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PLAINS GUARDIAN

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Bunting will retire from adjutant general post in January

By Sharon Watson
Public Affairs Office

Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting will retire as Kansas adjutant general in January after seven years in the position, all during wartime. The retirement takes effect at the end of Governor Mark Parkinson's term.

"I'm honored to have been called upon to serve in these challenging times in our nation's history," Bunting said. "The Soldiers, Airmen and federal and state employees are truly the finest people I have ever served with. These have been the most rewarding years of my career."

Bunting was appointed in January 2004 under then-Governor Kathleen Sebelius. He has served 32 years in the military, beginning his career in the Kansas National Guard in 1978.

"General Bunting has been a remarkable adjutant general for Kansas and a dedicated servant to his country," said Gov. Parkinson. "While facing two wars and an economic recession, General Bunting has been a deliberative and decisive leader, devoted to the safety and welfare of all Kansans. I have cherished his trusted counsel and, on behalf

of Kansans, I thank him for his service and wish him all the best in his retirement."

As adjutant general, Bunting oversees the Kansas National Guard's 5,500 Soldiers and 2,200 Airmen, is the director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and director of Kansas Homeland Security. For the past two years, Bunting also served as the chair of the National Guard Association of the United States, an organization which advocates for the needs of the National Guard.

"I'm considering some future opportunities, and truly looking forward to spending more time with my family," Bunting said. "I could not have done this job without the support of my family, especially my wife."

Bunting has faced many challenges as adjutant general, including the deployment of more than 6,000 Soldiers and Airmen to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Bosnia, the Horn of Africa and Egypt, deployments which sadly included the loss of 10 Kansas Guardsmen in combat zones. Additionally, he faced the impact to the Air Guard resulting from the 2005 Base Realignment and

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Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, shared a light moment with the audience during the retirement ceremony in Salina for Brig. Gen. Norman Steen. Bunting announced his own retirement Oct. 12, effective in January 2011. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)

Three confirmed by Senate committee as brigadier general

The Kansas National Guard has three new generals.

On Oct. 14, the Kansas Senate Confirmation Oversight Committee approved three promotions for the Kansas National Guard submitted by Governor Mark Parkinson. Col. Vic Braden, Col. Eric Peck and Col. Lee Tafanelli were appointed to brigadier generals by Parkinson and, with the approval of the Senate committee, are awaiting confirmation by the full Senate during the next legislative session.

"I am extremely proud of the fine Soldiers who serve their fellow citizens so loyally and selflessly in the armed forces," said Parkinson. "I am certain that these three, highly regarded and experienced men will make a valuable impact in their new roles with the Kansas National Guard."

Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, recently appointed Tafanelli as assistant adjutant general of the Kansas Army National Guard, Peck to director of the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina and Braden as deputy commander of the 35th Infantry Division in Leavenworth.

"The Kansas National Guard needs exemplary, visionary leaders as it takes on new missions and responsibilities at state, national and international levels," said Bunting. "These officers will do excellent work and make Kansas proud in their new roles."

Tafanelli, Topeka, assumed the position of assistant adjutant general of the Kansas Army National Guard on July 19, 2010. He is also the commander of the Land Component for the Joint Force Headquarters-Kansas and has served as a member of the Kansas National Guard for over 30 years. Most recently, Tafanelli served as commander of 69th Troop Command and the director of operations for the Kansas National Guard. He has earned a number of awards and decorations such as the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster and the Global War on Terrorism Medal. In his civilian career, Tafanelli is a state representative for the 47th District in the Kansas Legislature.

Peck, Manhattan, has served at all levels of command from detachment through battalion and has been assigned to the Department of the Army and National Guard Bureau staffs. He formerly served as the Kansas Army National Guard chief of staff before becoming the chief of the Joint Staff in 2006. He commanded 1-6th Kansas Agribusiness Development Team deployed to Afghanistan from

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Guardsmen deploy to start bringing equipment out of Iraq

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

Approximately 300 Kansas National Guardsmen were honored during a deployment ceremony on Sunday, Oct. 17 in Heritage Hall of the Salina Bicentennial Center.

The Soldiers were from the 778th Transportation Company (Heavy Equipment Transport), headquartered in Kansas City, Kan., augmented by Soldiers from the 731st Medium Truck Company and the 137th Transportation Company (Palletized Loading System). All three units are part of the Kansas National Guard's 287th Sustainment Brigade.

The Guardsmen are deploying to Kuwait to transport military equipment and supplies out of Iraq as U.S. troops withdraw from that nation.

Calling for a show of hands, Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, asked

how many of the Soldiers had deployed with the unit the first time in 2005, then reminded them of their return a year later to the Manhattan armory.

"It was Thanksgiving," said Bunting, "and we could not find a way on Thanksgiving Day to feed (you) turkey. Nothing was open.... So what we did do... is the person who owns all the Pizza Huts in Manhattan made a couple of hundred pizzas."

"I stood up in front of these great Soldiers of the 778th and said I gotta apologize," he continued. "We didn't have any way to make you a turkey dinner, but we do have a couple of hundred Pizza Hut pizzas and from folks who had been in the desert for a year you said 'Way to go 'cause I'd much rather have a Pizza Hut pizza than turkey any day'."

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Kansas Governor Mark Parkinson addresses members of the 778th Transportation Company and their families and friends during a departure ceremony for the unit on Oct. 17 in Salina. (Photo by Sgt. Charles Malloy, UPAR)

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Brig. Gen. Norman Steen retires after 32 years of military service

Brig. Gen. Norman Steen, commander of the Great Plains Joint Training Center, retired from military life Oct. 31. On Oct. 17, he handed over that command to Brig. Gen. Eric Peck during a brief ceremony at the Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina.

In saying farewell, Steen thanked his family for their support and recapped the changes that had occurred in the world's military and political scene over the course of his 32-year career.

Steen's remarks are reprinted below.

** ** *

Thank you for coming. I am honored that you're here and sincerely appreciate your presence. This is a great day in Kansas and the Kansas National Guard, because it signals the endurance of what is good.

When I first considered military service while attending a small Minnesota country high school in 1973, little did I realize what good things lay ahead. In 1978, my lovely wife Cheryl and I were married and we began our life together. I had infantry lieutenant's bars on my shoulders and I soon had military orders for West Germany in my pocket.

The political world was a much different place then. We were still in the midst of a Cold War with the Soviet Union, still had a concrete wall separating Berlin, still recovering from the national pain of Vietnam and working to avert nuclear war. In 1978, U.S. Armed Forces were actually over-matched by dominant Soviet Armed Forces. The rules were simpler then. We knew our enemy and they knew us. Yet we proved that

Davoren receives command of the 35th Infantry Division

By Sgt. Heather Wright
35th Infantry Division Public Affairs

Leadership and representatives from the Kansas and Missouri Army National Guard community gathered at Fort Leavenworth's parade field Aug. 28 to witness the 35th Infantry Division's change of command ceremony.

Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, the outgoing 35th ID commander, handed over division command to Maj. Gen. John E. Davoren, who most recently served as assistant adjutant general—Army and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard.

"I am honored to be the next commander of the 35th Infantry Division," said Davoren. "The unit performed in an outstanding manner during the Kosovo deployment and the leaders and Soldiers have continued to build on that success while accomplishing all missions through the last two years. I know that we will do well with the challenges ahead of us."

After receiving his commission in 1976 and completing the Infantry Officer Basic Course and Ranger training, Davoren served as a rifle platoon leader, Company A, 2nd



Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting presents a reproduction Civil War Army Colt revolver to Brig. Gen. Norman Steen on the occasion of his retirement from military service. (Photo by Sharon Watson, Public Affairs Office)

a strong military, supported with a national will to use it, can defend a nation, our Allies and a way of life. We succeeded.

Today, in 2010, 32 years later, the threat is much different. We no longer face a powerful military enemy. We would win a war with enemy tanks and artillery, as we proved in the first Gulf War 20 years ago. But, instead, we face a radical, ideological

Battalion, 503rd Infantry at Fort Campbell, Ky. In July 1979, he was assigned to Troop B, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; and executive officer, 1st Aviation Battalion at Fort Riley, Kan.

Since joining the Kansas Army National Guard, his assignments have included commander, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry; intelligence officer, 69th Brigade; operations officer, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry; commander, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry; commander, 69th Troop Command; deputy commanding general, 35th Infantry Division and assistant adjutant general of the Kansas Army National Guard and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard.

While serving as the assistant division commander, Davoren led the Multi-National Task Force-East, KFOR 9 at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, from Nov. 2, 2007, to July 10, 2008, during the division's deployment to Kosovo.

His military awards include the Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters. (Continued on Page 11)

enemy who attacks our people directly on the streets of our cities, in our places of business, in our airports, to destroy our ideology and our way of life.

So, as a U.S. military, we have adapted to that fight. America is again at war. Back in 1978, the National Guard was held in reserve in the event of World War III. Today, your National Guard is engaged in this war every day on four continents. Just this morning, a few miles from here, we said farewell to nearly 300 young men and women of the Kansas Army National Guard who are heading to the Middle East for a recovery and sustainment mission.

Hometown America is at war, because the National Guard is hometown America. Here at the Great Plains Joint Training Center, we are hometown Americans preparing to defend our way of life, so that others in America can preserve our way of life. We are bringing the fight into the insurgents' backyard, so that that fight does not end up in our backyard.

I cannot over-emphasize to you how important your support of your military is. But I think most people miss the real rea-

son why that support is so important. It's because the enemy's real target is not our military – we just happen to be in their way. Their real target is you and your support of our country and our ideology. If the enemy can remove your will to resist, they defeat you. If the enemy can earn your sympathy for their cause, they defeat you. If the enemy can convince you that our defense of America and our Allies is unjust, they defeat you. That's why, here at Great Plains, we're working to stay in the enemy's way and out of liberty's way. We're doing that by jointly training Army ground commanders to work with Air Force pilots so that together they can take out pin-point size enemy target, and minimize both foreign civilian casualties and our own military casualties.

That's why we're training Soldiers and Airmen to fight and survive in more hostile parts of the world, while being ambassadors to that world. That's why we're jointly training our civilian first responders – emergency planners, fire fighters, ambulance crews, and law enforcement – to work together if and when that fight ever does come home to our own backyard in the form of terrorist attacks. It's never been more important to work together; that is why the Great Plains Joint Training Center exists. That's why we do what we do.

Over my career, I have been privileged to know many great Americans who I have trained for combat and supported the deployment of thousands of others I have never met. We will probably never see their names in a headline; they quietly do their duty for reasons that most Americans know only in their hearts. Unfortunately, we have read some of their names not in headlines, but in obituaries. Their sacrifice is real, so that yours doesn't have to be as great.

While many things have changed over my 32 year military career, two things—the two most important things to me—have not changed.

First, through it all, my lovely wife, Cheryl, has been there supporting me each step of the way. We were married on a beautiful day in June 1978 and I was commissioned just a week later. Our first child, Diana, was born 15 months after that while we were stationed in West Germany; our

(Continued on Page 3)

Davoren selected for inclusion in KU ROTC Hall of Fame



Brig. Gen. John E. Davoren, commander of the 35th Infantry Division, takes his turn at the podium during a ceremony inducting him into the University of Kansas ROTC Hall of Fame on Oct. 23.

"I'm honored to be selected as an inductee for the KU ROTC Wall of Fame and am humbled to be included with the others members who have provided outstanding service to our nation throughout their lives," said Davoren. Davoren was commissioned in 1976 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of Kansas, Lawrence. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



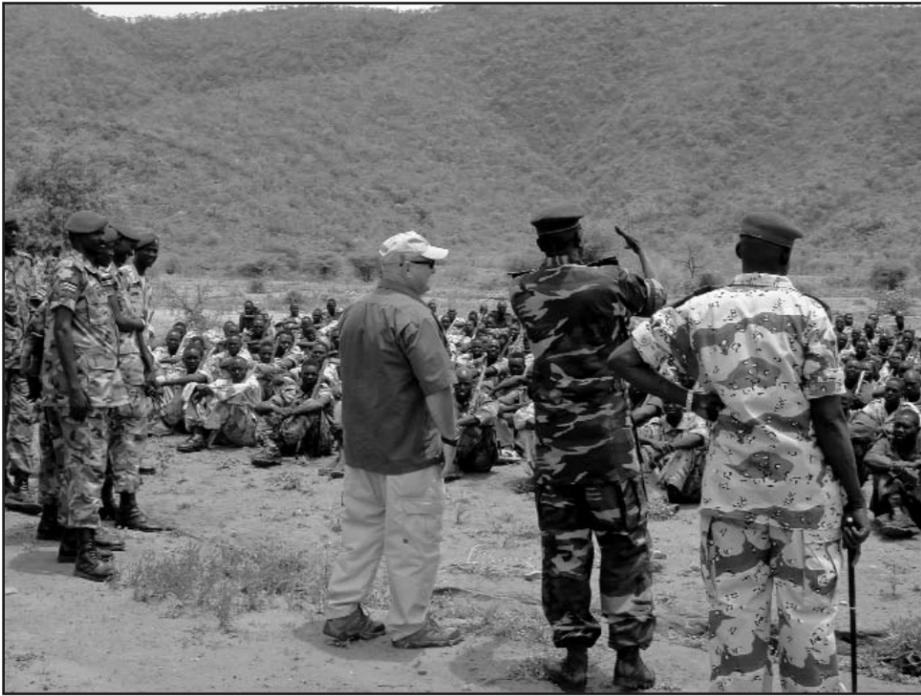
Maj. Gen. John E. Davoren (left center) waits to receive the flag of command for the 35th Infantry Division. (Photo by Sgt. Heather Wright, 35th ID Public Affairs)

Slusher caps 42-year career with Sudan assignment

The retirement of Col. Mike Slusher this October brings to a conclusion an adventure that began in the fall of 1968. Enlisting in the United States Marine Corps, he served in Vietnam with 1st Force Reconnaissance Company, one of the forerunners of today's Marine Special Operations Command.

