal," said Lt. Col. Greg Platt, operations officer of the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, Kan.

The need for this team was uncovered in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, when officials struggled to define jurisdiction over locating, recovering and identifying victims. Federal officials maintained that ultimately body recovery was a state function, one that most states were ill-equipped to accomplish on a mass scale.

The result was the creation of 12 Joint Forces Headquarters Services Teams in each of the FEMA regions. Their role is to provide deliberate crisis planning for National Guard forces for food, water, shelter and fatality management support. The team is capable of deploying within 28 hours of

notification and is to be embedded in the state's Joint Operation Center.

The Kansas team, comprised of Shepherd, Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Bob Bledsoe and Senior Master Sgt. Pete Tavares, collectively bring 40 years of Air National Guard experience to the table, and wasted no time in employing their specialties following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Within hours of notification the team was deployed to the region and redefined austere conditions, setting their diverse services experience in motion. As the first FEMA team to deploy outside the contiguous United States, their experience is helping shape the future mission statement for all the teams.

"I am most proud of how this team has come together so quickly and excellently," said Shephard. "Within the first year of our team coming together, we were deployed down to Haiti and Puerto Rico to support Operation Unified Response. We were one of two teams out of 12 deployed because we were the only two teams indicating we were trained up and ready to go. Even today, the staff at National Guard Bureau looks at us and describes us as one of the benchmark teams."

Look for this deployable, quick response, Sustainment Services Staff designed to augment major commands, Joint Forces Headquarters and Joint Task Forces as an integral part of future disaster planning packages.

Annual report is now online

The 2011 annual report of the Adjutant General's Department is now available online. The interactive pdf version of the report can be accessed by clicking the link found on the Adjutant General's Department home page. The URL is <http://kansastag.gov>

The report, compiled by the Public Affairs Office of the Adjutant General's department, details the events and activities of the Kansas National Guard, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Kansas Homeland Security and the Civil Air Patrol over the past year.

Included in the report is an overview of the year's events, a brief history of the agency, information on deployments and homecomings, legislative measures that affected the Kansas National Guard and other divisions of the agency, reports from each of the agency's officer and National Guard units, fiscal information and a map showing the location of each National Guard unit within the state.

The report and map are interactive with links from each of the major commands information to its location on the map and vice versa.



Agribusiness Development Team 4 gains new lieutenant colonel

By 1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza-Pangburn
Agribusiness Development

When Maj. Ron Boyer of Liberty, Mo., first came to Eastern Afghanistan, he found himself the new guy.

With the official unit commander delayed in the United States, Boyer stepped in and took responsibility, accepting the authority transfer of the outgoing Laghman Province Agribusiness Development Team mission commander.

“My first thought was that I wish I had been part of the team from the beginning so I would have had better knowledge of the team,” said Boyer, discussing his initial reaction to finding out he would deploy the team into Afghanistan.

“Fortunately, we had been together for about seven weeks when I found out, so I had integrated pretty well by that time.”

For his continued support of the U.S. Army and the ongoing mission, Col. Joel Ward, commander, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, promoted Boyer to lieutenant colonel Nov. 1, 2011.

“It was good to get promoted,” said Boyer, after many unit members and other inhabitants of the base congratulated him. “I have been fortunate to work with some outstanding Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers. I have had excellent

mentors throughout my career.”

ADT troops embody the counter-insurgency mission of today’s Army. Their primary mission is to create sustainable agricultural projects in Laghman province, to promote economic growth, teach better farming techniques and reverse the deforestation and scorched earth policy that the former Soviet Union left in its wake two decades ago.

After his promotion, troops prodded Boyer for his advice to others considering following in his footsteps.

“I enjoy what I do very much and I would recommend a military career to most everyone,” said Boyer. “My advice is to make sure you are prepared for the next step, but do not be in a hurry for your next position or promotion. Work hard, solve your boss’s problems and take care of the Soldiers you work with and the promotions and accolades take care of themselves.”

Col. Joel Ward (right), commander of the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, promotes Maj. Ron Boyer to lieutenant colonel Nov. 1, 2011, at Forward Operation Base Mehtar Lam, Afghanistan. (Photo by 1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza-Pangburn, Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4)



TriWest presents Kansas National Guard Foundation with check

By Sgt. Jessica Barnett
Public Affairs Office

TriWest Healthcare Alliance presented a check for \$10,000 to the Kansas National Guard Foundation, Dec. 5, 2011.

Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, and Janelle Hood, president of the Kansas National Guard Foundation, accepted the donation on behalf of the foundation.

“We’re grateful for TriWest’s willingness to go above and beyond to assist our troops and their families,” said Tafanelli. “This donation comes at a time when there are many needs within the Guard and we want to do everything we can to support them and their families in their willingness to sacrifice to serve our country.”

The Kansas National Guard Foundation supports deploying Soldiers, Airmen and

their families in a number of ways. Funds donated to the foundation provide financial support for programs including camps for children of Guard members, trainings for family members, as well as the deployment and transitioning home process.

TriWest Healthcare Alliance partners with the Department of Defense to support the health care needs of 2.7 million members of America’s military family. A Phoenix-based corporation, TriWest is URAC accredited, without deficiencies, in Networks, Utilization Management, Disease Management and Case Management. TriWest provides access to cost-effective, high-quality health care in the 21-state Tricare West Region and is the 2007 Tricare Region of the year. TriWest is a proud Corporate Team Member of America Supports You. Visit www.triwest.com for more information.



On behalf of TriWest Healthcare Alliance, Ray Dalton, service area director (center) presents (from left to right) Debbie Doyle, Kansas National Guard Foundation board member; Janelle Hood, president of the Kansas National Guard Foundation; Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general and Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth, state command sergeant major, a check for \$10,000 to the Kansas National Guard Foundation Monday, Dec. 5, 2011. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht, Public Affairs Office)

Kansas Guard members give thanks to vets in Topeka area

By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson
Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
Joint Forces Headquarters UPAR

Veterans Day was the idea of Emporia resident Alvin King. Formerly known as Armistice Day after the Armistice ended the fight on the Western Front, Nov. 11, 1918. In 1954, Congress changed Armistice to Veterans Day, due to a campaign led by King to expand it to celebrate all veterans. Therefore, Veterans Day is a good day to honor all men and women who have ever worn the uniform.

On Veterans Day 2011, members of the Kansas National Guard visited veterans in nursing homes in Topeka and the surrounding communities. Many of these visiting Soldiers and Airmen are themselves veterans of Operation Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

Maj. Alma Whitelaw, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Susan Brown, Master Sgt. Lewis Shedd, Master Sgt. Lucretia Williams and Master Sgt. Cindy Woulfkuhle greeted the veterans in residence at McCrite Plaza, Topeka. The staff had assembled the veterans into a dayroom for a brief ceremony. The national anthem was sung and a poem read. Each veteran was called by name and presented a certificate of appreciation.

After handing out the certificates, shak-

ing hands and sharing stories, Woulfkuhle said, “I enjoyed the experience of being with all these brave people. I wish that I could do more. We should all be honored by those who have come before us.”

Later in the day, ManorCare Health Services was visited by other members of the Kansas Guard. Master Sgt. Richard Heuert, Senior Airman Tiffany Kubie and 1st Lt. Dyann Berglund met the veterans in their dining facility. The residents told of their experiences, mainly from World War II. Some of the nonveterans spoke of their memories of Dec. 7, 1941, and what it was like to see so many go off to war. After the certificates of appreciation were passed out, the residents were served lunch. One of the staff members also received a certificate for his service.

“I am happy that I am able to attend this event,” said Kubie, who was visiting her third nursing facility of the day.

“I did not serve in the military, but since I have joined the Civil Air Patrol I feel close to those who wear the uniform. I am glad that I was able to be here,” shared Berglund.

“I am glad that I had the chance to be here with these members of ‘the Greatest Generation,’” said Heuert.



Tech. Sgt. James Mayfield, a member of the 190th Air Refueling Wing, Kansas Air National Guard and resident of Topeka, Kan., recognizes the sacrifices of a veteran by handing him a certificate of appreciation for his military service at the Brewster Place Retirement Community, Nov. 11, 2011. (Photo by Jane Welch, Public Affairs Office)

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Rwandan, U.S. soldiers conduct leadership course at academy

By Spc. Michelle Lawrence
Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa

A team of Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard, recently returned from a 10-day mission to Gako, Rwanda, where they conducted a company grade and non-commissioned officer course with the Rwanda Defense Force.

The course consisted of sharing different leadership skills that enhance the soldiers' understanding of what it means to be a leader and how to take care of and command their troops.

