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MARCH 2013

190th Air Refueling Wing, Forbes Field in race for new aircraft

By Tech. Sgt. Emily Alley

190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The 190th Air Refueling Wing is among the final competitors to be named the first Air National Guard KC-46 Wing.

“If we are selected to receive the new tanker, it will expand our potential for new missions,” said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general of Kansas. “Tankers perform air refueling missions vital to the security of our nation. We already perform aero medical evacuations for wounded military personnel and can deploy expeditionary medical support mobile hospitals quickly in emergency situations. There are many new possibilities that come with these new capabilities.”

The new aircraft would replace the half-century old KC-135s flown by the 190th ARW. The wing has already demonstrated the capability to fly and maintain similar aircraft, said Col. Ron Krueger, wing commander.

“This new tanker would be a natural fit for us because we have the facilities for it, extremely skilled Airmen, and we know this mission,” Krueger said. “Whether operating and maintaining the KC-46 or continuing with the KC-135, we have a strong future supporting the United States and



An artist's rendering of a KC-46A refueling F-16 Fighting Falcons (photo courtesy the Boeing Company)

coalition air power across the globe.”
Aside from the wing's background, there

were several attributes that earned it consideration as a finalist. Forbes Field has ex-

cellent facilities and is well-situated on air refueling tracks.

“Kansas is centrally located, reducing the flight time to either coast,” said Tafanelli.

Other finalists include Pease International Tradeport Air Guard Station, N.H.; Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Ohio; Pittsburgh International Airport, Pa.; and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. Forbes Field may compete for three additional KC-46 assignments, if not selected for the first.

Representatives from Air Mobility Command and National Guard Bureau toured each base. They will be announcing the selection in spring of 2014.

After the Air Force selected the 190th as one of the five finalists, Krueger expressed gratitude to all Airmen who helped take the wing to that stage.

“Congratulations to all on being recognized for the value we bring now and in the future,” he wrote in response to the announcement.

Krueger emphasized that being selected as a candidate base means more than just the possibility of a new aircraft. It's an opportunity to demonstrate the quality of the Airmen of the 190th to a national audience.

Training gives officers the skills needed to respond to gunmen

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

It's a call every law enforcement officer dreads: there is an armed gunman in a building. Shots have been fired and people injured, perhaps even killed.

Every day, somewhere in the nation, police and sheriff's officers respond to calls like this with the grim mission to stop the

shooter – with deadly force, if necessary. Instructors from the Government Training Institute, headquartered in Boise, Idaho, travel the country teaching law enforcement officers the tactics and skills they need to carry out that mission.

Three such training courses were conducted for law enforcement and school resource officers from across Kansas at Crisis City March 4-8, March 11-15 and March 18-22. Crisis City is a multiuse training facility southwest of Salina operated by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management.

“These courses are funded through Department of Homeland Security and are designed to ensure Kansas law enforcement officers have the training they need to respond to active shooter incidents,” said Angee Morgan, deputy director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. “These courses are a continuation of similar trainings offered through the North Central Homeland Security Region in recent years.”

“This is an active shooter class to prepare law enforcement officers for an active shooter in their jurisdiction,” said Mike Sisino, an instructor for the Government Training Institute. “We're showing them effective tactics to move through a building and save lives.”

The courses were a combination of classroom work and active participation conducted in Crisis City's “shoot house,” a plywood and two-by-four structure constructed specifically for such training with long corridors, multiple rooms, sharp turns and stairwells, all designed to present tactical challenges for participants. The reconfigurable open-roofed building was constructed in late 2012 with later modifications based on course feedback.

“We have taught six classes here in the
(Continued on Page 2)

International officers receive lesson on Kansas government

By Phil Anderson
The Capital-Journal

Military officers from around the world received a crash course on the Kansas National Guard and the workings of state and federal government Feb. 7 during a visit to Topeka, Kan.

Forty-six military officers from 44 nations visited the capital city as part of their year-long stay at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth.

The first stop of the day was Memorial Hall where the international officers heard from Brig. Gen. Scott Dold, chief of staff for the Kansas National Guard, and Kris Kobach, Kansas secretary of state.

Dold told the officers about the unique role of the Kansas National Guard, saying its 7,400 members stand ready to respond to a variety of incidents, ranging from natural disasters at home to war zones in various parts of the world.

Dold said the role of the National Guard expanded after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. No longer only “weekend warriors,” Dold said, Guard members now are part of a larger “operational” that plays a vital role in U.S. military interests.

Dold also said the Guard answers to the governor, as well as the president of the United States.

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Maj. James Smith of Australia asks Brig. Gen. Scott Dold, chief of staff, Kansas National Guard, a question after his brief on the Kansas National Guard's history and current structure to international officers who are students at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. The briefing took place Feb. 7 at the auditorium of the Memorial Building, Topeka, Kan. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Detachment)

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Kansas National Guard aviation unit receives special training

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

Deployments to Southwest Asia often are a study in extremes. The 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment operated out of Camp Buehring, Kuwait, during their most recent deployment. For a few days in March and then again in June and July 2012, selected flight crews went from training in a dry sandy desert to a wet environment.

During June and July, Company A, 1st Bn., 108th Avn. Regt. conducted flight operations off of the U.S. Navy destroyer U.S.S. Milius, which was conducting independent operations in the Persian Gulf some 60 miles off the coast of Kuwait.

"One of the major tasks for the 108th on deployment in Kuwait was to be able to operate on and off Navy ships," said Lt. Col. David Leger, commander of the 1st Bn., 108th Avn. Regt. "All possible aircrew from the battalion were required to have current training and certification in the Shallow Water Egress Trainer and Helicopter Emergency Egress Device System. All aircrew personnel went to Fort Rucker, Ala., and Pensacola Naval Air Station, Fla., over several months to get all possible personnel qualified."

"All pilots are required to have dunker training before an over-water mission," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Randy F. Earley, Salina, Kan., a tactical operations officer with 1st Bn., 108th Avn.

In the Shallow Water Egress Trainer, a.k.a. dunker training, the crew sits in a simulated

aircraft, which is submerged, then rolled upside down. This was to familiarize the crew on how to react in the off chance that the aircraft goes down at sea. The main point is if the door was on your right when you are upright, it is still on your right when you are upside down. The Helicopter Emergency Egress Device System is an air bottle attached to the crew member's side and a flotation collar around their necks. The two UH-60L Black Hawk helicopters used for the training also had the cockpit doors removed.

The Milius has a helicopter landing pad just large enough for one helicopter to land, but it does not have the facilities to hangar an aircraft. Normally, the Milius would operate with the SH-60 Sea Hawk, the Navy version of the Army Black Hawk. Therefore, when one Black Hawk was on the landing pad, the other had to continue to circle the destroyer, with no place to land.

"Deck Landing Qualification in day and night goggle conditions is a challenge and hard-to-do training opportunity for Army helicopter crews," said Leger.

"When we land we only have about five feet of clearance from our rotor blade to their operations deck," said Earley.

Each pilot was able to conduct five to 10 approaches and landings to the Milius. On landing, the ship's aviation personnel immediately chocked and chained the aircraft so that the motion of the ship would not bounce it off the ship. The aircraft did not shutdown. All loading and unloading of passengers and refueling was conducted



A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment practices approaching and landing on U.S. Navy destroyer U.S.S. Milius in the Persian Gulf March 2012. The crew chief would make sure that the tail wheel was over the deck before the pilot set the aircraft down. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Heath Martin, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment)

while the aircraft were running.

"This training and qualification increased the overall knowledge and skills of partici-

pating aircrews and enabled the battalion to execute different kinds of support missions," said Leger.

"What if" tornado scenario tests air wing's emergency plans

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

Tornadoes can strike anytime, anywhere—in a field, a small town, a large city, even a military base.

The 190th Air Refueling Wing, Forbes Field, Topeka, conducted an emergency response exercise March 12, built around just such a scenario. The exercise tested the response and recovery plans for the Kansas National Guard air base in the event a tornado strikes.

"We had a tornado touch down at McConnell Air Base in Wichita last year," said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general and director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. "Fortunately, the damage was relatively light and our Airmen were able to carry out business as usual. However, we have to be prepared in case a tornado or other disaster causes extensive damage to one of our facilities and equipment. How we respond while also continuing our mission are the sort of issues we will be addressing during this exercise."

Currently, the 190th flies the KC-135R



Firefighters with the 190th Air Refueling Wing work to extract a simulated victim from a wrecked car during a disaster response exercise at the Air National Guard base in Topeka March 12. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)

air refueling tanker, flying missions worldwide to refuel a variety of aircraft. The wing also carries out aero-medical airlift missions to fly wounded service personnel to medical facilities.

Other participants in the exercise were Shawnee County Emergency Management and the Kansas National Guard's Headquarters Joint Operations Center.

Although it was just a drill, Capt. Joe Blubaugh, 190th Executive Officer, said everyone responded as if it had been an actual tornado.

"They went to their shelters and responded as they should," said Blubaugh. "The second part of (the response) was from our emergency services providers, that's our fire department and our security forces."

First responders rushed out to check through a number of wrecked vehicles strewn about the 190th property, making sure there was no fire danger and searching for trapped victims. Other Airmen helped "wounded" comrades to a triage area, where they were examined by medical personnel.

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Training gives officers the skills needed to respond to gunmen

Continued from Page 1

past," said Doyle Burdette, senior adjunct instructor with the Government Training Institute. "Dennis (Colsden, Regional Emergency Management Coordinator) has taken advice from some of the other instructors for the expansion of this shoot house and made rooms like we would like to see that would give us better training opportunities and better scenarios for the students."

"We asked them to lengthen the building and create a longer, wider hallway," said Sisino. "Over the course of this past winter, they did that and it's worked out extremely well for us."

"When we first arrived on Sunday and were able to come through here to tour with Dennis, he showed us the new expansions to the shoot house and asked us for our input for his continuing plans," said Burdette. "We thought that was fantastic. Generally, we have to work with what we've got when we do mobile training. It's never been as large as this."

Colsden said Crisis City has the ability to cover part of the structure with tarpaulins to create low light or black-out conditions. Expansion plans for the venue include a catwalk above the structure to give instructors a better vantage point to watch participants go through their paces.

"The state of Kansas is very fortunate to have Crisis City," said Sisino. "We have the opportunity to train all across the country and we've yet to find a state that had a

facility like this."

Participant reactions to Crisis City were just as positive. "It's amazing," said Sgt. Jason Settle, Great Bend Police Department. "It's a good facility. Everything is set up for us to use. A lot of trainings you go to you have to be real cautious and careful... you're using somebody's building. This is all designed for training."

Jared Lyden, a patrol deputy with the Sumner County Sheriff's Office, agreed.

"I think it's awesome," said Lyden. "I think this is something that a lot of people should get to come to because they've got great facilities here."

Burdette said that Crisis City's location in Salina was also a benefit.

"It helps us reach more students, being centrally located in Kansas," said Burdette. "We've had students from all over the state."

Lyden thought that training with officers from other jurisdictions was another advantage.

"You get to meet a lot of new and interesting people," he said. "We've got some guys from Cowley County, which is right next door to us, so if they have an incident, it works well because we've already been training with them, and so they're going to know us and we're going to know them."

"I will tell the sheriff that this is something we need to send a lot of our deputies to," said Lyden, "if not all."



Working under the watchful eyes of instructors from the Government Training Institute, participants in an active shooter training course move down a corridor at the shoot house at Crisis City, Salina. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)

Hand-to-hand combatives training

By Spc. Robert Havens
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Members of the 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment brushed up on their combatives training, the U.S. Army term for hand-to-hand combat, Jan. 1 at Topeka High School in Topeka, Kan.

The class began with Recruiting and Retention noncommissioned officers 1st Sgt. Merle Amrine, first sergeant of Company A, Recruiting and Retention Battalion, Topeka, and Staff Sgt. Eric Reichert, Company B, Hutchinson, Kan., teaching the basics of combatives training.

“Combatives training relates directly to battlefield experience,” said Reichert. “It gives the Soldier the confidence to go into a scenario and be successful.”

“In an ever-changing wartime environment, we are no longer able to identify who the enemy is,” said Reichert. “By the time we know the intentions of an individual on the battlefield, they may be too close to bring fire.”

“Operating in civilian environments, you never really know what you will encounter,” said Maj. Matt Keane, commander of the 105th MPAD. “It is not always a life-or-death situation. Combatives training allows the Soldier to have another tool and not use weapons.”

Outside of combat, having a warrior mindset can be very beneficial to Soldiers.

“Combatives training’s core tenants are close the distance, dominate position and finish the fight,” said Reichert. “Those tenants can be applied in a larger picture to everyday life with being able to have confidence, putting yourself in the best position to succeed and having the mental ability to follow through.”

Keane offered advice to members of the Kansas National Guard on the importance of conducting this training.

“Combatives training is a perishable skill and it changes all the time. Refresher training is necessary to stay current,” said Keane.



Sgt. Joe Leroux and Pfc. Brandon Jacobs, print journalists of the 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, receive instructions from 1st. Sgt. Merle Amrine over military combatives training at Topeka High School Jan. 5. Practicing combatives allows members to be prepared for hand-to-hand combat in an ever-changing mission environment. (Photo by Spc. Robert Havens, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Priorities: Minimal budget turmoil, optimum force mix, concurrent modernization

By Sgt. 1st Class Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

Minimizing budget turmoil and working with the active duty Air Force and the Air Force Reserve to both find the optimum

mix of forces and ensure concurrent modernization of the components of the total Air Force are the immediate priorities of Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III, the new director of the Air National Guard.



Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III

“The men and women of the Air National Guard are the most dedicated and professional in our nation’s history,” Clarke told Congress. “They performed admirably, both overseas and at home. They have earned our respect and thanks.”

Even before his formal acceptance of his new duties and responsibilities as director of the Air National Guard, Clarke testified twice in two days on Capitol Hill, briefing Congressional committees on the state of the Air National Guard.

He appeared before the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces as it held a hearing on maintaining the National Guard and the Reserves in a time of fiscal austerity. The next day, Clarke was back on the Hill testifying to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense about oversight of the National Guard.

“I have set three immediate priorities,”

Clarke told Congress. “First, to minimize the dramatic toll [the] current budget turmoil [is] taking on the Air National Guard’s readiness – both its people and its equipment.”

“Second, to work with the Air Force Reserve and the Air Force to provide an optimum mix of Active, Reserve and Guard forces for a cost-effective national defense and robust domestic response capability.

“Finally, to ensure that all components with[in] the Total Air Force are modernized concurrently so that they remain relevant and interoperable between both the air components and the joint forces.”

Clarke experienced firsthand the result of an Air Force strategy to hold the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve to the same standards as the active-duty force when he was selected to command a 3,000-strong wing at the tip of the spear for operations in Iraq.

“The Air National Guard [was] selected to lead a mission – one of the very important mission[s] for the kickoff of Iraqi Freedom – where we’re doing counter-Scud hunting in Western and Central Iraq,” Clarke said. “It was one of the top priorities by the administration just to make sure that we kept other nations out of that war.”

For the Air National Guard to play a full role like that example, it has to remain capable and relevant, Clarke said.

“We’ve done an outstanding job of meeting every requirement, every time, with great Airmen, largely because the Air Force decided years ago to make sure that the Air National Guard members ... meet the same standards, are inspected and are part of the

(Continued on Page 7)

Operational security, Air Force core values vital in social media

By Air University Public Affairs
Air Force News Service

While Airmen are encouraged to tell the Air Force story, they should be mindful to do so in ways that lend credit to themselves and the service, officials said.

With the emergence of social media, information sharing has changed in unprecedented ways. It continues to be dynamic and evolving.

Now a cultural norm around the globe, social media is part of the daily activities of Airmen and their families, who use social media sites to stay connected.

The Air Force has specific guidance related to social media. In particular, Airmen should remember to heed both operational security and Air Force core values as they exercise the privilege of accessing social media, officials said.

“A helpful reminder for Airmen is to use our core values as a filter before engaging in a public forum,” said Col. Steve Clutter, the Air Education and Training Command public affairs director. “Core values will guide them to be cautious before crossing the line between funny and distasteful, or sharing good information without creating an OPSEC violation. We must reinforce to our Airmen to use good judgment when using social media sites as there may be consequences with what is posted.”

Careless use of social media can jeopardize the mission. An OPSEC violation was detailed in an article written by Airman 1st Class Precious Yett, with the 502nd Air Base Wing OL-B Public Affairs at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas.

“I had a situation with a member who was deployed downrange in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom,” said Tech. Sgt. Darrell Williams, the 902nd Security Forces Squadron Military Working Dog section noncommissioned officer in charge. “I logged onto Facebook one morning and noticed he had checked in to his search pit on the base.”

“He wasn’t thinking that by doing so, he’s broadcasting the grid coordinates to a strategic location on base via an unsecured medium,” Williams said. “Anyone with hostile intentions could have utilized those coordinates to not only locate an entry point into the installation but target those who work there. Additionally, the deployed member had posted what equipment was currently in use and identified these pieces of equipment by name.”

Williams said he immediately sent the Airman a Facebook message and reminded him of operational and communication security procedures. The post was deleted, but with the information already online, the damage could have already been done.

The Air Force pamphlet “Social Media and the Air Force,” produced by the Air Force Public Affairs Agency Emerging Technology Division, states, “Airmen should note that anytime they engage in social media, they are representing the Air Force and therefore should not do anything that will discredit themselves or the Air Force.”