His most recent assignment has been as the Senior U.S. Military Advisor in Sudan, one of the five terrorist-sponsoring nations with sanctions against them. Originally arriving in Africa in the fall of 2007, he went to Darfur as the U.S. military representative to the Darfur Ceasefire Commission

(Continued on Page 5)



Col. Mike Slusher's last assignment in his 42-year military career was as the U.S. military representative to the Darfur Ceasefire Commission and military advisor to the commander of the African Union forces. (Photo provided)

School safety, preparedness addressed at statewide conference

More than 200 school administrators, teachers, counselors and other education and public safety professionals from across the state were at the Wichita Airport Hilton Sept. 27 and 28 for the third annual Kansas Safe and Prepared Schools Conference.

The conference was sponsored by the Kansas State Department of Education, Kansas Attorney General's Office, the Adjutant General's Department and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

"It is our responsibility to work together in Kansas to provide an environment where students and faculty feel safe and secure," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general and director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and Kansas Homeland Security. "On any given weekday, about 20 percent of the Kansas population is in a school environment, either as a student, teacher, administrator or support staff."

"This conference provided an opportunity for education officials and public safety professionals to network with many leaders in Kansas and the nation whose priority is school safety," said Dr. Bob Hull, director of the Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools. "They shared what works and doesn't work in their districts and learned about new resources that may be helpful to them."

Steen retires after 32 years of service

Continued from Page 2
second child, Joseph, while we were stationed at Fort Benning, Ga.; and our third child, Laura, while I was working for the Army at Fort Riley, Kan. So, you can see, it's been a family affair for the Steen family. They're all here today, traveling in from three states to be here. The National Guard has given me the ability to serve my country while running a full time commercial business, and raising a stable family in great communities where our children could grow up to become great people in their own right -- and they have. I'm very proud of each of my children and of the people they have married. Thank you, guys. I love you. Thank you, Cheryl, for your love and support. I love you. We did it together.

The second thing that has not changed

During the two-day event, conference participants heard from a variety of speakers on topics including school security, bullying, school violence, dropout prevention, student behavior, social emotional character development, Internet and texting safety, dealing with loss, HIV/AIDS, school plans, traffic safety, grant programs and other issues related to school safety and security.

Keynote speakers for the event were Bunting and DeVone Boggan, neighborhood safety director for the city of Richmond, Calif. Boggan is responsible for the development, implementation, management and evaluation of city-wide and regional strategies to reduce gun violence. Boggan has more than 20 years experience in the mentoring and youth development fields.

The Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools Center was created in 2009 to provide a central office to coordinate school safety and preparedness activities. The center was developed as a result of recommendations from the Governor's Commission on Healthy and Prepared Schools. Information about the center and its programs can be found on the Kansas Division of Emergency Management Web site <http://kansastag.ks.gov/KDEM.asp?PageID=191>

over the years is God's faithfulness to me in the Person of Jesus Christ. I am grateful to God that as I sought Him, He was always there, always faithful, always a Servant Leader to me. I know He will continue to be there for me and my family and He will be there for you, too, in the years ahead.

General Bunting, thank you for allowing me to continue to serve and to command the Great Plains Joint Training Center. It has been an honor to serve under you.

General Peck, we have worked side by side many times over the years and I know Great Plains is in good hands. I wish you well, my friend.

To all those I have served with over the years, thank you for your support. Together we have made a difference. Let's stay in touch.

73rd CST passes evaluation

By Maj. DeAnn Barr

The 73rd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) proved they are ready to assist civilian authorities during a chemical disaster during their External Evaluation and National Level Validation. The validation took place at the Crisis City railway venue, located at the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, Kan.

Army North conducted the External Evaluation and National Level Validation on Sept. 15, for the 73rd CST of the Kansas National Guard, Topeka.

"I am proud of each individual of the 73rd Civil Support Team," said 1st Sgt. Willie Carter. "Our Soldiers and Airmen assigned to the 73rd Civil Support Team spend countless hours away from home, separated from their families and loved ones. The training they receive allows them to respond to an event which could possibly involve a weapon of mass destruction."

With limited amounts of live chemical agents, representatives from the 73rd CST assessed chemical agents at a simulated railway disaster, made more realistic by the

17,500 gallon overturned petroleum tanker car leaking fluid. After assessing the sample, the team prepared a recommendation for a local incident commander and then prepared to assist the commander in the simulated disaster recovery.

The CST mission is to support civil authorities at a domestic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high yield explosive incident site. They are trained to identify such hazardous materials, assess the current and projected consequences, advise on response measures and assist emergency responders to save lives, prevent human suffering and mitigate property damage. All the steps in this process were meticulously examined by the Army North evaluation team.

The 73rd CST accomplishes at least 12 major exercises per year. Every 18 months the unit is required to pass an External Evaluation conducted by Army North. There are 12 critical tasks that are evaluated to confirm that a Civil Support Team is competent, proficient and meets the expected standards. The 73rd met all 12 criteria in September.



Staff Sgt. Chris Hawkins and Sgt. Patrick, 73rd CST, collect a chemical sample for analysis while Army North evaluators look on. (Photo by Maj. DeAnn Barr)

Soldier becomes a Citizen-Soldier

By Sgt. Adam Cloyd

On Oct. 1, 2010, the Kansas National Guard and the nation welcomed its newest Citizen-Soldier in Kandahar, Afghanistan, when Spc. Enrique Martinez raised his right hand and pledged his allegiance to the country he defends.

Martinez is an infantryman assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 6th Kansas Cavalry, Agribusiness Development Team at Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam. Martinez said earning his citizenship has been a goal of his since coming to America where, shortly after arriving, he reconnected with his father in Wichita, Kan., and began to think about life as a Soldier and a Guardsman.

"Being a Soldier was a dream and Kansas was my new home, so being a Soldier in the Kansas Guard just fit," he said. In 2007, Martinez was able to make that dream a reality and joined the Kansas Army National Guard. Soon after his enlistment, he went to work to earn his citizenship.

There is a long tradition of earning citizenship through military service dating back to the Athenians and the Romans. Fortunately for Martinez, he didn't have to serve 25 years to earn his citizenship as the Romans did. President George W. Bush shortened the length of service requirement to one year in 2003 and the military even assists with the costs of filing. With help from his noncommissioned officer chain of command and his chain of command, Martinez said the process was a snap.

One of those in his corner was Col. Michael Dittamo, ADT commander.

"Spc. Martinez is a great Soldier and is now officially a great American," said Dittamo, whose own grandfather became a



New U.S. citizen Spc. Enrique Martinez proudly displays his citizenship papers. Martinez became a U.S. citizen while serving with the Kansas National Guard in Afghanistan. (Photo by Sgt. Adam Cloyd)

citizen while serving in the military during World War I.

Dittamo's sentiment was echoed by Sgt. 1st Class Bonifacio Purganan, Martinez's platoon sergeant.

"Martinez is a proud U.S. Soldier who always strives to improve himself and help other Soldiers in his unit," said Purganan. "His 'mission first' and 'help others before himself' attitude go a long way, not just in his military career, but in his civilian career as well."

"I'm proud to be an American. I'm proud to serve, but," said Martinez, displaying his "mission first" ethic, "I got to get back to work."

Reflecting on the past, preparing for the future

By Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting
The Adjutant General

My decision to retire as adjutant general in January 2011 wasn't an easy one to make because of the many incredible people I work with every day in this agency and state. I've had the honor of serving in this role for seven years, all during war, and with some of the most challenging weather disasters the state has ever faced including the Greensburg tornado, major flooding, ice and snow storms. In addition, there have been some very difficult fiscal times requiring tough decisions. It's been an amazing opportunity for me to serve my state and country. My wonderful wife, Barbara, has been by my side through 29 years



Maj. Gen.
Tod M. Bunting

and 11 homes. She's my rock and a warrior, too.

It has been a priority of mine to ensure we always have good leaders ready to carry on the mission of the agency. I've promoted five officers to general and 47 of 50 to colonel in the Kansas Army and Air National Guard. It's an honor to see these individuals rise to the challenge before them and take on greater responsibilities. I know they will make the state of Kansas proud in their upcoming years of service.

In October, it was especially gratifying to see three of our leaders promoted to brigadier general: Col. Vic Braden, Col. Eric Peck and Col. Lee Tafanelli. Congratulations to each of these fine officers for their hard work and superb careers. I wish them much success in the years ahead.

Braden takes the role of deputy commander at the 35th Division in Leavenworth, Brig. Gen. Peck assumed command of the Great Plains Joint Training Center from Brig. Gen. Norm Steen and Col. (P) Tafanelli is now the assistant adjutant gen-

As military members fight for our freedoms each and every day, it's important we take a moment to thank a veteran for the sacrifices he or she has made.

eral of the Army Guard, taking over for Maj. Gen. John Davoren, who took command of the 35th Division.

While my fondest memories in this job are the days when our Guard members return home to their families, it's also rewarding to see our troops do what they train to do, as is the case for the 778th Transportation Company, soon on its way to Iraq. The approximately 300 Guardsmen will be transporting equipment out of Iraq to be returned to the United States. This same unit was among those responsible for moving the equipment into Iraq when the war began.

We currently have nearly 1,200 Guardsmen mobilized, including a large unit in the Horn of Africa and more than 200 in Afghanistan, including an Agribusiness Development Team and Army engineers. Additional missions to these countries are planned in 2011.

Our Air wings are full engaged in operations worldwide. We will be deploying some of our civil engineers from the 184th Intelligence Wing soon and, in the coming

year, a number of Airmen from the 190th Air Refueling Wing will also deploy.

Our year has gone quickly and an important day is nearing: Veteran's Day. As military members fight for our freedoms each and every day, it's important we take a moment to thank a veteran for the sacrifices he or she has made. Plan to participate in an event to show your appreciation to all of those who have served and currently serve.

It's also the time of year when we need to get ready for the winter months in Kansas. We had a successful preparedness day event at the State Fair in Hutchinson this year and continue to urge every Kansan to make it a priority to prepare themselves and their families for the inevitable.

As Guard members and emergency management/homeland security personnel, we will do our best to respond to the needs of the state, but individuals must be ready to respond to their own needs until responders arrive. Take a few minutes to purchase some items for your home and car emergency kits so you are a step ahead in an ice storm, snowstorm or other event.

Congratulations are in order for one of our Guardsmen who prepared for a tremendous challenge and succeeded. Capt. Aaron "Ike" Isaacson, of Topeka, was among 10 wounded warriors from across the nation to climb Mount Lobuche in Nepal as part of the program called "Soldiers to the Summit." For one who had already made it through tough days on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan, this was a victory well-deserved. Great job, Ike!



Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting addressed the news media following the Greensburg, Kan., tornado in 2007. The tornado was one of several major disasters that challenged Kansans during Bunting's tenure as adjutant general. (Photo by Master Sgt. Angel Acosta)

A little of this, a little of that

By Chief Warrant Officer 4 Hector Vasquez

I would like to welcome two new Kansas warrant officers, Warrant Officer One Matthew Pray and Warrant Officer One Jayme Rhoades. Mathew and Jayme completed their Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker on Sept. 17, 2010. Congratulations to both for a job well done.



Command Chief
Warrant Officer 4
Hector Vasquez

The next Warrant Officer Candidate School class to begin at the Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina is in February 2011. If you are interested in becoming a warrant officer, now is the time to start completing your determination packet. If anyone has questions on becoming a warrant officer please contact me or Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jack Hancock.