According to Capt. Kevin Cadena, 1-161 FA, the course was attended by 51 non-commissioned officers and 20 officers, who were split down the middle into two platoons with no regard to rank. Each platoon then "built three sections with an overall platoon sergeant and leader," said Cadena. "Each section had a leader and was broken down into different teams, giving multiple soldiers the opportunity to lead."

During the course, everyone was given the chance to experience all the roles, from a soldier following orders to a leader providing direction.

"It might have been a lieutenant as the team leader, a staff sergeant as the squad leader and a sergeant as another team leader with lieutenants under them," said 1st Lt. Benjamin Ronning, 1-161 FA. "They rotated roles the whole time to give everyone a chance."

Along with learning the different leadership roles within a platoon, the RDF and U.S. soldiers were able to share soldiering skills such as land navigation and situational training exercises, despite the language barrier.

"We used about five languages throughout the training," said Cadena. "We conversed in French, Kirwanda, English, Swahili and a slang of Kirwanda and Swahili."

According to Ronning, they overcame the language barrier by learning commands in French, using hand signals and learning



1st Lt. Benjamin Ronning, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard, assists Rwanda Defense Force team leaders by giving them guidance during a trust-building exercise at the Gako Military Academy in Gako, Rwanda, Oct. 14, 2011. During the exercise, team leaders used voice commands to guide blindfolded soldiers. Ronning travelled to Gako with a team of Soldiers from the 1-161 FA for a company grade and noncommissioned officer leadership course. (Photo by Sgt. David Dean, Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa)

from the RDF soldiers who knew multiple languages.

"Learning and having the instruction in multiple languages presented some challenges," said Cadena. "But once we all picked up a few of the key words, the communication between everyone wasn't much of an issue. The RDF soldiers appreciated us trying to communicate in a language they were more comfortable with. It enhanced the friendships we established during the course."

The friendships forged between the RDF and U.S. soldiers supported the Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa mission statement.

"We felt we followed through with enhancing partner nation capability, one of the pillars of the CJTF – HOA mission," said Cadena. "The RDF soldiers were very gracious and receptive during the course. I would gladly participate in another mission like this, whether it is back to Rwanda or moving forward to another country."

Multinational collaboration on mortar systems training



Sgt. Bounma Chanthalangsy (center), a member of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, serving with Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, discusses mortar operations with members of the Djiboutian Armed Forces in Ali Ouney, Djibouti, Oct. 24, 2011. The mortar familiarization class reviews key components of firing a mortar, including placement of aiming poles, using hand and arm signals and effective mounting. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Renae Saylock, Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa)

Kansas
Adjutant General's
Department



New retirement and military service links available on agency website

New links have recently been added to the Adjutant General's Department website (www.kansasatag.gov). On the home page of the agency website there is now a link for retirement services and for obtaining military records.

The retirement services links includes helpful information for retired and soon to be retired servicemembers. Information on the website contains:

- Information about our new retiree database
- The events calendar will have upcoming retiree briefings and other applicable events.
- The links page - link to sign up for Army Echoes or USAF Afterburner. A MUST for all retirees! Link to the Retired Pay Calculator and to DFAS to change beneficiaries, change direct deposit, etc.

The military records link includes information to request your military records. To request your records a Standard Form 180 needs to be filled out. Once the form is complete it needs to be either faxed to 785-274-1004 or mailed to the Kansas National Guard Military Archives, 2800 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, Kansas 66611. Normally it takes two to three weeks to receive your records once the request has been received. Contact Bev Lemman at 785-274-1099 if you wish to speak to Military Archives directly.

In an effort to keep our retirees better informed on what is happening in the Adjutant General's Department, the Public Affairs Office has put together an e-mail distribution list. Individuals on this distribution list will receive agency news releases, death notifications, Guard member retirements, invitations to changes of command, deployments, ceremonies, etc.

If you would like to be added to the list please e-mail your request to Jane Welch at jane.e.welch1@us.army.mil.

Also if you are a retired Guardsmen and are not receiving a free copy of the Plains Guardian at your home, please contact the Public Affairs Office at 785-274-1190 to be added to the mailing list.

KANSAS NATIONAL GUARD 2012 Adjutant General's Combat Marksmanship Championship Match



Rifle – Pistol – Machine Gun

Hosted by:



2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery
184th Intelligence Wing
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Kansas Regional Training Center, Salina, Kansas

March 30 to April 1, 2012

To sign up please contact:

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TSgt David Salinas

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Correctional and law enforcement officers train with 35th MPs

Members of the Lansing Correctional Facility's Building Entry Team, the Topeka Correctional Facility and the Shawnee County Sheriff's Department were able to utilize the Kansas National Guard's ETS 2000 firearms training system thanks to the cooperation of the 35th Military Police Company. This was the first time that this particular system was used by civilian personnel.

Correctional Officer Jason Colobong is the team leader for the Lansing Correctional Building Entry Team. Colobong is also a specialist with the 35th MPs.

"I had used the equipment a few times before with the 35th MPs," said Colobong. "One of the most valuable assets that can be had in a training environment is where multiple agencies can come together in the sharing of experiences, ideas and general information. That made the use of the ETS 2000 a perfect training opportunity for all involved."

Prior to using the facility in Topeka, Kan., Colobong and Correctional Officer Mike Abbott were given a one-day crash course on how to operate the equipment by Staff Sgt. Raymond Jowers, noncommissioned training officer for the 35th MPs. Abbott learned to operate the weapons system while Colobong learned the computer. This made it possible for Abbott to spend the day firing on the EST 2000 while Colobong activated one scenario after another, learning the various settings. Abbott's marksmanship proved to be so precise that Jowers remarked he would be hard-pressed to beat him.

malfunctions, wind changes, lighting conditions, etc., to change the environment in which the shooter has to operate.

This data allows the operator the ability to see where the rounds fired are striking the target, where the shooter's point of aim was, and the shooter's reaction times from when the target was presented to when they finally engaged the target. This allows the operator to make corrections to firing habits, making better marksmen without the cost of having to purchase the 1,000+ rounds which each shooter fired.

Aside from the marksmanship training focus of the EST 2000, it also presented scenarios where the officers had to interact with on-screen actors, giving them commands which they are taught in training. These actors would place the officers in situations such as domestic disturbances, robberies, large scale disturbances, felony traffic stops, etc., all of which tested the observational skills of the officers, as well as their knowledge of the Use of Force Continuum. As an added obstacle, the system operators are able to escalate and de-escalate the actor's responses, allowing the scenario to change seamlessly so that officers would not be able to predict the actions of the actors and therefore have to react purely on observational skills and

circle. This ensured that the weapons sites were set for windage and elevation according to the individual users needs. Once the M-4/M-16 carbines were at their zero, the officers had to complete a qualification course in which they had to engage 30 timed pop-up targets from 25 all the way out to 300 meters from three separate positions (prone

supported, prone unsupported and kneeling).

Officer pride was on the line and it was obvious as each officer strove to outdo the previous shooters.

Once all of the qualifications were completed, the tactical training began in full swing. Officers were tasked with firing from be-

"One of the most valuable assets that can be had in a training environment is where multiple agencies can come together in the sharing of experiences, ideas and general information."

- Correctional Officer Jason Colobong

hind ballistic shields and successfully engaging targets, even off handed. They were made to engage targets from a profile position, where they would face sideways to the screen and then step and pivot towards the screen, having to acquire and fire accurately to a target as if they were making an entry into a hostile room. This exercise was done on both left and right sides, forcing them to adapt to different situations. Tactical officers need to understand and appreciate the difficulty of successfully utilizing a firearm after being stressed, so they were taken in small groups to one corner of the room and made to perform complex joint exercises in their full gear for one minute to spike their heart rate and breathing. The officers, in gear, performed one-four count jumping jack, one pushup, one leg raise, one pushup to the standing position, then repeated as quickly as possible for one minute. Those officers were then immediately sent to engage targets in a reactive shooting range, with instructions to only perform head shots.

The officers were also tasked with successfully engaging targets which would move towards them as well as side to side at various distances. They also had to engage multiple targets at once, training their peripheral vision and they had to engage the same target with multiple points of aim, in rapid fashion.

Once all of the tactical drills were completed, it was time for the situational exercises to begin. The officers were placed in various scenarios, which included hidden weapons that they had to detect and questionable intentions of the interviewee. These situations truly tested the officer's knowledge of when deadly force was justified and opened up discussion into different facility policies, as well as state and federal guidelines.

