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PLAINS GUARDIAN

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Rose retires as first female general of Kansas National Guard

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose retired from the Kansas National Guard after 28 years of service to the state and nation.

Rose, who became the first woman to earn the rank of brigadier general in the Kansas National Guard, was honored at a retirement ceremony Oct. 1, in Hangar 662, 190th Air Refueling Wing, Forbes Field, Topeka.

"It has been an honor and privilege to serve the citizens of our state and nation," said Rose. "Throughout my career, I have been blessed to work with great Airmen and Soldiers. While I will miss wearing the uniform, I know the organization is in capable hands to continue the mission."

"For nearly three decades, Brigadier General Rose has played an important role in the leadership of the Kansas National Guard," said Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general. "She has helped shape the transformation of our Air Guard wings into the top-notch organizations they have become. Her guidance and leadership will be missed."

Rose was director of the Joint Staff, Joint Forces Headquarters, Kansas National Guard, responsible for the integration of the



Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose, director of Joint Staff, Joint Forces Headquarters, Kansas National Guard, retired from the Kansas National Guard Oct. 1, after a career spanning 28 years, culminating in her promotion to brigadier general, the first woman ever to achieve that rank in the Kansas National Guard. (Photo by Thad Allton, used by permission of the Topeka Capital Journal)

Kansas Army and Air National Guard for homeland security and for the command of the Joint Task Force - Kansas. She is also responsible for formulating, developing, and coordinating policies, plans, and programs affecting the homeland security missions of the Kansas National Guard.

Rose entered military service with a direct commission into the Nurse Corps in March 1983, where she remained until 1994 when the wing leadership requested she leave the Nurse Corps to take on a crucial leadership role. She was moved to a line officer position where she became the 190th Service Flight commander, transforming the organization to one of the finest in the Air National Guard. She served in assignments with increasing responsibility in the 190th Air Refueling Wing, first at a squadron level, then at a group level and finally at the wing level.

During Operation Desert Shield, she deployed to Saudi Arabia, where she served as a nurse. Prior to Operation Iraqi Freedom, she deployed to Turkey as the leader of an aerial refueling base bed-down team.

She became the highest-ranking female in the Kansas National Guard when she was promoted to the rank of colonel in 2002, then to brigadier general in 2007.

Agribusiness Development Team 4 on the job in Afghanistan

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

Instability, poverty and desperation have been the greatest recruiting tools of violent radical groups such as the Haqqani-Network, Al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

In 2007, one fact was self-evident; in order to bring stability to a historically un-

stable region, the U.S. Army would need to do more than just build a few roads, hospitals and schools. Long-term stability would require drastic infrastructure improvement to enable the Afghan people to provide for their own basic needs.

Thus, the Agribusiness Development Team, or ADT, was formed. Such missions require Soldiers who are both capable warriors and competent farmers or agricultural experts.

Because this set of skills is so uncommon in the active duty Army, such a task was best suited to the National Guard. Only the Citizen Soldiers of the National Guard had already proven that they could balance a civilian career as a scientist or agricultural professional with the high demands of a military career in today's operational reserve forces.

Because Afghanistan's agricultural heritage has been disrupted by decades of foreign invasions, ADTs were created with a specific non-kinetic mission: to promote better agricultural practices in Afghanistan in order to re-build Afghanistan's farming heritage. ADTs teach once-common agricultural skills to Afghan farmers so they can grow feed and food crops and create a sustainable way of life for the Afghan people. Once the farmers can sustain themselves and their families, they will no longer need to rely on crops like the opium poppy, which they can only sell in markets that support terrorist groups. States across America with a strong agrarian heritage raised their hands, and now a dozen ADTs are dispersed throughout Afghanistan from these states.

This September, Kansas sent its fourth ADT to Laghman Province, Afghanistan.

(Continued on Page 2)

Vasquez receives promotion to highest warrant officer rank

By Jane Welch
Public Affairs Office

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Hector Vasquez received his promotion to chief warrant officer 5 during a brief ceremony at the Nickell Armory in Topeka, Kan., Aug. 31.