This past September, the Kansas City Chiefs played on Monday night football against the San Diego Chargers. There were more than 100 servicemembers from all branches of the Armed Forces holding the 60 yard American Flag during the National Anthem, including several Kansas National Guard members. There was a

mother and son who participated in the flag ceremony, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Stacy Burns and her son, Senior Airman Cody A. Burns. Stacy is with the Joint Forces Headquarters and Cody is with the 190th Air Refueling Wing. I thought this was an awesome sight to see, this mother and son participating in such an event.

I would like to encourage new and junior warrant officers to remember the lessons you learned in your "enlisted life." Share what you've learned. Keep an eye out for future warrant officers to improve upon our Warrant Officer Corp. Encourage Soldiers to strive for excellence because we "fight as we train." Be honest when counseling both strengths and weaknesses. If you allow a Soldier to "skate" through because you don't want to counsel the individual, you are hurting your team, the Guard, as well as the Soldier.

The Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina is hiring an Active Duty Operational Support position for Training, Advising and Counseling Officer/Instructor, as well as assisting the KSRTI operational/accreditation support. The position is for 365 days and the rank for the position is Chief Warrant Officer 2 through Chief Warrant Officer 4. Anyone interested in the position can contact me or Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Smith.

If you know of any warrant officer news that you would like for me to place in the Plains Guardian, please send it to me.

Soldier to Soldier We must lead the way to remove the stigma of seeking help

By Sgt. Maj. Sheldon W. Chandler

Financial and marital issues are the top two issues that cause people to choose suicide, according to mental health experts. Our Soldiers are no exception. Combine these challenges with other stresses, whether deployed or not, and life can seem too much to handle.



Sgt. Maj. Sheldon
Chandler

It is the obligation of leaders across the Army to dedicate our collective efforts to remove the stigma associated with seeking out behavioral health treatment.

Unfortunately, there is no magic answer to preventing suicide. However, as leaders, we can mitigate the potential by concerning ourselves with three primary things: develop a meaningful relationship

of trust with our subordinates; be aware of the indicators of suicide and not be timid in asking the hard questions like "Are you thinking of suicide?" and foster an organizational climate that is free of criticism for those seeking assistance.

Behavioral Health Stigma within Our Ranks

The three greatest barriers Soldiers face in seeking out mental health treatment are shame, fear of jeopardizing their careers and trust in their leadership after their personal issues are shared outside the chain of command. It is imperative that leaders across the Army, at all levels, reinforce the idea that it is acceptable to seek assistance. To coach, teach and mentor a Soldier to ask for help should be no more different than teaching Warrior Tasks.

A Soldier's mental health is as equally important, if not more important than their physical readiness. To remove the stigma of seeking assistance, we must first eliminate the bravado associated with the nor-

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Kansas medics train in EMEDS with Armenian military

By Tech. Sgt. Leigh Bellinger
Defense Media Activity-Ramstein

The Armenian military deployed its only rapid response medical package for the first time during a recent medical field training exercise in Zarh, Armenia.

Joining them were medical professionals from the 3rd Air Force and the Kansas Air National Guard, who watched the Expeditionary Medical Support hospital go up and simulated patients brought through for treatment by Armenian doctors and nurses.

“What I’m looking for is their thought process on how they’re going to employ EMEDS,” said Lt. Col. James Baldock, a 3rd Air Force deputy surgeon, “and whether they can get it set up quickly and manage the entire medical system.”

It’s a system that’s been a long time coming for the Armenian medical service. They purchased the system in 2005 and equipment started arriving one year later. After lots of hard work, they were finally ready to take it into the field last month.

“It’s exciting to see them finally get to this point,” said Lt. Col. Tim Stevens, Kansas Air National Guard. The Kansas National Guard is partnered with Armenia in the National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program. He was the bilateral affairs officer who helped “get the ball rolling” nearly five years ago. He made the journey from Kansas to see the EMEDS in action.

“This type of asset can be quickly deployed, and you can see patients right away,” Stevens said. “I think it’s very important for the Armenian people, as well as the Armenian military, to have this capability.”

Kansas Air Guard officials have demonstrated the importance of EMEDS. They’ve deployed their system twice in real-world situations – for Hurricane Katrina and following the tornado that nearly destroyed the town of Greensburg, Kan.

“This type of asset can be quickly deployed, and you can see patients right away... it’s very important for the Armenian people, as well as the Armenian military, to have this capability.”

Lt. Col. Tim Stevens

“So, yes, we’ve seen firsthand what kind of impact these facilities can make,” Stevens said.

That’s an impact that will benefit not only Armenia, but also the United States. The U.S. military also uses EMEDS, so the exercise helped improve interoperability between the two nations.

“If they understand how to use that and they’ve been practicing with it, the terminology is the same, the equipment is the same,” said Maj. Dan Zablotzky of 3rd Air Force International Health Division. “And they also understand how the flow of patients from point of injury to definitive care or higher echelon care is supposed to happen.”

However, officials said that’s only going to happen after lots of practice. As a result, for three days the Armenian doctors, nurses and medical technicians not only had to put up the EMEDS, but they also started treating patients who were flown in on an Armenian helicopter.

Once off the helicopter, the patients were put in an ambulance and rushed to the EMEDS. There they were triaged with the most serious cases brought in first.

EMEDS gives Armenia the capability to provide a wide range of medical services, including surgery, in the field.



A team of Armenian surgeons simulates a field surgery in an Expeditionary Medical Support System during a three-day exercise near Zarh, Armenia, Sept. 3, 2010. It was the first time the Armenian military had deployed EMEDS to the field. (Photo by Maj. Dan Zablotzky)

New on-line registry designed to assist vulnerable population

Assisting individuals with diverse vulnerable needs is a major challenge in disaster planning and management.

This is why the Kansas Division of Emergency Management has developed the Kansas Vulnerable Needs Planning System. The new resource was unveiled Sept. 13 during Kansas Preparedness Day at the State Fair in Hutchinson. The planning tool is intended to assist emergency management professionals and volunteers to better meet the needs of the vulnerable people in their community in times of disaster. It provides the basis for improved coordination and emergency management planning in helping people with vulnerable needs and the facilities that serve them.

“Taking care of those who have special needs is a community effort,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general and director of Kansas Division of Emergency Management. “Our first responders can do a better job when there is a system of community volunteers to assist them and facilities with the ability to receive people who have special needs.”

The system is an Internet-based database. The Web site, www.helpmekansas.org, has registries for individuals, volunteers and

facilities.

The “Individual Registry” is developed for persons with vulnerable needs to provide information to emergency response agencies. The sole use of this information will be to assist emergency management to plan for possible needs of these individuals in a disaster. Registration for this voluntary service will also be available by calling 2-1-1. Registering doesn’t guarantee services and should not take the place of personal preparation.

The “Volunteer Registry” is an effort administered by Kansas Department of Health and Environment titled the Kansas System for the Early Registration of Volunteers. K-SERV is a state-wide, secure registration system and database for volunteers willing to respond to incidents. The aim is to have a list of pre-identified volunteers who are available for ready deployment in case of a disaster or incident.

The “Facility Registry” form is designed to register facilities serving people with vulnerable needs while at the same time collecting resources they may offer in an emergency. The information gathered will help local emergency response agencies plan for vulnerable needs citizens in the event of disaster.

Three confirmed by Senate committee as brigadier general

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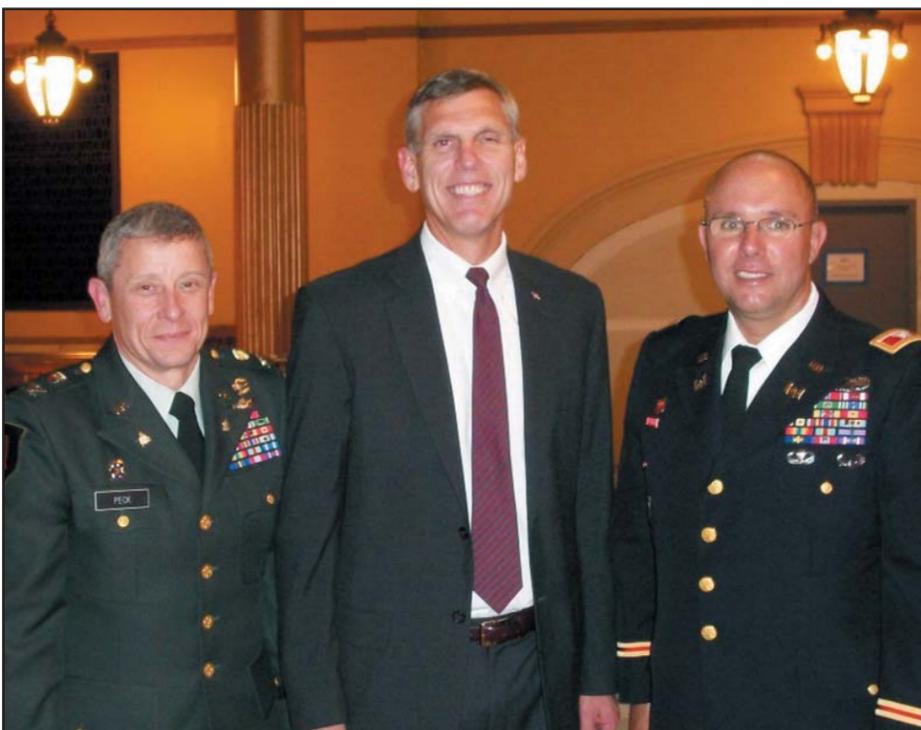
October 2008 through March 2010 and has over 2,500 hours of flight time.

Peck has completed numerous military education courses including the Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. He has earned several military decorations such as the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters and the Army Achievement Medal.

Braden, Lawrence, has over 30 years of military service which has included commands at the company, battalion and brigade level and three combat tours in the Persian Gulf, Bosnia and Afghanistan. Braden returned from Afghanistan in April after having served as the senior advisor

for the commanding general, 205th Afghan National Army Corps. He is the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Senior Aviator Badge for having served as a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot. Beyond his military career, Braden is a prosecuting attorney for the State of Kansas and has led the prosecution of numerous high-profile murder cases. He is also the current deputy Kansas attorney general and is responsible for the Criminal Litigation Division.

In the interim between legislative sessions, appointments that are subject to Senate confirmation must first be authorized by the Senate Confirmation Oversight Committee until the full Senate can consider their nominations.



Col. Eric Peck (left), Col. Vic Braden and Col. Lee Tafanelli were all confirmed by the Kansas Senate as brigadier generals in the Kansas Army National Guard on Oct. 14. (Photo by Randy Mettner)

Slusher caps 42-year career

Continued from Page 3

and military advisor to the commander of the African Union forces, Lt. Gen. Martin Luther Agawi, later commander of the U.N. African Mission in Darfur.

As the mission continued and transformed, he operated out of Juba in Southern Sudan as the Senior U.S. Military representative to the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army and Government of Southern Sudan. This was the group of citizens who had rebelled against the Omar Bashir government in 1983 and fought the longest civil war in Africa, one with deaths exceeding two million persons.

While Sudan is technically still one nation, United States Foreign Policy has favored developing a “potential” relationship with the semi-autonomous Government of Southern Sudan. Slusher’s role during this last two years has been to facilitate the defense transformation of the SPLA into a conventional army that would provide security for the people and government of Southern Sudan should it become an independent nation.

The difficulty of getting U.S. Defense personnel into Sudan required Slusher to perform duties that would normally fall within the Defense Attache’s Office and a

Military Advisory Group. Establishing a program similar to conventional Security Assistance programs, he oversaw what was a nonexistent program into one of the largest in Africa. In the process, he managed to fill two passports with travel stamps and make friends with many senior military and government officials in East Africa. At the conclusion of his three year assignment in Sudan, the longest tenure of any U.S. military personnel in that country, General William Ward wrote:

“Colonel Mike Slusher is uniquely and exceptionally talented to operate in difficult and ill-defined conditions for extended periods of time with ease and precision. In situations which require extreme autonomy, he has proven to be resourceful and extremely mission focused. His recent experiences in Sudan required him to demonstrate tact, agility and diplomatic finesse in dealing with senior members of friendly and hostile governments – and he was perfect.”

For his service, Slusher has been awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, the highest award to a Kansas National Guardsman serving on Active Duty since the Vietnam War.

995th Maintenance Company supports Joint Multinational Readiness Center

By Sgt. Kevin Landers, UPAR

Thirty Soldiers of the 995th Maintenance Company, Kansas National Guard, provided support at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Hohenfels, Germany, during their Overseas Deployment Training period, Sept. 4 to 25, 2010.