By the end of the day, the hostage rescue officers had expended over 6,000 rounds of ammunition; had a healthy understanding of tactical firing principles; renewed their confidence in personal knowledge of the justification of deadly force; engaged in healthy, boisterous, competition; and made new friends in other agencies.

"This training was beneficial to all involved," said Jowers. "The benefits gained from being exposed to the current training trends, problems to overcome and general atmosphere which their civilian counterparts are currently experiencing. This not only helps to keep their own training up to date but opens possible avenues for Soldiers that may need employment with some of these agencies."

The training benefited Colobong not only in his civilian job but in his Guard job as well. "Since being trained on it I was asked to run through and set up and test fire every weapon and hold basic marksmanship training for the rest of the 35th MPs," said Colobong.

"The ETS 2000 is a cost efficient way to maintain our Soldier's individual weapon skills," said Jowers. "By doing training with outside law enforcement/correctional officers it also gives us the opportunity to mentor relationships with these civilian agencies. It is a win-win situation on both sides and we plan on doing more of it in the future."



Three members of the Lansing Correctional Facility Building Entry Team train at the state of the art Army virtual shooting equipment, EST 2000, with the help of the Kansas National Guard's 35th Military Police Company. (Photo by Correctional Officer Jason Colobong, squad leader, Lansing Correctional Facility Building Entry Team)

The EST 2000 firearms trainer is a computerized system with a projection wall several feet across. Real weapons are hooked up to a pneumatic system designed to operate the bolts in the weapons, providing realistic recoil when the weapons are fired. Laser designators attached to the weapons allow the computer system to track each weapon's point of aim at all times and allows the system operator to monitor each shooters status. This makes it possible for the operator to insert a wide range of variables such as weapon

their training.

The training began with each officer having to qualify with a 9mm. Their task was to successfully engage a minimum of 17 out of 30 silhouette targets that would pop up behind partial cover and in random places ranging from five to 25 meters out. Once that was completed it was time to "zero" the rifles in, the tactical officers had to fire upon a silhouette that was 300 meters out and land five consecutive rounds in a tight pattern inside of a two inch diameter

Chinese virus targets Department of Defense Common Access Card

By Andrew Tilghman
Army Times Staff writer

A Chinese-based cyber attack is targeting the Defense Department's Common Access Cards with technology that could steal information from military networks while troops and civilians work at their desks, researchers say.

The new cyber weapon apparently can get inside individual computers after users unwittingly open a standard pdf email file. Once embedded, it logs the users' keystrokes to obtain personal identification numbers or codes associated with that card and user, according to AlienVault, a Silicon Valley-based cyber security firm.

"Basically, they are able to steal the PIN and then they can get access to whatever they want," said Jaime Blasco, the lab man-

ager for AlienVault who published detailed technical information about the attack.

The attacks are a variant of a virus, or malware, known as "Sykipot" and date back as far as March 2011, Blasco said.

The new Sykipot strain specifically targets the technology used to support the Pentagon's CAC system and the emails seeking to spread it often are disguised as official military or government communications, Blasco said.

To lure defense workers to open the infected attachment, some of the emails

have used information about new drone technology and pictures of unmanned aerial vehicles, he said.

The hackers behind the virus can access military systems only as long as an infected user's card remains logged into a system. Pentagon spokeswoman Air Force Lt. Col. April Cunningham declined to comment on the details published by AlienVault.

"We are aware of reports regarding this matter and take these type of reports seriously. However, due to operational security, we are not able to pro-

vide further details," she told Military Times.

Blasco said the virus is linked to a "command and control server" that appears to be based in China; some flaws buried deep in the code revealed Chinese language characters, suggesting that only a Chinese speaker would be able to launch it.

Defending against attacks using this technology is extremely difficult. The best way to keep military networks secure is to train troops and civilian employees not to open any unfamiliar files or email attachments, Blasco said.

Many military officials are eager to begin widespread use of smart phones, tablets and other wireless devices, but cyber security experts caution that such technology can be more vulnerable to cyber attacks.



Kansas City Army National Guard recruits spread holiday cheer

By Pfc. Brandon Jacobs

105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Seven days before Christmas, recruits from 1st Platoon, Company A, Recruit Sustainment Program Battalion, Lenexa, Kan., spent the day helping Kansas City's hungry.

More than 30 Soldiers in training reported to the Salvation Army Harbor Light Village in Kansas City, Kan., Dec. 17, 2011, where they helped sort and stock hundreds of cans and boxes for distribution to food pantries across the Kansas City Metro area.

"The National Guard is all about service," said Sgt. 1st Class Steven T. Griffin, a recruiter and organizer of the event. "It's a community-based organization."

Over the course of four hours, the recruits sorted four pallets of food and boxed another two pallets by food groups.

"They're a great group of individuals ready to serve their community and country," said Griffin. "Selfless Service, one of the core Army Values, is very important to the National Guard."

Many of the recruits who participated agreed that the event was satisfying.

"It made me feel good seeing how the

Soldiers reacted aiding their community," said Spc. Nicholas A. Stewart, a recruit from Lee Summit, Mo., who will be training to become a Black Hawk helicopter mechanic. "I was proud and impressed to see the Soldiers' attitudes."

Harbor Light Village does its part to give back to servicemembers. Through a partnership with the Veterans Affairs Hospital, Harbor Light Village maintains a 42-bed recovery program for veterans with mental health issues, such as substance abuse. Recently they opened two, eight-bed apartments for female veterans to stay.

The recovery program provides veterans with a case worker, schooling and up to a two year stay.

"We provide them with what they need to succeed, as long as they follow the rules and are trying to get better," said Bryan Chenault, the facilities manager of the Salvation Army Harbor Light Village.

Although they weren't there very long, the recruits' presence made an important impact.

"They did a week's worth of work in four hours," said Chenault. "It's so great to see Soldiers helping out at home, as well as overseas."



Pvt. Christina McQuinn, a recruit with 1st Platoon, Company A, Recruit Sustainment Program Battalion, and resident of Chilicothe, Mo., checks expiration dates on cans to be sorted at the Salvation Army Harbor Light Village located in Kansas City, Kan., Dec. 17, 2011. The food bank ships food to hundreds of food pantries and soup kitchens across the Kansas City Metro Area. (Photo by Pfc. Brandon Jacobs, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

190th's Operation Coyote Claus enjoys a successful first year

By Tech. Sgt. Emily F. Alley

190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Office

Three families from the 190th Air Refueling Wing had a Christmas dinner and presents because of the generosity of other Wing members and the community.

"I was really happy to be a part of it," said Airman 1st Class Sarah Marsh, who helped coordinate the program. "It's one thing to give, but these were people who needed it, deserved it and they appreciated it."

The families are kept anonymous, but are members of the wing who have experienced challenges over the past year, such as unemployment and medical problems.

Many sections within the 190th adopt families independent from the wing, but Adrienne Dickey, Airman and Family Programs Manager, organized Coyote Claus because she was inundated with requests for families to sponsor. She chose the name to reflect generosity.

"Santa represents the idea of giving, so 'Coyote Claus' represents the generous spirit of the 190th," said Dickey.

It was not just members of the 190th, however, who supported the families. Outside organizations approached Dickey requesting to sponsor a military family for the holidays, as well.

Many groups, such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Osage City Middle School and even a plastic surgeon, contacted her.

Aurora Plastic and Hand Surgery of Lee's Summit, Mo., donated nearly \$1,400 worth of gifts, groceries and a holiday meal to the program. Lt. Col. Eric Shoenberg of the 190th Medical Group works for the surgeon's office and was instrumental in connecting the office with the 190th and Operation Coyote Claus.

Families were given gifts and groceries, as well as practical items like toothbrushes and toothpaste. When Dickey

and Marsh went shopping for the items, many of the stores even offered them discounts. Children were given sets of clothes and socks.

"We hit every area. It wasn't just for kids. There were things for adults. They got family games, they got towels if that's what they needed," said Dickey.

She also collected food for the families, such as potatoes, pies, vegetables, ham and a turkey. Each family also received a \$100 gift certificate to a grocery store. With the two meats and gift certificate, Dickey hoped the families had leftovers and supplies to last after their Christmas dinners were over.

She was impressed with the generosity that made Coyote Claus possible.

"What's been most rewarding is seeing how much this was appreciated. It's nice to see not tears of frustration, but tears of joy."

190th Air Refueling Wing celebrates the holiday season in style with family

By Tech. Sgt. Emily F. Alley

190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Office

Capt. Jack Sparrow was one of several captains at Forbes Field during the December drill, but he wasn't wearing his Air Force uniform. Sparrow, a clown, and a road runner—the Topeka hockey team mascot—were among dozens of characters, volunteers and vendors that greeted Airmen and guests at the wing's 2011 holiday party.

