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Kansas Guardsmen depart for the Horn of Africa

By Sgt. Jessica Rohr
Public Affairs Office

Kansas Guardsmen of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery and attached 35th Military Police were honored at a departure ceremony by family, friends and co-workers at the Salina Bicentennial Center, March 2, 2011, prior to departing for a year-long deployment to the Horn of Africa.

The unit will be relieving Soldiers of the Kansas National Guard's 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry.

Prior to arriving in country, the Soldiers will make a short stop at Camp Atterbury, Ind., for additional mission-specific training.

The Soldiers marched into the Bicentennial Center past an honor guard of American Legion Riders holding American flags and took their places in formation, standing smartly at attention.

Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the Kansas adjutant general, and Dr. Jeffery Colyer, Kansas lieutenant governor, paid tribute to the deploying Soldiers, family members and community with special advice and words of gratitude for the year ahead.

"These Soldiers standing in front of you today will play a key role in shaping the future of the continent, but more importantly, the future of the United States," said Tafanelli. "To our families, I can't say thank you enough for the sacrifice and support that you give our Soldiers each and every day by allowing them to wear the uniform and serve in the Kansas National Guard."

"Several years ago we were a strategic force, only used in those rarest of occasions. But today confirms that for the last eight years the National Guard, the 161, has been at the forefront of an operational force and they will continue to do so in the future. And for that we say 'Thank you'."



Surrounded by family and friends, Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery and 35th Military Police Company enter the Salina Bicentennial Center and come to attention for their deployment ceremony March 2, 2011. The Kansas National Guardsmen deployed for a year-long mission to the Horn of Africa to relieve fellow Kansas Guardsmen of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry. (Photo by Sgt. Jessica Rohr, Public Affairs Office)

Colyer personally identified with the Soldiers and their family as he, too, has made the same sacrifice for his country as a volunteer with the International Medical Corps.

"There are many challenges that these [Soldiers] face. They face them with dignity, courage and professionalism," said Colyer. "There are 5,500 Soldiers and 2,200 Airmen in the Kansas Guard. About 550 will be leaving us today. And they

serve across the world in various theaters - in Afghanistan. They have served in Iraq and they have served in the Horn of Africa and many, many other theaters. I have worked in many of those theaters and I know there is hardship."

"Each of these men and women are going to face that hardship, but when they return that hardship will be a little bit less in the place that they left behind," he con-

tinued. "Certainly it will be more peaceful there than what they left behind, and most importantly, Kansas and America will be more secure because of the sacrifices these men and women are making."

For Lt. Col. Thomas Burke, commander of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, the departure ceremony marked another milestone for the deployment, on top of saying goodbye to family and friends.

"We are excited to have completed another phase of training," said Burke. "This was our second phase. We have one more phase at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. We are really happy about what we have accomplished up to this point, so far."

"We have a lot more hard work ahead of us that we and the Soldiers of this battalion are going to have to do," he said, "but we are ready to meet the challenge and move on to Africa and help relieve the other unit that is there right now."

After Burke's remarks, Tafanelli and Colyer presented an official Kansas flag that had flown over the Kansas Statehouse to Burke to proudly be able to represent during their deployment overseas.

After bringing the ceremony to a close with the singing of the Army song, tearful goodbyes were exchanged.

"It's sad and bittersweet to say goodbye to my family and friends," said Spc. Ginger Jenkins, of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, and a Manhattan, Kan., resident. "I am really excited to go on this deployment for new experiences, but it is sad to leave everyone behind. I know I will get a good experience out of it and meet new people... I hope I learn a lot out of it and become a stronger person."

Guardsmen mentor Djiboutian Army soldiers

By Maj. Khalid Cannon
CJTF-HOA Public Affairs Office

Under an overcast sky, nearly 200 members of the Djiboutian Army's elite 1st Rapid Action Regiment honed their infantry skills and were mentored by members of the Kansas Army National Guard's 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment.

The training included instruction on squad movements, convoy operations, contact drills, camp security and marksmanship, and was part of a one-month course which began Jan. 16 and culminated with a graduation Feb. 10, 2011. The instruction included mortar crew training and a combat engineering course, according to Staff Sgt. Nelson Perkins, mission commander and member of Company C.

"Our mission here is to mentor the Djiboutian military as they prepare for upcoming missions," said Staff Sgt. Travis Elder, an infantry squad leader with the 2-137th. "We're trying to help them so they are capable of preventing conflict, establishing regional stability, and protecting coalition interests here." Elder is also a sheriff's deputy in his hometown located near Topeka, Kan.

"My team and I are out here mentoring the soldiers and helping them along, basically giving them more tools for their toolbox. We're showing them things that have helped us get through certain operations, and we want to help them so they can get

through their future missions without any problem," he said.

One of the biggest challenges the instructors faced was the language barrier due to few Djiboutian soldiers speaking English, according to Sgt. Jonathan Moyer, a team

member with Company E. Instructors relied heavily on 2nd Lt. Omar Ali, Djibouti Army 2nd Company commander, who is fluent in four languages, and Mohamed Said, a Somali-born U.S. Army interpreter.

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Staff Sgt. Nelson Perkins, Company C, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry, draws lines in the dirt to show a soldier of the Djiboutian Army's 1st Quick Reaction Regiment his sector of fire during a training scenario at Camp Ali Oune, Djibouti, Feb. 2, 2011. (Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Lindsey)

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Kansas Guardsmen train for deployment to the Horn of Africa

By Sgt. Jessica Rohr
Public Affairs Office

In preparation for a deployment to the Horn of Africa, Kansas National Guardsmen of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery conducted training at Fort Riley, Kan., in January and February 2011.

About 550 Soldiers will be deploying in April for the second Kansas National Guard mission to the Horn of Africa. They will be relieving Soldiers of the Kansas National Guard's 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry.

Members of the media were invited to Fort Riley on Feb. 17 to watch Soldiers train on live fire exercise scenarios with .30-caliber and .50-caliber machine guns mounted on armored humvees to develop team cohesion, problem solving skills, quick reaction, and other skills needed by Soldiers.

"We combined truck operations with dismounts, where Soldiers engage several different preplanned targets," said Capt. William Chuber, battery commander, and native of Fort Leavenworth, Kan. "The range itself is pretty interesting. It has pop up targets that are computerized, so we can pick which targets we would like for them to engage, be it a truck, a tank or little fake human silhouettes. That is kind of what we are producing today."

"They have to run a route like what you see here on our sand table, and then we also provide variables," said Chuber. "While they are in a firing engagement, they also have to call for artillery or a scenario where one of the trucks break down where they have to hook up and tow a truck out of the training area. It is designed specifically to get the truck crews working together."

During their training, the battery invited local media to view the training and interview Soldiers. This allowed the community valuable insight on their state Guardsmen as well as training the Soldiers on media engagements for overseas. Many questions

were raised as to the differences in the scenarios the Soldiers will face in Africa compared to Afghanistan and Iraq.

"The operational tempo is going to be different. We expect to do a lot of stability operations, working with the local populous and local governments," said Chuber. "So, it will be different. We will not be kicking down doors or doing full on combat operations like we did in Iraq and Afghanistan. So it should be a little easier deployment. It should also be a deployment where we get to work with the local populous and learn a lot about their culture and hopefully they learn a little bit about us, creating some good friendships and stability in the particular region."

To make the deployment possible, Soldiers from different units across Kansas and from other states transferred to the 161st FA.

"When you have people coming from a variety of different backgrounds ... a lot of times they have not been exposed to this type of training or team oriented training," said Staff Sgt. Tony Kirk, a squad leader with Battery B, 161st Field Artillery, and a native of Topeka, Kan. "So this allows them to function as a team. And what we do with this training is dry run ourselves up to this point."

"You take baby steps. It's a crawl walk run kind of stage. Today we are at the run stage. A lot of this training is new to the Soldiers coming in. As we continue to progress through, everyone will kind of understand what their role is and what they are supposed to do."

More and more Kansas Guardsmen are getting the opportunity to train closer to home prior to their deployments overseas, giving them the opportunity to spend more time with their families. The Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, Kan., and many other training sites have also given units the ability to get a lot to the required training accomplished during regular drills.

35th Infantry Division takes part in annual Yama Sakura exercise

By Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Yama Sakura, a bilateral command post exercise, was conducted at Camp Kengun, Kyushu, Japan, Jan. 21- Feb. 3. The exercise focused on strengthening the working relationships between the Japan Ground Self Defense Force and the United States Army.

In the exercise, a simulated invasion landed, vying for control of Kyushu Island. The Japan Ground Self Defense Force Western Army defended its area of operations with coordinated help from the U.S. Army Pacific Command. The 35th Infantry Division's role in the scenario was to act as

the command and control for the war-fighting units on the ground that would push the enemy off the island.

Through multiple days of the exercise, new scenarios were interjected, requiring recalculation of strategies and operations and focusing on U.S. Forces aid in the training of the Japan Ground Self Defense Force counterparts. More than 6,000 soldiers from both armies participated.

First conducted in 1982, the command post exercise underscores the United States' commitment to Japan's defense, in accordance with the mutual defense treaty implemented in 1951 and revised in 1960.



Lt. Col. Tom Barnett (right), 35th Infantry Division Chief of Operations, briefed his Japanese Western Army, 4th Division counterparts Col. Yoshitomo Hashize through his interpreter, Sgt. 1st Class Ryo Furusada, during Yama Sakura 59 exercises. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



Soldiers of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, react to an "attack" during a live fire exercise on a range at Fort Riley, Kan., Feb. 17, 2011. The Soldiers were training in preparation for an upcoming deployment to the Horn of Africa. (Photo by Sgt. Jessica Rohr, Public Affairs Office)

"Training in Kansas benefits the state all around," said Kirk. "With the community I come from, there is a lot of community support. So training the Soldiers right here, and giving them the opportunity not to travel very far away and still get the quality training that they need prior to the [mobi-

lization] site is extremely important. This shows that Kansas is fully capable of training up their troops and getting them prepared to go serve and conduct missions overseas. It means that we are providing quality training and we don't have to go out of the state to do that."

Soldiers share news know-how with Afghan journalists

By Staff Sgt. Ryan Matson
Combined Joint Task Force 101

If you asked Staff Sgt. Greg Zuercher back in 1984 what he'd be doing today, he probably would have never guessed he'd be in Afghanistan giving tips on newswriting to Afghan journalists.

But that's exactly what the military journalist with the Kansas Agribusiness Development Team #3 was doing Feb. 23 at the first Laghman Province Afghan Journalism Seminar in Mehtar Lam.

Zuercher, who graduated with a degree in journalism from Kansas State University in 1984, taught a newswriting segment of the two-day professional development seminar.