The 995th Soldiers worked at the Consolidated Maintenance Activity, Recovery and Maintenance Site, and the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Maintenance Shop. The work performed included welding, metal work, engine repair, wheeled vehicle repair, track vehicle repair, production control, supply operations, and maintenance operations. At the 1-4 Infantry Maintenance Shop, the 995th Soldiers were fully integrated with active duty Soldiers to perform various maintenance operations.

“Our active duty counterparts... quickly realized our capabilities and began giving us their more difficult jobs and utilized our experience to train their mechanics. In the end they tried to recruit our Soldiers because of how well they performed!” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Andrew Laffery, Allied Trades Technician.

The equipment repaired by the various shops is used for training and is vital to the mission of the Combat Maneuver Training Center. The Recovery and Maintenance Site shop provides support to the various units,

“Our active duty counterparts... quickly realized our capabilities and began giving us their more difficult jobs...”

*Chief Warrant Officer 2
Andrew Laffery*

and the 1-4 Infantry is the United States Army Europe operations force unit. The 995th provided support for the entire mission.

The Joint Multinational Readiness Center trains coalition forces preparing for deployments to the Middle East. With over 95 percent of foreign allies in the Global War on Terrorism coming from European Command, this provides the best opportunity for U.S. Forces to train with their coalition partners prior to joining them in combat, an opportunity that the unit took very seriously, according to Capt. Mark C. Mullinax, Wamego, 995th commander.

“This AT was one of the smoothest and most productive ODTs I’ve ever been involved with,” said Mullinax. “The 995th Soldiers saw an immediate impact from their hard work and understood that they were part of the bigger picture in support of the warfighter.”



Spc. Robert Jackson services an M998 humvee while on duty with the 995th Maintenance Company. The company conducted their Overseas Deployment Training at the Joint Multinational Training Center in Hohenfels, Germany. (Photo by Sgt. Kevin Landers, UPAR)

170th Maintenance Company practices IED reaction lanes

By Sgt. Jason Lee, UPAR
170th Maintenance Company

Soldiers from the 170th Maintenance Company participated in an Improvised Explosive Device reaction class and lane training exercise at the armory in Colby Sept. 11-12.

The Soldiers went through a three-phase training series that included a power point instructional class given by Staff Sgt. Troy Rall and Sgt. Jason Lee. After the instructional class, the Soldiers went through a drill using a miniature mock build-up of the area where they were going to encounter IEDs. Sgt. John Quintal, Sgt. Steven Struber and Staff Sgt. Robert Griffiths built the miniature setup and taught the class how the convoy would be set up during the final phase of the training.

The final phase of training was a simulated IED lane conducted by Sgt. 1st Class Rick Christie, Sgt. Warren Rogers, Sgt. Don Little, Sgt. Terrance Burgess and Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Beougher.

“This training is important. Every Soldier should know how to react when they encounter a suspected IED,” said Struber. “I was impressed with how everyone joined in and participated during the training.”

During the final phase of training, the 170th used humvees with four man crews to navigate through a simulated IED reaction lane. The Soldiers in charge of the lane set up hidden IEDs and rated how well the Soldiers found the devices and what they did when they discovered possible IEDs. The Soldiers going through the training were tasked with finding as many IEDs as possible and giving descriptions of the suspected devices to higher headquarters over the radio. Once they completed the call, they were instructed on what to do next.

“I think that this part of the training really put it all together,” said Little, who gave the instructions. “We had the Soldiers do a couple of runs and constantly changed the course so they wouldn’t expect the same thing twice. We had a lot of fun setting up the course and I think they got a lot of good training.”

The Soldiers were given an IED class on Sunday to supplement the IED reaction classes they took during the drill weekend.

“This training is good for everyone,” said Capt. Todd Stuke, 170th commander. “By having this training, we can give a refresher course to those who have deployed and, for those who have not, this is good training for them to go through.”



Sgt. Steven Struber shows members of the 170th Maintenance Company which route they are going to take and what they are going to do once they get to the simulated IED reaction lane. (Photo by Sgt. Jason Lee, UPAR)

FMS 7 receives top ranking from the National Guard Bureau

By Sgt. 1st Class Quentin McBride

Field Maintenance Shop 7, located in Kansas City, Kan., has taken first place at the National Guard Bureau in the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence competition. Fourteen facilities from 54 states and territories competed in the Table of Distribution and Allowances Small category with FMS 7 coming out on top.

This shop is one of 14 Army National Guard Maintenance facilities located throughout the state of Kansas. It operates under the Directorate of Logistics and Surface Maintenance Management Office located in Topeka, Kan.

The Army Award for Maintenance Excellence award winner displays an expertise and professionalism in performing their tasks. Each competing unit is evaluated on its effectiveness in ensuring that Soldier competency is maintained. Assessments of each unit in the categories of attitude and effective leadership are rated with a benchmark based on those of past winners. The tenets of exceptional maintenance processes that were exhibited are validated and ranked.

All entries must be ranked as one of the top three in several different competitive levels prior to reaching the National Guard Bureau. Each competitor starts at their state level, where first and second place move on to regional competition. The top three finishers from each of the seven Regions

move on to the National Guard Bureau competition. From there the National Guard Bureau can send up to six entries per category to round one in the Department of the Army. These four levels of competition are based on the written packet submitted by each organization. The Department of the Army, round two is comprised of the top four placements from round one. This group will receive a site visit from Department of the Army representatives who will inspect and validate the information contained in the packets. All scores will be added up and a winner and runner-up will be decided in each category.

In the 2010 Army Award for Maintenance Excellence competition FMS 7 placed first in the state of Kansas, second in the Region V, and first in National Guard Bureau level competitions. The next level for FMS 7 is the Department of the Army.

FMS 7 has an outstanding performance over the previous four years in the AAME competition. In 2006, FMS 7 placed second in the state of Kansas and took first place in Kansas and second place in Region V in 2007. In 2008, the shop took first place in the state of Kansas and Region V competitions. For 2009, FMS was awarded first place for the state of Kansas and Region V, placing second at the National Guard Bureau level, and competed in the Department of the Army final four.

Removing the stigma of seeking help

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mal Army life. We’ve heard them all: “Hooah, sergeant! I’m good,” “You know me. I don’t sweat the small stuff” or my favorite saying “See the shrink? I’m not nuts.” It is crucial we not accept these kinds of responses. Sit down and listen to our Soldiers and know unequivocally when something is out of place.

Our more senior leaders within the Army are leading the charge through fundamental policy changes and revising regulatory guidance to reduce the stigma associated with getting help. However, the most critical change is that of culture. “Stigma can render suicide prevention efforts ineffective unless elements are incorporated into the program to counter these destructive attitudes.” (AR 600-24, 2009). The Army is committed to decreasing stigma associated with seeking help, to improve access to care, and to incorporate suicide prevention training into all training programs (Schoemaker, 2010).

Educating Soldiers and Families

As leaders, our Army needs us now more

than ever before in order to combat one of the most catastrophic challenges of our careers. We must come armed not with a basic load of ammunition, but the knowledge and empathy necessary to support and lead our Soldiers in their time of need.

Educating our formations on the importance of behavioral health and removing the stigma can save a Soldier’s life. Compassionate leadership, support, and education will result in our Soldiers seeking help without the worries of shame, criticisms or negative impacts on their career. The use of training vehicles such as Noncommissioned Officer and Officer Professional Development Programs and Family Readiness Groups meetings not only trains our Soldiers, but also our Army families.

Leaders provided with the opportunity to attend any level of resilience training should seek out the opportunity and pass on the knowledge to their seniors, peers, and subordinates. It is critical we learn and grow together in order to maximize our effectiveness within our ranks and overcome this critical issue.

Integrated systems improve command, control and communication

By Sgt. Heather Wright

35th Infantry Division Public Affairs

The 35th Infantry Division is one of the latest Army National Guard Divisions to field 11 of the Army's Standard Integrated Command Post System Trailer Mounted Support System, in cooperation with Northrop Grumman Corporation's Command Post Platform, to provide mobile tactical operations centers that can be rapidly deployed for command, control and communications on the battlefield.

Kevin Stark, a trainer with Northrop Grumman, and a crew of fellow trainers traveled to Fort Leavenworth in late September to teach 35th ID Soldiers how to properly set up and use the new systems during the division's annual training. Stark and his coworkers spend 150 to 200 days on the road training active duty and National Guard and Reserve components how to effectively deploy the systems.

Stark has been helping units across the nation learn about the systems for the past four years. The SICPS system has been fielded in approximately 80 percent of the Army's units. Northrop Grumman should have the remaining 20 percent fielded toward the end of 2011.

According to Stark, early in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, the Army recognized the need for a more efficient communication and command system. The U.S. Army, National Guard and Reserves were using different communication and command post systems. Much like the confusion during Hurricane Katrina, the lack of effective communication and command posts led to unnecessary delays in assistance and, in some cases, fatalities. The SICPS TMSS and CPP provide the necessary standardization of communication and



A 35th Infantry Division Soldier watches the air pump as it fills the bladder of a large Trailer Mounted Support System. This innovation raises the 1,600 pound shelter with minimum assistance and prevents injuries. The 35th ID recently received 19 of the units in support of the Army's Standard Integrated Command Post System during annual training in late September. (Photo by Sgt. Heather Wright, 35th ID)

shelter to avoid making the same errors.

The medium and large versions of the Standard Integrated Command Post System Trailer Mounted Support System combine shelter, utilities, power generator, environmental control and tactical mobility to form a complete command operation center.

"The SICPS fielding gives the 35th ID the capability to operate in any environment," said Col. Russell Conrad, 35th Infantry Division operations officer and assistant chief of staff.

Set up within roughly 30 minutes, the medium SICPS TMSS provides more than 442 square feet of usable space and includes a 5-ton environmental control unit and can generate 18 kilowatts of power. The environmental control unit includes both a heater and an air-conditioner.

The large system takes about an hour to set up and provides more than 1,120 square feet of usable space, has a 12-ton environmental control unit and can generate 33 kilowatts of power. Both systems are tow-

able by military vehicles and have been tested to maintain temperatures in climates from -50 F to +131 F.

In earlier designs, the shelters had a separate interior and exterior portion that had to be stitched together. The poles and beams were also separate and made for an unwieldy and time-consuming set-up.

The new design has the interior and exterior liners attached to the pop-up exoskeleton. The large system includes an air bladder and air pump that raises the shelter. This makes the set-up much less time-consuming, easier to manage and helps avoid injury.

Previously, the generator, environmental control unit and shelters were hauled on separate trailers. Maintaining and coordinating three separate pieces of equipment and trailers for one shelter gave rise to logistical issues. With the TMSS, the shelter, generator and environmental control unit are stored together on one trailer. This makes accountability, mobility and set-up more efficient.

Standardized communication is addressed with the mobile Command Post Platform. The CPP is housed in a humvee. It includes eight radios, both classified and sensitive, but unclassified local area networks and can connect with another CPP to provide necessary redundancy. Northrop Grumman's training includes teaching the Information Technology teams in each unit how to manage, troubleshoot and set up each of the systems and integrate them with the unit's computer systems.

Northrop Grumman's comprehensive training, top of the line shelter and communication systems will allow the 35th ID commanders and staff to digitally plan, prepare, and execute operations in seamless union with other units.

Bunting will retire from adjutant general post in January

Continued from Page 1

Closure and the state's worst year ever for storms in 2007, including the near-total destruction of Greensburg, Kan., from an EF-5 tornado, as well as devastating flooding and destructive winter storms. In 2009, more challenges came with significant budget cuts which resulted in the closure of 18 of 56 Kansas armories.

Bunting implemented several new initiatives for Kansas, including the development of the Great Plains Joint Training Center and Crisis City in Salina, and the Kansas Safe and Prepared Schools Program. The Great Plains Joint Training Center provides new training capabilities for the state, including allowing Guardsmen to do pre-mobilization training locally rather than traveling out of state. Crisis City is a one-of-a-kind training site for civilian and military emergency responders to prepare and train together for large-scale disasters or terrorist threats. The Safe and Prepared Schools Program assists schools across the state with development of emergency plans.

Additional initiatives Bunting spearheaded include the opening of the Resiliency Center, the Eisenhower Center for Homeland Security Studies and the Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center. The Resiliency Center trains Guardsmen to prepare for the mental challenges of being a Citizen-Soldier. The Eisenhower Center provides multi-discipline education to Kansans involved with homeland security, emergency management and public safety. The Fusion Center is a state-based team of analysts focused on helping homeland security professionals make the best decisions for Kansas.

Bunting's rise to adjutant general was not a career goal for him. In fact, he didn't intend to join the military, despite coming from a military family. His dad, at the age of 17, got permission to join the Army in the heart of the Great Depression, and later rose to the rank of brigadier general. Bunting also has an older and younger brother who served.