The families were also visited by St. Nick himself.

"Santa was very friendly and Mrs. Claus was beautiful," said Capt. Janet Peterson, chief of intelligence at the 190th Air Refueling Wing, after she stepped off the stage to visit them.

More than 500 Airmen and family members braved a cold, wet day to enjoy the party. Activities included free massages, video game tournaments and face painting, as well as many activities for younger children. Holiday snacks, drinks and entertainment from a local dance academy and Girl Scout troop helped keep the holiday spirit high.

"I love the holiday party," said Master Sgt. Lucretia Williams, 190th Civil Engineering Squadron. "My kids are grown up, so I bring my grandchildren."

Williams' grandson, A.J., asked Santa for a remote control airplane.

This year's party was supported by two local Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps detachments from Topeka High and Topeka West High Schools. More than two dozen teenagers provided assistance from serving food and running video game tournaments to helping keep young children safe on the inflatable obstacle courses.

"The dedication and hard work of the JROTC cadets afforded our members the opportunity to enjoy the party," said Adrienne Dickey, Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager and the event's planner. In past events, almost all volunteers working at the party had been 190th members or their families, which meant they couldn't enjoy the party to its fullest.

Many of this year's activities were designed for younger children, said Dickey. She chose activities designed to appeal to children, while next year's event will be more di-



A 190th Air Refueling Wing member's daughter decorates her foam stocking ornament with purple glitter at the annual 190th ARW holiday party during their December drill weekend. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mandy Johnson, 190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs)

rected to adult Airmen and their spouses. This was Dickey's first year to plan the wing's holiday party and she said she'd received compliments for how well it went. She's confident she set the bar well...for her first event.

Military families board "Holiday Express"

By Sgt. Jessica Barnett

Public Affairs Office

More than 230 Kansas National Guard members and their families rode in a holiday-themed vintage passenger train known as the "Holiday Express" that departed from the Amtrak depot in Topeka, Kan., Dec. 9, 2011.

As a tribute to men and women of the Armed Forces, BNSF Railway offered a "Holiday Express" train ride to military members and their families to show their appreciation for their service and sacrifices. This year, the train toured six states including the Dakotas, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The vintage passenger train took them for a 90-minute train ride. During the ride, refreshments were served and children had a chance to visit with Santa, who handed out a special Holiday Express ornament.

"We recognize the sacrifice and service that the men and women in uniform make," said Andrew Johnsen, assistant vice president, State Government Affairs for BNSF. "But we also recognized that, sadly, the families of those men and women that are in service wearing the uniform overseas make a tremendous sacrifice and, unfortunately, their sacrifices are all too often overlooked. So, this is a way for our railroad to acknowledge the sacrifices those families make, to hold our heads high and proud to say 'Thank you' to the troops."

Special guests on the train also included Gov. Sam Brownback and Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard and commander of the Great Plains Joint Training Center, who visited with the servicemembers and their families.

Following the return, Janelle Hood, president of the Kansas National Guard Foundation, accepted a check from BNSF for \$10,000 to the nonprofit foundation.

"We appreciate the many years of support from BNSF," said Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general of the Kansas National Guard. "The \$10,000 donation will go toward programs to assist our Guardsmen and their families, and the train ride was a very special treat for everyone able to participate. Thank you to BNSF for going the extra mile this holiday for our troops and families."

105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment conducts change of command

By Sgt. Jessica Barnett
105th Mobile Public Affairs

Changes awaited the 105th Mobile Public Affairs detachment as they gained a new commander along with many new Soldiers.

In a change of command ceremony Dec. 3, 2011, Maj. Michael Wallace passed the unit guidon, signifying change of command authority of the 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, to the new commander, Maj. D. Matt Keane, at Nickell Armory in Topeka, Kan. Lt. Col. Tom Barnett, commander of Joint Forces Headquarters, Table of Distribution and Allowances Battalion, was the senior reviewing officer of the ceremony.

A change of command ceremony is a time-honored tradition that extends back to the time of the Roman legions. The ceremony calls attention to the continuing leadership and unit identity, despite changes in individual authority and symbolizes the transfer of command responsibility from one individual to another. This transfer is formally represented by passing the unit guidon, from the outgoing commander to the next senior commander to the new commander.

The 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment is a unit assigned under the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Joint Forces Headquarters, in Topeka.

"I am honored to be given the opportunity

to lead the great Soldiers of the 105th MPAD, and I look forward to executing this detachment's important mission in support of the Kansas Army National Guard," said Keane.

"I am proud of the Soldiers in the unit, who are personally invested in the unit and helped bring the unit into the multiple

award-winning media outlets for the Kansas Army National Guard," said Wallace.

Maj. D. Matt Keane

Maj. D. Matt Keane graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point as a member of 2002's Bicentennial



Maj. Michael Wallace (right), outgoing commander of the 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, passes the unit guidon to Lt. Col. Tom Barnett, commander of Joint Forces Headquarters Table of Distribution and Allowances Battalion, during the 105th Mobile Public Affairs change of command ceremony at Nickell Armory, Dec. 3, 2011. (Photo by Capt. Benjamin Gruver, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Class and was commissioned as an Air Defense Artillery Officer. Upon graduating from the academy, he attended and was named Honor Graduate for the Air Defense Officer Basic Course at Fort Bliss, Texas.

In 2003, Keane reported to Battery B, 1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He served as an avenger/stinger platoon leader, deploying to Kirkuk, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. Keane spent eight months leading convoys and patrols and then left his platoon to serve as the 2nd Brigade Combat Team Iraqi Security Forces Officer.

In 2005, he was assigned as the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade's Air Defense Airspace Management Cell Officer.

In 2006, Keane deployed to Tikrit, Iraq, with the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, supporting OIF 06-08. He served as the brigade training, force protection and plans officer until April 2007.

Keane took command of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade in May 2007 and redeployed the company from Iraq to Wheeler Army Airfield, Honolulu, in October 2007. Upon leaving command in 2008, he attended the Air Defense Captain's Career Course at Fort Bliss and received the course's top two honors for leadership and proficiency in tactics, while also complet-

(Continued on Page 19)

Civil Air Patrol cadets attend regional encampment

By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson
and CAP 2nd Lt. Hayley Wier
Civil Air Patrol UPARs

Civil Air Patrol members from coast to coast recently travelled to Salina, Kan., for the Kansas Wing Winter Encampment, Dec. 26 to Jan. 2, at the Great Plains Joint Training Center. Nearly 250 CAP members gave up their Christmas vacation to attend the encampment. In all, members came from 17 states and all eight of the Civil Air Patrol Regions.

Training close to 150 cadet basics was the top priority during the eight-day event. Activities included classroom sessions on Civil Air Patrol and U.S. Air Force topics, aerospace education and emergency services. In addition, cadets trained in drill and ceremonies, completed daily physical fitness training and participated in three rotation days where they navigated an obstacle course and completed a National Rifle Association rifle marksmanship program. Guest speakers, such as Salina airport manager Gunner Wiles, visited the encampment and spoke to the cadets.

The rotation days were supported and made possible by Saint John's Military School. The school allowed the CAP to use its obstacle course, indoor rifle range and dining facility. The 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment out of Salina provided UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter orientation flights for part of the cadets and the 190th Air Refueling Wing at Forbes Field in Topeka provided KC-135 orientation flights for the rest of the cadets.

On Dec. 28, 100 of the cadets and senior member sponsors flew on a refueling mission conducted by the 190th ARW.

"This is my fourth encampment. I have done two in Oklahoma and now this is my second in Kansas. This year I am a flight leader and am having a great time," said Cadet 2nd Lt. Patrick Arnold, a resident of Oklahoma.

This was Cadet Airman Austin Coe's and Cadet Airman Basic Dillon Meyer's, first encampment. The Missouri residents were looking forward to the flight, but Coe really enjoyed the "drilling and eating."

The group flew in two KC-135Rs. The flight was lead by Maj. Brian Budden, the Topeka Squadron's deputy commander for operations for the Civil Air Patrol. The youngest cadet in each aircraft was allowed to sit in the cockpit for takeoff. After take-

off, the two planes headed west.

This was a training mission for the aircraft crews. The first training event was for the aircraft to arrive at the same place in the sky at the same time, altitude and heading. This happened near Dodge City, Kan., where the flight met up with a B2 Stealth Bomber based out of Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.