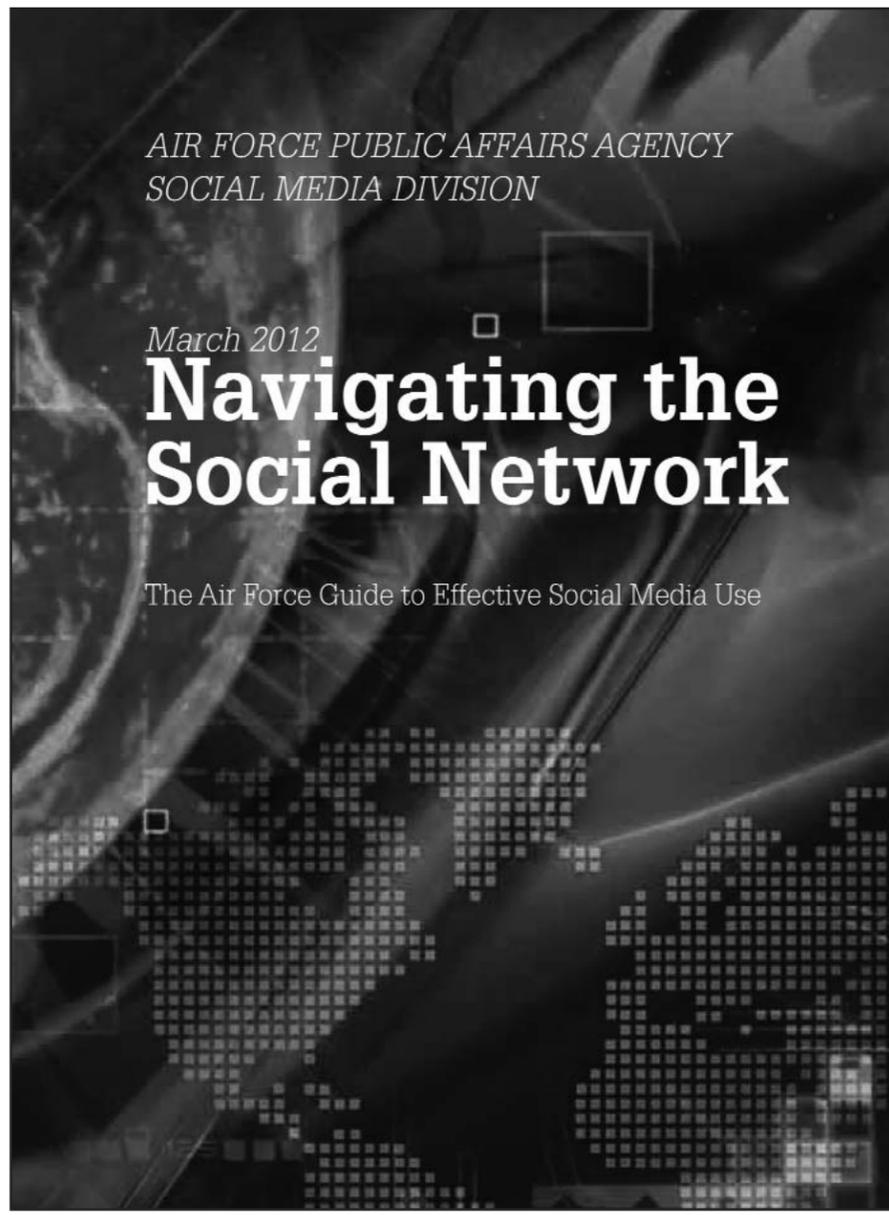
It goes on to say, “Airmen must abide by certain restrictions to ensure good order and discipline. All Airmen are on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and all actions are subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Even if Airmen state they are not representing the Air Force, other audiences may not interpret the information that way.”

Officials advise Airmen to be careful of the details, text, photos and video posted to profiles on MySpace and Facebook and other social networks. Employers and adversaries can search these sites, and there are numerous examples of people losing a job due to their inappropriate photos or comments.

“Airmen, by the nature of the business, are always on the record and must always represent the core values, even on the Web: integrity first, service before self and excellence in all that is done,” the pamphlet stated.

The latest pamphlet by the Air Force Public Affairs Agency

Social Media Division “Navigating the Social Network - The Air Force Guide to Effective Social Media Use” can be found at <http://www.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120327-048.pdf>



The challenge of planning in times of uncertainty

By Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli
Adjutant General

"Those who've been tested by the fires of adversity and have passed the test emerge stronger, smarter and savvier." —The Adversity Paradox



Maj. Gen.
Lee Tafanelli

For at least two years, our organization has focused significant time and effort on managing the financial difficulties that are coming our way. With the possibility of furloughs for more than half of our fulltime workforce, and the smaller fiscal year 2014 budget, this is indeed a challenging time.

We have been actively working to find solutions for our people. Although the decision to furlough staff is not in our agency's control, we remain hopeful the Department of Defense will find an alternative to furloughs. We don't expect the

economic conditions to turn around in the near future, and we are already assessing the cuts Department of Defense has included in the next budget. We will continue to search for the best solutions for operating more efficiently and more effectively with less funding.

The fiscal uncertainties we are facing make it difficult to plan ahead. We must focus on what we know and what we control and work together to determine the best strategy going forward.

We must be prepared to rapidly change our course when the situation warrants it. We know from experience the information we work with today can change often so we must be ready to be incredibly flexible. Change isn't always good, but finding the good in it can help us through it.

We must remain resilient despite these difficulties we face in our day-to-day work environment. Resiliency includes changing your way of thinking. It is a skill that anyone can learn, according to Karen Reivich and Andrew Shatte, authors of *The Resilience Factor*. "Resilient people, like all of us, feel anxious and have doubts, but they

... the National Guard is still the most valuable military asset our nation has with each Soldier and Airman costing one-third of what an Active Duty member costs.

have learned how to stop their anxiety and doubts from overwhelming them." According to Rieivich and Shatte, resilient individuals learn to avoid the negative thinking traps that can hold everyone back, to challenge beliefs about things such as failure, and to put situations into perspective. In addition, they recognize the importance of reaching out for help. Whatever our future budgetary challenges are, our ability to be resilient individuals will determine our success as a resilient organization.

In these times of ongoing discussions about proposed cuts among those who fund our organization, communicating the importance of what we do, and the need for specific programs and missions, has never been more important than now. And there is good news for us to focus on and to communicate.

For example, the National Guard is still the most valuable military asset our nation has with each Soldier and Airman costing one-third of what an Active Duty member costs.

Our Kansas Division of Emergency Management staff recognizes that both state and local governments must work to protect their citizens by developing comprehensive, risk-based, all-hazard emergency management programs and strives to pass through available federal grant funding to support local preparedness, response and recovery efforts. And time and again, KDEM staff prove how valuable they are through each disaster response we coordinate.

In addition, our U.S. Property and Fiscal Office and our state budget office continue to manage our resources wisely. In many ways, we may be in a better situation than our counterparts across the country.

I realize our current situation requires us to work harder and smarter, but I also know that difficulty can make us stronger, especially if we pull together as a team and strive to be our best.

Thank you to each of you for all of the hard work you do, and for your continued dedication and service to our agency, state and nation.

Two questions to answer

By Chief Warrant Officer 4 Marvin Terhune
Safety Office

In today's world, we are constantly bombarded with information. Driving down the road, there are direction signs, billboards, neon lights with messages to read and, at the same time, we are listening to songs or commercials on the radio. At home, we turn on the television and listen to 10 minutes of commercials to every five minutes of programming.



Chief Warrant
Officer 4
Marvin Terhune

It seems everyone has a message for us that is going to change our lives forever. We have to filter this information and decide what is important and what the consequences are if we do not do what they suggest.

The first thing that should come to mind is "Is this going to hurt?" and second, "How much is it going to cost?" We can

usually handle a little drain on our finances, but how much pain can we endure?

This brings us back to "Safety!" How much is it going to hurt and what is it going to cost? You can fill in the blanks. How much is it going to hurt if you lost a loved one in a preventable accident? How much is it going to cost for that DUI? If we do not think of the risk associated with what we do every day, then we become complacent.

Every day, across the country, we lose Soldiers and family members. The new program developed to "Stop the Loss" is a combined effort of Safety, Occupational Health, Behavioral Health, Resilience and Risk Reduction along with the Chaplain Corps to bring attention to available prevention measures. Some of the mechanisms covered are Be Resilient, Speak Up, Exercise Self Discipline, Stay Healthy, Drink Responsibly, Care for Your Buddy, Drive Defensively, Wear the Proper PPE and Remove Distractions. We can provide all the information you need to help you with your decision, but you are the only one that can answer "Is it going to hurt, and how much is it going to cost?" Be safe!

Warrior to Warrior

State Partnership Program

By Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Kober
278th Special Troops Battalion

The State Partnership Program, a National Guard Bureau program, pairs developing nations with state National Guard organizations to foster mutually beneficial relationships, both military and civilian. In 2003, Kansas and the Republic of Armenia were linked under the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program. The Kansas National Guard works closely with the Armenian Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Health, Rescue Service and other governmental offices and agencies. Types of cooperation include military-to-military, military-to-civilian and civilian-to-civilian events as well as law enforcement exchanges.



Command Sgt. Maj.
Gregory Kober

Twice a year, in January and July, the State Partnership Program hosts the International Officers visit from Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. This is a state government visit to Topeka to familiarize international officers with the judicial, legislative and executive branches of state government; including the role of the

National Guard.

The Republic of Armenia recently declared their desire to contribute to the pool of NATO Forces and is interested in deploying battalion-sized elements to Kosovo. Certification for NATO Partner Nations is a two-year process including a self (partner nation) evaluation followed by a NATO evaluation. Units assessed to be interoperable in accordance with NATO Standards Agreements are certified to be included in the NATO Force Pool.

Following a NATO evaluation in 2012, it was recommended the Armenian Peace Keeping Battalion refine their Task Organization to include a headquarters company, which is not a part of established Armenian doctrine. The Republic of Armenia, through the U.S. Embassy, contacted the state of Kansas to provide training in organizing and operating a headquarters company.

A team of Kansas National Guardsmen traveled to Yerevan in July 2012 and conducted a week-long seminar on Headquarters and Headquarters Company duties and responsibilities. Examples of training documents, including tactical standard operating procedures and Battle Tracking Charts, were provided to the headquarters company commander and battalion executive officer to continue to refine headquarters company operations in preparation for a self-evaluation in September 2012. The Armenian Peace Keeping Battalion will be re-evaluated by NATO in September 2013.

NGAKS coming April 12-14

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

Phase II Warrant Officer Candidate School will start in April in Salina, Kan. I anticipate having 12 candidates from Kansas attend this year, the largest class of candidates participating from our state, in addition to candidates from Nebraska and Oklahoma.



Command Chief
Warrant Officer 5
Hector Vasquez

The Kansas Regional Training Institute conducted its first zero phase class in March, which helped the candidates prepare for their upcoming PH II class. This phase course will give the candidates a taste of what to expect for the next five months. The main focus is to verify that the candidates pass the Army Physical Fitness Test and let the candidates practice on addressing and reporting to Teaching, Advising and Counseling officers. The TACs will also conduct classes to the candidates.

This year's annual Kansas National Guard Association conference will be April 12-14. During the conference, there will be a warrant officer "break out" and luncheon. The guest speaker for the luncheon will be Chief Warrant Officer 5 Gary Ensminger, the National Guard Bureau command chief warrant officer. Ensminger will discuss policy changes that affect warrant officers and future challenges for the Warrant Officer Corps. I urge warrant officers who attend to have their questions ready for him.

The National Guard Association Conference will be held in Honolulu Sept. 20-23. The warrant officers and chief warrant officer 2 who attend the NGAKS conference will have an opportunity to place your name in a drawing for a free trip to the national conference. What better way to visit Hawaii than with a free trip to the conference to hear the most current information that affects the National Guard. I hope we have a great turnout for the conference and hope to see you all there.

Feb. 17, 2012, the Kansas Warrant Officer Corps dedicated a black granite brick to the Kansas National Guard Warrant Officer Corps at the Museum of the

(Continued on Page 6)

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Equal Opportunity Advisors wanted

By Chief Warrant Officer 4 Sandra Lashley
State Equal Employment Manager

The Kansas Army National Guard needs Soldiers to step up and perform the duties of the equal opportunity advisor. The EOA is a member of the commander's special staff at the colonel level and above. They assist and advise the commander in the areas of equal opportunity and diversity. They provide supervision and assistance to the equal opportunity leaders at the unit level.



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Sandra Lashley

nation complaints. They assist complainants in the complaint process and in clarifying their issues. They assist the commander in evaluating the effectiveness of their program. They also conduct informal fact finding and/or formal investigations into allegations of illegal discrimination to facilitate the resolution of the complaint.

The EOA position is a very important part of the commander's EO program. The EOA has to be out traveling to the units to work with their assigned EOLs. They must ensure they are updated on any changes to the program and they understand the requirements of the process of equal opportunity reports and training. The functions of the EOA is not something that can be successfully accomplished as an additional duty. It has to be a primary duty. It is Soldier care at the very basic levels.

The Army has continually set a standard in integration of specific groups. They started back in 1948 with the integration of the black Soldiers. In 1978, the Women's Army Corps was disbanded and women were integrated into the regular Army. Even more recently, the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and gay Soldiers were allowed to serve openly in the ranks. Now we face the challenge of combat positions being opened to women. In all of these changes, the Army implemented these programs and worked through the challenges. These are areas that EOAs and similar positions helped the commanders work through the changes and keep unit cohesion. The EOAs assist commanders in creating a climate where all Soldiers are treated fairly based on the merit, fitness and capabilities.

The Kansas National Guard is always in need of individuals to fill EOA positions. If you are interested and meet the rank requirements please contact the state equal employment manager office or your commander for additional information. The knowledge, training and awareness you will receive working in the field of equal opportunity will enhance your skills as a Soldier, as a leader and in your civilian life.

Kansas State Diversity Council program moves forward

By Retired Chief Master Sgt. Danny Walker

Since February 2012, when the first State Diversity Council Sabbatical met, they have worked to develop a successful diversity program. The idea in action is to foster mutual respect, team building, mentorship and training to develop our Soldiers, Airmen and civilians. The State Diversity Council works for all members of the Kansas National Guard.

The vision of the council is to support the men and women of the Kansas National Guard with force development, force management, and diversity awareness and provide recommendations to senior leadership on ways to positively affect recruiting, retention and cultural awareness. That vision is broken out into distinct goals:

- Leadership – To enhance readiness and mission accomplishment, effectively leading diverse groups must become a core competency across the National Guard.
 - * Develop structures and strategies to build and equip leaders with the ability to manage diversity, be accountable and engender a culture of inclusion.
- Recruiting and Retention – Develop or enhance a process to foster mentoring, recognition and community outreach.
- Diversity awareness, education, training and communication - Improve transparency so service members and civilian employees understand diversity, performance expectations, promotion criteria and processes.

To meet the goals, it is extremely important that an actionable diversity strategic plan is created. The Kansas National Guard has such a diversity strategic plan that includes the basic constructs to meet the goals set by the State Diversity Council. The goals include:

1. A diversity mission statement that prioritizes equity and inclusion and provides a purpose that is actionable and measurable.
2. A Concept of Operations to advance implementation.
 - a. Develop the comprehensive analytic capability to ensure that diversity is uniformly included in the design and development of Kansas National Guard workplace programs and initiatives and allows diversity professionals to monitor the scope and impact of diversity in workplaces and programs to make informed decisions.
 - b. Revise, reissue and enforce compliance of existing diversity management and equal opportunity policies.
3. Define a standard set of standards and benchmarks to measure progress towards the goals identified in the strategic plan, including the creation of an inclusive environment.
4. Provide oversight of, and support for, the states' respective diversity initiatives and standards to ensure that, at a minimum, they align with the end state established by the Joint State Diversity Council and the Joint Diversity Executive Council. We must engage our younger/junior enlisted and officers into and through the advisory council membership.

If you are interested in learning more about the Kansas State Diversity Council and how you can become more engaged, please contact Chief Warrant Officer 4 Sandra Lashley at 785-274-1166 or sandra.s.lashley.mil@mail.mil.

State Chaplain's Corner

A prayer for turbulent times

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

In the midst of trying times, I find inspiration in the fifth century prayer for divine protection by St. Patrick. Many of you have heard me pray a portion of this prayer at various times during deployments.



Chaplain (Col.) William D. Jenkins

The legend of the prayer is about how King Laoghaire invited St. Patrick to a conference at Tara on Easter night. The king's plan was to ambush St. Patrick and his eight traveling companions. Tradition says that St. Patrick composed the hymn known as "The Breastplate" as a protection against the dangers of the journey. As St. Patrick and his eight companions passed through the ambush point, all that

King Laoghaire's soldiers saw were eight deer and a fawn, when in reality it was St. Patrick and his men. "St. Patrick's Breastplate" has been handed down through the centuries as a prayer of protection in the midst of dangerous times.

It is a long prayer—far too long for this column—but the following lines from the "Breastplate of St. Patrick" provide faith and courage in turbulent times such as these:

I arise today through God's strength to pilot me.
God's might to uphold me.
God's wisdom to guide me.
God's eye to see before me.
God's ear to hear me.
God's word to speak for me.
God's hand to guard me.
God's way to lie before me.
God's shield to protect me.

I arise today,
Through a mighty strength ...
Of the Creator of Creation.

If you have a need to talk, please give one of our chaplains a call today!

"What if" tornado scenario tests air wing's emergency plans

Continued from Page 2

Blubaugh said this was not the first such exercise for the 190th.

"Every year it evolves a little bit more," said Blubaugh. "This year they had rolled vehicles, which adds a sense of realism to these exercises. When people see that, it makes it easier to respond to an exercise."

Blubaugh said the 190th leadership will

use the results from drill to make improvements in their response plans.

"There are always a few things that you see and you tweak when you come back with the results," he said. "I am sure that we will find some areas that we can do better, but that is why we do these exercises so we can do better if we ever happen to have an actual disaster out here."