It was a janitor's job at the 190th Air Refueling Wing in Topeka while finishing

"I am sincere when I say what an incredible honor and blessing it is to have been the TAG for seven years."

*Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting
Kansas adjutant general*

college that changed his mind about military service and the direction of his career. He joined the Air Guard and soon began moving up the ranks as a full-time Guardsman.

Bunting's family kept him grounded as he moved up. He said the best advice he received upon accepting the position of adjutant general came from his oldest brother, who reminded him not to let the job be about him.

"Understand you're just a person in a place and time," Bunting said his brother told him. "I don't have 8,000 troops in the Kansas Army and Air National Guard. 8,000 troops have me. You can be a troop without having an adjutant general, but you can't be an adjutant general without having troops."

It was that philosophy that guided him through the past seven years. Whenever times got tough, he made sure to get out of his office and visit the troops and emergency management/homeland security staff so he could be reminded of the importance of the job that needed to be done.

Bunting believes he's left a good team in place to carry on the work of the department and he's helped to cultivate relationships in the state well beyond the adjutant general's department.

"The state is safer because we have people who talk to each other and have a relationship now," he said.

Bunting's fondest memories of the job are attending the return ceremonies when troops are reunited with loved ones. And his favorite place in Kansas to visit is Greensburg, a town where hope, resilience



Whenever possible, Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, visited deployed Kansas Guardsmen, such as these Soldiers serving in Kosovo. (Photo by Spc. Joshua Dodds)

and hard work are bringing the town back after the devastating tornado of 2007.

He admits being adjutant general demanded more of his time than he first estimated, especially given the tempo of the past seven years with an ongoing war, many weather disasters and the need to expand the homeland security department given the potential threats against the state and nation.

An avid reader, Bunting cites Steven Covey's books as the guide he used to get his schedule on track and keep from being "urgent addicted." This, he acknowledges, isn't easy in the military and emergency management field, which attracts Type A personalities motivated by the anticipation of the next event.

"What's really important is not what's often urgent," he says, noting many people spend their day working on the urgent and never planning strategically or making time for the important, especially family.

After leaving the position in January, Bunting says he'll take time to relax and spend even more time with his family. He calls himself an avid outdoorsman, into "Harleys, horses, hunting and helping others."

As for his next work project, "it's pretty much an open horizon," he said. "I've never done anything as an adult other than serve in the uniform."

Bunting's time in the military, especially these past seven years when he lost 10 Soldiers in combat zones, makes him value every day and urge others to do the same.

"Live your life to the fullest," he says, because men and women have given their life to ensure others can do just that."

"I am sincere when I say what an incredible honor and blessing it is to have been the TAG for seven years," he said. "I'll go through the rest of my life knowing that much more of my share of blessings and goodness have been given to me."

Helicopter crews take to the skies for live-fire practice

By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR

On the weekend of Sept. 10 to 12, the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation conducted live-fire aerial gunnery at the Smoky Hill Range near Salina. Each gunner flew several runs on the range. This included runs while wearing protective masks and after dark, night vision devices. Targets were engaged from a hover and airspeeds of up to 100 miles per hour.

Sgt. 1st Class Derron Lindsey, battalion standardization instructor, explained the difficulties of firing from a moving aircraft.

"The crew chief has to understand ballistics, aerodynamics and target identification and distance estimation," he said. "Where a ground-based gunner has a stable platform, an aerial gunner has to adjust for wind speed, movement and air flow over the airframe. You often hear them reminding themselves or in other conversations, aim high on the right; low in the left."

The M240H machine gun is the aircraft version of the ground mounted M240B. On the H model, the pistol grip of the B model is replaced with a butterfly trigger and hand grips similar to an M2 .50 caliber machine gun.

"The M240Hs are intended to be defensive rather than offensive weapons," said Staff Sgt. Tom Baker, one of the evaluators for the gunnery.

"I had a blast doing aerial gunnery," said Spc. Darren Love. "As far as the firing went, it was difficult trying to load the weapon under pressure while in a moving aircraft, especially under NVG (night vision goggles). I also had quite a few weapon jams once we started night firing."

"Just going through that experience taught me a lot and gave me confidence in working with the weapon," he continued. "It was also good to be able to practice the different techniques I had been shown to see which ones worked better for me."

"Aerial gunnery was a great experience, especially for a 19-year-old crew chief," agreed Pfc. Gregg Smith. "Engaging targets in a UH-60 at over 100 knots was an exhilarating experience."

"Having practice of being under the added stress of handling the weapon while inside the aircraft is something we all need," said Pfc. Lee Purdham. "The practice allows us to be more comfortable under normal conditions. It gave me a whole new appreciation of the job and responsibilities entrusted to me while sitting in that seat."

Purdham's father, 1st Sgt. Paul Purdham, a member of the Kansas Army National Guard, is deployed to Africa.

Newly promoted Sgt. 1st Class Justin Kaub said, "As a flight instructor, we have



7.62 mm rounds erupt from the business end of an M240H medium machine gun mounted on a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation, Kansas National Guard, during live-fire practice at Smoky Hill Range near Salina. (Photo by Sgt. Michael Mathewson, UPAR)

to ensure that we train to standard. On occasion, the Soldiers make mistakes and we have to correct them on the spot. Loading, clearing and correcting malfunctions are often simple tasks that we forget. Gunnery allows us to also train and correct communication errors."

"Each crewmember is given over 8 hours of instruction just on the M240H, aircraft emergency procedures and the duties of a door gunner," said Lindsey. "They are also required to pass a 50 question exam and be evaluated during each table of fire throughout the year."

Command Sgt. Maj. Harold Whitley, 69th

Troop Command's command sergeant major, flew on one of the gunnery flights. Whitley stated that he was very impressed with the range itself and the professionalism of everyone on the range. The pilots, crew chiefs/gunners, ammo handlers, medics, fuel handlers, the controllers in the tower and everyone else that made everything happen.

Lt. Col. David Leger, battalion commander, said the battalion was fortunate to have access to such a fine range on which to conduct gunnery. Leger also expressed his pride on the way that every member of the battalion worked to make the range so safe and successful.



Puffs of dirt mark the line of bullets that strafe the target area at Smoky Hill Weapons Range. (Photo by Sgt. Michael Mathewson, UPAR)

Competition was hot in Chili Cookoff



2nd Lt. Chad Blow and Dusty Nichols dip up a sample of their "WMD (Weapon of Maximum Deliciousness) Chili" for Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose, director of the Joint Staff, Joint Forces Headquarters, Kansas National Guard. Rose was one of four judges for the competition held Oct. 21 in Nickell Armory. Topeka, to benefit the Combined Federal Campaign. Blow and Nichols were one of 11 teams from the Adjutant General's Department entered in the competition. In the end, first place went to Sgt. 1st Class Brian Dale's "Ring of Fire" chili. Second place was Master Sgt. Paul Swanson's "Normal" chili and third place went to "C.O.G." from Sgt. 1st Class Gordon Lamb. (Photo by Senior Airman Matt Lucht, Public Affairs Office)

Adjutant General's Department plans for challenging years ahead

By Sharon Watson
Public Affairs Office

Looking ahead to what the future could have in store is the key to the success of a great organization. At the annual Adjutant General's two day strategic planning workshop, Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, discussed his goals and collaborated with senior leaders to refine the department's plans for the next five years.

During his presentation, Bunting noted the budget will continue to force state leaders to look at innovative ways to get the job done.

"We are still going to need to train," he said. "The money to send you somewhere to training is going to be severely constrained which means the pressure is going to be to train at home. This is why we are trying to spend as much time and effort now building the capacity to train entirely at home. That is the strategic goal of this department. No National Guardsman, no public safety official, which includes homeland security and emergency management, would need to leave Kansas to receive training to stay current in their job."

The Great Plains Joint Training Center and regional hubs (which have not yet been funded), were designed to ensure everyone in Kansas is no more than two hours away from a training center so they could have the training they need.

Another issue impacted by the state budget crisis is facilities. Last year, 18 armories across the state of Kansas were closed due to funding shortfalls. "The future for facilities for us in a constrained environment will be with roommates," Bunting said. "We have thought that out. We will no longer live by ourselves."

An example of this plan was put in place a few years ago in the design for the Heartland Preparedness Center in Wichita. The 45-acre complex will include the Army National Guard Readiness Center with more than 330 Army Guard personnel and a

Field Maintenance Shop. A ground breaking will be held Nov. 16. with the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County who are partnering to build a law enforcement training center at the site. The Kansas Highway Patrol is also seeking funds for a new headquarters building on the site.

In line with this same theme, Bunting stressed to his senior leaders the need for the Kansas National Guard to become a more joint force with Army, Air and civilian assets working more closely together.

"You are joint if your joint partner fails or leaves, and then you fail. If they fail and it didn't affect your operation much, then you were co-located," said Bunting.

Recently, the Kansas Guard had its first truly joint overseas deployment with the Agribusiness Development Teams going to Afghanistan with both Army and Air Guardsmen. With these ideas and others discussed at the Strategic Planning workshop, Bunting believes that the Adjutant General's Department can be more efficient in shaping its future.

Bunting said, "We don't sit back and let missions come to us." In fact, the ADT missions were sought out to ensure the Kansas Guard participated in enduring missions and could continue to send troops to areas where the conditions and progress were known to Kansas.

"We chose to do five ADTs, we chose to go to Africa and we chose to go and take back-to-back missions," said Bunting. "Every mission that has come to us in the last seven years, we have handled. When you look back on what this entire department (has done in these seven years), it is absolutely unprecedented what has been asked of us."

Bunting directed leadership in the workshop to lean forward, be bold and find solutions rather than wait for other departments or the federal government to do so.

Goal is 10,000 miles for charity

By Spc. Jonathan Moyer

What started as a simple hobby has turned into a monumental volunteer effort for charity.

Spc. Donald Lobmeyer, Kansas Army National Guard, started riding his bike at a young age when he would ride 10 miles to play baseball. At age 15, he bought a new bike for \$300 and his first long trip was that September, when he rode approximately 60 miles from Wichita to Hutchinson to go to the Kansas State Fair.

In 2003, Lobmeyer bought a recumbent trike with accessories from Australia for \$5,000. He's ridden it at five different 100-mile rides, including the "Hotter 'N Hell Hundred" in Wichita Falls, Texas, and the MS150 Multiple Sclerosis Ride, a two-day, 150 miles ride. During that event, he pulled a six-foot inflatable rhino with signs on it to raise funds and awareness for multiple sclerosis.

In 2004, he rode across Kansas for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. While deployed in Iraq from 2005-2006 with the 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, Lobmeyer rode more than 4,000 miles, including the "Hotter 'N Hell Hundred" in 117 degree weather, the MS150 and a Montel Williams Multiple Sclerosis Foundation event in which he managed to raise almost \$2,000 for MS research.

Although currently deployed to Djibouti with the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, Lobmeyer plans to participate in various rides for charities,



Even though he is deployed with the Kansas National Guard to Djibouti with the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry, Spc. Donald Lobmeyer plans to continue riding his bicycle for charity, reaching for a goal of 10,000 miles. (Photo by Spc. Jonathan Moyer)

including the "Hotter 'N Hell Hundred," MS150, Heartspring Pedal Fest, Montel Williams MS, the Djibouti Orphanage and any others he may discover while trying to reach his goal of 10,000 miles.

TAG APFT competition draws military, civilian, teen competitors

By Staff Sgt. Veronica K. Almazan-Chapman, UPAR, 235th Regiment

The Modular Training Battalion of the 235th Regiment hosted the 14th annual Adjutant General's Army Physical Fitness Competition and National Guard Fitness Challenge. The event kicked off on Saturday, Sept. 18, 2010, in Salina, Kan. More than 240 military and civilian competitors took part, the most the competition ever hosted.

This year, the event was opened up to a wider range of competitors. High school teams from Wichita South and 204 students from St. John's Military Academy, Salina, Kan., competed along with civilians and Soldiers of all age groups.

Participants were scored according to the Army Physical Fitness Test age classifications and standards. The participants were briefed on the three events: push-ups, sit-ups and the 2-mile run. They were also given

demonstrations of the push-ups and sit-ups.

The military team competition was close again this year with only 25 points separating the first and second place teams. The first place 35th Infantry Division team consisted of Lt. Col. Dave Johnson, Lt. Col. Jon Shafer, Lt. Col. Rob Thompson and Maj. Michelle Hannah. Their combined score was 1,175 out of a possible 1,200 points.

The second place team had a combined score of 1,150 and came from the Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery. Team members were Maj. Kyle Chansler, Maj. Michael McCoy, Sgt. Hector Medina and Spc. Dustin Hicks.