There is a viewing position on either side of the refueling boom operator. The cadets were allowed to lie beside the boom operator and watch the bomber fly up to the tanker. Although, with so many cadets they were only allowed about 30 seconds, but that was enough time to take a lot of pictures.

After about one hour, the aircrafts separated. The bomber continued its mission

Center located at Salina, Kan. There they had a chance to fire a variety of small arms in multiple target situations in a real first person video game.

Maj. Carolyn Franz, the Kansas Wing Drug Demand Reduction administrator, taught classes to help cadets learn about the advantages of a drug-free lifestyle. The week ended with a drill competition, dining out and pass in review parade.

Led by cadet commander Cadet Lt. Col. Brandon Doubrava, a staff of nearly 50 cadets worked tirelessly to ready the basics to the standard required for graduation.

"This encampment never would have been possible without the incredible staff I have," said Doubrava. "I am very grateful and honored to have served with them all.



Cadets of the Civil Air Patrol climb aboard a KC-135 for a flight refueling mission conducted by the 190th Air Refueling Wing, based out of Forbes Field, Topeka, Kan., as part of the Kansas Wing Winter Encampment, Dec. 28, 2011. (Photo by Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, Civil Air Patrol UPAR)

and the tankers turned east. They would fly over Wichita, then to Butler before returning to Topeka.

On the return flight, senior member Will Roberts, from Oak Ridge, Tenn., spoke of the encampment. Roberts was serving as the Training, Advising and Counseling Officer or senior advisor to the cadets who were running the encampment. Roberts was at the encampment with three of his 11 children. The two 15-year-olds and one 13-year-old were engaged in other activities and were not on the flight.

Simultaneously, back in Salina, cadets and seniors were able to fly in UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. The remainder of the cadets utilized the small arms training simulator at the Kansas National Training

The Basics at this encampment were an amazing group. It was a memorable experience for all who attended."

In addition to the encampment, emergency services training, Honor Guard training and a Region Cadet Leadership School occurred in the same location. Eight cadets honed their leadership skills by working on essays, classroom presentations, speeches, drill and physical fitness. Led by Col. Regina Aye, Region Cadet Leadership School director, participants each took a turn leading the group for a day in addition to working on projects. The cadets hosted several leaders during the event who shared their experiences and expertise, including Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard.

Guardsmen help lay wreaths in honor of vets

By Sgt. Jessica Barnett
Public Affairs Office

Members of the Kansas National Guard Honor Guard participated in the sixth annual Wreaths Across America Day to honor veterans at the Kansas Veterans' Cemetery in Manhattan and Leavenworth National Cemetery during the holiday season, Dec. 10, 2011.

The Kansas National Guard Honor Guard supported the Kansas Veterans' Cemetery ceremony with one Soldier to play "Taps" and the Leavenworth National Cemetery ceremony with a firing party of three Soldiers.

Seven ceremonial wreaths were placed to remember all servicemembers and prisoners of war/missing in action to honor their sacrifices. These ceremonies were simultaneously conducted at more than 600 participating locations across the nation in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of wreaths from Maine being donated and placed on headstones at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

More than 400,000 wreaths were placed nationwide this year by more than 150,000 volunteers as part of the Wreaths Across America.

Wreaths Across America is a nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman, Morrill Worcester, in 1992. Their mission is to remember, honor and teach.

WAA pursues its mission with nationwide wreath-laying events during the holiday season and year-round educational outreach inviting all Americans to appreciate our freedoms and the cost at which they are secured.

The next Wreaths Across America will be held Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012.

If you would like to sponsor a wreath for 2012, or would like more information about events planned for your community, please call Gwen Seymour at (785) 717-3050 for Manhattan or Deborah Williams at (913) 758-4105 for Leavenworth, or go to www.wreathscrossamerica.org.

Awards and Decorations

KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Bronze Star



Col. Howard Wheeler, ADT #3, Topeka
Lt. Col. Eric Blankenship, ADT #3, Topeka
Maj. Jason Nelson, ADT #3, Topeka
Capt. Ernest Kratina III, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Maj. Terence Hankerson, ADT #3, Topeka
1st Sgt. David Miller, ADT #3, Topeka
Master Sgt. Michael Crist, ADT #3, Topeka
Master Sgt. Eric Kaltenborn, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Rathbun, ADT #3, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Robert Pugh, ADT #3, Topeka

Purple Heart



Spc. Timothy Gannon, ADT #3, Topeka

Meritorious Service Medal



Maj. Raymond Gillett, HHD, 635th RSG, Hutchinson, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Maj. Shannon Nicklaus, HHC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Capt. Rodney Seaba, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Capt. Randy Stookey, 287th SB, Wichita
1st Sgt. Kirk Gibson, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
Master Sgt. Stephen Ahlstedt, Btry C, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Abilene, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Master Sgt. Laurinda Garland, HQ, 69th TC, Topeka
Master Sgt. Aaron Lindsey, R&R Bn, Topeka
Master Sgt. Rodney Moyer, 635th RSG, Hutchinson, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Lucas, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City

Army Commendation Medal



Maj. Jeffrey Cryslar, 102nd MHD, Topeka, with 6th Oak Leaf Cluster
Maj. Wesley Massaro, ADT #3, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Maj. Robert Parvin, 1979th CCT, Topeka, with 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
Maj. Michael Wallace, 105th MPAD, Topeka, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Maj. Robert Wood, HHC, 635th RSG, Hutchinson, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Capt. Eric Deeds, ADT #3, Topeka
Capt. Robert Melton, ADT #3, Topeka, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Capt. Christopher Sanders, ADT #3, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
1st Lt. Brian Knipp, ADT #3, Topeka
1st Lt. Benjamin Pimpl, ADT #3, Topeka
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Stephen Patterson, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 7th Oak Leaf Cluster
Chief Warrant Officer 2 William Davis, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Travis Bowser, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Hernandez, R&R Bn, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Frederick Herrick Jr., ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Carl Herring, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Brent Rose, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class James Swafford, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Walter Thew, ADT #3, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Ryan Pierce, ADT #3, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Timothy Schloetzer, ADT #3, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Brandon Schultz, ADT #3, Topeka, with 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Matthew Slater, ADT #3, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Dustin Williams, ADT #3, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Robert Williams, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Nathan Blair, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Stewart Buttel, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Nakia Hearlson, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Kenneth Kumle, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Richard McKinley, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Paul Olson, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Adam Schuetz, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Doris Westbrook, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Shawn Eller, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Timothy Gannon, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. David Golden, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Richard Kane, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Patrick Moran, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Chad Orton, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Dylan Richardson, ADT #3, Topeka
Senior Airman Brent Garrison, ADT #3, Topeka
Senior Airman Jerling Hidalgo-Mendez, ADT #3, Topeka

Army Achievement Medal



1st Lt. Benjamin Pimpl, ADT #3, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Master Sgt. Jorge Jacobs, ADT #3, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Eric Kaltenborn, ADT #3, Topeka, with 6th Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class James Swafford, ADT #3, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Ryan Pierce, ADT #3, Topeka, with 6th Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Robert Pugh, ADT #3, Topeka, with 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. Erik Eagles, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Shawn McNickle, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Chase Taylor, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Jason Cook, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Nathan Criswell, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. David Golden, ADT #3, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Spc. Travis Hofer, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Richard Kane, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Joshua Karmann, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Brad McGregor, ADT #3, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Spc. Trung Nguyen, ADT #3, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Spc. Chad Orton, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Thomas Sureau, ADT #3, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Senior Airman Brent Garrison, ADT #3, Topeka
Pfc. Cody Robbins, ADT #3, Topeka

National Defense Service Medal



Chief Warrant Officer 2 William Davis, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award

Global War on Terror Service Medal



Lt. Col. Eric Blankenship, ADT #3, Topeka
1st Lt. Brian Knipp, ADT #3, Topeka
Chief Warrant Officer 2 William Davis, ADT #3, Topeka

Staff Sgt. Ryan Pierce, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Chase Taylor, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Dustin Williams, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Jason Cook, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. David Golden, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Travis Hofer, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Richard Kane, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Chad Orton, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Thomas Sureau, ADT #3, Topeka
Senior Airman Brent Garrison, ADT #3, Topeka
Senior Airman Jerling Hidalgo-Mendez, ADT #3, Topeka
Pfc. Cody Robbins, ADT #3, Topeka

Armed Forces Reserve Medal



Lt. Col. Eric Blankenship, ADT #3, Topeka, with "M" device
Capt. Christopher Sanders, ADT #3, Topeka, with "M" device
1st Lt. Brian Knipp, ADT #3, Topeka, with "M" device
Master Sgt. Michael Crist, ADT #3, Topeka, with Bronze Hourglass