KANSAS VETERAN'S MEMORIAL BASS TOURNAMENT



The Ninth Annual Kansas Veteran's Memorial Bass Tournament in memory of all fallen Kansas servicemen and women will be held on April 27, 2013, at the Coffey County Lake near Wolf Creek Generating Station, Burlington, Kan. This tournament is to celebrate the freedom and pursuit of happiness that we enjoy as Americans. So join us in recognizing the fallen heroes of Kansas that gave the ultimate sacrifice for our American Freedom.

This is a boat tournament, bring your own boat and fill it with as many participants as the boat can legally hold. Top 5 places will receive prizes. 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery is hosting this tournament. This is a fun tournament you can start from 30 minutes after sunrise until 8:30 a.m. and ends at 12 p.m. or earlier if you need. Prizes will be awarded after the final boat returns or 12:30 p.m. whichever is the earliest. **There is "NO" entry fee for this tournament.**

Prizes and Trophy's will be awarded. **Bratwurst, Hamburgers and side dishes will be served at the end of the event.** Date: April 27, 2013 at Coffey County Lake (near Wolf Creek)

Schedule of Events

Time	Event
6 a.m. until 8:30 a.m.	Check in and Pre-Tournament Announcements
30 minutes after sunrise until 8:30 a.m.	Tournament begins
12 p.m.	Tournament Ends/Weigh In/Lunch and Awards Start

Official Entry Form

Boater Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ **Send form to: david.w.wellman@us.army.mil or Attn: David Wellman 108 North 1st Street Hiawatha, Kansas 66434**

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Boat Registration Number: _____ State: _____

Year and Model of Boat: _____ Boat Motor HP: _____

I have read and will comply with the above stated tournament rules and regulations;

Boater's Signature _____
Point of contact for this tournament is David Wellman, 785-742-5645 or 785-546-5666.



A 24/7 Resource for Military Members, Spouses & Families

1-800-342-9647

Braden new CAC Army National Guard deputy commander

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett
Public Affairs Office

Brig. Gen. Victor J. Braden assumed responsibility as the deputy commanding general, Army National Guard for the United States Combined Arms Center during a ceremony Feb. 14 at the Frontier Conference Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Braden is also the deputy Kansas attorney general in charge of the criminal litigation division. His most recent National Guard assignment was as the assistant division commander (Maneuver) for the 35th Infantry Division, headquartered at Fort Leavenworth.

Attendees at the ceremony included Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt; Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general; and Lawton Nuss, chief justice of the Kansas Supreme Court.

"This position requires knowledge, experience and leadership skills," said Tafanelli, "qualities Vic Braden has demonstrated time and again. I have no doubt that the right man was chosen for this assignment."

Braden was commissioned into the field artillery branch upon graduation from Northwestern Oklahoma State University in 1982, and transferred to the aviation branch after completing the rotary wing aviator course in 1985. In addition to his most re-



Brig. Gen. Victor J. Braden addresses the crowd as he assumes responsibility as the Deputy Commanding General, Army National Guard, for the United States Combined Arms Center during a ceremony Feb. 14 at the Frontier Conference Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

cent position, he has also held key command and staff positions in the United

States, South Korea, the Persian Gulf, the Balkans and Afghanistan, including Task

Force commander, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in 2003, and senior advisor for the 205th Afghan National Army Corps while assigned to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Kandahar, Afghanistan, in 2009 and 2010.

Braden graduated from Pratt Community College with an Associate of Science degree. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Northwestern Oklahoma State University, a Juris Doctorate from Washburn University's School of Law, and a Senior Service College Fellowship from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Braden and his wife, Marla, live in Lawrence, Kan. They have two grown daughters, Chelsea and Emily.

As only the second general officer to hold this position at the Combined Arms Center since its creation in 2009, Braden will focus on the development of adaptive National Guard leaders who can think critically and are well-trained and educated in the art and science of war.

"My hope is to take the lessons I've learned, the insights and observations I've made, and use them in this position to help in leader development, specifically for National Guard officers," he said.

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training helps preserve life

By Sgt. Michael Mathewson
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

In today's society, many people know how to perform CPR on someone having a heart attack. However, would those same people know how to administer suicide first aid to someone who was in emotional pain to the point they were suicidal? Soldiers and civilian members of the Kansas National Guard trained for such a scenario at an Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training workshop conducted Feb. 11-12 at the Armed Forces Reserve Center, Topeka, Kan.

The ASIST program, developed by Living Works of Canada, has been adopted by the Army as its primary suicide prevention program.

"The suicide rate for the Army is terribly high. Last year, there were more deaths from suicide than combat losses in Afghanistan," said Chaplain (Maj.) John Potter, full time support chaplain of the Kansas Army National Guard. "Through this course, we hope to prevent death and preserve life."

The course introduced the Suicide Intervention Model for dealing with someone at risk

of suicide. The first step is connecting. The caregiver connects with the individual, exploring for the invitation to ask if the person is suicidal. He looks for invitations through actions, thoughts, feelings, stressful events with feelings of loss and physical actions.

The next step is understanding. The caregiver listens for reasons and reviews the risk. When reviewing the risks, does the person have a current suicide plan; is the person in pain; does the person have the resources; has the person had prior suicidal behavior and what is the state of the person's mental health.

The caregiver then assists in constructing a safe plan and follows up on commitments made between the caregiver and the person in danger. The model is not straight-lined. The discussion may flow back and forth between the three steps to reach the safe point.

The workshop participants were warned not everyone is emotionally prepared to handle the stress of dealing with a suicidal person. There may be a danger of being drawn into the suicidal person's issues. In such a case, the caregiver may need to bring the person to the attention of a super-



Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training instructor 2nd Lt. Ron Marshall, a chaplain candidate with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, runs his students through a drill where a person is giving away his possessions during a workshop at the Armed Forces Reserve Center, Topeka, Kan., Feb. 11-12. (Photos by Sgt. Michael Mathewson, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

visor. As a friend or family member, there may be a need to reach out to clergy, help lines or law enforcement.

"The training provided me with a skill set to apply not only to Soldiers, but co-workers, family and peers," said Ashley Barnes, Lawrence, a medical services case manager. "I feel more comfortable to discuss issues relating to suicide with persons of all walks of life."

"It was helpful and genuinely the best

training that I have had in the military," said 2nd Lt. Callie Wheeler, Olathe, a platoon leader with 1077th Ground Ambulance Company. "Not only will it help me with a suicidal person, but I feel that it will help me better interact with my Soldiers."

For more information on ASIST or for assistance, please contact Potter at 785-274-1514 or 785-220-9480 (cell); or his chaplain's assistant Sgt. Jimmy Boss at 785-274-1514 or 785-215-4067 (cell).

U.S. Army Forces Commander meets with FEMA Region VII adjutants general



Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli (right), the adjutant general of Kansas, hosted the U.S. Army Forces Command Region VII TAG Conference Jan. 11 with Lt. Gen. David Rodriguez (center), the commanding general of FORSCOM, and adjutants general from states within the FEMA Region VII area at the Joint Force Headquarters Kansas in Topeka, Kan. Rodriguez will be traveling to each FEMA region throughout the year to candidly discuss issues and concerns relevant to the Army National Guard. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Hanson, 35th Infantry Division Public Affairs)

NGAKS coming April 12-14

Continued from Page 4

Kansas National Guard at Forbes Field in Topeka. The brick was laser engraved with the "Rising Eagle" and all of the warrant officer branches currently within the Kansas National Guard. I ask that if you haven't been to the museum to please visit it and also take a look at the brick. We have retired warrant officers who are placing their names around the brick. If you are a retired warrant officer and want to have your name placed around the brick, please contact the museum and they can help you out with information regarding purchasing and engraving of your brick.

Last year I started a Warrant Officer Call, a get together of warrant officers in certain regions of our state, as a chance for me to visit

with you, all as well as foster networking among warrant officers. They also give our newest warrant officer candidates a chance to meet some of the warrant officers within our area. There were prizes given out at these events, and I stated that if anyone wears a Rising Eagle belt buckle to the next event they would automatically receive a prize. I conducted my first Warrant Officer Call this year in March in Topeka. I plan on having other such events in Salina, Wichita and possibly Hays.

Thank you all for your support and service, and if there is any news such as promotions, graduations, retirements or changes that affect Warrant Officers, please send them to me at hector.a.vasquez4.mil@mail.mil at (785) 274-1903.

Military Coalition of Kansas City at Garmin International



Col. Barry Adams (second from left), special assistant to the adjutant general of the Kansas National Guard, joined (left to right) Brig. Gen. Kenneth D. Jones, the commander of the 451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Army Reserve; Laurie Minard, vice president of human resources at Garmin International; and Jerold Ramos, a national recruiter for Allied Barton Security Systems, at an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve panel during a Military Coalition of Kansas City meeting held at Garmin International Jan. 10.

More than 130 personnel from local businesses attended the meeting to discuss the employment challenges facing Kansas Guard and Reserve members. They discussed everything from best practices to how to find unemployed service members.

“As a veteran, Guardsman or Reservist, if I sit down in front of a computer to find a job, there are so many places to go and it gets so confusing and frustrating that I turn off the computer and walk away,” said Mick Allen, state ESGR chairman. “By bringing all these people together we can come up with one common denominator that makes it easier for a veteran or a service member to find a job.”

Shortly before ending the meeting, Allen presented Garmin with the ESGR Above and Beyond Award. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

Priorities: Minimal budget turmoil, optimum force mix, concurrent modernization

Continued from Page 3

Air Expeditionary Force,” Clarke said.

The Air National Guard continues to play a vital role in the nation’s defense, Clarke said, using an example close to home:

“As we’re sitting here right now, defending this capital, our Air Guardsmen, Army Guardsmen, and with a robust command and control structure . . . so this constitutional body doesn’t have to worry about air attack,” Clarke said. “It’s well-defended, and it’s done by Guardsmen.”

Among other Air National Guard issues that Clarke addressed with elected civilian leadership:

- Budget uncertainty: Sequestration and a continuing resolution risk affecting the Air National Guard’s readiness and slowing its modernization, said Clarke. Possible furloughs of military technicians would impact readiness. “The National Guard really rests on the use of our full-time force to train and administer our part-time force, but also to do operational duties,” he said.
- Support to service members: Continuing to fully fund programs that help

Guard members, keeping equipment modernized and retaining operational missions are important to maintaining morale, Clarke said. “They continue to volunteer at rates unheard of.”

- Employment: Meeting with employers prior to deployments to express appreciation for their sacrifices and maintaining unit-level lists of Guard-friendly employers are among solutions to improve employment stability for Guard members, Clarke said.
- MAFFS: “The capability to suppress the fire is most helpful particularly in light of civilian air fleet reductions,” said Clarke. The Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System also is important as a hedge against a significant oil refinery or nuclear power plant incident, he said.
- Training: Readiness exercises and training are critical to maintaining operational abilities, Clarke said, using the examples of C-130 Hercules and F-16 Fighting Falcon crews. “It doesn’t matter if you like C-130s or an F-16: Those skills are perishable.”

Free state licenses for hunting and fishing

State funding has been made available to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to provide free hunting and fishing license and park vehicle permits for the 2013 season to members of the Kansas National Guard. For more information visit their website at <http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/State-Parks/Park-Fees>.

The application cannot be faxed; it must be mailed to:

KDWPT Pratt Operations Office
512 SE 25th Ave.
Pratt, KS 67124-8174
ATTN: License Section/Guard Permits



Chuck Hagel takes office as 24th defense secretary

By Cheryl Pellerin
American Forces Press Service

Just before his private swearing-in ceremony as the 24th secretary of defense, Chuck Hagel and his wife, Lilibet, arrived the morning of Feb. 27 at the Pentagon and were greeted by Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Thomas D. Waldhauser, military assistant to the secretary of defense.

Hagel said hello to waiting members of the Pentagon press corps as he hurried up the steps of the Pentagon’s river entrance. From there, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little and other defense officials accompanied him into the building.

Family members and his immediate office staff attended the ceremony. Hagel was sworn in by Michael L. Rhodes, the Defense Department’s director of administration and management.

Hagel then hosted the daily senior staff update meeting attended by DoD civilian and military leaders.

In a statement released after Hagel’s Senate confirmation, Little said the new secretary received congratulatory phone calls from his predecessor, Leon E. Panetta, congressional leaders, and Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki.

In his conversation with Secretary Shinseki, Little added, Hagel “indicated his desire to meet as soon as possible to continue and deepen the strong partnership between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs on common priorities for serving our troops, veterans and military families.”

Hagel met with the service secretaries and attended meetings at the White House, afternoon Feb. 28.

Vice President Joe Biden said in a statement that he’d travelled across the world with Hagel and has seen him in action in the U.S. Senate.

“Wherever he is, his talent and dedication to our country are clear. He feels a deep commitment to our men and women in uniform, and as the head of the Pentagon, I know their interests will always be close to his heart,” Biden said.

“Most importantly,” he added, “I know the president will be able to rely on Chuck’s sound, unvarnished judgment on any issue where our troops are involved. For that and many more reasons, I’m looking forward to working with Secretary Hagel.”



Chuck Hagel (left) is sworn into office Feb. 27, 2013, by Michael L. Rhodes, the Defense Department’s director of administration and management, as Hagel’s wife, Lilibet, holds a Bible at the Pentagon. (DoD photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Chad J. McNeeley)

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- 120A (Construction Engineering Tech.)
- 131A (Field Artillery Targeting Tech.)
- 913A (Armament Systems Maint. Tech.)
- 919A (Engineer Equipment Maint. Tech.)
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Enlisted Feeder MOS(s)

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- 11C, 13B, D, F, M, P, R, T
- 91F, 91A, M, P, S
- 91B, C, D, H, J, L, X
- 92G, 68M

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

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Sam Bonham
(785) 817-3197
samual.c.bonham.mil@mail.mil

Co. C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf. Regt. welcomes new commander

By Sgt. Beverly Fortner
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

A change of command ceremony was held Feb. 9 to recognize the transfer of leadership of Company C, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment from outgoing commander Capt. Brian Flint to the company's new commander, Capt. Cory Durbin. The ceremony took place at the armory in Lenexa, Kan.

In addition to family and friends, other honored guests were Lt. Col. Robert Wood, commander of the 2nd CAB, 137th Inf. Regt.; Command Sgt. Maj. James Moberly, state command sergeant major; and Col. Barry Adams, special assistant to the adjutant general. Chaplain Candidate (2nd Lt.) Samuel Gallegos gave the invocation.

Prior to the formal passing of the guidon, Adams, the most senior Armor officer at the ceremony, awarded Flint with the Bronze Order of Saint George Medal, the United States Armor Association award for outstanding performance as an armor officer and in performance of his duties as company commander.

Also known as the Order of Saint George Medallion, the mounted force's top award, named for Saint George, the patron saint of mounted warriors, is conferred upon a particular individual for outstanding performance by the United States Armor Association. To earn the award, recipients must be a member of the association and be nominated by another qualifying member. Flint also received an Army Commendation Medal.

The passing of the unit guidon, known as the passing of the colors, signifies the passing of leadership to the next commanding officer. At a formal ceremony, the unit guidon is handed to the outgoing unit commander by his first sergeant. The outgoing commander then hands the unit guidon to



Col. Barry Adams, the most senior Armor officer present, awards Capt. Brian Flint (kneeling), outgoing commander of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, the Bronze Order of Saint George Medal, a United States Armor Association award for outstanding performance as an armor officer and in performance of his duties as company commander prior to a change of command at the armory in Lenexa Feb. 9. (Photo by Sgt. Beverly Fortner, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

his battalion commander who in turn passes the guidon to the new unit commander. The assumption of command is complete once the new unit commander passes his unit guidon to the first sergeant.

Durbin, commissioned as an armor officer in 2007, said he was glad to be back with an armor battalion because "We are one big family."

As a former enlisted Soldier, Durbin says he expects a lot out of noncommissioned officers because they can set Soldiers up for success.

Flint, in his departing speech, showed his deep appreciation to the entire company.

School), 82nd Airborne Division, in Fort Bragg, N.C.; the 1st Armor Division in Fort Riley, Kan.; and with the 25th Infantry Division in Wahiawa, Hawaii.

Prior to his assignment as the new commander of Company C, Durbin was serving as a platoon mentor for the Direct Commission Officer Course at the Officer Candidate School in Fort Benning, Ga. This last tour of active duty for Durbin ended in December 2012. Durbin and his wife Kymberlee have three daughters, 6-year-old Elizabeth, 4-year-old Evelyn and newborn Abigail Faith.

Durbin commissioned as an armor officer in 2007. He has a bachelor's degree in exercise science and qualified as a master fitness instructor.

Capt. Brian Flint

Enlisting in 1993, Flint served for seven years on active duty, followed by nine years with the Kansas Army National Guard. He graduated from Officer Candidate School in 2006 and commissioned as an armor officer. In 2012, Flint attended the Maneuver Captain Career Course. Flint has a Bachelor of Science degree in Life Sciences, earned from Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kan. Flint has deployed to Iraq and to Djibouti.

Flint became the commander of Company C almost two and a half years ago during his deployment to Djibouti with the 2nd CAB, 137th Inf. Regt. He has also served the unit as a scout platoon leader and a training officer-Air with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

Currently, Flint is the officer in charge of the Premobilization Training Assistance and Evaluation Team and has been working with this team in other capacities as well before becoming the officer-in-charge. Flint and his wife, Heidi, have two sons, 12-year-old Brady and 9-year-old Brogan.



April 2013 Sexual Assault Awareness Month



We own it. We'll solve it. Together

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is recognized across the country in April by both civilian and military communities. It offers an opportunity to build existing momentum to fight this crime and ensure all service members are treated with dignity and respect.