"I tried to show the journalists how they can use a short sentence to draw the reader into the story and then present the facts," said Zuercher of Wichita, Kan. "I told them that their initial sentence needs to be a grabber; it needs to grab the reader and encourage them to read on."

Zuercher, a member of the Kansas National Guard's 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, was one of the military journalists who shared their knowledge and tips with their Afghan counterparts during the seminar. About 40 local Afghan journalists, including eight women, attended.

The training was organized by U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Brittany Martin, a public affairs officer with the Laghman Provincial Reconstruction Team, and a native of Katy, Texas. Both Zuercher and Martin are serving with 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment, Task Force Ironman, part of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, Task Force Red Bulls.

"The director of Information, Culture and Youth, Fazzinullah Patan, has been proactive in increasing the capability of Laghman's media," Martin said. "We are excited that he allowed us to work with his department to conduct this training, and we

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Staff Sgt. Greg Zuercher, Wichita, Kan., a Kansas Agribusiness Development Team military journalist working with 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment, Task Force Ironman, talks to an Afghan journalist at the Information, Culture and Youth Center in Mehtar Lam, Afghanistan, Feb. 23. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Matson)

Posting? Blogging? Browsing? Be aware of DoD social media policies

By Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke
National Guard Bureau

National Guard members need to know that even though a DoD policy authorizes them to use many of the social media and other Web 2.0 platforms available on a non-classified government computer, there are consequences for misuse of them.

"Access will vary among the states, but DoD has granted access to Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and YouTube as long as users don't compromise operational security, participate in illegal activities or try to open prohibited Websites," said Jack Harrison, the director of public affairs for the National Guard Bureau.

He added there are two kinds of Internet posts, unofficial and official. Unofficial Internet posts are not initiated by any part of the National Guard or reviewed within any official National Guard approval process. Official Internet posts involve content released in an official capacity by a National Guard public affairs office.

Posting internal documents or information that the National Guard has not officially released to the public is prohibited, including memos, emails, meeting notes, message traffic, white papers, public affairs guidance, pre-decisional materials, investigatory information and proprietary information.

Guard members are also not allowed to release National Guard email addresses, telephone numbers or fax numbers not already authorized for public release.

They are, however, encouraged to responsibly engage in unofficial Internet posts about the National Guard.

When assigned to a federal mission, Guard members must comply with Army or Air Force guidelines for use of social media and are subject to disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

As with other forms of communication, Guard members must also adhere to federal

laws, National Guard regulations and governing policies when making unofficial Internet posts.

They are personally responsible for all content that they publish on social networking sites, blogs or other Websites.

"They must also be mindful of the content not related to the National Guard that they post, since the lines between a Guard member's personal and professional life are often blurred," Harrison said.

When communicating online about the National Guard in unofficial Internet posts, they may identify themselves as Guard members and include their rank, military component and status.

However, if they decide not to identify themselves as Guard members, they should not disguise, impersonate or misrepresent their identity or affiliation with the National Guard.

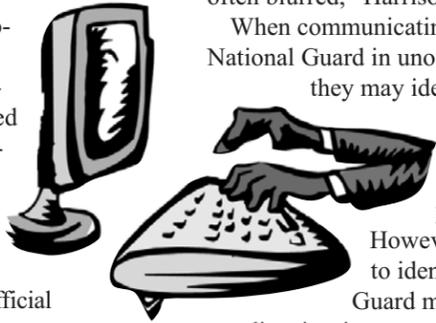
When expressing personal opinions, Guard members should make it clear that they are speaking for themselves and not on behalf of the National Guard. They are also encouraged to use a disclaimer such as: "The postings on this site are my own and don't represent the National Guard's positions or opinions."

Guard members must avoid offensive and inappropriate behavior that could bring discredit upon themselves and the National Guard. This includes posting any defamatory, libelous, obscene, abusive, threatening, racially or ethnically hateful or otherwise offensive or illegal information or material.

Correcting errors and misrepresentations made by others about the National Guard should be done professionally and respectfully, not emotionally. Guard members should contact their chain of command or public affairs office for guidance if they are uncertain about the need for a response.

When posting political content, Guard members must adhere to policy in Department of Defense

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35th Infantry Division prepares to exercise full spectrum operations

By Lt. Col. Rick Peat
35th Infantry Division PAO

For nearly 10 years, the Army has been fighting the War on Terrorism. The operational tempo of fighting two campaigns simultaneously has been high the entire time, requiring the Army to focus its limited training time and resources on low-intensity conflict and stability operations. Yet, conventional threats from countries with established militaries continue to exist.

Some of the knowledge and skills required for this type of fight has atrophied to some extent.

Secretary of Defense Dr. Robert M. Gates said, "One of the Army's concerns... is getting back to training for high intensity situations—a capability vitally important to deter aggression and shape behavior of other nations... one of the principle challenges the Army faces is to regain the traditional edge of fighting conventional wars."

The Army's realization that we must reinvigorate training for conventional wars, while sustaining competence in low-intensity conflict and stability operations is the impetus for a new type of exercise developed by the Battle Command Training Program at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. This new Full-Spectrum Exercise is the upgrade to and replacement for the Warfighter exercise with which many Soldiers are familiar.

Regarding the new exercise, Col. Michael McGuire, chief of Battle Command Training Program's Operations Group said, "The goal of all those involved... is to harness the lessons learned of 10 years of persistent conflict, combined with key aspects from our Warfighter Exercises of the past, to make the Full-Spec-

trum Exercise truly a value-added training event. We believe the Full-Spectrum Exercise focus falls in line with the recently published Army Training Strategy - training will be realistic, tough, demanding and fast-paced against hybrid threats."

The 35th Division will be the first Army division to be exercised under the new Full-Spectrum Exercise methodology. "The FSX rotation is a great opportunity for all of us in the division, and the brigades participating with us, to learn and practice our craft," said Maj. Gen. John Davoren, commander, 35th Infantry Division. "The emphasis of the exercise is for units to understand the current and emerging doctrine and to practice warfighting skills that have atrophied in recent years."

A Mission Command Seminar was held Feb. 14-18 at the 35th Division Headquarters at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., to learn the latest doctrine for mission command, establish relationships with the other units involved in the Full-Spectrum Exercise and to analyze the mission assigned to the 35th Division within the upcoming exercise.

"The seminar is the first step in a training experience that will require study and hard work," Davoren told his staff. "Make the most of this week and develop your plan for follow-on training in preparation for the exercise in September."

Mission Command is a new concept in the updated Army Field Manual 3-0 Operations. The earlier concepts of "Battle Command" and "Command and Control" did not adequately address the increasing need for the commander to frequently frame and reframe the mission in an environment with ill-structured

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Rose receives Air Force assignment

Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose, director of the Joint Staff, Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas, Kansas National Guard, has been assigned as the Air National Guard Assistant to the Commander, 17th Air Force. The 17th Air Force serves as the Air



Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose

Component responsible for all Air Force activities within the U.S Africa Command. The assignment is for a three-year period. This duty is concurrent with her current assignment with the Kansas National Guard.

Rose is responsible to keep the director of the Air National Guard abreast of critical 17th Air Force issues and the potential impact of those issues on the Air National Guard. She also coordinates all 17th Air Force National Guard matters with the adjutants general of the states and territories, and the District of Columbia.

ESGR rolls out new program

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is partnering with other federal agencies to seek opportunities that will enhance employment options for service members and their family members through the roll-out of the Employment Initiative Program.

ESGR is already actively engaged with several federal agencies in this pursuit to include the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Labor/ Veterans Employment and Training Service, Small Business Administration Office of Personnel Management, Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces and the Yellow Ribbon Program. In addition, ESGR is working with key non-federal entities where the relationship enhances the mission, goals and objectives of Employment Initiative Program.

ESGR committees are to take full advantage of all programs in partnership with public and private entities, to enhance employment opportunities for service members and their families, especially focusing on those completing active duty tours and

our Wounded Warriors. ESGR will strive to accomplish this by:

- Communicating the value to employers inherent in hiring current and former members of the Armed Forces
- Creating personal and virtual channels through which employers and service members can communicate easily and effectively
- Leveraging the local knowledge of ESGR Committee members
- Collaborating with federal, state and local entities, and the private sector
- Paying special attention to the needs and abilities of Wounded Warriors

Kansas ESGR has sponsored three Job Fairs in 2009 and 2010 and will partner with Kansas Works on future Job Fairs. The Kansas Department of Labor and Kansas ESGR have partnered together and implemented a Transition Assistance Program to assist returning deployed Guardsmen and Reserve members in job search preparation.



Lt. Col. Tom Barnett, 35th Division chief of operations, backbriefs the commanding general on the results of a mission analysis design session that he led during the Mission Command Seminar held at the Battle Command Training Center Feb. 14 to 18. (Photo by Lt. Col. Rick Peat, 35th Infantry Division)

Take the lead in being safe on the job

By Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marvin Terhune
State Safety Officer

Last year's mistakes and shortcomings are over and done. This year is a new opportunity to do things better.

Consider what you can do to help ensure your safety on the job this year. See if you need improvement in these areas:

- Training: Take advantage of any opportunities for continued training in how to do your job safely and well. If you do not understand the hazards and precautions related to your work, ask until



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marvin Terhune

you get satisfactory answers.

- Awareness: Stay alert and know what you are doing at all times when you are on the job. Pay attention to your surroundings.
- Communication: Report any hazards and safety concerns to your supervisor. Warn fellow workers of danger. Follow up to make sure safety problems are corrected promptly.
- Personal Protective Equipment: Use the required protective equipment whenever it is needed—even for quick tasks. Maintain your protective equipment so it will continue to function properly.

Resolve to make this a year of better driving and other safety improvements in your life. Take some time to consider your personal safety resolutions to protect yourself and family from injury! Be safe!

Looking ahead requires creative thinking and planning

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

For many years, I served as a state representative, and spent a significant amount of time focused on the needs of the state on a year-to-year basis. Now as the adjutant general, I must do the same with the Kansas Adjutant General's Department while at the same time preparing the agency to be relevant in the future.

In days of reduced budgets and limited resources, we are all being asked to do more with less. We must be thinking about how our organization should look in five, 10, even 20 years. Change happens rapidly and we must anticipate that change as we look ahead and plan strategically.

It's important we consider what we can do individually in our current roles to get our organization on the right track for the future. Knowing we will have fewer and fewer resources, it's up to us to decide what will be critical projects and programs to keep funding and what will be something we might need to cut back as we prepare to go through the next five to 10 years.

What should the Kansas National Guard look like in 2020 or 2025? What should the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and Kansas Homeland Security look like in 2020 or 2025? These are questions we must ask today and begin planning to address now so that we will still be a viable and relevant force for our state and nation.

We will soon welcome home approximately 560 Soldiers of the 2nd Combined

Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment from the Horn of Africa. The 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery and attached 35th Military Police left in March to take over the Horn of Africa mission from the CAB.