Sgt. 1st Class Brent Rose, ADT #3, Topeka, with "M" device
Staff Sgt. Ryan Pierce, ADT #3, Topeka, with "M" device
Staff Sgt. Timothy Schloetzer, ADT #3, Topeka, with "M" device
Staff Sgt. Brandon Schultz, ADT #3, Topeka, with "M" device

Sgt. Paul Olson, ADT #3, Topeka, with "M" device
Sgt. Richard McKinley, ADT #3, Topeka, with "M" device
Sgt. Shawn McNickle, ADT #3, Topeka, with "M" device
Sgt. Chase Taylor, ADT #3, Topeka, with "M" device
Sgt. Doris Westbrook, ADT #3, Topeka, with "M" device
Sgt. Dustin Williams, ADT #3, Topeka, with "M" device
Spc. Jason Cook, ADT #3, Topeka, with "M" device
Spc. David Golden, ADT #3, Topeka, with "M" device
Spc. Travis Hofer, ADT #3, Topeka, with "M" device
Spc. Richard Kane, ADT #3, Topeka, with "M" device
Spc. Chad Orton, ADT #3, Topeka, with "M" device
Spc. Thomas Sureau, ADT #3, Topeka, with "M" device
Senior Airman Brent Garrison, ADT #3, Topeka, with "M" device
Senior Airman Jerling Hidalgo-Mendez, ADT #3, Topeka, with "M" device
Pfc. Cody Robbins, ADT #3, Topeka, with "M" device

Overseas Service Ribbon



Col. Howard Wheeler, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Lt. Col. Eric Blankenship, ADT #3, Topeka,
Maj. Wesley Massaro, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Maj. Jason Nelson, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Capt. Eric Deeds, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Capt. Ernest Kratina III, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Capt. Robert Melton, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Capt. Christopher Sanders, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
1st Lt. Brian Knipp, ADT #3, Topeka,
1st Lt. Benjamin Pimpl, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Chief Warrant Officer 2 William Davis, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Sgt. Maj. Terence Hankerson, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
1st Sgt. David Miller, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Master Sgt. Michael Crist, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Master Sgt. Eric Kaltenborn, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Sgt. 1st Class Travis Bowser, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Sgt. 1st Class Frederick Herrick, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Sgt. 1st Class Carl Herring, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Rathbun, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Sgt. 1st Class Brent Rose, ADT #3, Topeka,
Sgt. 1st Class James Swafford, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Sgt. 1st Class Walter Thew, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Staff Sgt. Ryan Pierce, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Staff Sgt. Robert Pugh, ADT #3, Topeka, 4th award
Staff Sgt. Timothy Schloetzer, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Staff Sgt. Brandon Schultz, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Staff Sgt. Matthew Slater, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Staff Sgt. Robert Williams, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Staff Sgt. Gregory Zuercher, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Sgt. Nathan Blair, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Sgt. Stewart Buttel, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Sgt. Erik Eagles, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Sgt. Nakia Hearlson, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Sgt. Kenneth Kumle, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Sgt. Richard McKinley, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Sgt. Shawn McNickle, ADT #3, Topeka,
Sgt. Paul Olson, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Sgt. Adam Schuetz, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Sgt. Chase Taylor, ADT #3, Topeka,
Sgt. Doris Westbrook, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Sgt. Dustin Williams, ADT #3, Topeka,
Spc. Jason Cook, ADT #3, Topeka,
Spc. Nathan Criswell, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Spc. Shawn Eller, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Spc. Timothy Gannon, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Spc. David Golden, ADT #3, Topeka,
Spc. Travis Hofer, ADT #3, Topeka,
Spc. Richard Kane, ADT #3, Topeka,
Spc. Joshua Karmann, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Spc. Brad McGregor, ADT #3, Topeka, 4th award
Spc. Patrick Moran, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Spc. Chad Orton, ADT #3, Topeka,
Spc. Dylan Richardson, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Spc. Thomas Sureau, ADT #3, Topeka,
Pfc. Cody Robbins, ADT #3, Topeka,

NATO Medal



Col. Howard Wheeler, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Lt. Col. Eric Blankenship, ADT #3, Topeka
Maj. Jason Nelson, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Capt. Eric Deeds, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Capt. Ernest Kratina III, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Capt. Robert Melton, ADT #3, Topeka
Capt. Christopher Sanders, ADT #3, Topeka
1st Lt. Brian Knipp, ADT #3, Topeka
1st Lt. Benjamin Pimpl, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Chief Warrant Officer 2 William Davis, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Maj. Terence Hankerson, ADT #3, Topeka
1st Sgt. David Miller, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Master Sgt. Michael Crist, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Master Sgt. Eric Kaltenborn, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Sgt. 1st Class Travis Bowser, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Sgt. 1st Class Frederick Herrick, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Rathbun, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Sgt. 1st Class Brent Rose, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class James Swafford, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Sgt. 1st Class Walter Thew, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Staff Sgt. Ryan Pierce, ADT #3, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Robert Pugh, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Staff Sgt. Timothy Schloetzer, ADT #3, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Brandon Schultz, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Staff Sgt. Matthew Slater, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Staff Sgt. Robert Williams, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Staff Sgt. Gregory Zuercher, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Nathan Blair, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Sgt. Stewart Buttel, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Sgt. Erik Eagles, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Sgt. Nakia Hearlson, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Sgt. Kenneth Kumle, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Sgt. Richard McKinley, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Sgt. Shawn McNickle, ADT #3, Topeka

Sgt. Paul Olson, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Adam Schuetz, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Chase Taylor, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Doris Westbrook, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Dustin Williams, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Jason Cook, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Nathan Criswell, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Spc. Shawn Eller, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Timothy Gannon, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. David Golden, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Travis Hofer, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Richard Kane, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Joshua Karmann, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Spc. Brad McGregor, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Spc. Patrick Moran, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Chad Orton, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Dylan Richardson, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Thomas Sureau, ADT #3, Topeka
Senior Airman Brent Garrison, ADT #3, Topeka
Senior Airman Jerling Hidalgo-Mendez, ADT #3, Topeka
Pfc. Cody Robbins, ADT #3, Topeka

Combat Infantry Badge



Sgt. Chase Taylor, ADT #3, Topeka

Combat Action Badge



Col. Howard Wheeler, ADT #3, Topeka
Lt. Col. Eric Blankenship, ADT #3, Topeka
Maj. Jason Nelson, ADT #3, Topeka
Capt. Eric Deeds, ADT #3, Topeka
Capt. Robert Melton, ADT #3, Topeka
Capt. Christopher Sanders, ADT #3, Topeka
1st Lt. Brian Knipp, ADT #3, Topeka
1st Lt. Benjamin Pimpl, ADT #3, Topeka
Chief Warrant Officer 2 William Davis, ADT #3, Topeka
1st Sgt. David Miller, ADT #3, Topeka
Master Sgt. Michael Crist, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Frederick Herrick Jr., ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Rathbun, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Brent Rose, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class James Swafford, ADT #3, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Ryan Pierce, ADT #3, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Matthew Slater, ADT #3, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Robert Williams, ADT #3, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Gregory Zuercher, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Nathan Blair, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Stewart Buttel, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Erik Eagles, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Nakia Hearlson, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Kenneth Kumle, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Richard McKinley, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Shawn McNickle, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Adam Schuetz, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Doris Westbrook, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Dustin Williams, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Jason Cook, ADT #3, Topeka
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Spc. Shawn Eller, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Timothy Gannon, ADT #3, Topeka
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Spc. Richard Kane, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Joshua Karmann, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Brad McGregor, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Patrick Moran, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Chad Orton, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Dylan Richardson, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Thomas Sureau, ADT #3, Topeka
Senior Airman Brent Garrison, ADT #3, Topeka
Pfc. Cody Robbins, ADT #3, Topeka

Combat Medical Badge



Sgt. 1st Class Travis Bowser, ADT #3, Topeka
Senior Airman Jerling Hidalgo-Mendez, ADT #3, Topeka