The third place team from the Regional Training Site Maintenance included Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brent Campbell, Master Sgt. John Duerr, Sgt. 1st Class Chuck Russell and Sgt. 1st Class Nick Eller. Their combined score was 1,099.

The Top Overall Score-Civilian award was earned by Debbie Sellers with a perfect score of 300; the Top Overall Score-Military was earned by Col. Eric Peck with another perfect score of 300.

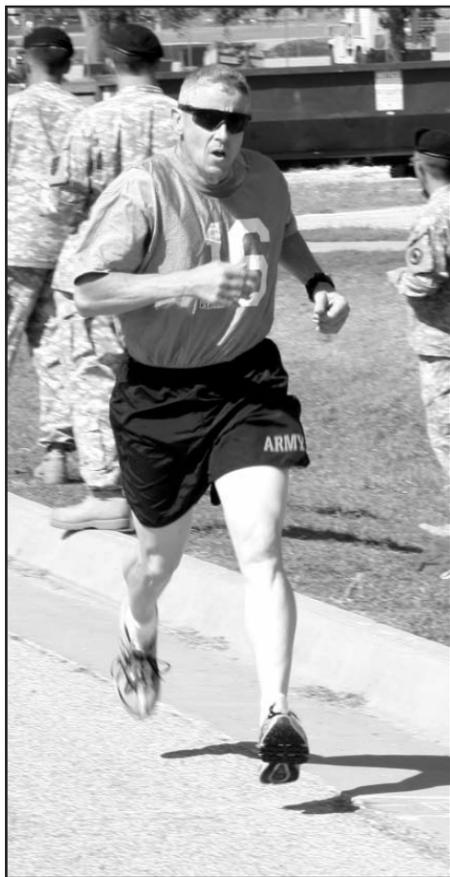
The civilian competitor medalists were:

- Ages 17-21: Zachary Obad-Mathis – 274; Ian Brands – 259; Anthony Benavides – 258 (All were from St. John's Military Academy in Salina, Kan.)
- Ages 47-51: Robert Perez – 282
- Ages 52-56: Bob Frenzl – 295; Carol Graytok – 121

The military individual competitor medalists were:

- Ages 17-21: Spc. Casy Pennock – 212
- Ages 22-26: Spc. Allan Earles – 253; Sgt. Steven McBryde – 245; Spc. Jeremy Leach – 236
- Ages 27-31: Spc. Robert Cannon – 186
- Ages 32-36: Sgt. Mathew Segroves
- Ages 37-41: Sgt. Donald Dickey – 226; Staff Sgt. Jamie Vilfer – 185
- Ages 42-46: Staff Sgt. David Klies – 230
- Ages 52-56: Col. Eric Peck – 300

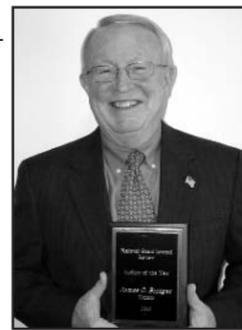
The event was sponsored by the Enlisted Association of the Kansas National Guard, University of Phoenix, Grantham University, 99KG Radio, Western Associates, the Salina Journal, the Salina Airport Authority and the Joint Forces Public Affairs Office.



Col. Eric Peck was the overall winner in his age group, finishing with a perfect 300 score. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Veronica K. Almazan-Chapman)

Kansas Internal Review auditor selected as Auditor of the Year

Jim Bridges, auditor with the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office in Kansas, was selected as the National Guard Bureau Auditor of the Year while attending the National Guard Bureau Internal Review Training Conference in San Diego, Calif., in July.



Jim Bridges

Bridges was selected from entries from each of the states and territories in the United States.

Bridges selection was based on his contribution to the Kansas Internal Review office, the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office for Kansas, the Kansas Army and Air National Guard and support provided to the

National Guard Bureau during 2010.

"Jim Bridges' auditing experience, professionalism and rapport with leadership in the Kansas National Guard was a major factor in the continuing success of the Kansas IR Division," said Col. Terry Fritz, director of the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office. "As a past member of the Army National Guard with more than 28 years of service and a member of Internal Review in excess of 10 years, he is well-respected and well-acquainted with all levels of management in the Kansas National Guard. His audit reports continue to be accurate, presented in a convincing manner and constructive in tone."

During the conference, the Kansas Internal Review Division also received the coveted "NGB 4 Star Award" for exceptional support provided throughout the year to the many states and the National Guard Bureau.

School groups forming for children of military families

Kansas National Guard Child and Youth Programs is looking to team up with local schools throughout the state to implement military children support groups.

The meetings focus on developing citizenship, stress management and teamwork skills through the use of curriculum and activities. The support groups create opportunities for meeting new "military" friends throughout the school and help teachers identify who among their class is part of a military family.

Any student who has a military family member in any branch of service may attend. Typically, students meet once a month during the school day. Volunteers lead the meetings, along with the school counselor, but the State Youth Coordinators are in attendance for guidance and support, as well.

The meetings can be 30 minutes to an

hour, depending on the schedule that works best for the school and teachers. Some schools split their younger and older kids, and others decide to hold their meetings directly after school. The groups are flexible, and can be adapted to fit any schedule.

Along with the military children support groups, this is a great opportunity for the schools and the State Youth Coordinators to collaborate and help educate the teachers and staff about working with military children. Presentations from the Child and Youth Behavioral Military and Family Life Consultants can also be arranged for teachers, parents and staff.

If you know of a school where a military child support group would be beneficial, contact Amanda Herlinger or Darcy Seitz, State Youth Coordinators, at 785-274-1967.

190th doing its part to save energy

By Tech. Sgt. Angela Brees
190th ARW Public Affairs

Executive Order 13423: Reduce energy intensity 30 percent by 2015.

Who carries out that order for Forbes Field? The 190th Civil Engineering Squadron.

Of course, the executive order talks about a lot more than just energy usage. It outlines targets for greenhouse gas reductions, water consumption and renewable power sources. And, the CE Squadron is building toward that future for Forbes Field.

"We not only want to meet the executive order goal, but surpass it," said Lt. Col. Mark Green, CE commander. "We want Forbes to be the example for other bases."

One project involved changing the temperature in the offices. By cranking up the air conditioning just three degrees, CE was able to save the wing \$21,000 in April – that's a 38 percent reduction from the same time last year.

"We know the temperature has been higher than what people are accustomed to, so we really appreciate the support everyone has shown," said Chief Master Sgt. Danny Roush, civil engineer manager. "We couldn't do this without their support."

Many more changes are on the horizon. As buildings are remodeled or constructed, the plans will include new energy-saving technologies and incorporate environmentally sustainable design features wherever possible.

- Some of the ideas being planned:
- Reduce artificial light usage with more access to day-lighting.
 - Use ground source heat pumps to warm buildings in the winter.
 - Redesign fresh air exchanges to protect against carbon dioxide while reducing

By cranking up the air conditioning just three degrees, CE was able to save the wing \$21,000 in April – that's a 38 percent reduction from the same time last year.

power usage of environmental controls.

- A literally "green" parking lot. No asphalt or concrete, but open-celled blocks filled with grass seed.
- A partially moss-covered roof application, which will reduce rainwater runoff and provide a cooling effect.
- Buildings to incorporate solar power panels. That feature may be sooner than later for the mobility barn addition and is the reason for its slanted roof.

The U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design ranking system is another way the wing will be scored. The ranking systems from low to high are: Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum. For any new Guard buildings built or for remodels totaling more than \$2 million after 2012, it must meet LEED Silver. Green and his team are hoping the operations building remodel will achieve LEED Gold.

190th wing members have a critical role to play to help CE reach its long-term goal, Green said.

"Wing members can do their part, too, by ensuring light switches are turned off on exiting rooms, report leaky faucets and fixtures to reduce water loss, and minimize personal energy using items such as individual fans, refrigerators and coffee pots," he said.

Awards and Decorations

KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Distinguished Service Medal



Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Defense Superior Service Medal



Col. Michael Slusher, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Legion of Merit



Command Sgt. Maj. Glenn Peterson, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Bronze Star



Col. Michael Slusher, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Meritorious Service Medal



Col. Michael Slusher, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka with 3rd oak leaf cluster

Col. Bruce Woolpert, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Lt. Col. Lee Keffer, HHD, 635th RSG, Hutchinson Lt. Col. John Rueger, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Maj. Aaron Francis, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Maj. Andrew Parker, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Maj. Mark Wisner, HHC, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka Maj. David Youngdoff, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Capt. Gleb Gluhovsky, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Capt. Larry Leupold, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Capt. Daniel Mehlhaff, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Capt. Philip Morris, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Capt. Murl Riedel, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Capt. Steven Schneider, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Capt. David Stickelman, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Capt. Brian Williams, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Anderson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Cullen, 169th CSSB, Olathe, with oak leaf cluster

Command Sgt. Maj. John Ryan, HQ, 235th Regt, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster

Command Sgt. Maj. Harold Whitley, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster

Sgt. Maj. Tony Bennett, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha 1st Sgt. Alfred Besser, 731st Trans Co, Great Bend, with oak leaf cluster

1st Sgt. Michael Guyett, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha 1st Sgt. Kevin Rieschick, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Master Sgt. Roman Asebedo, Counterdrug Task Force, Topeka, with three oak leaf clusters

Master Sgt. Robert Hall, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Master Sgt. Robert Hall, HHB, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha, with 2nd oak leaf cluster

Master Sgt. Christopher Kuti, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Master Sgt. Joel Paige, JFHQ KS, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster

Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Ahlstedt, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. 1st Class Richard Hartman, HHD, 635th RSG, Hutchinson Sgt. 1st Class David Wellman, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Kenrick Hausler, HHD, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Staff Sgt. Charles Wist, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Kyle Wyres, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg

Army Commendation Medal



Col. Michael Slusher, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, 3d Capt. Aleshia Bedore, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Capt. Jeff Burchfield, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Capt. Kevin Cadena, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Capt. Artery Cooper, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Capt. Jason Davee, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Capt. Mark McLeod, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Capt. Jared Watson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Capt. Chad Wyancko, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster

1st Lt. Nicolas Altgilbers, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha 1st Lt. Justin Doby, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha 1st Lt. Kevin Farrell, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha 1st Lt. Shawn Johnson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha 1st Lt. Brendan Keavney, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha 1st Lt. Derek Leeds, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha 1st Lt. Matthew Nordquist, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha 1st Lt. Michael Turney, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha 1st Lt. Travis Zeigler, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha 2nd Lt. Jon Ross, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Chief Warrant Officer 3 Stephen Patterson, 35th ID Band, Lenexa, with 6th oak leaf cluster

Master Sgt. Christina Escott, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Master Sgt. Richard Heuert, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Master Sgt. Eric Thompson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha 1st Sgt. Jason Fears, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha 1st Sgt. Jerald Kracht, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. 1st Class Edward Bellows II, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Boschee, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. 1st Class Dwayne Burgoon, Counterdrug Task Force, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster

Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Byers, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. 1st Class Wade Cormier, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Foster, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Sgt. 1st Class Scot Foster, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. 1st Class Scarlett Ivey, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. 1st Class Travis McClain, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. 1st Class David Owens, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. 1st Class Keith Peine, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. 1st Class Debra Pierce, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Prine, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. 1st Class Gary Stillings, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. 1st Class Brent Wallace, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Jared Allen, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Randy Atlakson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Christopher Baker, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Gregory Barnes, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Scott Bauman, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Marc Beswick, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Douglas Boland, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Harris Buffington, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Ralph Caples, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Shaun Carter, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cathey, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Charles Cunningham, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. David Curry, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Shawn Dillon, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Johnjo Garcia, Counterdrug Task Force, Topeka Staff Sgt. Raymond Gonzales, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. William Guthrie, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Apache Jaynesakluah, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City