These enduring missions like the Horn of Africa and the Agribusiness Development Teams in Afghanistan are important to the Kansas National Guard because it allows our troops to learn the lay of the land, develop relationships with the locals and better prepare the next unit we send on such a mission.

Today, more than ever before, the National Guard is being asked to serve as an operational force rather than just a reserve force. We've taken on missions that at one time would have been only filled by active duty Soldiers and Airmen. As the war has gone on since 2003 and Department of Defense has passed more and more missions to the Guard, we have been prepared to handle these missions each and every time. This is just another indication of the kind of changes we must be ready for in the future.

Our 190th Air Refueling Wing recently completed an important round of tests with Northrop Grumman. This was the first round of flight testing with the company's Guardian System anti-missile technology on board a KC-135 Stratotanker. This new and long-awaited equipment will provide the aircraft with much needed safety and protection in battle zones.

As social media is becoming a more popular form of communication, the Kansas Adjutant General's Department has established several social media sites and we hope you will find us on Facebook and Twitter. We have sites for the Kansas National Guard, Kansas Division of Emergency Management and Kansas Adjutant General's Department. You will find links to each of these on the home page of our website: www.kansastag.gov. While social

media is a great new tool, we must be careful how we use it and make sure we don't put our troops in jeopardy by providing information to the enemy. A department social media policy and guidelines are being developed to provide our employees, troops and families information on the safest way to use social media.

Now that we're getting closer to the anniversary of the Greensburg, Kan., tornado (May 4, 2007), it's time to ensure we are all prepared for spring storm season in our state, both personally and professionally. Please check your emergency kits to ensure you have plenty of bottled water, non-perishable foods, and medications to take care of your family and yourself for up to three days. As we get farther into tornado season, check your weather radios and ensure your family knows your planned meeting location if you become separated without phone communication. In Kansas, we can no longer say "it won't happen to me." We know it can and it has happened to our very own residents many times. Let's do our best to take these simple steps for ourselves and

our families. It might just be the simple things that save a life.

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate several of our staff in the Kansas Adjutant General's Department. First, to Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose on her recent assignment as the Air National Guard Assistant to the Commander, 17th Air Force. The 17th Air Force serves as the Air Component for all Air Force activities in the U.S. Africa Command.

Also, congratulations are in order for Col. Keith Lang, who is the new Air Guard Chief of Staff and has been nominated to become a brigadier general. Congratulations, as well, to Col. Ronald Krueger, who is the new 190th Air Refueling Wing commander. Double congratulations to Chief Master Sgt. Jimmy Brown, who became the new chief command master sergeant for the Kansas Air National Guard and recently became the assistant chief for the Kansas City, Kan., Police Department with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

And finally, congratulations to the new 184th Intelligence Wing Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Russell Brotsky.



Maj. Gen. (KS)
Lee Tafanelli

Soldier to Soldier Change – it's going to happen

By Command Sgt. Maj. Ed Boring

Have you ever sat down and given some thought to how things have changed over the years? It seems every day something has changed in the way we handle our jobs or look at things.



Command Sgt. Maj.
Ed Boring

I was recently listening to a speech on how the National Guard has changed and got to thinking to myself how things have changed since I joined the military. For me it was just 39 years ago. (Yes, I know that's longer than a lot of our Soldiers are old.) It doesn't seem that long ago I was heading to boot camp with the Marines. I was 17 years old, just left high school and had hair below my shoulders. Talk about change getting ready to happen!

After that first day, I no longer had hair (For those who don't know me, I still don't, but for completely different reasons.) That was one time my whole outlook on life changed. Believe me, I had a real quick lesson in attitude adjustments. Looking back, this was one of the better changes in my life, but at the time I would have argued with you about this.

It wasn't that many years back that one of the main reasons a young person

joined the Guard was to party on drill weekends or to party at summer camp. We were called "weekend warriors" for a reason. But just look how things have changed now. We have come a long way the past few years and we are now looked upon by most in the Regular Army as equals. We now require our Soldiers to be Soldiers and not partiers, as in the past.

We have seen many changes within the Guard. We change leadership every couple of years at the brigade and battalion levels. Our new leaders often change the way they feel things should be done to make things better, as they see it. As Soldiers, we need to make adjustments to make the changes work.

We all have had new company and battery commanders, along with new platoon leaders. And let's not forget about the movement of our noncommissioned officers. Some move up due to promotions and others move due to open vacancies because of retirements and estimated time of separation.

Just recently we had a change at the top of our leadership. We not only have a new governor, but also a new adjutant general, assistant adjutant general for the Army Guard and chief of staff, as well as new leadership in some of the joint directorates. With all of this new leadership, you can bet we will have many changes in the future.

So, what has changed over the years in your life? You can be part of the change or you can let change pass you by. Be ready because change is coming!

PT, Phase II and MOS 131A

By Chief Warrant Officer 4 Hector Vasquez
State Command Chief Warrant Officer

Spring is just around the corner and the weather is turning nice, which means that your units will be conducting physical fitness tests. So, if you haven't exercised yet, now is the time to start. Don't wait until a week before your test to start exercising. What you will end up doing is either pulling a muscle or you will be too sore to run. The older we get the longer it takes to recover from an injury. Remember you are setting the example for your troops, so "lead from the front" — get out there and show your section and unit that you are capable of passing a PT test.



Command Chief
Warrant Officer 4
Hector Vasquez

We conducted Phase II of Warrant Officer Candidate School in Salina in March. Phase II is a five-month course where the candidates meet one weekend a month. The driving force for Warrant Officer Candidate School is to produce warrant officers better qualified to operate effectively in the demanding operational environment. The current course focus emphasizes officer roles and responsibilities.

With Phase II completed, the candidates will attend Phase III at Camp Atterbury, Ind., for two weeks. Phase III consists of warrior tasks and battle drill related activities that provide leadership opportunities while emphasizing lessons relevant to the operational environment. These activities conclude in a field leadership exercise that draws heavily on recent lessons learned. This training

provides candidates expanded opportunities to apply flexible, adaptive leadership principles in stressful, sometimes ambiguous, situations to reinforce and build upon previous classroom instruction and discussion. Once the field leadership exercise is completed, each candidate will graduate as a warrant officer 1. We will have warrant officer candidates from Nebraska, South Dakota and Kansas.

Now that Warrant Officer Candidate School has started at the Kansas Regional Training Institute, it is time to concentrate on the next candidate school the KSRTI will conduct for next year. If you are interested in becoming a warrant, now is the time to start on the predetermination packet.

One of the hardest tasks to complete is the applicant packet, due to all of the data required, such as noncommissioned officer evaluation reports, waivers, physicals, biography and official college transcripts. It can take from three to six months to approve a packet and that is after Officer Personnel in Kansas approves the packet. The packet then goes to proponent for approval and other departments, depending if a waiver is requested.

So, don't think that the predetermination process is quick. It takes time and the packets are screened and reviewed because the warrant officers are looking for "high speed" superior noncommissioned officers that would make good warrant officers.

Now that the weather is good, my recruiter and I will be making visits to units all over Kansas to talk to noncommissioned officers interested in becoming warrant officers. We will be focusing on the warrant officer Military Occupation Specialties that we are short of, such as 120A Construction Engineer; 131A Artillery; 150U, 151A and 153A Aviation; 254 Sig-

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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).

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Holy days and holy times

By Chaplain (Col.) Don Davidson
State Chaplain

The word "holy" is used in a variety of different ways, from Harry Carey's famous "Holy Cow" to the word "holiday," which combines the word holy and day. After many years of life and military service, I have heard the word used as both adjective and adverb and not in the most religious of ways. Actually, holy means to be "set apart" for a particular religious reason or expression.



Chaplain (Col.) Don Davidson

There are many "Holy Days" this time of year. For Jewish folks, Passover begins April 19 and lasts for seven days. The celebration of the release of the Israelites from their years of captivity by the Egyptians includes the "Seder," which is a religious meal and festival of sorts. The mood at a Seder is both melancholy and festive as those attending are asked to pause and consider the acts of their forebears, and celebrate freedom from oppression. During the meal, participants pray for all people who are held against their will. The meal includes ritual prayers, readings, singing and eating with a series of questions and

...holy means to be "set apart" for a particular religious reason or expression.

answers. While the principal Seder is held in the home, most Jewish temples or synagogues hold public Seders, as well.

Many Christian denominations celebrate the Holy days of Lent, a season of self-denial and fasting based upon the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness before his baptism in the Jordan River and the beginning of his public ministry. The Orthodox begin Lent on the Monday prior to Ash Wednesday, while others begin with Ash Wednesday itself. Ash Wednesday is a day in which people are asked to consider their own mortality; in some churches this is manifested by marking the cross on the forehead with the ashes of the past year's palms from Palm Sunday. Celebrating Lent includes giving up something that is keeping the person from a relationship with Christ and taking on a new intention in learning. The season of Lent is followed by Holy Week, the week prior to Easter, which includes services for Maundy (or Holy) Thursday and Good Friday, the day that Jesus was executed. Holy Week extends from April 18-22.

Holy Days remind people of their heritage, their faith and give them hope for the future.

Senate bill would confer legal "veteran" status on reservists

On March 4, 2011, Sen. Mark Pryor introduced S.491, Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act of 2011. On March 10, 2011, Rep. Tim Walz introduced H.R.1025, co-sponsored by Representatives Tom Latham and Jon Runyan, to amend Title 38 to recognize service in the Reserve Components by honoring them with status as "veteran" under law. Both H.R.1025 and S.491 are cost-neutral and provide an opportunity for a divided Congress to come together in support of our Reserve Component members.

Many members of Congress may not know that a Reserve Component member can complete a full Guard or Reserve career but not earn the title of "Veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States" unless the member has served on Title 10 active duty for other than training purposes.

Today, National Guard members performing Operation Noble Eagle duty or protecting our Southwestern border in a Title 32 status may one day retire from the Guard, but not qualify to be classified as a veteran of our Armed Forces.

Title 38 (Veteran's Benefits) excludes career reservists from the definition of

"veteran" who have not served on Title 10 (active duty) for other than training purposes. Drill training, annual training, active duty for training and Title 32 duty are currently not qualifying service to earn veteran status.

This cost neutral bill would not bestow any benefits other than the honor of claiming "veteran" status for Reserve Component members who completed a 20 year career but were never ordered to Title 10 active service.

The National Guard Association of the United States is urging its members to contact their elected representatives on this issue, either directly or by going to the NGAUS Web site (www.ngaus.org/writecongress) and using the "Write to Congress" feature. A sample letter is included on the site allowing members to e-mail the pre-written message or edit the sample letter as desired. For more in-depth information and background, visit the NGAUS web site at www.ngaus.org.