Throughout every level of the Department of Defense, we should offer messages and activities that will reinforce the message

- **We own it.** Emphasize we own this problem and our commitment to solving it.
 - o Commanders and senior enlisted leaders set and enforce the standards of discipline within our organizations and are the key to creating a culture free from sexual assault.
- **We'll solve it.** Leaders establish a culture where bystanders intervene, offenders are held appropriately accountable, victims are provided high-quality care and every Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine and Coast Guardsman is treated with dignity and respect.
 - o Combating sexual assault requires strong presentation efforts, sustained progress, innovative approaches and a multipronged, multidisciplinary strategy.
- **Together.** Reinforce the many ways we work within each Service, across DoD and with our communities to combat sexual assault.
 - o We all have a role in combating sexual assault. It is essential that every Service member, at every level in our military, lives the core values of our profession of arms and treats each other with dignity and respect.

**We own the problem of sexual assault.
We all have a role in fighting it.**

For SAPR program details, contact 1st Lt. Tim Traynor, Kansas National Guard SARC, at 1-877-HLP-KSNG; 785-274-1578 (office); 785-438-0017 (cell) or timothy.p.traynor2.mil@mail.mil

Thrift Savings Plan officials warn against unsanctioned app

American Forces News Service

A free iPhone app for the Thrift Savings Plan available at the Apple App Store could pose a security risk, program officials warned.

A notice on the Thrift Savings Plan website says the "TSP Funds" app, which asks participants for their account login information, is not sanctioned.

"This app is not being offered through the TSP, and the TSP does not recommend using this application to access your TSP account," the notice says. "Providing this information could result in a security risk to your account."

The Thrift Savings Plan is a retirement savings and investment plan for federal employees and members of the uniformed services, including the Ready Reserve.

It was established by Congress in the Federal Employees' Retirement System Act of 1986 and offers the same types of savings and tax benefits that many private corporations offer their employees under 401(k) plans.



Legislators take flight with 190th ARW



Members of both the Kansas Senate and House of Representatives received a firsthand look at the work the 190th Air Refueling Wing performs at Forbes Field, Topeka, Kan.

As passengers on a KC-135, the legislators observed the aerial refueling of some B-2 Spirit bombers.

Many of the legislators have had real-world experience with the 190th beyond observation flights. Rep. Joe Edwards worked on the ground with 190th members during the Greensburg tornado relief effort.

"This is a phenomenal organization that performed phenomenally for the people of Greensburg," said Edwards. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Allen Pickert, 190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs)

Second Kansas National Guardsman becomes “Jedi Knight”

By retired Col. Henry M. Martin, Ph. D. Command and General Staff College

Maj. Bradley K. Burns became a “Jedi Knight” when he completed the School of Advanced Military Studies at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and received a Master of Military Art and Science degree.

Burns was nominated to attend SAMS by Maj. Gen. Perry L. Wiggins, commander of Fort Hood, Texas, while on his first Active Guard and Reserve Title 10 assignment at Fort Hood.

Wiggins declared, “He is one of my very best majors and the SAMS program will help him become a more agile and adaptive leader who thinks critically at strategic and operational levels to solve complex, ambiguous problems. These tools will well serve him and our Army in the future.”

SAMS educates the leaders of our Armed Forces, our Allies and the interagency at the graduate level to think strategically and operationally to solve complex problems across the security environment. Graduates are innovative risk-takers willing to experiment and excel at adaptive leadership and at the art of command. Officers are critical thinkers who are able to synthesize the elements of U.S. national power and anticipate future operational environments. Upon graduation, these leaders will serve a 12-month utilization tour in critical position

within brigade combat teams, divisions or corps headquarters.

SAMS is often remembered most famously for producing the “Jedi Knights” employed by Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf in developing the famous “left hook” during Desert Storm.

Since the first class graduated in 1984, more than 1,700 SAMS graduates from 13 countries have played key roles in every major military operation since that time.

Burns is the second Kansas National Guard member to complete the program and obtain the “Jedi Knight” status. He was preceded by Col. Charles Lawhorn, currently assigned as an Active Guard and Reserve at the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C.

“The course includes daily seminar discussions, seven military exercises including a staff ride to Vicksburg, research and writing a monograph that earn you a master’s degree in Theater Operations,” said Burns. “We studied Strategic Context for Operational Art, Design and Operational Art, Evolution of Operational Art, Theory of Operational Art, Future of Operational Art, Applied Operational Decision Making and a three hour oral examination.”

Burns said the course helps him realize just how much we don’t know and understand the importance to continue to learn.



Maj. Bradley K. Burns, a Kansas National Guardsman, poses for a picture with Dr. Wendell C. King (left), dean of academics, and Maj. Gen. Gordon B. Davis (right), Jr., deputy commandant of the Command and General Staff College as he graduated from the School of Advanced Military Studies with a Master’s of Military Art and Science degree from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. The ceremony was held at the Eisenhower Auditorium of the Lewis and Clark Center Dec. 6. (Photo by Noah Albro, CAC LD&E Communications)

Kansas’ new “Jedi Warrior” will begin a tour of duty with United States Army Southern Command in Florida. Burns has been selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel.

Kansas National Guardsmen return to Kansas from Kuwait

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett Public Affairs Office

After serving a year in Kuwait supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, approximately 65 Kansas National Guard Soldiers of the 170th Support Maintenance Company were welcomed home Dec. 23, 2012. The ceremony was held in Building 600 at the Salina Airport, Salina, Kan.

“This is indeed a very special and proud day for Kansas as we greet the fine members of the 170th Support Maintenance Company back here in Salina,” said Maj. Gen. Lee Tapanelli, the adjutant general of the Kansas National Guard. “It is great to have you back in Kansas for Christmas. There is no greater Christmas present for myself, for all Kansans and especially your families.”

In addition to Tapanelli, senior leaders in attendance of the Kansas National Guard included Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Hawthorth, senior enlisted advisor; Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard; Command Sgt. Maj. James Moberly, command sergeant major of the Kansas Army National Guard; and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Hector Vasquez, command chief warrant officer of the Kansas Army National Guard.

The 170th Maint. Co. was also welcomed back by the American Legion Riders of Post 62 Kansas Chapter.

The homecoming couldn’t have come at a better time as this group of Kansas Na-



First Sgt. Scott Williamson, Minneapolis, Kan., first sergeant of the 170th Maintenance Company, accepts a coin and American Legion flag at the start of the unit’s homecoming ceremony Dec. 23, 2012. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

tional Guardsmen arrived home just in time for the holidays. The unit was originally scheduled to come home in January.

“It took a lot of coordination, and you just wouldn’t believe it unless you were a part of it to see how many strings had to get pulled to make this day happen,” said Capt. Scott Weber, commander of the 170th Maint. Co. “It’s definitely a Christmas miracle.”

Weber, of Wamego, Kan., is no stranger

to miracles. Sunday’s homecoming happened to be a birthday for both his 13-year-old son and his 8-year-old son.

“It’s impeccable timing,” Weber said. “You can’t beat that.”

For many of the Soldiers, coming home early meant sharing a holiday with family once again.

“I got my family here at the ceremony. I got my dog here. I’m overjoyed to be here,” said Sgt. Jason Lee, a member of the 170th

Maint. Co. “I’m glad to be back in Kansas and this means a lot to me to be back before the holidays, before Christmas to spend it with my family.”

Dorrene Wahlmeier, spouse of Chief Warrant Officer 3 Camillus Wahlmeier, and mother of two Kansas National Guard service members, is happy to have everyone home at the same time.

“We plan to have all the kids over, all the grandkids and have a meal. With everybody home we’ll have things back to normal.”

While deployed, the unit operated a security detail mission for VIPs, American citizens and contractors in Kuwait, as well as supporting base security, as required. This was the first deployment for the 170th since Desert Storm in 1990 to 1991.

The 170th Maintenance Company is a subordinate unit of the 287th Special Troop Battalion, Hays, Kan. They are headquartered in Norton, Kan., with a subordinate unit in Colby, Kan.

Before dismissing the Soldiers, Tapanelli passed on Gov. Sam Brownback’s and his own appreciation to the Soldier and their families, along with the support of the Kansas American Legion Riders and the Patriot Guard.

“You have accomplished your mission in Kuwait and you have proven, just as each of our deployed units have proven, that the National Guard is an operational force successfully supporting all missions all around the globe,” said Tapanelli.

International officers receive lesson on Kansas government

Continued from Page 1

During his remarks, Kobach offered an overview of the U.S. government and its legislative, executive and judicial branches.

One of his prime duties as secretary of state, Kobach said, is to conduct elections.

Kobach discussed the Electoral College and how U.S. citizens don’t vote “directly” for the president. The Electoral College makes it possible for someone to be elected without receiving a majority of the popular vote.

Kobach also mentioned a rural-urban divide among Republicans and Democrats across the country.

He said maps show vast areas of rural areas are inhabited by a majority of Republicans, while more highly populated urban areas — significantly smaller in geographic size — tend to be dominated by Democrats. He also said an increasing number of voters are registering as “independent.”

After hearing from Dold and Kobach, the international officers walked across the street for a tour of the Statehouse, where they visited the House and Senate chambers

and have their photo taken with Gov. Sam Brownback.

The officers then walked to the Kansas Judicial Center before wrapping up their visit to Topeka with a tour of the Kansas History Museum where they had lunch and watched a Native American presentation.

The tradition of international officers attending the Army college at Fort Leavenworth began in 1894. During the program’s 119-year history, more than 7,300 officers from 153 countries have participated. Of that number, 26 have become heads of state.

Nations represented at this year’s college are Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Germany, Guyana, India, Indonesia and Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, United Kingdom, Vietnam, Yemen and Zambia.



Forty-six military officers from 44 nations toured the state Capitol Feb. 7 and had a chance to hear from the governor. The international officers, who are students at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., come to Topeka once during their course to learn about state government. (Photo by Thad Allton, The Capital-Journal)

995th and 170th Support Maintenance Companies excel at AT

By Spc. Lindsey Bogner

995th Support Maintenance Company UPAR

Being a technician-heavy unit has its advantages. With over one-third of their companies being full-time technicians at the Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site, Advanced Turbine Engine Army Maintenance, Field Maintenance Shop or Combined Support Maintenance Shop, the Soldiers of the 995th Support Maintenance Company, headquartered at Smith Center, Kan., and 170th Support Maintenance Company (Rear Detachment), Norton, Kan., are well-versed in the care, troubleshooting and maintenance of many different pieces of equipment.

The units' annual training was held Nov. 3-17 at the National Maintenance Training Center, Camp Dodge, Iowa. The 995th SMC and 170th SMC (Rear Det.) exceeded expectations of the training cadre.

"They came in with a high level of institutional knowledge, which facilitated a productive rotation," said Maj. Christine Brooks, support operations officer of NMTC.

"We continue to build team and section proficiency," said Capt. Wallace Miller, commander of the 995th SMC. "We do that through the extensive knowledge base of our

mid-level and senior noncommissioned officers. The excellent knowledge base of our warrant officers allowed them to mentor the upper enlisted, while they in turn mentored the lower enlisted. So Soldiers at all levels were able to increase their proficiencies."

Working in unison Soldiers were able to build on skills and knowledge they already possessed to become even more productive.

"It was a great AT, working with the 995th," said Master Sgt. Mark Zafran, first sergeant 170th SMC (Rear). "We integrated very well and our Soldiers worked very well together, with the younger enlisted learning from the more experienced enlisted from both units."

The 995th attended annual training at Camp Dodge last year and knew what to expect this year: lots of quality training to build and maintain skills developed throughout the year.



Sgt. Jonathon Ruthstrom (right), Mankato, Kan., Detachment 1, 995th Support Maintenance Company, works with Sgt. Jesse Cole (left), Burlington, Colo., 170th Support Maintenance Company, to troubleshoot an engine at National Maintenance Training Center, Camp Dodge, Iowa, during their annual training Nov. 3-17. (Photo by Spc. Lindsey Bogner, 995th Support Maintenance Company UPAR)

"We've seen excellent growth in the knowledge base from last year to this year, as we continue to focus on military occupation specialty technical tasks during IDT weekends, which set the stage for success at annual training this year," explained Miller.

The automotive section received training in diagnostics, repair and preventive maintenance for the C7 Caterpillar engine and the Allison transmission, which are found in the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles and the Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck.

The ground support equipment section trained on power generation equipment, construction equipment, air conditioning equipment and battle-damage assessment and repair.



Sgt. Brett Cole, Osage City, Kan., works in the Allied Trades section of Detachment 1, 995th Support Maintenance Company, at National Maintenance Training Center, Camp Dodge, Iowa, during annual training Nov. 3-17. (Photo by Spc. Lindsey Bogner, 995th Support Maintenance Company UPAR)

The communication and electronics section trained on night-vision equipment, Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System radios and other electronic equipment. The Allied Trades section learned welding techniques, operation of the CNC mill, lathe, PlasmaCAM and other metalworking skills.

Some Soldiers were pulled aside to complete extra training in accordance with their military occupational specialty. Five automotive Soldiers received training and were ASE 609/HVAC certified at NMTC. Another Soldier received training in reverse osmosis water purification unit maintenance. Others learned shop office operations, the processes to open and close work orders and honed their skills on the Standard Army Maintenance System Enhanced.

The NMTC trains thousands of Soldiers each year. With over 60 instructors from all fields of maintenance, the center has approximately 27 rotations a year, training Soldiers in automotive, allied trades, ground support equipment, communications and electronics, armament, maintenance control and many other skills.



Pfc. Preston Williamson, Salina, Kan. 170th Support Maintenance Company, works on a generator at the National Maintenance Training Center, Camp Dodge, Iowa, during annual training Nov. 3-17. (Photo by Spc. Lindsey Bogner, 995th Support Maintenance Company UPAR)

Signal Company puts classroom learning to hands-on training

By Spc. Alexander Bush

369th Brigade Signal Company UPAR

February drill weekend was more than just business as usual for the 369th Brigade Signal Company. It was the culmination of months of preparation for the newest Guard unit in Kansas.

After its activation last July, the unit spent seven months taking the necessary steps to ready itself for duty. While paperwork and briefings may not always be glamorous, they are important aspects to getting a new unit up and running at full strength. This month, Soldiers finally got the chance to take major steps with some excellent hands-on training.

Working with high-tech and innovative resources, the company utilizes an impressive array of equipment in its support, including the Joint Network Node system, Satellite Transportable Terminal and High Capacity Line of Sight antenna. Members of the unit spent February's drill weekend using this equipment in mission readiness exercises and are actively working to stay prepared for mobilization, should the call arise.

Soldiers spent most of February's training time setting up the High Capacity Line of Sight antenna masts, which allow for phone and computer data transmission over radio waves along a directional path. Setting up the antenna mast requires staking the base plate, measuring and placing three sets of stakes for guide wire attachment, attaching guide wires to the mast, lifting the mast to a vertical position, extending the

mast and tightening all guide wires so that the mast remains plumb. Numerous steps are involved in setup and Soldiers learned the importance of performing the steps in order. Missing a step generally requires Soldiers to backtrack by lowering the entire mast to the ground.

The Soldiers attending drill were thrilled to finally leave the classroom for the practical work environment and the refreshing change of pace it provided.

"You can train in a classroom all day, but there's no substitute for the hands-on experience we've gained today," said Pfc. Derek Sweigart, a multichannel transmission systems operator-maintainer.

Sgt. 1st Class Richard Mounts, platoon sergeant of 2nd Platoon, echoed Sweigart's sentiments.

"The training we have is vital. If we don't train on a regular basis then our prior training and experience is lost. This weekend's training helps us work toward and achieve our long-term goals as a unit."

The 369th Brigade Signal Company stood up as the Kansas National Guards first signal company in an activation ceremony July 14.

The company's mission is to provide high-speed digital voice and data networks to support the communication needs of the 287th Sustainment Brigade, headquartered in Wichita, and subordinate units, through radio retransmission and satellite communication.

The new positions the 369th brings to

Kansas are multichannel transmission system operators, satellite communication system operators, nodal network system operators, information system operators and signal support system specialists.

While it is exciting for the service members of the 369th Signal Company to fi-

nally have a chance to stretch their legs and get some real experience in their respective communication fields, everyone knows this is just the beginning and there is a long road ahead. But with continued training, the "Voice of the Plains" will be ready when called upon.



(Left to right) Spc. Nicholas Harris, a Nodal Network Systems Operator-Maintainer; Spc. Shelby Fitzgerald and Pfc. Derek Sweigart, multichannel transmission systems operator-maintainers of the 369th Brigade Signal Company, set up a High Capacity Line of Sight antenna as part of a training exercise outside the armory in Kansas City, Kan., during the February drill. (Photo by Spc. Alexander Bush, 369th Brigade Signal Company UPAR)

Kansas Guard Airmen participate in Vigilant Guard 2012 exercise

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

Ten Airmen assigned to the 134th Air Control Squadron were called to support the Missouri National Guard as Operation Vigilant Guard kicked off in early November. The small team deployed the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability Terminal, or JISCC, the communications hub at Wappapello training site operated by the 35th Engineering Brigade for the south-east region of Missouri.

Vigilant Guard was a natural disaster scenario that simulated an intense earthquake along the New Madrid seismic zone and caused significant damage to eastern Missouri counties. As the local and state response personnel in the area were overwhelmed, National Guard units from around the country were activated. These units responded rapidly to provide critical capabilities such as transportation, food, water and medical care. Some units helped prevent civil disorder by providing security to the affected communities. The 134th ACS was on hand to help with long-range communications.

During the five-day exercise, the team set up and maintained equipment that al-

lowed the 35th Engineering Brigade to pass information to and from the Joint Operation Center, located 200 miles away in Jefferson City. The team brought equipment that allowed radio, telephone and computer network, and satellite transmission.

Senior Master Sgt. James Helms led the team during the exercise. His concern going into the exercise was the effect of Hurricane Sandy, which devastated the northeast region of the United States a week prior to the exercise.

“The main challenge was adapting to the real-world event in the Northeast,” said Helms. “Due to the impact of Hurricane Sandy, the Missouri Vigilant Guard exercise was given limited satellite bandwidth to operate on. Our team adapted and provided support within that limitation.”

This constraint did not allow the JISCC to operate at its full capacity. The participating Soldiers, however, seemed very grateful for the support and understood the limitation.