Staff Sgt. Kevin Johnson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Christopher Kincaid, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Justin Lawson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Bruce Maschmeier, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Michael Maschmeier, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. James Merriman, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Metz, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Jacob Millias, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Andrew Mitchell, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Kevin Newell, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Ivan Nordquist, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Joshua Peltier, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Brian Piland, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Hendrik Rijfogel, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Donald Sand, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Kenneth Scheibe, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Ken Wilson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Robert Armstrong, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Christopher Barlow, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Jeremy Brohlorst, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Stephen Brucken, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Aaron Cairo, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. John Carl II, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Maurice Champoux, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Eddie Chaput, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. William Cookson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Chad Daisy, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Christopher Gaither, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. John Grubbs, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Lonnie Hajney, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Randy Hamilton, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Julie Hoefler, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Andrew Johnson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Phim Khampouovong, HHD, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Sgt. Cody Lee, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Michael Manning, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Billy Meier, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Jared Meier, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Dustin Minge, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Andrew Nicks, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Joshua O'Neil, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Curtis Parkhurst, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Douglas Roach, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Johnny Roehl, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Jonathan Shelly, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Albert Sherwood, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Joseph Siverinac, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Jacob Smith, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Arthur Sprouse Jr., 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. William Vonderschmidt, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Joseph Wilper, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Scott Wineinger, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Ryan Young, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. John Zimmer III, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. David Adams, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Jonathan Adkins, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Benjamin Anguiano, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Brian Bach, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. William Baker, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. David Bell, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Donald Bess, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Daniel Buck, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Benjamin Carlisle, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Christopher Chaundry, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Levi Clark, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Levi Davidson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Rachel Freitag, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Stacie Getzlaff, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. William Goss, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Phillip Holt, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Andrew Hughes, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Joshua Jack, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Aaron Keene, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Channing Lee, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Stephen Levins, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Ryan McPherson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Timothy Melkus, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Katie Mendell, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. John Morrissey, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Pfc. Bill Cravens, Co G, 2nd Bn, 135th Avn Regt, Topeka

Kansas Air National Guard

Col. Michael Foster, 184th IW, Wichita Col. Jeff Zillinger, 190th ARW, Topeka Capt. Eric Webb, 190th ARW, Topeka Chief Master Sgt. Elmer Logue, 184th IW, Wichita Chief Master Sgt. Phil Mahan, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka Chief Master Sgt. Leslie Money, 190th ARW, Topeka Chief Master Sgt. Jay Pine, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Master Sgt. Newell Applegate, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Master Sgt. Gary Cox, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Master Sgt. Randy Johnson, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Master Sgt. Janet Smith, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka Senior Master Sgt. Martin Tennison, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Steve Billbe, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Patrick Cochran, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Robert Crain, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Joseph Dillons, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Jeff Milligan, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Steven Tremblay, 190th ARW, Topeka Tech. Sgt. Patrick Weissbeck, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Lea Horton, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Airman Douglass Carey, 184th IW, Wichita

Spc. Robert Odonnell Jr., 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Russell Reiff, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Jamie Richardson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Ryan Rose, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Jon Rubendall, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Neil Strecker, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Kimberly Swain, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Lorne Williams, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Jaime Wright, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Army Achievement Medal



Capt. Gabriel Brockman, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Capt. Jessica Walker, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Master Sgt. James Ledin, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Master Sgt. Jared Nickell, Counterdrug Task Force, Topeka Sgt. 1st Class Duane Forbes, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. 1st Class Gary Galbraith, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Lecuyer, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. 1st Class Edward Sullivan, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Winder, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Alan Bansemmer, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Dorothy Beatty, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Earl Chism, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Gregory Copple, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Christopher Dame, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Robert Flood, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Michael Glynn, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. William Holle, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Kevin Lemieux, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. John Longfellow, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Jared Maginness, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Darren Meyers, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Dennis Pritchett, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Jose Romero, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Staff Sgt. Michael Simpson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Tech. Sgt. John Fagan, 190th ARW, Topeka Sgt. Coy Anderson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Michael Andrews, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Denny Browning, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Travis Bussen, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. William Cejka Jr., 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Nathaniel Chilson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Lawrence Domme, Counterdrug Task Force, Topeka Sgt. Justin Fisher, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Grant Gawith, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Wayne Griffin, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Carl Hale, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Michael Hanson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Michael Hare, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Robert Harris, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Justin Hicks, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Brandon Jennings, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Sean Jessip, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Patrick Lawson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Vincent Lombardi, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Chuck Lowe, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Isaac Luna, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Michael Luter, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Derick Maschmeier, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Kenneth Mateer, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. James Matthiasen, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. William McGinnis, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Terry McGrath Jr., 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Thomas Miller, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Randall Milleson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Lonnie Morris, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Shaun Phillips, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Christopher Philpot, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. John Rickard, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Jeremy Rollins, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Michael Rouse, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Michael Rumsford, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. David Sims, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Joseph Soppe, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Tyler Studt, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Quint Tallent, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. David Tatum, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Justin Tatum, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Kevin Tomson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Jeffery Tracy, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Travis Treff, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Dale Vandruuff, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Charles Wakole, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Nathan Wedel, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Jordan Worcester, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. Wesley Wright, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Marcus Abell, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Trevor Abell, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Casey Adams, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Ramone Addington, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Shawn Andrews, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Marcus Bailey, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Theodore Beard, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Brandon Bichsel, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Allan Bingham, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Rex Bontrager, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Chase Briggs, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Lionell Brown Sr., 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Christopher Brown, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Lucas Brown, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Shane Brown, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Nathan Bruna, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Daniel Bryant Jr., 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Jordan Budreau, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Nicholas Campa, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Zachary Cohorst, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Cody Colby, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Douglas Colby, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Bobby Cole, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Timothy Cooper, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Matthew Cox, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Branden Coy, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Glenn Cunningham, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Keith Davidson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Christopher Doffsotta, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Ronald Dyke, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Brandon Evans, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Bradley Everhart, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Richard Felts, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Leonardo Flores, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Bryon Gaudreau, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Wayne Gerleman, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Loren Ginter, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Marcus Glaser, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Brian Glasscock, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Rafael Gonzales, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Christopher Gordon, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Raymond Greer III, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Daren Habig, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. David Hajney, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Blake Hamilton, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Jason Hardin, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Billy Harp II, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Chance Hartner, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Justin Hayden, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Eric Hempel, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Bryan Hileman, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Ronald Honn, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Michael Hoppes, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Hollis Howard, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Phillip Hummer, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Justin Inks, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Robert Jackson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Spc. Brian Johnson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Shawn Johnson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Shawn Jones, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Douglas Kalmar, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Daniel Kater, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Joe Kirkpatrick Jr., 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Paul Koci, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Andrew Kopaczewski, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Calvin Kopp III, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Daniel Kottman, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Joshua Kraisinger, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Andrew Krummrey, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Michael Lee, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Joshua Leistra, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Gary Lindeen, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Joshua Main, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Andrew Mathews, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Scott Matthews, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Rickey McKenzie, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Orion McMane, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Michael McMillan, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. John Meyer, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Chad Mickel, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Jon Middendorf, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Michael Miller, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Chance Mitchell, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Cleofas Moreno, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Derrick Morris, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Christopher Ortega, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Tyler Parker, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Luke Pechanec, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. David Percival Jr., 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Myles Pierpont, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Benjamin Pitts, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. James Powell, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Richard Price, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. John Primeaux, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Garrett Reed, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Russell Richards, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Kyle Riedel, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Mario Rivas, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Preston Robertson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Daniel Robinson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Eric Roland, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Jorge Romero Jr., 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Craig Ruhl, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Brett Sagel, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Luke Schroeder, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Kalen Schultz, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Nathaniel Schulz, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Derrick Sloan, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Ryan Smart, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Richard Smith II, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Jedrik Smith, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Shawn Smith, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Shane Sonnier, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Christopher Spencer, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Anthony Stallbaumer, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Loren Stinebaugh, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Shawn Stall, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Brian Strouse, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Curtis Stubbeman, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Robert Stueve, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Tyler Suiter, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Carl Sutton, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Samuel Swain, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Dewey Sweet Jr., 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. David Trowbridge Jr., 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Michael Tryon, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Haven Vanleave, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Ralph Vest Jr., 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. David Vilcot, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Hien Vo, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Daniel Walz, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Justin Washington, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Chase Weber, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Terance Wells, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Brian Wiggins, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Marcus Williams, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Earnestine Wilson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Jeff Wilson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Tony Wilson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Brian Young, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Spc. Shawn Zeedyk, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Pfc. Whitney Alexander, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Pfc. Jonathan Benavidez, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Pfc. Chad Black, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Pfc. Robert Brittain, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Pfc. Douglas Champion Jr., 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Pfc. Colton Feldman, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Pfc. Matthew Finkey, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Pfc. Jonathan Horn, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Pfc. Christopher Horns, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Pfc. Thomas James, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Pfc. Denzel Jaybond, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Pfc. Robbie Knapp, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Pfc. Christopher Marshall, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Pfc. Jesse Mendenhall, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Pfc. Zachary Meyer, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Pfc. Cassandra Phillips, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Pfc. Benjamin Plooster, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Pfc. Michael Porter, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Pfc. Joel Rose, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Pfc. Jeremy Yoho, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Pv2 Scott McCune, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Pv2 Eric Rojas, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Pv1 Roy Lockhart, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Combat Infantry Badge



Col. Michael Slusher, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Meritorious Service Medal



Col. Bradley Link, 190th ARW, Topeka, with eight oak leaf clusters
Col. Jeffrey Zillinger, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
Maj. Benjamin Garcia, 184th IW, Wichita Chief Master Sgt. Barry Hofflinger, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
Chief Master Sgt. Philip Mahan, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster
Chief Master Sgt. Leslie Money, 190th ARW, Topeka, with three oak leaf clusters
Chief Master Sgt. Howard Steanson, 190th ARW, Topeka, with three oak leaf clusters
Senior Master Sgt. Newell Applegate, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
Senior Master Sgt. Chad Bellquist, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Master Sgt. Gary Cox, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Master Sgt. Robert Gates, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Master Sgt. Jill Jantz, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Master Sgt. Brian L. York, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Gordon R. Bosie, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Andrew Child, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt

Emporia business owner receives ESGR Patriot Award

By Staff Sgt. Kevin Newell, UPAR

Oct. 15 was National Boss's Day and what better way to show your appreciation than to present your civilian employer with an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Patriot Award. Spc. Nicholas Garcia, Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery did just that.

"I wanted to let my boss know how much I appreciate him supporting my service in the National Guard, especially since I am getting ready to deploy to the Horn of Africa," said Garcia. "I heard about the award from my readiness NCO, so I checked it out online and it showed up in the mail about a week later. I called my unit and they came down to present it. Pretty awesome!"

Presenting the award to Keith King, owner of King's Liquor in Emporia, Kan., was Sgt. 1st Class Steve Ahlstedt, readiness noncommissioned officer for the unit.

"This is my seventh Patriot Award presentation in the last three years and it never gets old," said Ahlstedt. "Employers have an obligation to allow their citizen-Soldiers time off for drill, but they don't have to be cool about it. This award is designed for those that are."

Whether it's a liquor store in Emporia, an oil field in Big Bow, a dental clinic in McPherson, a welding shop in Salina or a prison in Ellsworth, this award is a great tool to bridge the gap between the Soldier, their employer and the Guard, and to recognize an individual for their support.

While the award itself is presented to one person, it is intended to recognize the whole organization for their support. Other employees often have to work extra hours to cover down when a Guard member is on duty.

If your boss is a patriot, and you would like to present them with this award, visit <http://www.esgr.org/forms.asp?p=patriot>, fill out some basic information and the award will arrive in less than two weeks.

"There are ESGR field representatives that will present the award for you," said Ahlstedt, "but we reserve that honor to get to know our Soldiers better and to get to know who we're sharing our Soldiers with. That way if they have any questions about the National Guard, drill weekends or upcoming deployments, we can address them directly. We enjoy seeing where our Soldiers live and work and it gives the employer a face and a name to go along with the Guard, as well."



Spc. Nicholas Garcia presents his boss, Keith King, with an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve "Patriot Award" for his support of the Soldier's service in the Kansas National Guard. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Newell, UPAR)

35th ID Change of Command

Continued from Page 2

ters, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Armed Forces Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with oak leaf cluster, and many other awards

Davoren and his wife, Debra, reside in Lansing, Kan. Their daughter, Jennifer, resides in Houston, Texas, and their son,

Kyle, lives in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Pierson is sad to leave the military after 39 years of service, but knows the 35th ID is in good hands.

"It has been an honor to serve as the commander of the 35th Infantry Division," said Pierson. "I am proud of what we have accomplished and the high standards of performance these Soldiers have attained. I know that Major General Davoren and the Soldiers of the 35th will continue to carry on this tradition."