Please direct any questions concerning this issue to Pete Duffy, NGAUS Deputy Legislative Director at 202-454-5307 or via email at pete.duffy@ngaus.org.

57th Annual Joint State Conference held in Lawrence March 25 - 27

The Kansas National Guard's 190th Air Refueling Wing hosted the 57th Annual Joint State Conference March 25 - 27 with featured speaker Lt. Gen. Frank Grass, deputy commander, United States Northern Command, and vice commander, U.S. Element, North American Aerospace Defense Command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. The conference was held at the Holiday Inn, Lawrence, Kan.

The Joint State Conference events are a mixture of addresses from key speakers, workshops, awards presentations, memorials and social events involving the State Family Program Training, Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kansas, the

National Guard Association of Kansas.

Members of the Kansas National Guard also had the opportunity to attend professional development training at the Joint State Conference. Featured speakers for the professional development training included Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general; Brig. Gen. Brad Link, commander of the Kansas Air National Guard; Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard; and Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose, director of the Joint Staff, Joint Forces Headquarters.

Breakout sessions for family members were conducted during the professional development training sessions.

35th ID full spectrum operations

Continued from Page 3

tured problems, and to gain the context of operations by continuously challenging assumptions both before and during execution, according to Gen. Martin Dempsey, commanding general of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command. Mission Command employs the art of command and the science of control to enable commanders, supported by staffs, to integrate all warfighting functions and enable agile and adaptive commanders, leaders and organizations.

The following units participated in the Mission Command Seminar and will par-

ticipate in the exercise with the 35th Division in September: 110th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (Missouri), 142d Fires Brigade (Arkansas), 33d Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Illinois), 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team (Pennsylvania), 287th Sustainment Brigade (Kansas), 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team (Tennessee), 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (Alaska), and the 238th Air Support Operations Squadron (Mississippi). In addition, the 38th Infantry Division (Indiana) will participate as the higher headquarters, replicating a corps level headquarters.

Be aware of social media policies

Continued from Page 3

ment of Defense Directive 1344.10. They should also not imply National Guard endorsement of any opinions, products or causes other than those already officially endorsed by the National Guard.

Guard members should not release personal identifiable information, such as social security number, home address or driver's license number that could be used to distinguish their individual identity or that of another Guardsman.

By piecing together information provided on different Websites, criminals can use information to impersonate Guard members and steal passwords.

Guard members should use privacy settings on social networking sites so posted personal information and photos can be viewed only by their "friends." They should also recognize that social network "friends" and "followers" could affect determinations in background investigations for security clearances.

"There should be no assumption of privacy when Guard members begin to inter-

act with others online," Harrison said.

Guard members should not post information that would infringe upon the privacy, proprietary or personal rights of others or use any words, logos or other marks that would infringe upon the trademark, service mark, certification mark, or other intellectual property rights of the owners of such marks without the permission of the owners.

The National Guard, Army or Air Force logo and other symbols may be used in unofficial posts as long as the symbols are used in a manner that does not bring discredit upon the Guard, result in personal financial gain or give the impression of official or implied endorsement.

Guard members should review their accounts daily for possible use or changes by unauthorized users and should install and maintain current anti-virus and anti-spyware software on their personal computers.

For answers to social media questions, Guard members should contact the public affairs office (NGKSSTAFFPAO@us.army.mil) or the National Guard social media office at socialmedia@ng.army.mil.

Museum of the Kansas National Guard UNIT BRICK PATIO PROJECT

With the purchase of 30 new bricks, the Museum Board will purchase two specially painted and engraved header stones to outline your unit area. This can be your distinctive unit insignia or your own design.

The goal is to have every Battalion/Squadron, Regiment, Brigade, Wing and Division level unit represented, but companies or deployed unit symbols can also be engraved.



To purchase header bricks, e-mail your design to the Museum with check or money order.

- \$150 for 8x8 color engraved stone for Company, Battalion or Squadron
- \$200 for 8x12 color engraved stone for Regiment, Brigade, Wing and Division

The 35th Division Annex and Brick Patio area is complete and available for the project. This is the time to honor your unit, your service or your family by ordering your inscribed brick. This tax deductible gift helps support the museum. These engraved bricks make great birthday or holiday presents.

To purchase individual bricks for your unit area, return your desired inscription and check or money order payable to the Museum of the Kansas National Guard to the address below. Please indicate which unit area you wish to have your brick placed.

Exterior Brick (\$50 each) Inscription is 3 lines, max; 14 characters per line

Indicate which unit area this brick belongs to: _____

Museum of the Kansas National Guard
ATTN: Unit Brick Project
6700 S Topeka Boulevard, Bldg 301
P.O. 19285
Topeka, KS 66619-0285

Questions? Please contact the museum at kngmuseum@aol.com or museum board project officer, Robert.Bloomquist@us.army.mil

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

Armenian law enforcement officials observe Kansas police techniques

By Sgt. Jessica Rohr
Public Affairs Office

Five police officers from Armenian police departments visited several police stations throughout Kansas in March for a week and a half, to meet with officials about community policing.

The Armenian delegation consisted of Col. Karen Mehrabyan, deputy head of the Public Order Department of the Police, Republic of Armenia; Lt. Col. Vladimir Avagimyan, deputy head of Arabkir Police District and advisor to the National Coordinator of CP issues; Maj. Armen Doydoyan, head of the Prevention Unit, Erebuni District Police; Maj. Vardan Hovhannisyanyan, head of Community Police Unit, Arabkir Police Station; and Maj. Hakob Petrosyan, deputy head of Information Analysis, Planning and Supervisions Division, Headquarters, Police of the Republic of Armenia.

The visit was the result of a collaborative partnership between Kansas law enforcement institutions, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and the Kansas National Guard's State Partnership Program. The goal is to assist Armenia in its effort to develop a community policing program and exchange ideas with regard to law enforcement reform.

Since 2003, Kansas officials have traveled to Armenia to establish partnerships with military and civilian leaders. The State Partnership Program is coordinated by the National Guard Bureau with each U.S. state matching with a foreign counterpart. Kansas law enforcement joined the program's initiative in 2005.

The Armenian delegates met with Kansas City, Kan., officials from March 9-12. During their visit, the delegation observed a Community Policing operation in the Midtown Patrol Division. Kansas law enforcement assisted the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe by supporting them in expanding their Community Policing Project in Armenia. The Kansas City operation included many of the tools available to Community Policing officers such as the Crime Analysis Unit, Neighborhood Crime Prevention Patrol, Sheriff's Department, probation and parole officers and the Narcotics Unit. The goal of this operation was to develop suspect information regarding individuals involved in criminal activity and to resolve issues that



A delegation of law enforcement officials from the Republic of Armenia observe Kansas City, Kan., police officers during a community policing patrol. The Armenians visited several police agencies across the state during their visit in March. (Photo by Sgt. Jessica Rohr, Public Affairs Office)

may be creating an environment that is conducive to criminal activity.

For their last day with the Kansas City, Kan., police department, the delegates observed police officers on duty. The Armenians were taken to a variety of incidents in the area, where they observed the officers respond to an array of incidents in the area from a homicide to conducting a vehicle search. After each incident, the Armenian officers were able to ask questions about the response to better understand the officers' decision-making processes.

Currently, the Armenian police focus on protecting their government instead of patrolling the streets conducting community policing. However, they want to start focusing on community policing.

"We are not patrolling in the streets, but the country's life," said Armenian Col. Karen Mehrabyan.

"In the capitol city of Armenia we have a pilot project of community policing. We learned a lot about how to arrange our goals and strategies of community policing, and what will be more applicable in Armenia," said Mehrabyan. "We are observing and taking back the best experience that has already been developed in this country."

Djiboutian Army graduates first paramilitary class

By Staff Sgt. Robert Biermann
CJTF - Horn of Africa

Eleven Djiboutian law enforcement officers or "Gendarmerie" graduated from the first paramilitary training class March 2, at the Ali Ouney Djiboutian Army Camp headquarters.

The three-week course, supported by the Gendarmerie, Djiboutian Armed Forces and members of the Kansas Army National Guard's 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, began Feb. 12 in Ali Ouney. All students were taught local and military law enforcement practices.

"We shared law enforcement techniques and crowd control measures in support of their upcoming elections and deployments," said Capt. Bryan Gregory, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment. "We were able to use our prior experience and training to compliment what they're doing."

During the ceremony, Col. Zakaria, chief of staff of the Gendarmerie, praised the U.S. military for their support.

"I want to thank you for this training," said Zakaria. "Ninety percent of our duties fall in specific areas and our mission is very diverse."

This training was very beneficial," he

said. "I was there when you completed some of the training. Now, many more units are interested in this training. I appreciate it. Again, thank you."

Lt. Col. Ali Aden, logistics director, Djiboutian Army, has worked since 2007 to get the course up and running.

"This was something very beneficial," said Ali. "Our soldiers needed this 'drilling.' It was good for them."

According to Ali, the partnership morally prepared the men for the mission and harsh environment, and to work with different nationalities.

"It psychologically tested them to see if they really wanted to do this," said Ali, "and, knowing that we speak and understand their language, we can better serve."

The Kansas Guardsmen have worked with the Djiboutian Armed Forces in a variety of joint efforts since January 2010. Both parties eventually hope to take advantage of a schoolhouse, currently scheduled to be constructed by 2014, where larger classes can be held and regional preparations can be conducted.

"We used to partner up with other people to complete the training," said Ali. "With the Guardsmen, we're doing more now than we've done in several years."

"We are observing and taking back the best experience that has already been developed in this country."

*Col. Karen Mehrabyan,
Republic of Armenia*

case, citizen-Airmen. Brown is a chief master sergeant with the Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas, Kansas Air National Guard and in April will become the state command chief master sergeant, making him the senior noncommissioned airman in the Kansas National Guard.

Brown merges his civilian and National Guard duties as law enforcement liaison with the State Partnership Program. Brown knows first-hand the importance of the program's exchange visits, having visited Armenia on several occasions as part of the State Partnership Program.

"My past trips to Armenia have been very educational," said Brown. "I have learned so much during my travels there, and no doubt, we'll be learning more from these law enforcement executives during their visit, just as they are learning from us."

While in Kansas, the Armenian delegation also visited police departments in Overland Park, Wichita, Lawrence and Park City, as well as the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in Hutchinson.

Course builds EO Leaders

The Kansas National Guard conducted its seven day annual Equal Opportunity Leader's course March 1-6 at the Topeka South Armory. There were 20 students from five different states that were enrolled in this year's class.

The majority of the students were from Kansas, but this year the program was placed on the Army Training Resources and Requirements System, drawing students from four other states. Most of the attendees are preparing to deploy as Equal Opportu-

nity Leaders with their respective units.