“Having the 134th on site added that extra touch of realism and extra support,” said Lt. Col. Gordon Bartley, executive officer, 35th Eng. Bde. “The more players involved and the more interaction we have, the better prepared we are to work together.”

The JISCC team brought experienced Airmen together with Airmen who are newer to the squadron. Participation in this exercise carried the benefit of preparing a new generation to respond to disasters while maintaining the knowledge required adapting to unforeseen challenges.

“The team benefited by seeing how the customer actually uses this asset,” said Helms. “This, coupled with the bandwidth limitation, meant the team had to rework our support scheme.”

The situation forced the team to think outside the box to solve the problem.



Master Sgt. Mike Paquette tests radio and telephone equipment to ensure their compatibility with other military and civilian communications devices. (Photo by Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)



Staff Sgt. Derek Love assembles a communications tower at the Wappapello training site in Missouri. (Photo by Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

Student Flight prepares Air National Guardsmen for training

By Airman Lauren Penney
184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

Shouting, yelling and confusion are elements introduced to military trainees as they first arrive at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, for basic military training. For many of those new Airmen, the experience of basic military training can come as a shock. The 184th Intelligence Wing has taken steps to alleviate that shock by introducing new recruits to basic military skills and techniques during the months leading up to training.

Maj. Warner White, Student Flight coordinator for the 184th Intelligence Wing, developed the Student Flight program in 2007

and launched it in 2008.

“The only purpose of Student Flight is to prepare them for basic training, so that when they get to basic training, they’ve got a foundation that they can work with and move forward,” said White.

White and Staff Sgt. Aaron Santry run the program during a four-hour time period each drill weekend. The students learn about drill and ceremony, physical training, dress and appearance, the Air Force core values and other subjects.

“We’re not going to take the shock of all basic training away,” said White. “It’s just so that they have a better realization of the

younger generation and what’s going to be expected of them while they’re in basic training.”

The Student Flight program has proven to be beneficial. Since the implementation of the program, the honor graduate number has risen to an average of five honor graduates per year, whereas before Student Flight, the wing only averaged one per year. The program has helped to produce a total of 36 honor graduates since its inception.

Along with White and Santry’s instruction, other wing members come by during a Student Flight class to give their input to

the recruits. Benjamin Rivera, who has only attended two Student Flight sessions so far, has already found the information helpful.

“They all have different tips,” Rivera said, “which is all helpful for our experience to be as mentally and physically prepared as we can. We don’t know exactly what’s going to happen, but they’re giving us advice to try to prepare us.”

Repetition is another important part to Student Flight. The more a task is done, the more the individual will likely be adept at the task.

Keith Kephart, who leaves for basic

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Maj. Warner White, a Student Flight coordinator, has been involved with the program since the design phase in 2007. During the class, he strives for repetition and emphasizes quality performance. (Photo by Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)



Airmen assigned to the Student Flight salute a wall of mirrors while Staff Sgt. Aaron Santry, Student Flight coordinator, helps them achieve perfection. (Photo by Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)



Regional hazard mitigation plans will save time and money

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

If there is one topic that seems to be on everyone's mind, it's the economy. Many people, and many governments, are actively looking for ways to reduce their expenses. The trick for government entities is to do that while minimizing the effects budget cuts will have on the health and safety of the people they serve.

One of the responsibilities of local and state governments is to respond to disasters, or even better, to do what is reasonable to reduce the risk to life, limb and property, if possible. To that end, the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 required every county in every state to develop a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan in order to be eligible to apply for money through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to carry out projects that would reduce those risks.

As of January 2007, only 11 Kansas counties had FEMA-approved plans. The primary reason for the slow progress was money. From December 2006 to December 2007, as a result of federally-declared disasters, Kansas received \$106 million in HMGP money. Although the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program allows for seven percent of grant money to be used for planning, federal requirements dictate a 25 percent match to any grant funds. Many counties could not afford to pay their share to receive the grant money.

However, following the federally-declared disaster DR-1711 in June 2007 for severe storms and flooding that affected much of Kansas, the state legislature appropriated funding to meet federal match requirements. As a result, all Kansas counties received a mitigation planning grant.

"Contractors were contracted out and the state picked up the local share for the counties," explained Jeanne Bunting, mitigation planner for the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. "So 100 percent of their county plans were paid for, 75 percent through FEMA and 25 percent from the state."

By March 2012, 103 counties had approved mitigation plans in place; the plans for the remaining two counties are pending approval.

However, mitigation plans are only valid for a period of five years, so by 2014 the earliest of the plans are set to expire. And, once again, the specter of no money is rearing its head.

To meet the challenge, mitigation planners at KDEM proposed changing the way Kansas administers hazard mitigation grants. Instead of requiring each county to come up with a plan, the state would be divided into 12 regions and a mitigation plan would be developed for each region.

Bunting pulled a thick binder from the shelf in her office and flipped it open, displaying numerous tabbed sections. "This is the state hazard mitigation plan. County plans can be as big."

Bunting said the plans are very comprehensive, including descriptions of the planning process, community profiles, hazard identification and risk assessments, a mitigation strategy and how the plan will be maintained. Bunting said the plans list 22 known hazards that occur in Kansas, the top five being floods, tornadoes, windstorms, winter storms and wildfires. It takes many months to research and compile all the data that goes into each plan, identifying those hazards that exist in the county and devising strategies to deal with them. And that has to happen 105 times.

Going to a regional plan, said Bunting, is more efficient and economical for all concerned.

"It saves a lot of time and a lot of expense," said Bunting.

Under the regional plan, the state will



USD 473 in Chapman, Kan., received more than \$100,000 in mitigation funding to rebuild a multi-purpose/wrestling room in the high school to serve as a tornado safe room that will shelter 300 students and staff. The school was heavily damaged by a tornado that struck the town in June 2008. (Photo provided)

pick up 100 percent of the plans' expense at a greatly reduced cost. Going to a regional plan also reduces the time it takes to create and maintain the plan. KDEM staff review each county plan, averaging eight hours per review. That comes to about 168 hours a year. Under the regional plan, review time would be cut to approximately 35 hours.

A regional plan even reduces the amount of paperwork involved. Bunting cited Region L as an example. Under the regional plan, Region L consists of Leavenworth, Wyandotte and Johnson County. "Instead of having all this three times, one in Leavenworth's plan, one in Wyandotte, one in Johnson County, we have a description of a tornado one time. Right there, you're saving 20 pages."

KDEM has begun hosting a series of meetings in each region to begin the process of creating the plans.

"You get all of your stakeholders together," said Bunting, "your special districts like your schools, your fire, your county commissioners, your emergency managers. Then you go over your actions and your hazards. 'Do you want fog in there or don't you want fog? Is that a hazard for your county?'"

Bunting said surveys will also be posted online to allow the public to generate input to the plan. Once the stakeholders and the public have given their input, the contractors hired to develop the plans will start working on it.

"You pull all of your data together," said Bunting, "for instance, all the federal disasters that have been declared, the USDA disasters, any emergency declarations. Then you come up with the CPRI (Calculated Priority Ranking Index)."

The CPRI examines four criteria for each hazard (probability, magnitude/severity, warning time, and duration) and the risk index for each according to four levels, then applies a weighting factor. Based on the results, mitigation actions that address the hazards in each region can be formulated.

During the planning process, Bunting said, stakeholders also present their "wish list" of mitigation actions they hope to accomplish over the five-year life of the plan, citing tornadoes as an example of a hazard to consider. "Safe rooms would be an action," she said. "Community shelters would be an action. 'We want a safe room in every school within our USD in our county.'"

Actions are prioritized to be accomplished as grant money becomes available through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, said Bunting. While having a mitigation plan is required under the Disaster

Mitigation Act of 2000, having a plan does not necessarily mean a county will receive a grant, although counties are still free to work on projects on their own. The HMGP is only activated for a state when it receives a federal disaster declaration.

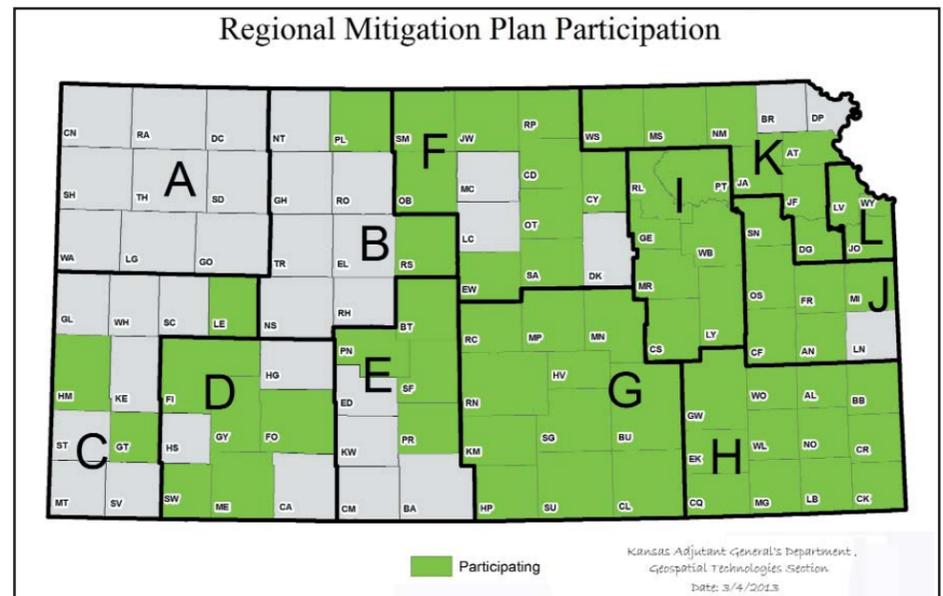
"After a disaster, KDEM sends out a call for applications/letters of interest," said Bunting. "Everybody who is interested sends back a letter on what they want to do, for instance, building safe rooms. So if, for example, you are a jurisdiction that was directly affected by that tornado, then you get 25 points automatically that (another county) wouldn't get. They're weighted in favor of the jurisdictions that were actually affected. Now, if none of those jurisdictions put in for anything, then it goes out to those other counties."

Bunting said the goal is to have regional plans in place across the state by 2015 and they will be created with an eye toward the expiration dates of current plans.

"Region H (a 12-county area in southeast Kansas) has the most plans expiring in 2014," said Bunting. "They're first."

Bunting said the regional idea was initially presented to the emergency management community through forums and in a presentation at the annual Kansas Emergency Management Association conference. Although participation in the regional concept is entirely voluntary, support for the idea was overwhelming and has even generated interest from FEMA.

"FEMA is one hundred percent on board," said Bunting. "They're all excited. They're looking at it as 'Oh boy, a best practice for the region.'"



Under the new state hazard mitigation plan, the state is divided into 11 regions. Each region will have a mitigation plan, rather than each county having a plan of its own. (Graphic by Adjutant General's Department Geospatial Information Section)

KDEM Supersystem database stores resource information

By Andrew Foster
Kansas Division of Emergency Management

When it comes to preparing for emergencies, there are many different hazards that need to be planned for. Tornadoes, floods, hazmat spills and virtually all other disasters have effects that are predictable. Planning can reduce their impact on the citizens and local community.

Planning is a task that requires a significant investment in time or money by cities and counties where the disasters happen. To assist the planners at the local level, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management department of planning and mitigation has been working on the Bold Supersystem since 2010. It is a comprehensive online system that will provide local emergency managers and planners with tools previously unavailable for constructing Continuity of Operations Plans and Emergency Operations Plans.

KDEM initiated the supersystem development by working with Bold Planning Solutions based out of Denver, Colo. The groundwork was laid by designing a website that would allow counties to enter their information online and then the system would help generate a properly formatted

plan. This system is provided to the counties at no cost, which reduces their financial burden that planning has presented.

This system also helps counties by breaking the planning process into smaller, more manageable tasks that use common language and ideas. The information is stored in a secure online server for easy access before, during and after an emergency. Overall, the system is saving time and money across the state and working to streamline the process of planning for emergencies.

It was recognized that it will make the new supersystem most effective if counties first produce COOP plans and then use those plans to produce EOPs. KDEM began by instructing counties in the basics of COOP planning. A COOP plan is developed by an agency or department to set the details for how county departments, such as health and medical, law enforcement and fire service, will continue to provide services to the public after a disaster. A COOP plan gives the local government the ability to keep their citizens safe, alive and able to recover from disaster. These plans exist at the state and federal level, as well. Much of the success of planning comes from the

(Continued on Page 15)



State receives a double-dose of winter over eight-day period

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

It was a white Christmas to remember – at least the white part.

That jolly holiday was almost two months past when the first of two back-to-back winter storms slammed into Kansas in February, covering the state with a heavy quilt of snow more than a foot deep in many areas and leaving many Kansans feeling anything but jolly.

Fortunately, the storms did not come unannounced. Weather forecasts gave ample warning of the storms' likely severity, giving officials with the Kansas Division of Emergency Management time to warn the public and urge them to be prepared.

"Winter storms often bring blocked roads and power outages, particularly in rural areas," said Angee Morgan, deputy KDEM director. "Before the storms hit, make sure your home emergency kit is stocked and everyone knows what your emergency plan is."

It was a message that would be repeated time and again over the course of the storms, which entered the state the evening of Feb. 20 and built in intensity over the course of the night and into the next afternoon. Governor Sam Brownback signed a State of Disaster Emergency declaration to activate the Kansas Emergency Response Plan and visited the State Emergency Operations Center in Topeka, which was activated to a watch level, to receive an overview of current and projected weather conditions, and briefings on the state's response actions. His advice to Kansans was to use caution and common sense.

"I do want to urge everybody in the state: If you don't have to travel, don't," Brownback advised. "Get out a board game, play with the kids, drink a cup of coffee."

Many local government offices, businesses, churches, schools and other groups heeded the advice and cancelled activities. Brownback directed state offices be closed from 6 a.m. Feb. 21 to 6 a.m. on the 22nd, except for essential personnel.

KDEM personnel and representatives from other state emergency response agencies staffed the SEOC around the clock beginning Feb. 20.

"We're going to be in the State Emergency Operations Center through the night monitoring the situation," said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general and the director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. "We'll be keeping in contact with emergency managers across the state to see how they're doing and working any requests for assistance they may need."

Mike King, secretary of the Kansas De-

partment of Transportation, deployed more than 1,000 drivers and 575 trucks equipped to remove snow onto the state's highways.

Col. Ernest Garcia, superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol, had approximately 235 troopers patrolling the highways to assist stranded motorists, respond to accidents and perform other calls for service.

As the storm progressed, a dozen Kansas National Guard Humvees and 24 Guardsmen were dispatched to patrol sections of I-70 and two other highways to search for stranded travelers and offer assistance. Although no one needed transport to shelter, the Soldiers passed out food and water to a few travelers and alerted tow trucks of their location. The Soldiers drove nearly 800 miles and checked on approximately 70 vehicles during their mission.

Brownback, Tafanelli and other officials conducted several teleconferences with the media to keep the public informed of road closures, the storm's progress and the state's response measures.

The storm dumped as much as 14 inches of snow in several parts of Kansas before it finally moved out of the state in the early morning hours of Friday, Feb. 23, leaving local and state emergency responders with the task of cleaning up after it.

The Kansas Highway Patrol worked 106 non-injury accidents and 15 injury accidents with no reported fatalities. KHP officers also rendered more than 1,400 motorist-assist related service calls, including slide-offs, tows, abandoned vehicles, stranded motorists and other calls. In all, KHP dispatchers reported approximately 1,700 calls for service.

Snow fall totals across the state averaged 10 inches with 14 inches in South Central and Northeast Kansas and as much as 17 inches in the Northwest part of the state. Despite the heavy snows, minimal power outages were reported as a result of the storm.

The State Emergency Operations Center returned to normal operations at noon Feb. 22 after more than 48 hours of activation.

And then came round two.

A second winter storm moved into Kansas Feb. 24, bringing with it the potential for freezing rain, sleet, ice and six to 12 inches of snow with whiteout conditions for a large portion of the state accompanied by winds of 30 to 40 mph with gusts up to 50 to 60 mph. The State EOC reactivated to a 24-hour status.

Heavy snow developed over the Texas/Oklahoma panhandles and moved into the state from southwest to northeast. As with the first storm, the governor and state emergency response officials urged Kansans to be prepared and use common sense.



Heavy snow buries the parking lot east of Nickell Armory in Topeka the morning of Feb. 21, part of a massive winter storm system that hit Kansas and much of the Midwest Feb. 20-22. A second storm swept into the state Feb. 24. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)

"Take this storm seriously," said Brownback. "Postpone travel plans if you are in the path of the heaviest predicted snow. If you must travel, don't get on the road without a charged cell phone, a full tank of gas and an emergency kit with food, water and other essentials."

As the storm became more severe, KDOT closed sections of several highways due to blowing and drifting snow and low visibility.

Because Feb. 26 was Election Day, Secretary of State Kris Kobach encouraged the public to submit an advance voting ballot

and extended the deadline to turn in advance ballots to Monday, Feb. 25, rather than noon. Local county officials determined how elections proceeded based on their contingency plans.

Brownback directed that state executive branch offices close in 67 western and central counties all day Feb. 25.

Unlike the first storm, ice became a factor during the second round and was blamed for a one-car fatality accident on I-70 in Sherman County early Monday, Feb. 25. A second fatality occurred on I-70 near

(Continued on Page 15)

KDEM scientist works culinary magic for SEOC night shift

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

When the first round of a week-long winter snowstorm system slammed into Kansas Feb. 20, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management began staffing the State Emergency Operation Center in the State Defense Building, Topeka, at a watch level, operating around the clock to monitor the storms and keep in touch with county emergency managers in case assistance was needed.

Staffing the EOC requires people and, like people everywhere, they need to eat. In such situations, food is generally ordered and delivered – pizza, sandwiches, etc. However, the evening of the 20th the overwhelming choice was "Let Swapan cook!"