Awards and Decorations

Continued from Page 10

- Master Sgt. Jeffrey Milligan, 184th IW, Wichita
- Master Sgt. Jean Robinson, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster
- Master Sgt. Curtis R. Rogers, 184th IW, Wichita
- Master Sgt. James C. Schlehuber, 184th IW, Wichita
- Master Sgt. Gerald M. Singer, 184th IW, Wichita
- Master Sgt. Terry Spangler, 190th ARW, Topeka

Air Force Commendation Medal



- Master Sgt. James Helms, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
- Tech. Sgt. Michael Budde, 184th IW, Wichita
- Tech. Sgt. Emily Halderson, 184th IW, Wichita
- Tech. Sgt. Robert Ringer, 184th IW, Wichita
- Tech. Sgt. Leland Weathers, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
- Staff Sgt. Brett Shouse, 184th IW, Wichita
- Staff Sgt. Byron Smith, 184th IW, Wichita
- Senior Airman Douglas Carey, 184th IW, Wichita

Air Force Achievement Medal



- Col. Derek Rogers, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Lt. Col. Christopher Gnagi, 190th ARW, Topeka, with three

- oak leaf clusters
- Capt. Craig M. Cooper, 184th IW, Wichita, with 2nd oak leaf cluster
- Chief Master Sgt. Lucian L. Buttell, 184th IW, Wichita, with four oak leaf clusters
- Chief Master Sgt. Richard Meador, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Senior Master Sgt. William Angstadt, 184th IW, Wichita, with 4th oak leaf cluster
- Senior Master Sgt. Robert Bledsoe, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Master Sgt. Timothy A. Kern, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
- Master Sgt. Robin Lewis, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Master Sgt. Billy R. Mayo, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
- Master Sgt. Mark A. Rush, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
- Master Sgt. Peter Tavares, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Master Sgt. Kathleen Thornton, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Tech. Sgt. Sara Butcher, 184th IW, Wichita
- Tech. Sgt. Jamel Francis, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Tech. Sgt. Jayme Gabbard, 184th IW, Wichita, with 2nd oak leaf cluster
- Tech. Sgt. Kent A. Niebuhr, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
- Tech. Sgt. Jason Parker, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Tech. Sgt. Theresa K. Spears, 184th IW, Wichita
- Tech. Sgt. Carola Todd, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 2nd oak leaf cluster

778th a "family business"



Staff Sgt. Arthur Miller (rear), his twin sons Spc. Chase and Spc. Chance Miller, and stepson Pfc. David Bleakley (Photo by Sgt. Charles Malloy, UPAR)

By Sgt. Charles Malloy, UPAR

They say the National Guard is one big family. In the 778th Transportation Company, they really believe that statement.

Staff Sgt. Arthur Miller and his twin sons, Spc. Chance Miller and Spc. Chase Miller, and stepson Pfc. Thomas Bleakley, are all members of the 778th. What's more, they are all deploying together to Iraq.

"I think if we have to deploy, it is best to be together," said Staff Sgt. Miller. "We can watch each other and have a common bond. It would bring us closer together and I am proud of all of them."

"Their moms are both proud of them and, at the same time, they are nervous about the whole deployment thing," he continued, "but because we are all together it makes them more comfortable with it all."

"I think it's pretty cool having my dad and

brother deploy with me to Iraq," said Chase. "It's like I'm taking a piece of home with me."

"I feel more confident in myself knowing that they are there with me to help out through the rough patches," said Bleakley.

Chance and Chase are in maintenance under the leadership of Sgt. 1st Class Casey Flinn.

"It's really interesting having the twins in this platoon," said Flinn. "You really need to stay on your toes with those two, and the fact that they are twins, they almost feel what the other is feeling."

The Millers aren't the only family serving in the 778th. Staff Sgt. Daniel Davis and his brother, Pfc. Charles Davis, currently serve together and Staff Sgt. Edward Lee Lewis and Sgt. Benjamin Lewis are both in the 778th, although Ed won't be deploying with the company.

778th Transportation Company

Continued from Page 1

"I want to tell you," he concluded, "that, when you come home, we'll have some pizza for you."

Bunting's promise was met with a resounding "Hoo-aah!" from the troops.

Bunting also told the Soldiers and their families what he would be telling the unit commander, 1st Lt. Jerry Monosmith Jr., later during a flag presentation ceremony.

"I will tell you unequivocally," said Bunting, "that your task is to take that flag overseas and to serve with pride and distinction and bring that flag home and each and every one of these Soldiers that stand in front of me."

"It is truly inspiring to see our brave young men and women, who are going off to protect our freedoms," said Gov. Mark Parkinson, "and behind them all these great families and great supporters from across the community and across the state."

"We live in the most incredible country in the history of the world," said Parkinson. "We have freedoms and opportunities that have never existed on this planet. But those freedoms aren't free. They take the sacrifices of folks like you so that our kids and grandkids... can live the same kind of life we have lived and I can't thank you enough for making that opportunity possible. Thank each of you very much."

The governor expressed his pride in the service that the Guardsmen give, not only at home, but around the world, and assured them that Kansas is supporting them and their families.

"I want to tell you, on behalf of all Kansans, that we are with you," he said. "You know, you have your unit to support you while you are in Kuwait and Iraq. You have your family members back here, as well, and all the other supporters you see here, but you also have the entire Kansas community."

"Anywhere you go across the state or

across the country," he continued, "veterans and active military people are being widely acclaimed as our heroes and that is exactly what you are."

Parkinson said that society is recognizing that the true heroes are not sports figures, actors or rock stars.

"The heroes of our society are you," concluded Parkinson. "We're counting on you to do a terrific job; we know you will. We are looking forward to you coming back safe and healthy. Good luck and God speed."

"It's been a long exciting year," said Monosmith. "We spent many long weekends together, multiple summer camps and tons of hours planning the last year that we've spent in order to prepare the company for the upcoming mission."

Monosmith recapped the challenges faced by the company and the milestones passed over the preceding year. He also spoke of the honor felt by Guardsmen who wear the uniform of the U.S. Soldier, but said it was an honor that comes with a price.

"The price is being away from your loved ones for a period of time."

Monosmith stressed the importance of the families back home, of the support network for Guardsmen and their families and of the experienced leadership that will be going on the mission.

"And above everything else," promised Monosmith, "I will never ask any of your Soldiers to do anything I'm not willing to do myself."

Monosmith concluded by saying the 778th is "loaded heavy and combat ready."

The unit has been conducting pre-mobilization training in Salina at the Great Plains Joint Training Center and will conclude training at Camp Atterbury, Ind., prior to leaving for Kuwait.

Following the ceremony, the Soldiers were dismissed for four days of family time before leaving for Camp Atterbury.

Senior medical leadership takes part in "Flash Forward" course



Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Raymond L. Webster (left), Air National Guard assistant to the Surgeon General, U.S. Air Force, and other group members listen to a point made by Brig. Gen. Jim Chow during a group discussion that was part of the "Flash Forward" course conducted by the Kansas National Guard Resiliency Center. Webster, Chow and other National Air Guard medical leaders came to Topeka in early October to take part in the course. (Photo by Lt. Col. Rex Johnson, JFHQ PAO)

By Lt. Col. Rex Johnson Joint Forces Headquarters PAO

Senior medical leaders of the Air National Guard visited Kansas on Oct. 2 to attend a resiliency course hosted by the Kansas National Guard Resiliency Center and Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general. "Flash Forward," the course created by the Resiliency Center staff, is a blend of written instruction, situational videos and group discussion. The modules of the Flash Forward program include: leadership, assessment, bolstering strengths, family, spirituality and application practical exercises. The course was designed as a front line leader's course, but is applicable to all ranks of service members. The end goal of the course is improving individual and subordinate resiliency and overall unit readiness.

"Flash Forward is a preventative life cycle-based course to improve service member's education on resiliency and provide a better understanding of positive traits to emulate," said Maj. Shawn Manley, director, Resiliency Center for the Kansas National Guard. "Regardless of an individual's position in a unit, it provides skills to self improve, mentor subordinates, fellow unit members and family. It is also very important to understand this is not a deployment-based course; the skills apply to everyday life."

Senior leaders of the Air National Guard medical community attended the training, including Maj. Gen. Ray Webster, the National Guard Bureau joint surgeon.

"I think it emphasizes the fact that there is an opportunity to impact people proactively and to develop a solution set that is up front rather than after the fact," said Webster.

"We're obviously in a wartime setting. Our Army Guard brethren, as well as the Air National Guard, are deploying, causing a lot of stress on families, a lot of stress on civilian jobs and, quite frankly, a lot of stress on personal lives as you try to balance being a traditional Guardsman and fulfilling the role that you take as a Guardsman."

"I have heard a lot about the training throughout the last year," said Brig. Gen. Cathy Lutz, Air National Guard assistant to the Chief Nurse of the Air Force. "I am really honored to be able to sit in on the training today and see what you have been teaching first hand. The model and the framework of the course material are really easy to understand, it hits home and it is something that anybody can relate to."

According to Col. Chris Knapp, Air National Guard assistant to the Safety Com-

"It is a great opportunity to present the course to an audience of leaders at the national level."

***Maj. Shawn Manley
director, Kansas National
Guard Resiliency Center***

mand Surgeon, the materials in the course are applicable in both deployment and non-deployment environments.

"Ideally, you should be able to see some effects on people's ability to handle life's stresses," said Knapp. "If you were to map it up, you may see drops in divorce rates and increases in re-up rates. They will want to stay a part of the unit and, hopefully, there will be a decrease in suicide rates."

The Flash Forward course is one of the first coursework programs that has been developed and taught by the Kansas National Guard Resiliency Center. Bunting has been a champion of the program, speaking about it at Readiness Frontiers, an Air National Guard annual medical conference. Bunting invited the senior Air Guard medical leadership to come to Kansas and attend the course.

"It is a great opportunity to present the course to an audience of leaders at the national level," said Manley. "Because General Webster brought his team to Kansas and went through the Flash Forward course first hand, it will help broaden the foundation of the beneficial value the training has to offer."

Webster said because he was involved in the resiliency program since its inception, he wanted to see how it had developed. He also wanted the primary leaders of the Air Guard medical community to receive this training, as well.

"There are some components of this that I want these individuals to understand, have knowledge of and be able to disseminate to the Air National Guard," said Webster, "and also let our active duty counterparts that we interact with know that this is out there and is a resource that is available to them."

Bunting said that these leaders will walk away from this course with one of the primary elements of the warrior care program.

"We have gained 16 new strong advocates that will not only take it home back to their state, but help us develop future courses in the years ahead," Bunting said.

Memorial would serve to inspire generations of Guardsmen

By Stephen D. Larson
Public Affairs Office

Larry Burk has a vision: A concrete walkway above a series of granite panels etched with the names of Kansas National Guardsmen dating back to its formation in 1855.

But this is not a vision for just another memorial.

"We have a lot of memorials," says Burk, a retired master sergeant. "I want this to be an inspiration to the Soldiers, not a tourist attraction."

Burk says he came up with the idea in "about 2007 or 2008" as a way to inspire the current generation of Guardsmen by remembering those who went before them.

"When a Soldier retired, there is that pat on the back, and a "Good luck," he said, "but how about 'Private Hoisington' who died on some nameless and lonely battlefield? Will anyone remember him?"

Burk's vision incorporates a curving concrete walkway five to eight feet wide, expanding to 16 to 20 feet, rising from the Kansas landscape to a height of about eight and a half feet. Panels of yellow river granite etched with the names of Kansas Guardsmen would be set into a wall on one side of the structure below the walkway. Below the highest end would be a reflecting pool fed by a waterwall from the face of the memorial.

"The walk up symbolizes that you (as a Guardsman) are walking on the shoulders of those who have gone before you," said Burk. "I want to remind those Soldiers of why they are here."

Burk, whose own military career spanned 41 plus years, including seven years of active duty and 34 years with the 226th and 891st Engineer Battalions, said he would like to see the name of every Kansas Guardsman who died in battle, plus Guardsmen with 30 years or more years of service, included on the wall. Burk said he already has access to service lists from almost every military era

except World War II. He hopes that people who hear about the project will help provide information about former service members who would qualify for inclusion. He is particularly looking for assistance in researching and assembling a list of World War II casualties from the 35th Infantry Division.

Burk said he has approached some of the leadership in the Kansas National Guard about placing the memorial at the Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina where it would be readily visible to the majority of Kansas Guardsmen.

"About every Soldier and Airman goes through there at some point in his career," said Burk.

Although the Kansas National Guard leadership is open to the idea, Burk said there are no commitments yet and he readily acknowledges there are several hurdles to clear before any work can begin, the most pressing being the matter of money. Estimates he has received about cost of construction range from \$250,000 to \$750,000. Burk is currently seeking volunteers to help him set up a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to solicit and manage donations for the project.

"No Soldier should have to pay to have his name on it," said Burk. "Those Soldiers have already given enough."

Although originally intended for Kansas Army National Guardsmen with more than 30 years of service, the guidelines Burk wants for inclusion allow for Kansas Air National Guard members. Years of service may include time served on active duty or reserve in any of the four service branches in addition to National Guard service. Final determinations would be made by a Board of Governors for the memorial.

Anyone interested in donating his time and talent, or helping to establish the non-profit organization may contact Burk at larryburk@msn.com or larry.burk@us.army.mil



An artist's rendering of an inspirational memorial to Kansas National Guardsmen, as conceived by retired Master Sgt. Larry Burk.

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