Students participated in class discussion, lecture and research during the course. Each student had to prepare an Equal Opportunity/Special Emphasis brief and complete a written exam to qualify.

Equal Opportunity Leaders are an essential part of a commander's Equal Opportunity Program. These leaders are prepared and ready to assist their commanders in ensuring combat readiness for their Soldiers through an effective Equal Opportunity program.

Soldiers share news know-how

Continued from Page 2

look forward to holding follow-on sessions to continue to improve the skills of the local journalists."

On the first day of the seminar, Feb. 22, Mahtab Farid, a native of Santa Monica, Calif., and U.S. State Department public diplomacy officer who has worked as a journalist in the U.S., discussed the elements of writing a solid lead, or introduction, to a news story.

She also stressed that the most important factor in any story is to present the truth with confirmed facts from reliable sources.

Zuercher built on this training the second day, and also featured tips on photography from other Ironman journalists. The journalists then separated into working groups in which the Afghan journalists sat down with American military journalists from Task Force Ironman to discuss the leads they had written.

During the working group, the Afghans and Americans worked together to formulate questions for the seminar's grand finale, an actual press conference by Laghman Province Director of Forestry, Haji Auhe. When the TF Ironman journalists were originally drafting out the seminar, they planned on hosting mock scenarios, but Zuercher

thought of a better idea.

"I suggested instead of picking a fictitious story to hold a press conference on, that we choose something that's a real on-going event," Zuercher said. "I thought of the reforestation program that the Kansas Agribusiness Development Team is hosting, and it turned out to be a good story, and something that we could bring a subject matter expert in to speak on."

That subject matter expert was Auhe, who spoke at length about the reforestation project, which has brought 35,000 new trees to the province already and will bring about 125,000 by its completion. The journalists asked questions on all aspects of the project, from who will care for the new trees to how long the trees will produce fruit.

Atiquallah Qurashi, a writer for a Laghman Province weekly magazine, was one of the journalists who attended the seminar.

"We learned to report the facts of our story in a concise manner," Qurashi said. "The instructors showed us how to shorten our reports and still get all the facts in. The best part of the seminar for me was that the Americans did not talk to us like students; they talked to us like friends. I will use the things I learned in this seminar every single day on the job."

Pratt National Guard Unit Reunion

The Pratt National Guard unit will be having a reunion June 11 at 5 p.m. at Lemons Park, Pratt. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited. Bring the family and something for the potluck table or cooler. Please RSVP by June 10 to daveandviola@yahoo.com or 650-678-3506.

Crisis City hosts Open House and Disaster Preparedness Fair

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

The Kansas Division of Emergency Management hosted the first ever Crisis City Open House and Disaster Preparedness Fair March 12, 2011, at Crisis City, a multidiscipline training facility near Salina, Kan. This event was held in conjunction with the Severe Weather Awareness Week March 7-13.

Frank Coots, Crisis City manager, said the open house and preparedness fair was a family friendly event.

“Our goal is to heighten public awareness for disaster preparedness and to showcase the state’s premier all-hazards training complex for first responders,” said Coots.

“My grandson and I came out to see all the training that takes place, what it’s like to actually be trained to do stuff like this,” said Dale Tolbert. “Very impressive.”

“My three sons are pretty excited about the whole firefighting thing,” said Steven Williams, one of the open house participants, “so it was a good chance to let them come out and see stuff that they wouldn’t normally get to see.”

As much as letting the public see the facility, the fair was a chance to promote the

training capabilities available to the state’s first responders.

“At Crisis City, first-responders can get real-world, hands-on training without having to travel out of the state,” said Coots.

As someone who has trained at Crisis City, Capt. Bill Schneider of the Olathe Fire Department is enthusiastic about Crisis City’s facilities and easy access.

“Anyone can fly here, drop down at the airport, and can transport out here and they can start working a scenario,” said Schneider.

Static displays for the open house included the State Fire Marshal’s Hazardous Materials Response Trailer, Salina Airport Authority Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting vehicle, the Crisis City/Salina Airport Authority mobile aircraft fuselage trainer, and University of Kansas Fire and Rescue Training Institute Emergency Response and Training equipment tractor-trailer.

Live demonstrations included the Salina Airport Authority Aircraft Rescue and Fire-fighting vehicle suppressing a hazardous material spill on a wrecked train, KU Fire and Rescue Training Institute obstacle breaching and technical rope rescue techniques, and the Kansas Search and Rescue Dog Association K-9 teams searching a

collapsed concrete structure for survivors. Kansas Pipeline Association representatives were on hand to conduct live demonstrations on one of the most advanced petroleum-related training venues in the country, located at Crisis City.

Several Kansas vendors hosted information booths to provide emergency and dis-

aster preparedness-related materials.

Crisis City, located eight miles southwest of Salina, Kan., is a state of the art complex designed to host training for first responders, emergency management professionals, military units and organizations, and public and private industry safety, response, and security organizations.



Open house participants check out some of the full-size rail cars at Crisis City that allow first responders to train for derailments, hazardous material spills and other rail disasters. (Photo by Senior Airman Matt Lucht, Public Affairs Office)



A firefighter cuts through concrete at the “collapsed building” venue, one of several demonstrations that took place during the March 12 open house event at Crisis City, Salina. (Photo by Senior Airman Matt Lucht, Public Affairs Office)



Several youngsters try out a search and rescue camera that allows first responders to search in confined spaces for disaster victims. (Photo by Senior Airman Matt Lucht, Public Affairs Office)

Adjutant general named director of Kansas Homeland Security

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback has signed an executive order which appoints Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, as the Kansas Homeland Security Advisor and as the Director of the Kansas Office of Homeland Security.

Executive Order 11-05 also appoints the Kansas Office of Homeland Security as the State Administrative Agency for the administration of homeland security grants and funds.

“Putting management of our homeland security grants and funds under the Kansas

Office of Homeland Security will ensure the most efficient and cost effective use of all public and private resources in the execution of these duties,” said Brownback.

In addition to advising the governor on homeland security issues, the Homeland Security Advisor is responsible for all homeland security matters within the state and serves as the governor’s personal representative, agent and liaison to the United States Department of Homeland Security and all other governmental and private entities in Kansas involved in homeland security.

Governor proclaims Severe Weather Awareness Week

March is recognized as the beginning of severe weather season in Kansas. Gov. Sam Brownback signed a proclamation declaring the week of March 7-11 as Severe Weather Awareness Week.

During the week, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, in coordination with the National Weather Service, Kansas Emergency Management Association and other state, local and volunteer agencies and organizations, hosted events designed to make the public more aware of severe weather and how to prepare for and respond to emergencies.

“With storm season upon us, it is the responsibility of every Kansan to make sure they are prepared,” said Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and the adjutant general. “Our first responders do heroic work in the face of disasters, but each Kansan can make the responders’ jobs a little safer and easier if we make sure we have a well-stocked emergency kit and a practical emergency plan that every family member knows.”

Tornado drill

As part of the week-long event, a State-wide Tornado Drill was conducted on March 10. Every school, citizen and busi-

ness was encouraged to participate in the drill by practicing seeking secure, safe shelter as if this were a real warning.

In 2010, Kansas was hit by 88 tornadoes, strong damaging winds, heavy rains and large hail, significant flash flooding and other extremes. Fortunately, there was no loss of life attributable to Kansas tornadoes in 2010.

“Storm season” usually manifests in the months of March through August although Kansas Severe Weather Awareness Week is the ideal time to prepare for severe weather.

Prepare an Emergency Kit

Kansans live with the threat of severe weather year round. All Kansans are urged to regularly practice their own severe weather safety plan at home, work, school or other locations. Individuals should know where to seek shelter should severe weather threaten and know how long it will take you to reach that shelter. Attentive preparation is a duty that should be practiced all year long and not just during storm season.

Although tornadoes tend to receive more attention, thunderstorms and high winds frequently cause more damage and occur more often than tornadoes. Flooding, particularly flash flooding, claims the lives of more people than any other weather emergency.

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 with three primary missions:

- Aerospace education
- Cadet programs
- Emergency services

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



190th Air Refueling Wing finishes first round of anti-missile system tests

By Master Sgt. Allen Pickert
190th Air Refueling Wing

It's been said that there are only two kinds of aircraft: fighters and targets. While that is an exaggeration, there is some truth to the statement and even more so when referencing military aircraft. When it comes to aerial combat the 190th's KC-135R Stratotanker, with no weapons and no defenses, could only qualify as a big fat aerial target. However, the Stratotanker's time as a defenseless utility aircraft may be coming to an end.

In March, a 190th tanker took a Large Aircraft Infrared Counter Measure (LAIRCM) package along for operational evaluation to Afghanistan. The primary mission for the tanker and its Kansas Air Guard crew was the evacuation of wounded personnel from the Afghan theater to Ramstein, Germany. Aero medical evacuation is a mission the 190th has performed numerous times in the past, but this time the KC-135 had more protection than just the cover of darkness and an irregular approach to the Bagram Airfield. Mounted to the belly of the plane was the LAIRCM pod, designed to detect and defeat incoming infrared anti-aircraft missiles.

The last 30 years has seen a large proliferation of small, man-portable, self-contained infrared anti-aircraft missiles throughout the world. These weapons are typically shoulder fired with a range of about three miles. There are tens of thousands of these weapons unaccounted for and they are small enough to fit into a car, which means there



An up-close view of Northrop Grumman's Guardian™ pod installed on a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 190th Air Refueling Wing. The pod can be moved from one KC-135 to another and installed in a matter of minutes. (Photo by Sgt. Jessica Rohr, Public Affairs Office)

could be sophisticated anti-aircraft missiles virtually anywhere in the world at anytime. The Northrop Grumman LAIRCM system, known as "The Guardian," is pod-based and designed to detect and employ countermeasures against infrared-guided surface-to-air missiles. When the system detects a launch, it provides 360-degree protection by track-

ing the incoming missile and then jamming the missile's guidance system with a laser beam. The entire process occurs in seconds and requires no action by the tanker's crew.

"It's this sort of cooperative effort between the military and the private sector that drive advances in military technology," said Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tapanelli, the adjutant general. "This new system will provide a strong measure of protection for U.S. airmen as they carry out their vital missions at home and abroad."

The Guardian System is contained almost entirely in a single pod that mounts to the underside of the tanker's fuselage. The system can be removed and mounted on another aircraft in a matter of minutes, providing flexibility and cost savings as it can be removed from aircraft not in harm's

way. This is in stark contrast to typical defensive systems where all the system's components are permanently installed throughout the aircraft.

The system provides the crew and passengers another layer of safety, says Master Sgt. Shad England, 190th avionics, who flew into Afghanistan with the LAIRCM.

"The Guardian system gave everyone involved in the aero medical mission a new sense of security when travelling on a KC-135 into a potentially hostile environment," said England.