Swapan Saha, an environmental scientist with KDEM's Technological Hazards section, was happy to volunteer. A shopping list was made, ingredients were purchased

(Continued on Page 16)



Swapan Saha (right) and his friend Minati Dhar prepare Cauliflower-Potato Curry, a popular vegetarian dish, for a community event at the Hindu Temple in Kansas City. Saha, an environmental scientist with KDEM's Technological Hazards section, has gained a reputation among family and friends as an accomplished chef. (Photo provided)



Personnel from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, the Kansas National Guard and other state emergency response agencies staff the State Emergency Operations Center in Topeka during a severe winter storm that hit the state Feb. 20. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)

Soldiers/Airmen attend the 74th annual Arab Shrine Circus

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

Kansas National Guard Soldiers and Airmen and their families braved the cold Feb. 23, to attend a special performance of the 74th annual Arab Shrine circus at the Kansas Expocentre, Topeka, Kan. In a visit to the State Defense Building Jan. 4, members of the Shriners International presented Maj. Gen. Lee Tafaneli, the adjutant general, 5,000 tickets for a special armed forces showing of the circus. The tickets were then distributed to any Soldier or Airmen who requested them.

"We are happy to do this for those who have given so much to us," said Albert Becerra, assistant circus director, during the intermission in the performance. "As an organization, the Shrine donates \$1.8 million a day to the Shriners Hospital for Children," said Becerra.

The Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, also commonly known as Shriners, established in 1870, is an appendant body to Freemasonry. The organization is best known for the Shriners Hospitals for Children it administers, and the red fezzes that members wear.

The annual Shrine Circus serves as the major fund raising event for the Shrine. "Sixty percent of our annual budget

comes from the circus," said Brad Koehn, the circus chairman.

The doors opened at 8:30 a.m. and the performance started at 9:30 a.m.; however, there was a circus side show to keep the attendees busy.

"I am very appreciative of what the Shriners are doing for us today," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Matthew Jessop, operations officer/instructor pilot with Detachment 37, Operational Support Airlift. Jessop was there with his wife Brenda and sons Zach and Quinten. Jessop and his sons had their first elephant ride before the show started.

This show was the first of the three performances Saturday. The performers conducted a total of six shows from Friday through Sunday. The 2 ½ hour show, conducted in three rings, was full of almost continuous action. There were times where there was almost too much going on to fully take it in.

"We are all very excited and appreciative for this chance to see the circus," said Maj. Amy Blow, Occupational Health manager. She was there with her husband, 1st Lt. Chad Blow, their daughters Maddy, Evie and Hannah, plus their friends Avery Rose, Callie Green and Madison Gosney.

The circus made memories for both the young and the young at heart.



(Left to right) Maj. Amy Blow, Occupational Health manager; Avery Rose; Maddy Blow; and Callie Green; 1st Lt. Chad Blow, a strategic planner; Evie Blow; Madison Gosney and Hannah Blow wait for the start of the 74th annual Shrine Circus presented at the Kansas Expocentre, Topeka, Kan., Feb. 23. (Photo by Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



Who: Children ages 8-15. First Priority to those families with a family member combat wounded or KIA. All Military children may apply!

What: Free summer camp – five overnights

When: 14-19 July 2013; final check-in and child drop-off Sunday, 14 July at 1400.

Where: Rock Springs 4-H Center

Things to Do: Archery, rifle, canoeing, horse riding, arts & crafts, environmental education

To Apply go to www.campcorral.org **The site has a direct registration link, hundreds of photos, and camp videos. Children of KIA or combat wounded parents will receive confirmation of acceptance within two weeks of applying. Other registrations will be confirmed mid-May as space allows. From Homepage go to 'About,' click 'See the Camps,' then select 'Rock Springs 4H'**

Camp Corral is a nation-wide program funded by the Golden Corral restaurant chain. The program funds a week at summer camp for the children America's military heroes, especially those who have been injured in the line of duty. Fort Riley's local camp for the program is Rock Springs 4-H Center located 12 miles south of Junction City. There are slots for 240 children.

Guns, pucks and Wichita Thunder

By Airman 1st Class Victor Caputo
22nd Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

One might ask how someone enlisted in the Marine Corps ends up a master sergeant in the Kansas Air National Guard. If Master Sgt. Frank Cook is asked that question, it's best to pull up a chair and get comfortable because it's not a simple story.

Born at McConnell Air Force Base and raised in Wichita, Kan., Cook, 184th Security Forces Squadron supply mobility non-commissioned officer in charge, runs the 184th Intelligence Wing armory. He is responsible for tracking weapons and equipment, keeping it all in working order and replacing items that are no longer fit for action.

He spends his off-duty time as the assistant equipment manager for the Central Hockey League team, the Wichita Thunder. His responsibilities there entail the same duties as in the armory, but instead of assault rifles and handguns, he deals with sticks and skates.

"I have to make sure we have the correct equipment for the team," said Cook. "The difficult part is making sure we can afford the stuff we need, but I've had plenty of practice doing the same thing in the military."

Cook went through several different phases before he settled into his current lifestyle as an airman and a member of the Thunder.

He joined the Marine Corps in 1986, separated in 1993 and joined the Wichita Police Department a short time later.

"My grandmother still lived in Wichita and sent me a newspaper clipping that the Wichita Police Department was hiring," he said. "I applied, was accepted and, in 1995, I graduated from the WPD academy."

Cook had been a fan of his hometown team since its founding in 1992, when he received a random call from a friend in 2005, asking if he knew how to sew socks.

"My mom taught me a lot of things when I was young," said Cook, "and sewing was one of them. So I told her 'Yeah, I can darn socks.'"

He learned that the Thunder needed to

have their game socks sewn after every game. He would have to go to each game, take their socks home with him, wash them and sew them back into shape. Cook gladly accepted the opportunity to work with the team.

Eventually he began to help with the visiting teams' socks and was offered the assistant equipment manager spot when it became available.

"When my current boss was promoted to equipment manager," said Cook, "he asked if I would be willing to take on the role of his assistant. I've been there since 2008."

Affectionately known to the team as "Sarge," Cook makes sure he gets to know each player individually. This helps him "fire-up" the team before each game, he said.

"Sarge is great," said Jon Madden, Wichita Thunder defenseman. "He comes in here and volunteers his time to help us. He'll do anything for anyone; he would even give you the shirt off of his back."

What more could you ask for from a guy?" Cook is tentatively retiring from the Air Force in summer of 2014, and is preparing to leave his longtime home at the 184th SFS.

"The squadron is young right now and many of them look up to Master Sergeant Cook, so we will miss his mentorship," said Chief Master Sgt. Donna Buckman, 184th SFS manager. "I've personally known him for 13 years. We were partners on the Wichita streets. He's been my wingman for years, but most of all he has been a friend."

When it comes to his plans for the future, Cook is aiming for his dream job of working in the National Hockey League team for his favorite team.

"My long-term goal is to work with the Detroit Red Wings," said Cook. "Will I ever make it that far? I don't know. But I believe that with the drive and determination and work ethic that has been developed in me, not only in the Marine Corps but also through the Air Force, I have every confidence that I will continue to move up through the leagues."



Master Sgt. Frank Cook, 184th Security Forces Squadron supply mobility noncommissioned officer in charge, stands with a collection of memorabilia he acquired through his career of more than 20 years. Cook, who spent seven years in the Marine Corps, has been with the Kansas Air National Guard since 1997 when he signed up as a traditional National Guardsman. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Victor J. Caputo)

Join the Civil Air Patrol

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

The Civil Air Patrol is an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force with three primary missions:

- Aerospace education
- Cadet programs
- Emergency services



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

Soldier named Deputy of the Year



Kansas National Guardsman and longtime Miami County Sheriff's Deputy Jaime Schulte was named Deputy of the Year at the Kansas Sheriff's Association Conference Nov. 15, 2012, in Hutchinson, Kan., for his heroic effort in 2011.

Schulte, who was born in Garnett, and grew up in Westphalia, is the son of Kathy and the late Lyle Schulte of Colony, Kan.

He has been a law enforcement officer in the Miami Department for 17 years. He has also served two tours in Iraq as a member of the Kansas National Guard. He currently serves with the 891st Engineer Battalion in Iola, Kan., as a sergeant first class.

Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, was in attendance as guest speaker.

Schulte was honored for many things, but high among them he and two other officers responded to a call near Paola, where a juvenile charged the deputies with weapons. Schulte was forced to fire his weapon, hitting the assailant in the leg. Miami County Sheriff Frank Kelly said that Schulte "really protected himself and his fellow deputies from being harmed. He stepped up and took care of it."

Schulte told supporters he was excited to receive the award. (Courtesy photo)

A double-dose of winter

Continued from Page 13

mile marker 151 in Ellis County Monday evening. The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that from 8 a.m. Feb. 25 to 4 p.m. Feb. 26 troopers responded to 141 non-injury accidents and 30 injury accidents, and provided 712 motorist assists.

Ice and heavy winds were also responsible for a number of power outages in South Central and Eastern Kansas. As of the morning of Feb. 26, Westar Energy reported approximately 10,000 customers without power in South Central to Northeast parts of the state. Kansas City Power and Light reported approximately 15,000 customers without power in an area from Emporia to Fort Scott to Kansas City, Kan. Before the storm subsided, KCP&L reported approximately 45,000 customers without power in the Kansas City Metro area. A number of rural electric cooperatives also reported outages. Line crews

worked around the clock to restore power as quickly as possible.

Many flights scheduled for Monday evening and Tuesday morning at Kansas City International Airport were cancelled. Mid-Continent Airport in Wichita remained open, but all incoming and outbound flights were cancelled.

The second winter storm finally moved on late Tuesday, leaving a foot or more of snow in many areas of the state. The State Emergency Operations Center returned to its normal operation level at midnight Feb. 27.

"The success of this disaster response was the result of a cooperative effort between state agencies, local emergency managers and first responders across the state," said Tafanelli. "The public also deserves a large share of the credit. They heeded the advance warnings, they prepared themselves and they stayed home to weather out the storm."

KDEM Supersystem database

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ability to learn from past failures and use those lessons to enhance capabilities.

The supersystem allows planners to focus on the details of a plan without being overly burdened by the formatting requirements of the plan. A county fills out the sections independently and the software ties all the information together on the back end. They are able to print a useable document or sections of that document to fit their needs. This same process is used to develop the county EOP. This provides significant savings to the county administrators, planners, and emergency managers and enhances their capabilities.

Whenever new software is introduced, there is going to be confusion and questions about how it operates. KDEM is dedicating a considerable amount of time providing guidance and training on how to use this new tool and refreshing many of the basics of planning.

The primary way to deliver this training has been through planning workshops held throughout Kansas. These workshops have

been attended by a broad range of county agencies, including emergency management, health and medical, road and bridge, law enforcement, county commissioners, fire departments, and many others. There have also been representatives from many state and federal agencies who have attended or participated in the workshops.

During these workshops, KDEM provides guidance on hazmat preparedness, Local Emergency Preparedness Committees, Kansas Planning Standards for EOP development, mitigation, GIS mapping, and the supersystem. At the end of the two-day workshop, attendees leave with a more thorough understanding of the requirements and capacity of their county emergency management planning professionals, and ultimately how they can plan in advance to help them respond and recover from disaster.

These workshops, the new supersystem and the willingness to plan for disasters have will help counties and the state of Kansas as a whole become more prepared for disasters in the years to come.

Nose art has ties to Kansas history

By Airman 1st Class Sara Beth Piland
190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The 190th Air Refueling Wing recently unveiled a new piece of nose art painted and created by Master Sgt. Michael Chandler, 190th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. The piece shows the iconic image of abolitionist John Brown, as depicted by Kansas artist John Steuart Curry in the Topeka Capitol Rotunda, with the words "Free State Fueler" in flames.

"I like to break the boundaries of the frame. I think it gives the art more personality," Chandler said.

Brown is famous for his opposition to pro-slavery forces in the question of Kansas' slavery status as it entered the union, as well as his raid on the armory in Harpers Ferry, W.Va.

In addition to the reproduction of the famous painting, Chandler created flames to symbolize the burning of Lawrence, Kan., and a drop of blood on the letter "A" to indicate the label of "Bleeding Kansas," which came out of the border war prior to the Civil War.

Ideas for nose art generally come from
(Continued on Page 16)



The 190th Air Refueling Wing unveils a new piece of nose art painted and created by Master Sgt. Michael Chandler, 190th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. The piece depicts the iconic image of John Brown on display in the Topeka Capitol Rotunda. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Allen Pickert, 190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs)

Kansas Guard member wins Civil Air Patrol writing awards

One of the challenges the Civil Air Patrol faces is telling its story to the community that it serves. In Kansas, more than 500 unpaid volunteers train to respond with aircraft and ground teams to emergencies ranging from an overdue aircraft to a snowstorm, wild fire, tornado or earthquake. The Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters presents awards to members who tell the CAP story at its annual conference. Civil Air Patrol Maj. Michael H. Mathewson, Topeka, received an Award of Excellence and a Certificate of Merit for stories he submitted to the Plains Guardian during 2011.

"This was my first time to enter and I just wanted to the Kansas Wing to be represented," said Mathewson. "I never thought that I would win anything."

Mathewson joined the Civil Air Patrol in 2008 as the Topeka Squadron's public affairs officer. His work at the squadron level has earned him the Kansas Wing Public Affairs Officer of the Year for 2010, 2011 and 2012. In recognition of his work in promot-

ing the Civil Air Patrol, he was made a member of the Kansas Wing staff as the public affairs officer in May 2012.

Mathewson is also a sergeant with the Army National Guard. He joined the Guard in September 2001 following a break in service from active duty. Mathewson has been writing stories as a Unit Public Affairs Representative on his unit activities since 2005. His first stories printed in the Plains Guardian were of his tour in Kosovo. For his efforts, he was presented Billie E. Fuqua Unit Public Affairs Representative of the Year award in 2007 and 2008.

"There are so many great stories out there, both in Civil Air Patrol and in the Guard," said Mathewson. "It is just often so hard to convince members to tell it to you so that their story can be captured in both print and pictures."

Mathewson is currently assigned to Headquarters and headquarters Detachment Joint Forces Headquarters and attached to the 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.



Civil Air Patrol Lt. Col. Duane Filkins (left), vice commander of the Kansas Wing, presents CAP/Maj. Michael Mathewson (right), the Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters Award of Excellence for writing for military publications, the Plains Guardian. The award was presented Jan. 19 during the monthly Wing Commanders Call. (Photo by Civil Air Patrol Maj. Catherine Mages, Kansas Wing assistant director of Aerospace Education)

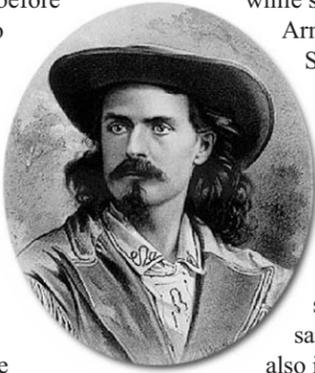
Kansas service was part of Cody's colorful career

Museum of the Kansas National Guard
www.kansasguardmuseum.org

Before he was a master showman, before he earned a Medal of Honor, before he became known as "Buffalo Bill," William F. Cody was a Kansas Guardsman.

The 1861-65 Report of the Adjutant General of Kansas shows that Cody enlisted in February 1864 at Leavenworth, Kan., at the age of 18 and was mustered out of service with Company H, 7th Regiment Kansas Volunteer, Cavalry. He later served as a civilian scout for the 9th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry Regiment. His service to the nation continued when he was handpicked at age 22 by Gen. Phil Sheridan in October 1868 to be the chief scout of the 5th U.S. Cavalry.

Prior to the Civil War, Cody was an anti-slavery "Jayhawker." He served the state during the war in places like Tennessee, Mississippi and Missouri. After the war, he helped the nation's westward expansion by providing buffalo meat for the crews of the Kansas Pacific Railroad during the con-



struction of the railway through Kansas.

At the age of 26, he was awarded the Medal of Honor for "Gallantry in Action" while serving with the 3rd U.S. Army April 26, 1872, near the South Fork of the Loup River in Nebraska.

In his later years, when he was owner of "Buffalo Bill's Wild West" show, Cody established one of the first "equal pay for equal work" policies, paying female sharpshooter Annie Oakley the same as her male coworkers. He also insisted that Native Americans should be given the same respect.

Cody's spectacular show toured the United States and Europe for 23 years, delighting audiences that included Queen Victoria, the Prince of Wales, the future Kaiser Wilhelm II and other members of royalty.

Cody used his wealth to establish water conservation dams in the western U.S. and promoted the first Animal Wildlife Conservation practices in the U.S. He was considered by many to be the U.S. World Ambassador.

He was inducted into the Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame Nov. 8, 2009.



"Buffalo Bill" Cody drew on his experiences in Kansas and the West to create his own "Wild West" show that thrilled audiences around the world for 23 years.

KDEM scientist works culinary magic

Continued from Page 13

chased and Saha disappeared into the breakroom kitchen. Soon, an enticing aroma began to waft down the hallway. When the "Dinner is served" announcement came, Saha's coworkers were treated to two large aluminum pans heaped with spaghetti prepared with olive oil, garlic and other spices served with large chunks of browned sausage.

Clearly, the decision to "let Swapan cook" was wise.

Saha gained his reputation as a master of the culinary arts soon after joining KDEM in 2006. "When we had parties and department cookouts, I started bringing food," said Saha. He recalled the first dish he ever brought was a curry. "Everybody liked it."

Swapan said cooking is a hobby for him, one he began in his native India, where he received a Ph.D. in chemistry from Jadavpur University and did research in chemistry, biochemistry and industrial catalysis for 15 years. (Academic achievement seems to run in his family. His wife, who works for the Kansas City Public School system, also has a Ph.D. in biochemistry and their son is currently a student at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine.)