Overseas Service Bar



Col. Howard Wheeler, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Lt. Col. Eric Blankenship, ADT #3, Topeka
Maj. Wesley Massaro, ADT #3, Topeka, 4th award
Maj. Jason Nelson, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Capt. Eric Deeds, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Capt. Ernest Kratina III, ADT #3, Topeka, 5th award
Capt. Robert Melton, ADT #3, Topeka, 4th award
Capt. Christopher Sanders, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
1st Lt. Brian Knipp, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
1st Lt. Benjamin Pimpl, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Chief Warrant Officer 2 William Davis, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Sgt. Maj. Terence Hankerson, ADT #3, Topeka, 4th award
1st Sgt. David Miller, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Master Sgt. Michael Crist, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Master Sgt. Eric Kaltenborn, ADT #3, Topeka, 5th award
Sgt. 1st Class Travis Bowser, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Sgt. 1st Class Frederick Herrick, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Sgt. 1st Class Carl Herring, ADT #3, Topeka, 5th award
Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Rathbun, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Sgt. 1st Class Brent Rose, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class James Swafford, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Sgt. 1st Class Walter Thew, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Staff Sgt. Ryan Pierce, ADT #3, Topeka, 2nd award
Staff Sgt. Robert Pugh, ADT #3, Topeka, 6th award
Staff Sgt. Timothy Schloetzer, ADT #3, Topeka, 4th award
Staff Sgt. Brandon Schultz, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Staff Sgt. Matthew Slater, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Staff Sgt. Robert Williams, ADT #3, Topeka, 5th award
Staff Sgt. Gregory Zuercher, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Sgt. Nathan Blair, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award

Sgt. Stewart Buttel, ADT #3, Topeka, 5th award
Sgt. Erik Eagles, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Sgt. Nakia Hearlson, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Sgt. Kenneth Kumle, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Sgt. Richard McKinley, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Sgt. Shawn McNickle, ADT #3, Topeka
Sgt. Paul Olson, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Sgt. Adam Schuetz, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
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Sgt. Doris Westbrook, ADT #3, Topeka
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Spc. Chad Orton, ADT #3, Topeka
Spc. Dylan Richardson, ADT #3, Topeka, 3rd award
Spc. Thomas Sureau, ADT #3, Topeka
Pfc. Cody Robbins, ADT #3, Topeka

Kansas National Guard Commendation Ribbon



Staff Sgt. Marc McCully, R&R Bn, Topeka
Sgt. Elissa Millan, R&R Bn, Topeka

KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Meritorious Service Medal



Chief Master Sgt. Stacey William, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Master Sgt. Larry Endecott, 184th IW, Wichita

Air Force Achievement Medal



Tech. Sgt. Theodore Schmitt, 184th IW, Wichita
Airman 1st Class Jeni Douglas, 190th ARW, Topeka

Retirements

Kansas Army National Guard

Maj. Darrin Daugherty, 35th Div, Fort Leavenworth
Maj. Raymond Gillett, HHD, 635th RSG, Hutchinson
Maj. Shannon Nicklaus, HHC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola
Sgt. Maj. Avoyd Colvin Jr., HHD, 635th RSG, Hutchinson
Sgt. Maj. Dennis Paxton, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
1st Sgt. John McMahan, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City
Master Sgt. Aaron Lindsey, Det 2, Rec and Ret Bn, Salina
Master Sgt. John McLean III, HHC (-), 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
Master Sgt. Rodney Moyer, HHD, 635th RSG, Hutchinson
Master Sgt. Robert Robinson, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Master Sgt. Monte Sheets, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class David Acostaluciano, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
Sgt. 1st Class Elton Bender, RTSM, Salina
Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Boschee, Btry A (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Marysville
Sgt. 1st Class Michael Dickmeyer, HHC (-), 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
Sgt. 1st Class Paul Heater, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
Sgt. 1st Class Judy Henson, RTSM, Salina
Sgt. 1st Class Francis Sheeley Jr., Det 1, Btry A, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Concordia
Sgt. 1st Class Gary Stillings, HHC (-), 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
Sgt. 1st Class Edward Sullivan, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Holton
Sgt. 1st Class Terry Townsend, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Tate West, HHC (-), 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
Staff Sgt. Jason Baetz, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Anthony Beckler, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson
Staff Sgt. Scott Klingman, 778th Trans Co, Great Bend
Staff Sgt. Ricky Schafer, FSC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola
Staff Sgt. Robert Schlink, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Sgt. Jason Dewitt, 731st Trans Co (-), Great Bend
Sgt. William Hilmes, 287th SB, Wichita
Sgt. Jeffrey Howard, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville
Sgt. Sylvia Klingbeil, 35th Inf Div Band, Olathe
Sgt. Stephen Obeirne, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Tommy Olivas, Det 1, 226th Eng Co, Pittsburg

Kansas Air National Guard

Col. Kyle Garrison, 190th ARW, Topeka
Lt. Col. Lloyd Hatfield – 184th IW, Wichita
Chief Master Sgt. Richard Meador, 190th ARW, Topeka
Senior Master Sgt. Kelly Innes, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Pat Cochran – 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Michael Molter, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Kevin Nutter, 190th ARW, Topeka
Tech. Sgt. Guadalupe Gonzalez, 184th IW, Wichita

The winds that blow through the wide sky in these mounts, the winds that sweep from Canada to Mexico, from the Pacific to the Atlantic - have always blown on free men.

~Franklin D. Roosevelt

105th MPAD changes command

Continued from Page 17

ing his master's degree at the University of Texas at El Paso. Keane then became the assistant professor of military science at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.

Keane left active duty in December 2010 and transferred directly into the Kansas Army National Guard. Shortly after 10 months of service with the Judge Advocate General's office, Keane accepted command of the 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

Keane's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, the Combat Action Badge, the Ranger Tab, the Army Parachutist Badge and the Air Assault Badge. Keane is currently pursuing his law degree at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kan.

He is married to the former Jessica Weible of Ames, Iowa, and the couple has two sons, Billy and Johnny.

Maj. Michael L. Wallace

Maj. Michael L. Wallace is currently attending Command and General Staff School in Fort Leavenworth, Kan. He has been the commander of the 105th MPAD since 2007, when he returned from a one year Southwest Asia deployment as the public affairs officer for the 377th Theater Support and the 635th Regional Support Commands.

Wallace joined military service in 1977 with the Air Force. In 1988, he changed to the Kansas National Guard, graduating from the Officer Candidate School, Salina, Kan., in 1990 as part of class 34.

During his career, he has commanded the

Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, as well as serving as the intelligence officer and counter-fire officer. He was an aerial observer and intelligence specialist for the 35th Division Artillery; ammunition officer for the 1st Battalion, 127th Field Artillery; weapons storage inspector and joint military affairs executive officer in Bosnia, as well as other assignments at home and abroad.

Wallace's awards and decorations include the Combat Action Badge, the Schutzen-schnuer (from Germany), the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Ribbon with one star, Global War on Terrorism, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary, Outstanding Volunteer Medal, Air Force Longevity Medal, Air Force Professional Military Education Medal, Kansas Meritorious Service Medal, Kansas Commendation Medal, Virginia Commendation Medal, NATO Article 5 and Non-Article 5 medals, the Pecs Medal and many other domestic and foreign awards.

Wallace is an award-winning journalist (Kansas Press Association) for his work as an editor for the Augusta Daily Gazette, a Keith L. Ware winner from the National Guard Bureau and a former Billie E. Fuqua award winner.

He started Kansas' largest county newspaper, the Butler County Chronicle, where he was publisher and chief editor. In his civilian life, Wallace is a novelist and a council member for the city of Augusta.

He has been married to his wife, Teresa, for 32 years and they have three children, Lenora, Katina and Heath. They reside in Augusta, Kan.

U.S. servicemembers pick up trash as part of 'Djibouti Pride'

By Staff Sgt. Stephen Linch

Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa

Hundreds of Djiboutian, coalition and U.S. servicemembers, as well as local residents, came together outside the Camp Lemonnier fence line to clean up the area Nov. 5, 2011.

Participants collected and removed trash from the Djibouti-Ambouli International Airport perimeter road as part of a road beautification effort called the Djibouti Pride Initiative.

"Beautifying the area around Camp Lemonnier is just a part of being good neighbors," said U.S. Navy Captain Scott Hurst,

Camp Lemonnier commanding officer.

U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. James Davis, Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa command senior enlisted leader, echoed Hurst's sentiment, saying "When we talk about building partner nations, this is where it starts ... coming outside the gate and showing that we are part of the Djiboutian community."

Although this is the first road beautification effort in recent history, it will not be the last.

"This is just the beginning of the Djibouti Pride Initiative," Hurst said. "It is going to be a continued effort."



Sgt. Bangone Sihongheune, a administration noncommissioned officer with the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard, picks up trash outside Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, during a Djibouti Pride Initiative Nov. 5. Sihongheune, along with more than 200 Camp Lemonnier servicemembers, volunteered to be a part of the road beautification effort. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Linch, Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa)

2nd Lt. Schafer takes top honors

By Maj. DeAnn Barr
Great Plains Joint Training Center
Public Affairs Officer

2nd Lt. Georgia Schafer, information technology officer for the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, Kan., graduated in November 2011 from the Signal Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Gordon, Ga., as the Distinguished Honor Graduate.