Initial indications are that the Guardian system performed well. The Coyote crew made four flights into Afghanistan, bringing more than 60 wounded warriors to Germany. After each flight, the Guardian system required less time and attention with its maintenance, ultimately becoming brief and routine.

"Anti-missile technology is long overdue on the KC-135," said Col. Keith Lang, commander of the 190th Air Refueling Wing. "The Stratotanker has flown in harm's way since Vietnam and the time is right to add this extremely important defensive capability."

The Air Force has not decided if the Guardian system will be standard equipment on Stratotankers. However, the work of the 190th towards the Guardian's development and testing will form much of the basis on which the Air Force will decide the defensive system's future.

The innovation and leadership of the 190th is nothing new for Lt. Col. Jay Selander, who served as the aircraft commander on the recently completed mission. "The 190th has a history of leading the way in KC-135 innovation," said Selander. We have played a significant role in the development of this system, including this opportunity for its first operational deployment and testing. I personally hope that we stay involved with the system as it continues to develop."

Lang, Krueger appointed to new roles in Kansas Air National Guard

Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tapanelli, adjutant general, has announced the selection of Col. Keith Lang as the new chief of staff for the Kansas Air National Guard. Lang will be promoted to brigadier general pending confirmation by the Kansas Senate. He has served as the wing commander, 190th Air Refueling Wing, Kansas National Guard since March 2008.

"Colonel Lang has been a great wing commander and his knowledge and experience will be extremely beneficial for the Air Guard in this new leadership role," said Brig. Gen. Brad Link, commander of the Kansas Air National Guard.

"It's a great privilege for me to take on this new responsibility and I'm looking

forward to serving the Kansas Air Guard in this capacity," said Lang.

Col. Ronald W. Krueger will become the next wing commander of the 190th ARW.

The wing is comprised of nearly 1,000 military personnel and a full-time workforce of approximately 400 people.

"It is an honor to lead the men and women of the 190th Air Refueling Wing and continue our tradition of excellence in our service to Kansas and the nation," said Krueger.

"I'm proud of the leadership we have in place with Col. Lang and Col. Krueger and am confident they will do an excellent job for the Kansas Air Guard," said Tapanelli.



Col. Keith Lang



Col. Ronald Krueger

184th has new command chief



Col. John Hernandez (left), commander of the 184th Intelligence Wing, welcomes the Wing's new command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Russell Brotsky. Brotsky assumed authority from Chief Master Sgt. Sharon Clark (right) prior to her retirement ceremony on March 5, 2011. "Congratulations to Chief Brotsky," said Clark during the ceremony. "I have no doubt that you'll support the enlisted force to the highest level." (Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Intelligence Wing)



Master Sgt. Shad England examines the missile countermeasure system mounted on a 190th Air Refueling Wing KC-135 between aero medical evacuation missions in Afghanistan. (Photo by Master Sgt. Allen Pickert, 190th Air Refueling Wing)

National Guard news: Yes, there's an app for that

The National Guard Bureau has unveiled a new application which enables iPhone and iPad users to stay in touch with National Guard news anytime via their mobile devices.

The National Guard News Mobile App – available for free download at www.ng.mil – keeps readers connected with up-to-the-minute updates and enables the National Guard's Facebook fans and Twitter followers to share their favorite stories with their friends on popular social media platforms.

Mobile device users also can now view "Minuteman Report" video packages showcasing National Guard operations

around the world.

This was the next logical step for news, said National Guard Bureau officials.

"With so many people getting their news from their mobile devices, an app made perfect sense," said Rick Breitenfeldt, chief of social media for the NGB Office of Public Affairs and Strategic Communications.

National Guard Bureau officials said that they are looking at developing similar applications for the Android and BlackBerry operating systems later this year.

For more information or to download the app go to <http://www.ng.mil/features/mobileapp/default.aspx>.

State recognizes April as “Month of the Military Children in Kansas”

State officials will recognize Kansas military children in April in acknowledgement of the sacrifices they make when a parent is deployed in service to the nation.

Gov. Sam Brownback signed a proclamation declaring April as the “Month of the Military Child in Kansas.” More than 33,000 Kansas children have at least one parent serving in the military.

A House Recognition reading and Senate Resolution will be read at 10 a.m., Wednesday, April 27. Legislators from the areas of Fort Leavenworth, Forbes Field, McConnell Air Force Base and Fort Riley co-sponsors are expected for the event.

“As much as we owe a debt of gratitude to the men and women who serve in our armed forces,” said Brownback, “we also owe our gratitude to their families and espe-

cially their children. Because of their service, these military parents and their children often must miss sharing birthdays, graduations, those nightly hugs and kisses and other special moments. It’s up to us, the people that they serve, to see that their families receive the support and honor they are due because of the sacrifices they make.”

April has been declared a time for Kansans to applaud the strength, sacrifice, heroism and continued resilience of children of service men and women. The proclamation encourages Kansans to celebrate and stand by military children.

The salute to military children honors their contributions to Kansas; it will also celebrate that, just as their parents are today’s strength to our nation, military children are the strength of our future.

PT, Phase II and MOS 131A

Continued from Page 4

Nal; 270A Legal; 882A Mobility; 890A Ammunition; 914 Allied Trades; 915 Automotive; 920A&B Property Book and Supply; 921A Airdrop Systems; 922A Food Service; and 923A Petroleum systems.

Over the next several issues of the Plains Guardian, I will include an article from a guest columnist. The guest columnist will be warrant officers from across Kansas who will be providing information about their particular MOS.

This month I’m focusing on the 131A field artillery warrant officer. I myself am a 131A and when I first became a warrant officer, my main responsibility was to repair the firefinder radar systems. I was a radar tech for a few years, then changes came into my MOS requiring the 131A to become targeting, counter fire, intelligence and information operations officers. The field artillery warrant officer would now become the subject matter expert in these areas in addition to maintaining the radar systems.

The Warrant Office Basic Course is a 33-week school at Fort Sill, Okla. If you like or want to deploy then this is the MOS that you want. There is such a shortage of 131A’s that both active duty and National Guard units are always looking for artillery warrants to deploy. One such artillery warrant who recently graduated from the Warrant Officer Basic Course at Fort Rucker and is getting ready to deploy is Warrant Officer 1 Jason A. Bolieu.

Bolieu started in the Kansas Army National Guard as an enlisted member of the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery just over 15 years ago. Approximately two years ago, Bolieu graduated Warrant Officer Candidate School and is currently battle captain for Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery.

Bolieu currently attends the Kansas State University-Salina campus and is close to completing his bachelor’s degree in technology management.

College education is not mandatory for a select number of careers as a warrant officer. Warrant officers are under strength based on authorized positions. It is possible for a high school graduate with good academic skills, after completing basic training, to go to warrant officer candidate school and become an officer appointed by warrant. There is not an entrance exam to begin warrant officer candidate school. Most of the exams are competed during candidate school and cover mainly general academics. Then they can progressively add to their civilian and military education while in the Army.

There are several different career paths that are available to warrant officers and they support a wide range of Army missions in artillery, supply, administration, mechanic, electronic warfare, and pilot. If you are interested in becoming a Warrant Officer candidate, please contact me at hector.vasquez@us.army.mil or at 785-274-1903.

Guardsmen mentor soldiers

Continued from Page 1

Throughout the morning, the small groups practiced team movements, and communicated contact and direction of fire. Loud whistle bursts signified enemy contact and the Djiboutian soldiers moved quickly, assuming their staggered, prone firing positions.

The regiment, which was established in 1991 and is comprised of a number of 20-year combat veterans, is the first unit in the Djiboutian Army called to deploy during a contingency, according to Ali. The regiment also provides border security on the Somaliland border located approximately seven miles from the camp. Ali will soon attend the Infantry Career Captain’s Course at Fort Benning, Ga.

“The goal for my soldiers is to prepare them for their mission and especially for a deployment under the United Nations, like they did in Haiti and Central Africa,” Ali said.

Ali, who has been in the army since 2001, attended an officer’s course with Germany’s mountain troops from 2004 to 2008.

According to Ali, the training is part of a continuation of training that began in September 2010 that included effective methods of instruction, commander operation skills course, a command post exercise, and company grade and non-commissioned officer courses.

Not long ago, the newly-formed training camp consisted of just six concrete pads. Today, the camp consists of about 12 tents, a mosque and a large covered classroom area.

“Camp Ali Oune is actually the first of its kind. The Djiboutians don’t have any bases here on the Somali border, and this camp is supposed to be here for quite a while. They will be utilizing the camp as a training area and for continuing operations to keep this region safe.”

About two miles away in the shadow of a steep hill, other members of the Rapid Action Regiment sharpened their marksmanship skills using the Russian PKM 7.62mm machine gun, which is the equivalent of the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon. Automatic gunfire and the ricochet of rounds echoed from the large rock-covered hill as each two-man team practiced firing in staccato bursts of three and five rounds.

“Very well done,” one of the instructors exclaimed after seeing a bull’s-eye on the target of one team.

Ali said the training and mentoring provided by the 137th is beneficial because the cadre of instructors bring real-world operational experience.

“We already had a good relationship with the U.S. Army, and I have to say it’s a good thing and we have a good image of the U.S. Army,” Ali said.

A big thumbs up for a good cause



Jesse Smith, Geospatial Information Systems analyst with the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, took time to donate blood during an American Red Cross blood drive in Nickell Armory, Topeka, in February. A number of other personnel of the Adjutant General’s Department also took part in the blood drive. (Photo by Senior Airman Matt Lucht, Public Affairs Office)

Counterdrug Task Force honored

The Kansas National Guard Counterdrug Task Force was honored as the first recipient of the “H.E.R.O. Award” (Honoring the Enrichment of Red Ribbon Opportunities) awarded by the Kansas Family Partnership, Inc. The award was presented during the 11th Annual Kansas Red Ribbon Recognition Luncheon held in the Stormont Vail HealthCare – Pozez Education Center, Topeka, Kan.

The Task Force has been selected to receive this award for their outstanding dedication and support of the Kansas Red Ribbon Campaign throughout the years. They are being recognized for the many years they have dedicated to working with students, educators, law enforcement, families and communities to promote the importance of remaining drug-free. The

team’s involvement and leadership at statewide conferences, summits and trainings provides significant support to promoting a drug-free lifestyle for all Kansans.

“This is really a validation of the ‘rubber meets the road’ portion of the Drug Demand Reduction Program,” said Lt. Col. Kyle Ferlemann, Counterdrug coordinator.

The Kansas National Guard Counterdrug Task Force is comprised of four parts: Ground Reconnaissance, Drug Demand Reduction, Joint Substance Abuse Prevention and Criminal Analyst Support performed by Army and Air Guardsmen under the governor’s control, but are federally funded. The Counterdrug Task Force continues to be a relevant and cost effective partner in the Kansas counterdrug mission.