Saha said his knowledge of chemistry serves him well when he cooks. Much like building a chemical formula, in creating a recipe "you need to know what spices to use and what proportions."

Saha noted that India has a large and varied culture with a diversity of cooking styles. However, although he likes to pre-

pare Indian dishes, Saha does not limit himself to them.

"I cook Thai, Mexican, Italian," he said, "all kinds of food."

Saha's career path was as varied as his culinary tastes. After leaving India, he continued research in biochemistry at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Kansas City.

"During that time, my work was more theory-oriented," he said. "We did a lot of good work there."

After several years of research, he decided to take his career in a new direction and returned to school while working full-time. He earned a master's degree in Health Care Administration from the University of Kansas and worked for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for six years before joining KDEM. He is also a graduate of the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute and served as a mentor in 2008 and 2010 for the same program.

Over the years, Saha has authored 32 research articles published in international journals, has a patent in petroleum chemistry, and served as a reviewer for the international professional journal *Biochimica Biophysica Acta*.

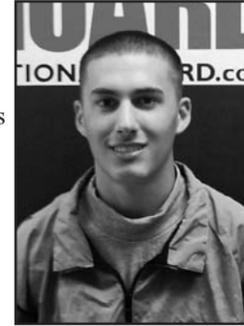
Saha said his most recent big cooking project was for the religious festival of Holi, which he and his family celebrated March 30 at the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center in Kansas City.

After that, Saha will, no doubt, continue to indulge his passion for the kitchen by pleasing the palates of family and friends.

Program gives recruits a leg up

By Staff Sgt. Heather Wright
Recruiting and Retention Battalion

Pvt. Blake Sanchez, a native of Derby, Kan., recently completed basic and advanced individual training for the Kansas Army National Guard. One of the requirements in basic training is to find five points on a land navigation course by an allotted time. Sanchez credits Wichita's Recruit Sustainment Program for helping prepare him for training. The RSP cadre taught Sanchez and his fellow recruits map reading and how to shoot an azimuth.



Pvt. Blake Sanchez

"It helped a lot," said Sanchez. "Actually the land nav courses helped a lot. At basic and AIT, I was ahead of everyone else because I could just read (the maps) easily."

Sanchez, 18, spent six months in Wichita's RSP program. During that time, he went through physical training, drill and ceremony and rank structure. Sanchez was grateful to know about the Army's physical training program before leaving for school.

"At basic there were kids that had no idea what the squat bender or what the bend and reach was, but I knew it, so it helped me stay under the radar," said Sanchez.

Try as he might, Sanchez didn't stay under the radar he was promoted to squad leader and when a relative sent him a letter addressed to "Blade" instead of "Blake," he became the target of some drill sergeant humor. Sanchez took it in stride as it was par for the course in basic training.

Sanchez is looking forward to starting college and getting a job. He's interested in pursuing a degree in internet technology or something related to his military occupation specialty as a signal support systems specialist. He's considering becoming an officer in either the Kansas Guard or going active duty after his initial enlistment. With the G.I. Bill and both state and federal tuition assistance, Sanchez will have a head start over peers who need to take student loans for college.

Sanchez had a few recommendations for future RSP recruits.

"Stay on top of your PT and work out," he advised. "That's a big thing with drill sergeants. If you're good at PT, then they're really going to stay off you."

Sanchez also recommends recruits familiarize themselves with a rifle at a civilian shooting range before going to training. There were quite a few recruits in his basic training class who had never held a weapon before, let alone shoot one.

His twin brother may be the first one to take advantage of his advice. Brett Sanchez enlisted in the Kansas Army National Guard in February.

Student Flight prepares Air National Guardsmen for training

Continued from Page 11

training in January, has been in Student Flight since June.

"It's been helpful. It's the same thing, so it's repetition, which is good," Kephart said.

Quality as well as quantity are values the Student Flight instructors try to instill in the recruits before basic training. During a drill practice, White expressed the importance that perfect practice makes perfect,

not just practice alone. If the practice is done poorly, then the actual performance will also be done poorly.

Ultimately, the goal of Student Flight is to help future members of the 184th IW reach their maximum level of Air Force professionalism.

"If we start them with a good foundation," said White, "help them and give them tools to be successful, then you will see the bright stars come out."



During a four-hour class, Airmen assigned to the Student Flight prepare for Air Force customs and courtesies, as well as the physical challenges of basic training. (Photo by Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

Nose art has ties to Kansas history

Continued from Page 15

the crew chief who "owns" the airplane and oversees its operation. Nose art must go through an approval process and meet certain criteria in order to honor the tradition started in World War II by pilots remembering home. Although the original nose art was often pin-up girls with the names of wives or girlfriends back in the U.S., today the artwork usually has a historical value, which honors the unit, state or community.

"Each example of nose art is generally only seen on a plane for about three to four years without being transferred to another plane, as a show of respect for the career of the aircraft," said Chief Master Sgt. Terry Kerns, also of the 190th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Aircraft must have a career behind them

before they are decorated with nose art. Events or stories associated with the plane's history are often used as inspiration for the artwork they receive, as was the case with "Ole Lightning," which had been struck by lightning. Brand new airplanes are left pristine to keep their streamlined look, but airplanes with a little history are given a unique painting on their tip.

Nose art is an important tool for the military when it comes to building morale and showing pride in their equipment.

"Master Sgt. Chandler's work is awesome. I'm glad we have someone with the talent to create something like that," Kerns said. "It's nice to see the process it goes through from the first sketches to the finished product on the plane. Someone special is needed to do that so well."

From high and tights to shark bites

Guardsman's skills in big demand with public, fellow Soldiers

By 2nd Lt. Steven Heitmeyer, 2137th Forward Support Company UPAR; Staff Sgt. Jared Meier, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery UPAR; Spc. Joseph P. Lockwood, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 891st Engineer Battalion UPAR; and Spc. Georgia Smith, 2137th Forward Support Company UPAR

From cutting high and tights for his battle buddies in the barracks to shaving fanciful, etched designs in his clients' hair in the barber chair, Spc. Pedro A. Esteban, a member of the 778th Transportation Company, Kansas Army National Guard, Kansas City, Kan., has balanced service to his country with demands for impeccable haircuts for 18 years.

Currently a military vehicle driver, Esteban's military career began immediately before his barbering career and the two paths share a common beginning in a barracks at Fort Bragg, N.C., in 1990, while serving on active duty as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division.

In pursuit of a higher standard set for himself after being disappointed with a series of poor-quality haircuts, Esteban took it upon himself to learn to maintain his own hair in the "high and tight" military style. Following his first attempt, which took hours to meet his standard of excellence, and numerous requests and compliments by his peers, demand for Esteban's skills grew too great to ignore. Following active duty service between 1990 and



With a steady, practiced hand, Spc. Pedro Esteban, a military vehicle driver from 778th Transportation Company, gives a young customer a trim at Famous, a barber shop in Platte Woods, Mo. (Photo by Juanita Esteban)



As his family looks on, another satisfied client shows off the skillful barber handiwork of Spc. Pedro Esteban, a military vehicle driver from 778th Transportation Company. Esteban said a shark design is very popular among members of his son's football team. (Photo by Spc. Pedro Esteban, 778th Transportation Company)

1994, Esteban's passion and talents carried him through barber school in Independence, Mo., where he accumulated 1,500 documented hours of training experience in less than nine months.

Esteban's skills don't merely end with a well-executed hair cut. Labeled a "barberist" by his regulars, Esteban combines the precision of barbering with the flair of an artist. Asked once to shave a stylistic spider and its web onto the side of a youngster's head, Esteban has delved into the realm of creative barbering. He has shaved a Halloween-themed jack o' lantern into one client's hair and a great white shark into his son's, which was an immediate hit; several of his football teammates demanded the same design in support of their school mascot, The Sharks.

It wasn't until after Esteban found a Kansas National Guard recruiter in his barber chair one fateful day that Esteban's military and civilian careers would once again overlap. Esteban was persuaded to re-enlist in the Army as a Kansas National Guardsman in 2009. Today Esteban balances the success of his military career with servicing

his thriving clientele who span the greater Kansas City area and beyond.

"I give one hundred percent to every haircut, because I don't know any other way," said Esteban.

Esteban juggles the demands of self-employment and his career as a Guardsman, balancing life in which he enjoys spending time with family and in other activities such as music and exercise.

Esteban shared some advice to anyone aspiring to become a barber.

"Go to school; develop your style and your product," he said. "Gain mastery and an understanding of products and services beyond just meeting the minimum requirements to become a barber."

He also suggests seeking a healthy and competitive work environment to constantly improve one's skills.

Whether he is serving the community as a barber or a Guardsman, Esteban summed up his work ethic.

"It doesn't matter what you're doing. Whether it's leading Soldiers, being the fry guy at McDonald's or being a barber, you need to be passionate about what you do."



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Darcy.L.Seitz.ctr@mail.mil

Current Members

Makayla	Jacob	Allison
Reed	Jared	Sydney
Alison	Naomi	Joseph
	Kassidy	



Kansas National Guard

Teen Council

2012-2013

Emporia Soldiers host open house



Spc. Nathan Criswell explains some of the tasks of an armored crewman to a local Emporia veteran during a Feb. 9 open house hosted by the Soldiers of Company D, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment. The open house gave the people of Emporia a chance to see firsthand how National Guard Soldiers train and fight. Static displays included the M1A1 Main Battle Tank, the M1A1 Conduct of Fire Trainer and the Fire Arms Training Simulator. (Photo by Spc. Jaime Carlos, Company D, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment)

Awards and Decorations

KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Legion of Merit



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ronnie Jackson, Topeka

Meritorious Service Medal



Maj. Timothy Nehls, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kevin Herrman, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. 1st Class Steven Collins, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City

Army Commendation Medal



Capt. Scott Weber, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Camillus Wahlmeier, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
1st Lt. Justin Briggs, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
1st Lt. Dustin Nash, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
1st Sgt. Scott Williamson, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Beougher, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. 1st Class Terrence Burgess, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Hewitt, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. 1st Class Craig Wellnitz, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Staff Sgt. Samuel Day, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Julian Delacruz Sr., 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Staff Sgt. Josephis Douglas, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Staff Sgt. Joseph Duncan III, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Robert Flynn, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Staff Sgt. Robert Griffiths, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Staff Sgt. Troy Rall, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Staff Sgt. Robert Warton, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. Jason Beaver, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. Warren Graham, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. Brandon Williams, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. Chris Wisdom, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Cpl. Brady Rietcheck, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Spc. Joseph Davis, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Pfc. Matthew Bryce, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton

Army Achievement Medal



Staff Sgt. Richard Luvender, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Staff Sgt. Kelly Phillips, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Staff Sgt. Joseph Sterling, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Staff Sgt. Leslie Stine, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. David Allen, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. Cody Breon, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. Brett Denning, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. Ian Donovan, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. Matthew Hildebrand, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. James Hobbs, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. Joshua Kline, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. Kevin Landers, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. Jason R. Lee, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. John Quintal, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. Matthew Reazin, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. David Salazar, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. Kody Stebens, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. Steven Struber, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. Ezra Swander, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. Brently Willingham, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Sgt. Brian Young, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Cpl. Joanne Baldon, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Cpl. Andrew Benward, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Cpl. Adam Kreuzburg, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Cpl. Amanda McCauley-Davison, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Cpl. Jessica Snodgrass, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Cpl. David Stanley, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Cpl. Richard Sturtevant, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Cpl. Jessie Worthington, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Spc. Chadwick Carter, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Spc. Troy Chadwell, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Spc. Aaron Cross, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Spc. Johnathan Earl, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Spc. Joshua Earl, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Spc. Roberto Fernandez, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Spc. Robert Foster, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Spc. Jonathan Griffin, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Spc. Shane Haberlein, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Spc. Joel Hoover, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Spc. Adam Jolly, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Spc. Robert Knox, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Spc. Donald Lucas, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Spc. Jeremy Meyers, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Spc. Shawna Murphy, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Spc. Cale Rager, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Spc. Billy Roman, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Pfc. Christian Ballard, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Pfc. Shawn Everridge, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton

Pfc. Kory House, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Pfc. Amanda Pack, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Pfc. Rosario Rigsby, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton
Pfc. Justin Swarts, 170th Spt Maint Co, Norton

Kansas National Guard Meritorious Service Ribbon



Sgt. 1st Class Clair Hoelsing, Rec & Ret, Topeka

KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Meritorious Service Medal



Col. Janet Hanson, 190th ARW, Topeka
Lt. Col. David Williams, 190th ARW, Topeka
Lt. Col. Robert Williams, 190th ARW, Topeka
Maj. Marcus Adinolfi, 190th ARW, Topeka
Maj. Sherry Barnes, 190th ARW, Topeka
Maj. Jacob Salmond, 190th ARW, Topeka
Maj. Daniel Skoda, 190th ARW, Topeka
Maj. Bret Ulrich, 190th ARW, Topeka
Maj. Tanya Wehrli, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka
Senior Master Sgt. Jody Hatley, 190th ARW, Topeka
Senior Master Sgt. Mark Moulden, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Troy Abel, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Matthew Miltz, 190th ARW, Topeka
Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Bodine, 190th ARW, Topeka
Tech. Sgt. Daniel Owens, 190th ARW, Topeka
Tech. Sgt. Kristopher Penzig, 190th ARW, Topeka

Aerial Achievement Medal



Capt. Westley Broxterman, 190th ARW, Topeka

Air Force Commendation Medal



Maj. Stacy Moore, 190th ARW, Topeka
Capt. Jack McCall, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Judy Reynolds, 190th ARW, Topeka
Tech. Sgt. Christopher Tener, 190th ARW, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Adam Koss, 190th ARW, Topeka

Air Force Achievement Medal



Chief Master Sgt. Wendy Davis, 190th ARW, Topeka
Tech. Sgt. Jessica Miles, 190th ARW, Topeka
Tech. Sgt. Danielle Peavler, 190th ARW, Topeka
Senior Airman Ulric Baumgardner, 190th ARW, Topeka
Senior Airman Joseph Carver, 190th ARW, Topeka
Senior Airman Marcus Womer, 190th ARW, Topeka
Airmen 1st Class Courtney McClammy, 190th ARW, Topeka

Retirements

Kansas Army National Guard

Lt. Col. Gregory Light, HSC (-), 35th Div, Fort Leavenworth
Master Sgt. Anita Freeborn, HHD, 635th RSG, Hutchinson
Staff Sgt. Wallace Austin, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita
Staff Sgt. James Bloodworth, Det 1, 778th Trans Co, Manhattan
Staff Sgt. Matthew Gerbitz, 2nd Bn, 235th Regt (MTB), Salina
Staff Sgt. Raymond Gonzales, Det 2, 250th FSC, Clay Center
Staff Sgt. Bruce Taylor, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend
Sgt. Christopher Boyer, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lenexa
Sgt. Troy Ehrlich, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita
Sgt. Kent Lockhart, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend
Sgt. Douglas Roach, Btry A (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Holton
Pvt. 2 Michelle Crowell, HHC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola

Kansas Air National Guard

Lt. Col. Scott McGregor, 190th ARW, Topeka
Chief Master Sgt. Ivan Perez, 190th ARW, Topeka
Senior Master Sgt. David Perez, 184th IW, Wichita
Senior Master Sgt. Mark Sweeney, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Jeremy Rabb, 184th IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. Paul Riggs, 190th ARW, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Wayne Price, 184th IW, Wichita

Job fair for service members at Kansas National Guard Armory

By Jason Tarr
KAKE News

Navigating the job market is tough, especially in this economy. But it's often even harder for active service members and veterans.

So for the first time, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and KANSASWORKS teamed up Feb. 9 to put on a job fair at a Kansas National Guard armory.

The "Get HIRED!" job fair at the armory at I-235 and Seneca in Wichita was open in the morning exclusively for veterans, transitioning service members and their families before being opened later on to the public.

The fair brought job opportunities to job seekers who are in the military on a weekend when they were already there training, ESGR Kansas State Chair Mick Allen said.

It's a big help for National Guardsmen like Philip Crabtree.

"I'm just seeing what's out there, just trying to get my resume out there and hopefully come up with something," Crabtree said.

Crabtree does military funeral honors for the state of Kansas. He owned his own business before joining the military. Now that his job is nearing its end with the Kansas National Guard, Crabtree wants a job in the aviation field or maybe something in the oil and gas industry.

"It's almost like I'm starting over," Crab-

tree said. "I'm taking baby steps trying to figure it out, what people are going to be looking for."

The hope is that he and others had plenty of help to do just that in the familiar surroundings of the armory.

"We all hope to land a job or, if nothing else, to get some networking done," said Andrew Neeley, who just retired from the Air Force after a 24-year career.

Allen says the turnout Saturday was incredible and served as further proof that having this kind of fair in an armory is the way to go in the future. He hopes this fair serves as a model they can expand upon across the state and across the country.

"It just works better. It just makes sense," Allen said.

Allen said the job fair cost his organization a tenth of what it would cost to put it on at an outside venue. Also, he says, at the armory on the weekend they are better able to tailor the experience and the employers to their mainly military audience.

"We've just asked (the employers) to give a veteran, a Guardsman, Reservist, spouse, a fair shake," Allen said.

A fair shake is something the service members say they would really appreciate as they take this next step.

"I'm ready to move on, get a good career and stick with a company for a long time," Crabtree said.



Kansas Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and KANWORKS team up together to put on a job fair at a Kansas Army National Guard Armory, 3617 S Seneca, Wichita, Kan., Feb. 9. (Courtesy photo)

Adjutant general coins three

By Amanda Koons

Army National Guard Strategic Command

Originally published on the ARNG G1 Gateway: <https://g1arng.army.pentagon.mil/>.

Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general of Kansas, distributed coins Dec. 19 to three members of the Army National Guard G1 Personnel Policy Division Awards Branch: Sgt. Maj. Bernard Hobbs, Spc. Ryan McCartney and Mr. Karim Lieteau.

Located at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va., these individuals process Peacetime and Retroactive awards for the ARNG.

Tafanelli acknowledged the Awards Branch for demonstrating a strong working relationship, collaboration and quick turnarounds on requests for their Kansas awards work. He also mentioned their friendly attitude while assisting with several awards simultaneously. Often times, awards are distributed at a particular ceremony or event which makes timing of the essence. Tafanelli recognized that the Awards Branch goes above and beyond to make sure ARNG awards are processed and awarded in a thorough, timely and professional manner.



After coining members of the Army National Guard G1 Personnel Policy Division Awards Branch Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli (middle), adjutant general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth (far left), senior enlisted advisor, pose for a picture with (left to right) Spc. Ryan McCartney, Sgt. Maj. Bernard Hobbs and Mr. Karim Lieteau at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va., Dec. 19, 2012. (Courtesy photo)



Give an Hour™

Give help | Give hope

Give an Hour provides free mental health services to help heal the invisible wounds of war. To receive services or join our network of volunteer providers, visit www.giveanhour.org.

New path to Air Force officer qualification

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

New officer application procedures pave the way to a smoother and more successful process

There's good news for Airmen who aspire to become a commissioned officer. The Air National Guard has recently implemented a new recruiting process for officer applicants. The new program streamlines the applicant through a prequalification screening, which benefits both the applicant and the selecting commander.

Under the old system, members were required to apply for an officer position and, if he/she was selected, the officer qualification process began.

"During that time there were a lot of things that could take place," said Tech. Sgt. Jason McAndrews, recruiting office supervisor, 184th Force Support Squadron. "At any point in time, flags could come up and things could happen to disqualify an applicant from being an officer."

Many problems occurred, including cases where the member was disqualified due to medical, legal or other reasons. The disqualifications led to a waste of time and effort on behalf of the applicant and the selecting commander. Meanwhile, the position would remain unfilled, which raised concerns about manning levels.

Another drawback to the old system was that Airmen didn't have a local advocate designated to help them get through the process. They didn't know where to start or who to ask. Once the qualification request was submitted, it could take up to 18 months to know if the application was accepted or rejected.

"There was no focal point for answers," said Tech. Sgt. Stephen Vogt, production recruiter, 184th FSS.

"There were senior airmen and staff sergeants who just completed their degree asking 'How do I take the next step?' or 'What do I do now to start the process?' That was the biggest mystery."

That's where a designated officer recruiter helps.

The officer prequalification process starts when an applicant contacts a designated officer recruiter, or DOR. The recruiter provides the applicant all the necessary information to get started.

Under the new system, once the applicant meets the requirements, they'll work with a recruiter to build and submit an application. Officials at the National Guard Bureau will either approve or disapprove and send the package back to the recruiter. Approved packages become prequalified applications that are entered into a database of officer candidates and used for hiring in the future. At this point, the member can apply for an officer job.

The database gives commanders a better idea of what candidates they have to choose from for certain jobs.

"Commanders can now look at a local, state and national level to find qualified candidates," said Vogt.

The new prequalification process has the potential to save applicants and commanders time and frustration by eliminating obstacles before hiring people into positions.

The personnel assigned to the recruiting office of the 184th Intelligence Wing carry the responsibilities of DORs. For those interested in submitting an officer application, please contact a DOR at 316-759-7424.



Tech. Sgt. Stephen Vogt, Tech. Sgt. Jason McAndrews and Tech. Sgt. Edgar Salazar-Aguirre are the designated officer recruiters for the 184th Intelligence Wing. (Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

TriWest transitions to United Healthcare

Effective April 1 the Tricare West Region will have a new contractor. United Healthcare Military and Veterans will take over from TriWest. Below are some frequent questions and answers regarding the transition.

When is the transition to UHC M&V supposed to occur?

Our current TRICARE contract to support health care services for the military continues through March 31. For several weeks before and several weeks after that date, TriWest and UHC M&V will partner with one another in a "dual operations period" to ensure a smooth transition.

Am I going to lose my benefits?

There will be no change to your TRICARE benefits, rates, deductibles or co-pays, unless changed by TRICARE policy or your eligibility changes.

What do I need to do to keep my TRICARE benefits?

There is absolutely no action you need to take regarding the transition at this time. There will be regular communication throughout the next several months. However, in the future, you will need to re-establish your Electronic Funds Transfer or Recurring Credit Card forms with UHC M&V. Effective Jan. 1 beneficiaries of Tricare Reserve Select were required to set up automatic deduction for premiums. Automatic payment information will not transfer from TriWest to United Healthcare. The suspense date for this action was March 10.

Are my benefits going to change?

The basic structure of the new West Region contract is very similar to the current West Region contract. As in all TRICARE contracts, benefits may be adjusted throughout the life of the contract period in accordance with legislative and policy guidance.

Do I have to enroll again on April 1?

When you enroll in TRICARE, you enroll into the government program. You do not need to enroll again due to the transition. You will receive new enrollment details and information from the new contractor before the end of the current contract.

Am I going to have to change primary care managers or other doctors?

Continuity of care for beneficiaries is a high priority for TriWest and for TRICARE. Some providers currently in the TRICARE West Region network also have arrangements with UHC M&V. At this time we don't have any more information about specific doctors. UHC M&V may be able to provide more detailed information closer to the actual date of transition.

Will UHC M&V charge me higher premiums?

TRICARE fees, cost-shares and co-pays are determined by the federal government, not the contractor. Your premiums and payment requirements will continue to be determined by federal rules and guidelines.

Will I still have the same payment options?

Payment options are determined by the federal government. You will continue to have the same payment options you do today. Your allotment with TriWest will stop and UHC M&V will restart it, requiring no action on your part. If you need to make your payments via electronic funds transfer or credit card, you will need to re-establish your electronic payment options UHC M&V.

What happens to the authorizations I have?

You do not need to contact UHC M&V about your TriWest authorizations at this time.

Authorizations approved by TriWest will continue to be valid until the end date on the authorization, or May 30 whichever comes earlier, with the exception of obstetric/maternity authorizations.

TriWest and UHC M&V have mutually agreed to approve and honor obstetric/maternity provider authorizations for the entire 312 day episode of care.

All other referral/authorization dates of service will be end-dated May 30 or earlier, depending on the usual length of service for the episode of care profile.

If you have not completed the care approved from TriWest by the authorization end date, you may need a new authorization request to be submitted to TriWest prior to March 31 and to UHC M&V after March 31.

Will my claims be paid?

Your claims will be paid based on TRICARE guidelines, as always.

Where do I send my claims?

Through March 31 the claims process remains unchanged. Generally, TriWest will continue to process claims for care received through March 31 and UHC M&V will be responsible to process claims for care received April 1 forward.

Where can I get more information?

If you need more information, please visit <http://tricare.mil/t3contracts>.

 <h2 style="margin: 0;">KANSAS NATIONAL GUARD</h2> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">CURRENT AS OF 01/31/2013</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Resources for Service Members & Families in need or in crisis.</p> 	
<p>KNSNG Hotline: 1-877-HLP-KNSG (1-877-457-5764)</p>	
<p>MILITARY ONESOURCE</p>	<p>SUICIDE HOTLINE</p>
<p>1-800-342-9647 www.militaryonesource.com</p>	<p>1-800-273-TALK (8255)</p>
<p>CHAPLAIN</p>	<p>MILITARY FAMILY LIFE CONSULTANTS (MFLC) CONSULTATION SERVICES</p>
<p>Providing religious, spiritual and general life counseling. 100% confidential.</p> <p>State Chaplain CH (COL) David Jenkins Office: (785) 274-1515 Cell: (785) 231-4742 Cell #2: (785) 438-9145 william.d.jenkins30@mail.af.mil</p> <p>190th ARW Chaplain CH (LtCol) Oliver Bergeron Office: (785) 861-4001 Cell: (316) 210-7956 DSN: 720-4001 oliver.bergeron@ang.af.mil</p> <p>184th IW Chaplain CH (LtCol) Terry Williams Office: (316) 652-9601 Cell: (316) 304-2306 terry@rivercc.org or terry.williams@ang.af.mil</p> <p>Full Time Support Chaplain CH (MAJ) John Potter Office: (785) 274-1515 Cell: (785) 220-9480 john.r.potter@mail.af.mil</p> <p>Full Time Support Chaplain Assistant SGT Jimmy Boss Office: (785) 274-1514 Cell: (785) 215-4067 jimmy.d.boss@mail.af.mil</p>	<p>Provides complimentary, confidential consultations to Service Members and their families. The services covered include but are not limited to: anger management, stress related issues, relationships, finance, children acting out, and problems at school.</p> <p>Adult MFLC John Kriss Cell: (785) 289-3386</p> <p>Youth, and Child MFLC John Merritt Cell: (785) 217-6518 john.merritt@ahsg.us</p> <p>Personal Financial Counselor MFLC Debt/credit issues, budgets, saving, and investing Doug Spencer Cell: (785) 250-9713 rspencer@mflc.zeiders.com</p> <p>Psychological Health Program</p> <p>Kansas State Director of Psychological Health Dr. Wesley Jones Office: (785)-274-1072 wesley.jones@ceridian.com</p> <p>190th ARW Director of Psychological Health Robert Johnson Office: (785) 861-4792 Cell: (785) 217-7325 DSN: 720-4792 robert.johnson.8@ang.af.mil</p> <p>184th IW Director of Psychological Health Jeri Kennedy Office: (316) 759-8901 DSN: 743-8901 Cell: (316) 617-6401 jeri.kennedy@ang.af.mil</p>
<p>EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND THE RESERVE (ESGR)</p>	<p>TRANSITION ASSISTANCE ADVISOR PROGRAM (TAA)</p>
<p>Helping resolve conflict between employers and Service Members and locate companies who are hiring Guard members and Reservists.</p> <p>Chuck Bredahl Mobile: (785) 217-4828 Office: (785) 274-1559 charles.g.bredahl.ctr@mail.af.mil</p>	<p>Helping Service Members access Veteran Affairs' health care services, benefits and employment assistance.</p> <p>Howard Steanson Mobile: (785) 806-4179 Office: (785) 274-1188 howard.l.steanson.ctr@mail.af.mil</p> <p>Elizabeth Visocky Mobile: (785) 817-2960 Office: (785) 274-1129 elizabeth.a.visocky.civ@mail.af.mil</p>
<p>FAMILY ASSISTANCE OFFICE</p>	<p>AIRMAN & FAMILY READINESS PROGRAM MANAGER</p>
<p>Provides information on and referral to essential services, including: Financial Assistance, Legal Referral, Follow-Up and Outreach</p> <p>Hiawatha: Cherie Herlinger (Coordinator) (785) 806-1761 cherie.herlinger@us.army.mil</p> <p>Iola: David Fehr (785) 806-1756 david.a.fehr4.ctr@mail.af.mil</p> <p>Wichita: Renee Henry (785) 806-1754 renee.m.henry6.ctr@mail.af.mil</p> <p>Great Bend: Darla Shuey (785) 213-3012 darla.j.shuey.ctr@mail.af.mil</p> <p>Salina: Tammy Alsop (785) 806-9842 tamatha.d.bullardalsup.ctr@mail.af.mil</p>	<p>190th ARW: Adrienne Dickey Office: (785) 861-4940 Cell: (785) 806-1252 DSN: 720-4940 adrienne.dickey@ang.af.mil</p> <p>184th IW: Hilari Delarosa Office: (316) 759-7092 Cell: (316) 617-8043 DSN: 743-7092 hilari.delarosa.civ@ang.af.mil</p>
<p>These resources are for all KNSNG Service Members and their families regardless of their duty status.</p>	



And the Freedom Salute Statue goes to... Smith Center Elementary

By 2nd Lt. Matthew Lucht
Public Affairs Office

Smith Center Elementary students didn't know individual Soldiers, but knew they wanted to help. Student and faculty collected a variety of items to send to Afghanistan. What they might not have realized was getting care packages while on deployment meant a lot to Soldiers.

"Receiving care packages from home fills some of that void of something that you aren't able to get if you are back here in the states and you can walk down to your local store," said Lt. Col. Russell Richardson, commander of Agribusiness Development Team 4.

The Kansas National Guard's Agribusiness Development Team 4 deployed to Afghanistan in 2011. Smith Center Elementary did not send just one round of care packages to Soldiers, they adopted the unit for their whole deployment.

In August 2011, the Smith Center Board of Education heard a proposal from the Smith Center Elementary teachers and voted on the resolution to officially adopt ADT 4 during their deployment. With the adoption official, the school displayed a poster in the hallway with the name and hometown of each member of the team.

"It makes you feel pretty good that you did something to help those who are serving and trying to protect our freedoms here," said Michelle Stamm, principal of Smith Center Elementary School.

Each grade level was assigned a month

of the school year and the packages helped the troops and the deployed community.

"They sent cards, letters, care packages and basic school supplies," said Richardson. "We were able to support the children in Afghanistan with those school supplies and teach them English with the support that this school gave us."

With those school supplies, ADT 4 was able to support approximately 4,000 children and students throughout Laghman Province. Stamm felt that the students really benefited from this experience.

"I think that the younger students take things like this more to heart," said Stamm. "They looked at this as these were people's moms and dads and they were going to help as if it were their moms or dads."

For all the support, the Kansas National Guard presented the school with a Freedom Salute statue that they can proudly display.

"This school and the students and everyone involved in this school did such a good job of supporting us while we were gone. They were, hands down, in my opinion, the ones that deserve this award," said Richardson.

Kansas ADT 4 was mobilized Sept. 4, 2011, and assumed control of the mission Oct. 11, 2011, from Kansas ADT 3. They were stationed at Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam, Laghman Province Afghanistan. Overall ADT 4 supported a total of 52 projects in 35 villages totaling more than \$750,000 and completed the mission a year ahead of schedule.

Guard members meet on the ice



Brig. Gen. Brad Link (far left), assistant adjutant general of the Kansas National Guard - Air Component, joined several Kansas National Guard members on the ice for a recreational ice hockey league game at the Kansas Expocentre, Topeka, Kan., Jan. 23. Link has been playing hockey for decades. He played in several games as the emergency goaltender for the Wichita Thunder of the Central Hockey League while serving with the 184th Intelligence Wing out of Wichita and still plays in an elite level recreational league there. (Left to right) Link; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Chris Chartrand and Sgt. Jesse Poe, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion); Tech. Sgt. Scott Gilchrist, 190th Security Forces Squadron; Sgt. Tiana Navarro, 1st Infantry Division Band; and Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Drewelow, 190th Maintenance Support Group. (Photo by Master Sgt. Cindy Wulfkuhle, 190th Maintenance Support Group)

Soldier, Police Officer, Student, Single Mother, Achiever

By Rachel Gladstone
GX Magazine

Staff Sgt. Mary Jane Middleton is a force to be reckoned with. Not only has she served in the National Guard for 13 years—891st Engineer Battalion—but this single mother of two is also a patrol officer with the Independence, Kan., Police Department. She also recently earned her associate degree in multidisciplinary studies. For many, juggling so much would seem like an impossible feat, but 32-year-old Middleton has it down to a science.

"It's all about time management," Middleton says. "I work the midnight shift so I can spend time with my kids in the afternoons and evenings." She fits in the rest along the way.

In 2005, upon returning home from a year in Iraq, Middleton set her sights on a career in law enforcement.

"After Iraq, I knew my mission in life was to serve," she says.

By 2009, after a 2½-year stint as a corrections officer and a year as a reserve deputy, her dream of becoming a police officer materialized.

She credits the Guard with instilling her with discipline and believes her military training has given her the ability not only to set goals, but also to reach them.

"Being a Soldier has made me who I am today," she says. "It has given me stability."

Never one to rest on her laurels, Middleton intends to pursue a law degree while continuing her work as a police officer and Soldier. But first and foremost, she's proud to serve as a role model for her kids. "I want my children to know that, no matter what life throws at you, anything is achievable as long as you set your mind to it."



Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli (left), adjutant general of Kansas, and Lt. Col. Russell Richardson (right), commander of Agribusiness Development Team 4, present Smith Center Elementary the Freedom Salute statue Jan. 22 for their support of ADT 4 while deployed to Afghanistan in 2011. (Photo by Jane Welch, Public Affairs Office)

Retirees have 73 years combined service



Three Soldiers from the 635th Regional Support Group, headquartered in Hutchinson, Kan., joined the ranks of retirees with 73 years of combined service. A retirement ceremony was held at the Hutchinson High School auditorium Dec. 1 for (from right to left) Master Sgt. Anita Freeborn, 24 years; Sgt. 1st Class Clark Conaway, 23 years; and Sgt. Michael McClellan with 26 years of service. Freeborn, an information technology specialist, joined the 635th RSG to provide communication support. Conaway, the senior supply sergeant, joined prior to the first Golden Coyote exercise in 2011. McClellan, a chaplain's assistant, worked tirelessly for Kansas Soldiers. (Photo by Sgt. Iris Marston, 635th Regional Support Group UPAR)



Staff Sgt. Mary Jane Middleton, a member of the 891st Engineer Battalion and patrol officer with the Independence, Kan., police department, poses for a picture in front of her patrol car. (Photo by Rachel Gladstone, GX Magazine)

Retired? Keep up with us by email

In an effort to keep our retirees better informed on what is happening in the Adjutant General's Department, the Public Affairs Office has put together an e-mail distribution list. If you would like to be added to the list please e-mail your request to Jane Welch at jane.e.welch1.nfg@mail.mil.

Also if you are a retired Guardsmen and are not receiving a free copy of the Plains Guardian at your home or your address has changed, please contact Jane Welch at the Public Affairs Office at 785-274-1190 or jane.e.welch1.nfg@mail.mil to be added to the mailing list.