Schafer's cumulative grade point average of a 99.11 percent ranked her first out of 76 lieutenants; the class average was 90.85 percent. Additionally, she was presented the Squier Award for academic excellence. In addition to her academic efforts, she also served as the class personnel officer during the entire 16-week course, ensuring accurate student information dissemination, personnel actions management and management of various rosters. She provided coordination for major administrative events, pay and administrative issues during her free time.

Schafer's leadership skills impressed her peers and cadre alike and contributed greatly to the successes enjoyed by the class. She was nominated as a finalist for the Kilbourne Leadership Award as a result of her hard work, dedication and outstanding leadership qualities.

Schafer graduated from the Kansas Army National Guard Officer Candidate Course as a Distinguished Graduate in August 2010. She enlisted in the Army National Guard in January 2006 and is often asked how she has accomplished so much in a short time.

"I think it is not the overall accomplish-

ment that is important, but making what you want to do achievable by recognizing that it is not one overwhelming task or project and then working towards your desired end state one step at a time," said Schafer. "I have also come to appreciate the power of a positive attitude. Accepting the unavoidable situations you find yourself in and then working to improve them tends to produce positive results. I also believe in completing jobs correctly the first time."



Technician and AGR Employees of the Adjutant General's Department,

Capt. Aleshia Bedore and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 102 employees who made the 2011 Combined Federal Campaign fundraiser a huge success. Your collective contributions of \$30,488 set a new agency record! Your generosity will make it possible for individuals of our community to receive valuable services in their time of need. Additionally, various not-for-profit organizations nationally and internationally will be able to continue their work of providing assistance and services.

Your contributions will go a long way toward turning hope into reality, thus making a difference in your neighbor's life, your family's life and your life.

Thank you for your contributions!

Sincerely,

Lt. Col. Tony Divish

Combined Federal Campaign Coordinator
for the Adjutant General's Department



Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery welcomes new commander



On Oct. 10, 2011, Capt. Jonathan Hines (right), assumed command of Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, relieving the outgoing commander, Capt. Phillip Morris (left). The formal ceremony was held Nov. 5, at the Holton armory. The battalion commander, (center) Lt. Col. Christopher Burr, took the battalion colors from Morris and then passed the guidon to Hines. Morris took command of Battery A during the Multinational Force and Observers deployment in Egypt, March 2010, and guided the unit through the recent transition to the new High Mobility Artillery Rocket System artillery system. Hines comes to Battery A from his position as the battalion intelligence officer. Morris will move to the battalion headquarters in Hiawatha, Kan., as the battalion fire direction officer. (Photo by Sgt. Russell Z. Richards, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery)

LOYALTY * DUTY * RESPECT * SELFLESS SERVICE * HONOR * INTEGRITY * PERSONAL COURAGE



LOYALTY * DUTY * RESPECT * SELFLESS SERVICE * HONOR * INTEGRITY * PERSONAL COURAGE

By 1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza-Pangburn
Agribusiness Development Team 4

On Nov. 26, 2011, members of Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4 formed ranks at Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam, Laghman province, Afghanistan, to put the 1st Cavalry patch on their right sleeve, designating them as veterans who have served in a theater of combat.

"For Soldiers, earning the right to wear a right shoulder patch is a rite of passage earned through hard work," says Maj. Carlin G. Williams executive officer for ADT 4, and resident of Olathe, Kan. "These guys have earned it."

Of the assigned ADT 4 Soldiers, 34 have deployed before, four are veterans of Desert Storm, 27 are Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans, three have deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in

Afghanistan, four have deployed to Kuwait, two to Bosnia and many have deployed to other humanitarian, noncombat tours.

"I earned my first combat patch in 1990 during Desert Shield, Desert Storm," recalled Capt. Todd J. Stuke of Topeka, Kan., and ADT 4 officer in charge of the agricultural section. "I was a Stinger gunner assigned to the 4th Battalion, 5 Air Defense Artillery Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. It was an honor for me then to be a member of the 1st Cav, and that honor still remains as I serve in Afghanistan."

Along with the honor of donning their new combat patches, four Soldiers were promoted.

"Being promoted overseas is an experience that Soldiers will remember for the rest of their lives," said Williams, as he



During a formation held Nov. 26, 2011, members of the Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4 receive the 1st Cavalry combat patch. (Photo by Maj. Carlin Williams, Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4)

134th Air Control Squadron welcomes home 80 Airmen

By 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht
Public Affairs Office

Approximately 80 Airmen from the 184th Intelligence Wing's 134th Air Control Squadron returned to Wichita, Nov. 17, 2011, after having been deployed to Southwest Asia for five months. The 134th ACS arrived at Hangar 41 at McConnell Air Force Base, where family members waited to welcome them home with open arms.

"It wasn't anything like I thought it would be. It was pretty calm, but fast paced at the same time," shared Airman 1st Class Boston Ford, a deployed member of the 134th ACS, about his first deployment.

Lt. Col. Christopher Mills, commander of the 134th ACS, was very pleased with the mission's success.

"We had a lot of young deployers and everyone was focused on the mission. We took care of a lot of maintenance projects and left the place better than when we got there."

Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, joined Col. John Hernandez, commander of the 184th Intelligence Wing, to welcome the Airmen home.

"I know the efforts that you made in support of the combatant commander there certainly made a difference and we couldn't be more proud of you," said Tafanelli.



Approximately 80 Airmen of the 134th Air Control Squadron stand in formation during their welcome home ceremony in front of family and friends at Hangar 41 at McConnell Air Force Base, Nov. 17, 2011. (Photo by Sharon Watson, Public Affairs Office)

2nd Combined Arms Battalion helps extended Guard family

By Capt. Rodney D. Seaba
Administrative Officer, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment

On Nov. 18, 2011, members of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment's full-time staff volunteered to serve as a local cleanup crew for Teresa Trafton, widow of retired Col. James Trafton. To honor the memory of retired Col. Trafton, the Soldiers assigned to the Kansas City and Lenexa armories volunteered to rake leaves, trim bushes, remove unwanted objects and provide any required repair work. Additionally, the Soldiers cleaned out gutters, hung Christmas lights and hauled away brush.

Trafton is considered a member of the 2-137th Inf. Reg. family, so the Soldiers wanted to make themselves available to her for whatever her needs were. When they arrived, it was clear that she had a plan, which made the day go by so much faster. It was really like a big party. The Soldiers had a great time and it was very rewarding for them to have been able to assist Trafton the way they did.

"We are glad to give, back to the Trafton family after their years of commitment to the state and our battalion," said Capt. Adam Johnson, assistant operations officer for the 2-137th Inf. Reg. "Today was only a token of our appreciation."



Members of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment pose for a picture with Teresa Trafton, widow of retired Col. James Trafton, after helping her with some household chores at her Kansas City residence, Nov. 18, 2011. (Capt. Rodney D. Seaba, Administrative Officer, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment)

Salina businessmen recognized

Command Sgt. Maj. Greg Kober
Great Plains Joint Training Center

Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard and commander of the Great Plains Joint Training Center, recognized two local businessmen in Salina, Kan., Nov. 18, 2011. Dennis Hronek, general manager of BFR Metals, and owner Mike Heath of Heath Salvage were recognized for their contribution of 12 vehicles used during the fourth annual Kansas Technical Rescue Conference at Crisis City. Peck presented each of them with a Kansas plaque and the Kansas Adjutant General's coin for their contribution to the conference.

Search and rescue professionals from across the state met in Salina, Kan., from Sept. 29 to Oct. 1, 2011, for the fourth 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 the Kansas Fire and Rescue Training Institute. This was one of the few times that all seven disaster regions within Kansas collectively trained to the same standards. The turnout was approximately 180 participants and instructors.

The vehicles were used at Crisis City in multiple training scenarios for responders to get hands-on training in extricating victims from simulated accidents. Classes included Vehicle and Machine Rescue Level Two, Search Operations, Advanced Rope Rescue, Technical Rescue Rigging and Advanced Shoring Operations, and culminated with a simulated tornado strike incorporating all the venues.



Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard and commander of the Great Plains Joint Training Center, presents a plaque to Dennis Hronek, general manager of BFR Metals, for his contribution to the fourth annual Kansas Technical Rescue Conference held at Crisis City in Salina, Kan. (Photo by Command Sgt. Maj. Greg Kober, Great Plains Joint Training Center)