Video earns first place award in public affairs competition

By Sgt. Jessica Rohr
Public Affairs Office

The 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Kansas National Guard, won a first place award in the 2010 Keith L. Ware Public Affairs Competition in the category of “Television Information Program” for the “2010 Kansas Guard Hall of Fame, Paul Idol” video.

The project was a collaborative effort between the 105th MPAD and the Directorate of Command, Control, Communications and Computers visual information team.

The winning entrants will receive plaques and certificates in May at the National Guard Bureau Public Affairs Conference in Reno, Nev. First-place finishers also compete against other services for Department of Defense-level Thomas Jefferson awards in early April.

The Paul Idol Hall of Fame video was judged against hundreds of outstanding broadcasts received by the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs from Army units in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Korea, Haiti and Hawaii, as well as the Continental United States. The winning entries distinguished themselves for technical excellence, creativity and effectiveness.

In order to participate at the Army-wide level in the competition, contestants first

The project was a collaborative effort between the 105th MPAD and the Directorate of Command, Control, Communications and Computers visual information team.

had to compete at the Army National Guard Bureau, where they also placed first in the same category. Hall of Fame videos competed in previous years and placed at the National Guard level, but never continued on to the Army-wide competition.

This is the first year that the visual information team created a video presentation for the Kansas National Guard Museum’s Hall of Fame. The video gives an in-depth background on each inductee’s military career in the Kansas National Guard, showing why this service member is worthy.

The competition honors Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware, a soldier who rose through the ranks to major general and was killed in action in Vietnam in 1968.

To view the video please go to http://www.army.mil/klw/10_winners/broadcast_winners.html.

Medal of Honor recipients recognized by Kansas House



Retired Kansas National Guardsman and Medal of Honor recipient Col. Donald Ballard (left) and Medal of Honor recipient retired Col. Roger Donlon (right) were recognized in the Kansas House of Representatives during the legislative session on Monday, Feb. 21. The recognition was done prior to the reading of a bill that will rename a section of Kansas Highway 18 for a former Kansan, Donald K. Ross, who earned the Medal of Honor during the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

“The Swamp” at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard

The “Swamp” from the TV series “M*A*S*H” is a new featured exhibit at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, Forbes Field, Topeka, Kan. It includes a replica of the tent and all the furnishings in which Hawkeye Pierce, B. J. Hunnicut, Frank Burns and Charles Emerson Winchester III lived during the M*A*S*H movie and television series.

Included are the famous signpost (with speaker), alcohol still, cots, stove, field desks and tables, ammo box bookshelves, makeshift chairs, stove, record player, uniforms, bedpan and other items in the series. The speaker plays the famous “M*A*S*H” theme song at the push of a button.

Of special note are authentic caps and hats for all the characters—Klinger’s nurse’s cap, Radar’s stocking cap, Lt. Col. Blake’s hat with fishing lures, Col. Potter’s campaign hat, B.J.’s Hawaiian hat, Hawkeye’s cowboy hat and others.

The original set from the “M*A*S*H” movie was destroyed in a fire in Malibu Canyon in 1983 and the set from the TV series was placed on exhibit in the Smithsonian Institution on July 30, 1983, and entitled “M*A*S*H – Binding Up the Wounds.” It closed on Jan. 2, 1985, and items on loan were returned to their owners, while the rest were split up and placed in storage in study collections. The origi-

nal signpost was placed on display in the Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian from November 2006 to April 2008, and is now thought to be in storage at the Smithsonian.

This authentic replica, thought to be the only one in existence, was donated by Bill and Nancy Smith of Sunrise Beach, Mo., who purchased it from David Dilday of Orlando, Fla. They added many Korean War items and displayed it several times at military-related conventions. It was most recently on display in Topeka last July at the National Military Vehicle Preservation Association Conference at the Kansas Expo Centre.

Dilday and his friend, Brandon Crisp, had constructed a complete M*A*S*H set in his backyard, of which this Swamp was a part, and used it to host parties, weekly poker nights, wedding events and neighborhood activities. The exhibit was brought to Topeka by retired Lt. Col. Doug Jacobs and placed on exhibit by Smith, Carl Bush, and Air Guardsmen from the 190th Air Refueling Wing.

Museum officials said the display will be at the museum through the summer and possibly longer.

The Museum of the Kansas National Guard is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is free.

Awards and Decorations

Kansas Army National Guard

Legion of Merit



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Indulis Dambro, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Meritorious Service Medal



Col. John Andrew, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
 Col. Alan Soldan, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 5th Oak Leaf Cluster
 Lt. Col. David Lee, 169th CSSB, Olathe, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Maj. Todd Loughney, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Maj. Matthew Twombly, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Capt. Lenard Leivan, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
 Command Sgt. Maj. James Crosby, HHC, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. Maj. Melvin Smith, 69th TC, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Master Sgt. Charles Kuhn, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Terry Robbins, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth
 Sgt. 1st Class Fred Jones, 137th Trans Co, Olathe
 Staff Sgt. Terry Hirsch, HHB, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha
 Staff Sgt. Michael Luster, HHB, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Army Commendation Medal



Maj. Andrew Parker, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Maj. Matthew Yates, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 2nd Lt. Dustin Nash, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka
 Chief Warrant Officer 3 Stephen Patterson, 35th ID Band, Olathe, with 7th Oak Leaf Cluster
 Master Sgt. Steven Haag, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 5th Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Johnson, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. 1st Class Theodore Meyer, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
 Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Morris, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka
 Sgt. 1st Class Herbert Wischnack, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. Justin Hankins, R&R Cmd, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Kristina Williams, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka, with 5th Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. Douglas Burkard, R&R Cmd, Topeka, with 1st Oak

Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Nancy D’anna, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
 Sgt. Patrick Gordon, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka
 Sgt. Jeremy Hitt, HHD, 69th TC, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Army Achievement Medal



Capt. Lance Fowler, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. 1st Class Justin Becker, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. Ryan Bearce, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. John Jones, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. William Willey, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Sgt. Eric Dimmer, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Spc. Benjamin Thursby, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Spc. Raymond Toyne, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
 Pfc. Sarah Williams, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka
 Senior Airman Douglas Fisher, 190th ARW, Topeka

Meritorious Service Ribbon



Capt. William Chuber, Btry B (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola
 Sgt. 1st Class David Schild, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita

KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Meritorious Service Medal



Lt. Col. Kreg Anderson, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Lt. Col. Chet Wilson, 184th IW, Wichita
 Capt. Eric Webb, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Chief Master Sgt. Sharon Clark, 184th IW, Wichita, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Master Sgt. Timothy Iman, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Keith Langhart, 184th IW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Robert Holladay, 184th IW, Wichita

Air Force Commendation Medal



2nd Lt. Jack Brooks, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Shawna Hartford, 190th ARW, Topeka

Staff Sgt. Curtis Brown, Co D, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Emporia
 Sgt. Isaac Myles, Det 2, 250th FSC, Clay Center
 Sgt. Donald Tryon, Btry A (-), 2nd, Bn, 130th FA, Marysville
 Sgt. Jeffrey Kelley, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Sgt. James Williams, Det 1, 226th Eng Co, Pittsburg

Kansas Air National Guard

Capt. Kevin Olson, 184th IW, Wichita
 Capt. Eric Webb, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Chief Master Sgt. Elmer S. Logue, 184th IW, Wichita
 Chief Master Sgt. Jay Pine, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Senior Master Sgt. Randy Johnson, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Senior Master Sgt. Janet Smith, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Robert Crain, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Timothy Iman, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. John Ryan, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Keith R. Langhart, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Leona Legg, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Rick A. Leslie, 184th IW, Wichita

Retirements

Kansas Army National Guard

Col. Bruce Woolpert, HSC (-), 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth
 Col. Matthew Raney, HSC (-), 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth
 Lt. Col. Lester Gellhaus, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
 Lt. Col. Bruce Shopfner, HSC (-), 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth
 Maj. Scott Arpin, HHC, 287th SB, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Bertha Purdie, R&R Cmd, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Robert Hall, HHB, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha
 Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Ostermann, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lenexa
 Sgt. 1st Class Mack Jackson, R&R Cmd, Topeka
 Sgt. 1st Class Russell Shaffer, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville
 Staff Sgt. Scott Fairbanks, Det 2, 250th FSC, Clay Center
 Staff Sgt. Michael Green, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola



A faithful recreation of the famous “Swamp,” from the television series M*A*S*H is on display at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard in Topeka, Kan. Although not the original set, the re-creation is exact in its details, including the alcohol still, cots, bookshelves and other accouterments. (Photo provided)

KANSAS NATIONAL GUARD 2011 Adjutant General's Combat Marksmanship Championship Match



Rifle - Pistol

Hosted by:



2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery
 184th Intelligence Wing
 190th Air Refueling Wing
 Kansas Regional Training Center, Salina

April 29 to May 1, 2011

To sign, up please contact:

CPT Gleb Gluhovsky (913) 486-6530 gleb.gluhovskiy@us.army.mil
 TSgt David Salinas (785) 608-3685 david.salinas@ang.af.mil

Students earn first cadet stripe for Civil Air Patrol

By Gale Rose
The Pratt Tribune

A group of Kansas Civil Air Patrol students from Pratt, Kan., and surrounding communities spent one weekend in February earning their first stripe to become CAP cadets.

The Kansas Army National Guard building was home for the students for two days and nights starting Friday night as the CAP students underwent two days of training and testing to earn the title cadet, said CAP Lt. Col. Rick Franz.

Earning the rank of cadet is called First Curry Achievement named after John Curry, the first national CAP commander.

Franz was one of seven CAP senior members conducting the weekend event. Senior members at the weekend training were: Franz, Capt. Mitch Edwards, Capt. Sarah Wildman, 2nd Lt. Nicole Strait, Senior Member April Hankins, Capt. Chuck Ramsey and Flight Officer Jamie Arnel.

The CAP students were seventh and eighth graders ranging in ages from 12 to 14. Students participating in the event were from Pratt, Wichita, Salina and Ellsworth.

The Pratt CAP Flight is new and is a part of the Cunningham Squadron.

During the weekend activity, students learned proper care and wearing of the uniform, CAP customs and courtesies, proper drill maneuvers, physical training, teamwork, leadership, fellowship and other CAP elements, Franz said.

"This is a very stringent training regimen," Franz said. "It affords discipline."

Besides learning CAP skills, the train-

ing carries over into good life skills that are useful every day.

The students surprised the senior members the first morning when the senior members woke the students up. The students wanted more hard corps style wake-up calls with some loud noise and yelling.

The CAP training follows the Air Force model. Many of the CAP senior members have military backgrounds but it is not required. Many CAP members are not students at all. The CAP age range is from 12 to 90 years of age.

Students in CAP are under no commitment to any military service once they have completed their time in CAP.

One of the elements of CAP is the emergency services program. Any student that wants to participate in emergency services has to complete First Curry Achievement and get their first stripe.

The CAP has three purposes: aerospace education, cadet program and emergency services. Many CAP members are not school age but want to take the training and help in their community. cadets get to participate in all three areas, Franz said.

This was one of three training exercises in Kansas this year.

The CAP has 512 members in Kansas in 13 units across the state. They are the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and are a nonprofit organization with more than 61,000 members nationwide.

For more information on Civil Air Patrol, visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com or www.capvolunteernow.com.



Kansas Civil Air Patrol students participate in a blindfold teamwork exercise as they earn their cadet rank in a weekend training exercise at the Pratt Army National Guard Armory. Students from several communities, including Pratt, completed training and were tested in several areas to become Civil Air Patrol cadets. (Photo by Gale Rose, Pratt Tribune)

56 Kansas employers nominated for Department of Defense award

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense agency, announced 56 Kansas Guard and Reserve service members nominated their employers for the 2011 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is the Department of Defense's highest recognition for employers showing exceptional support to their Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR received 4,049 nominations from Guard and Reserve members across the nation, a 64 percent increase over last year's total.

The Department of Defense honors the employers of Guard and Reserve members as they are critical to our country's national security. Guard and Reserve members

nominated employers, ranging from small to large businesses and the public sector, who have demonstrated support of their service through initiatives such as continued benefits, differential pay and family assistance.

For a list of Kansas employers nominated for the Freedom Award, visit www.FreedomAward.mil.

The 2011 recipients will be announced this summer and honored in Washington, D.C. at the 16th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony on Sept. 22, 2011. Recipients of the 2010 Freedom Award met privately with Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of Defense Dr. Robert Gates.

"A Backpack Journalist" memorable experience for teen

By Jahna Yuhn
Kansas National Guard Teen Council

I was lucky enough to be selected to represent Kansas in the "A Backpack Journalist" program. The program is designed to help military youth find their voice.

The program staff invited me and Skylar Dickey, another member of the Kansas National Guard Teen Council, to Atlanta, Ga. They told us about all these different ways to express ourselves through writing, songwriting and photography. While I was there, I focused on writing since I was going to be doing a live shout-out at CNN to my dad, Sgt. Maj. Darrin Yuhn.

There were eight students, including me, who came from different states to be a part of this program. Every single one of us brought a different experience to tell about being a military teen. It was amazing to

hear how we were so much alike. After we were done writing our shout-out pieces, we each got to write our own defining military moment and share it with everybody else.

I learned a ton that weekend; not only how to write an awesome essay, but about the people I was with and their lives as military teens. It was an amazing experience that I never would have been a part of had I not been on the Kansas National Guard Teen Council. I am so grateful to have been selected. I gained several friends that weekend, and I got to thank my dad for everything he has done.

Thank you to Linda Dennis, Darcy Seitz, and the rest of the Kansas National Guard Family Programs office for giving me the opportunity to be a part of "A Backpack Journalist." For information about the program, go to www.abackpackjournalist.com.



Jahna Yuhn, Kansas National Guard Teen Council member, shares her experiences in the "A Backpack Journalist" program with Robin Meade on the Headline News Morning Express program. (Photo provided)

Operation:
KID'S CAMP

July 11-15, 2011
Open to all Kansas National Guard youth ages 8-12yrs old

For an application, or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please contact Darcy L. Seitz at darcy.l.seitz.ctr@us.army.mil
(785) 274-1967

Soldier's family embraced

Elementary students support the troops and each other

By Tammy Edington

I have the honor of being a parent volunteer for the Military Children Support Group sponsored by Kansas National Guard Child and Youth Programs. This is a great group of 22 kindergarten through sixth grade students that attend Shawnee Heights School District USD 450, Tecumseh.

These students all have a family member in either the Kansas Army or Air National Guard. Five of these students currently have a parent deployed overseas at this time.

We do a lot of fun activities that help them and their service member stay close during their separations. To date, we have read "The Kissing Hand" and painted special "kisses" to share, and have also made "Flat Stanley" and "Flat Me" cut-outs to send in handwritten letters. Our latest project was making secret letter wallets to share between family members.

These monthly meetings are designed to

show students that there are other military children in the school, and that they are going through similar situations. The instant bonding that is made between these students has been evident from day one.

I could not do this without the support of the students' parents, Darcy Seitz, State Youth Coordinator for the Kansas National Guard, and Galen Craghead, Shawnee Heights Elementary School counselor. These trained individuals help me to work with the children on their projects, but also are able to interact with the students so that they get to know them better. This is important because if there are problems or concerns, these students know where they can go to get the help and support they not only need, but deserve. I am so glad that the National Guard recognizes that these students make a special sacrifice for their country.

These are wonderful children serving their country, and I am honored to be their parent volunteer.



These students in the Shawnee Heights School District in Topeka all have parents in the Kansas National Guard; five have a parent currently deployed overseas. (Photo by Tammy Edington)

Kansas Soldier starts business while deployed overseas

Starting a small business is no easy task. Small businesses face many challenges such as capital restraints, taxes, marketing, economy uncertainty, but now add the difficulties that come with being deployed and it makes things a little more challenging.

Staff Sgt. Eduardo "Eddie" Villanueva, a 15-year veteran of the Kansas Army National Guard, is on his third deployment currently serving in the Horn of Africa with the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry. He has many passions, but small business has always been at the top of his list.

In 2001, Villanueva left behind his first business to serve his country after the 9/11 attacks. Later in 2005, after starting his second business he was again called to serve his country in Iraq. Although Villanueva thanks and credits his family for his motivation and drive, his deployment to Iraq ignited a turning point and a new way he views life.

On Feb. 20, 2006, while on a mission with his team, Eddie lost a good friend to an Improvised Explosive Device attack. He remembers the drive and motivation that his friend carried and knows that no matter the odds, one must face life's challenges and overcome them.

Villanueva says it has definitely been very difficult to find balance with his passion for small business and serving in the military, "but you can't let obstacles and challenges like these stop you from accomplishing your life goals."

While on his third deployment, he has

converted downtime into productive time to begin his new journey, EMegaBuy LLC. The company is an online shopping site that offers thousands of products ranging from wholesale ammunition, less lethal weapons, hunting gear, pepper spray and more. The company is becoming popular and customer base is growing fast with shoot range instructors/owners, law enforcement, military veterans, security professionals, and outdoor sport seekers.

In fact, before the website was ready to take orders, Villanueva gained strong support from his brother veterans by submitting orders on standby. With a background in military and law enforcement, and pursuing a degree in security management, Villanueva has already established a solid support foundation to reinforce his efforts.

Villanueva seems to be well focused and motivated to move forward and establish his company within the top ranks of the small business community.

"I understand the odds for small businesses are against us," Villanueva said, "but I strongly believe that with a well established business plan, discipline and the drive, these odds can be beaten."

EMegaBuy LLC officially opened March 11, 2011 and upon return from deployment, Villanueva plans to get involved with the local organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Better Business Bureau and local non-profit organizations.



Sgt. Dennis Dinkel gets a hug from his daughter, Emma, as he sits beside friend Sgt. Jeff Keith, left, during a special patriotic chapel service at Central Christian School to honor the Dinkel family before his deployment (Photo by Sandra J. Milburn/The Hutchinson News)

By Amy Bickel
The Hutchinson News

With a roomful of students, teachers and families giving their support, Hutchinson, Kan., resident Tracy Dinkel and her daughter, Emma, knew they wouldn't be alone.

Her husband, Sgt. Dennis Dinkel, leaves at the end of the month for a year's tour of duty overseas. Yet, on Jan. 21, the Dinkels' close-knit Christian school family, where Emma attends elementary school, gave words of encouragement, letting the Dinkels know they would be praying for them while he is away.

"Remember, your Central Christian School family honors you and respects you and cares about you," said Dr. Timothy Crater, who spoke at the short sendoff for Dinkel.

Dinkel is part of Hutchinson's 1161st Forward Support Company (Kansas National Guard) that deployed to the Horn of Africa this winter as part of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery. The company is part of a force protection mission, serving as base security, said Dinkel.

It's his third tour, he said, first serving in southern Iraq from 2004 to 2006 and in northern Iraq in 2007 to 2008.

"From someone who has been overseas before, I know how demanding it is, not only on a person's family, but on them mentally, emotionally and physically," said Crater, who was a second lieutenant in the First Infantry Division during Operation Desert Storm. "Sergeant Dinkel isn't doing this because he will accumulate great wealth doing it. He is not doing it for fame. He's doing it because it's his duty."

The school's Bible instructor, Jasper Franklin, read a passage from the Book of Ruth: "The Lord recompense your work,

and a full reward be given to you by the Lord God of Israel," he read, adding in his own words, "God always does what is best, even when it doesn't make sense to us. We're under his wings."

Franklin prayed that peace and protection be on the family, and that "you bring them back together."

First-grade teacher Susan Penner presented the elementary students with Jesus bracelets as a way to remember those who serve overseas. The school also gave the Dinkels a yellow ribbon to display at their home. Penner said another ribbon would be displayed on the school's playground to remind the children of Dinkel's tour.

Crater told the students that without men and women like Dinkel, they would not have freedom.

"I say this from the bottom of my heart, and I've said this many times to my own family," he said. "Freedom is not free. A lot of people sacrifice everything they have so we can sit in this chapel, and we can pray to God and have the freedom we have - to speak what we want to speak and be what we want to be."

Crater presented Dinkel with a challenge coin, which, Dinkel said, in the military is an honor given for good deeds.

"When you think about what is going on in the world, it is easy to forget there are thousands of people overseas that are ensuring that we have peace and freedom," Crater said.

Tracy Dinkel brushed back tears during the service, saying she and her family appreciated the school's sendoff and support.

"It was wonderful," she said, adding that she had an inkling of the ceremony beforehand. "It was a good surprise."

Have You Ever Wondered Why People You Know Should Be Exercising, are NOT?

• Here are the top 10 reasons why our fellow Guardsmen say they don't work out:

1. I don't have time.
2. I'm too sore from the last workout.
3. I'm too fat, and it hurts my knees to run.
4. I have homework.
5. My leadership doesn't support me.
6. I forgot my gym clothes.
7. I'm too old!
8. I don't see results, so what is the point?
9. I used my injury to excuse me from the gym completely.
10. I don't really know what I am doing.

These are JUST EXCUSES!

Realize that everyday is a chance to do something to improve your health. Do it for yourself, your family and your CAREER!

Information Provided To You By:
The KSARNG Occupational Health Office