A warrant officer receives his rank through a warrant, as distinguished by those who are commissioned. A warrant officer is rated as an officer above the senior-most enlisted ranks, officer cadets and candidates, but below a second lieutenant.

"Less than 4 out of every 100 warrant officers that are assessed into the Army will ever achieve the rank of chief warrant officer 5," stated Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general. "And add onto that to become the command chief warrant officer of the

state is certainly a significant life achievement in the military."

Vasquez was named command chief warrant officer of the Kansas National Guard in June 2011. He oversees warrant officer education, management, recruiting and career enhancement including equal opportunity, morale, welfare, discipline, performance, training, awards and recognition. He also formulates and executes the policies and procedures directing how warrant officers of the Kansas Army National Guard are appointed, assigned, evaluated, trained, promoted and separated from service.

Vasquez joined the Kansas Army National Guard in 1979 and became a warrant officer in October 1991.



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Hector Vasquez, command chief warrant officer for the state of Kansas, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Joint Forces Headquarters, Kansas Army National Guard, gets his chief warrant officer 5 bars put on by his wife Gerri (left) and daughter Rene (right) during his promotion ceremony at Nickell Armory in Topeka, Kan., Aug. 31. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht, Public Affairs Office)

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Global Strike Challenge turns up the heat at Smoky Hill range

By Maj. DeAnn Barr
Great Plains Joint Training Center

Bombers from across the United States added some extra heat to the scorching Kansas prairie over the summer as they honed their skills during Global Strike Challenge 2011, a competition involving security forces along with missile, bomber and helicopter operational and maintenance forces.

About 450 competitors took part in GSC competitions at various locations over a five-month span, a schedule that facilitates operational priorities. The primary week of the bombing competition took place at the Smoky Hill Weapons Range in Salina, Kan.

"We have had a multitude of live drops and worked with the real world joint terminal attack controllers, which crews do not normally do, so regardless of how our teams score, the training value of this exercise has been tremendous," said Maj. C.D. Henderson, a GSC representative.

Although the competition moved to the Kansas venue on the Great Plains Joint Training Center only two weeks prior to the first bomb drop, the Smoky Hill Weapons Range has proven to be an advantageous location.

"The guys here have bent over backwards to get us everything we needed for this competition," said Maj. John Schluter, a GSC representative on-station during the

competition. "It has proven to be an ideal location, as all our competing crews can reach it without air refueling, which helps tremendously with scheduling and weather flexibility."

In future competitions, the range will build custom-designed target sets to increase the training value and element of surprise for the crews who use the range on a routine basis. Scores of the bomb runs will be withheld until November, when results from the entire exercise will be presented at a symposium at Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

The goals of the Challenge are to foster esprit de corps through competition and teamwork, recognize outstanding Air Force GSC personnel and teams, and improve combat capabilities through competition and community crosstalk. Teams have the opportunity to participate in innovative thinking, teamwork and esprit de corps that are central to the AFGSC mission.

The following AFGSC units participated in GSC 2011: 90th Missile Wing, Francis E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo.; 91st Missile Wing, Minot Air Force Base, N.D.; 341st Missile Wing, Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont.; 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.; 5th Bomb Wing, Minot Air Force Base, N.D.; and 2nd Bomb Wing, Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

Also participating were Air Combat



Tech. Sgt. Eric Poe scores the most recent bomb drop during the Global Strike Challenge exercise at the Smoky Hill Weapons Range in Salina, Kan., in the summer of 2011. (Photo by Maj. DeAnn Barr, Great Plains Joint Training Center)

Command's 7th Bomb Wing, Dyess Air Force Base, Texas; 28th Bomb Wing, Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.; Air Force Reserve Command's 307th Bomb Wing, Barksdale Air Force Base, La.; 377th Se-

curity Forces Squadron, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.; 219th Security Forces Squadron, North Dakota Air National Guard; and 131st Bomb Wing, Missouri Air National Guard.

Guard welcomes home Agribusiness Development Team 3

By Sgt. Jessica Barnett and 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht
Public Affairs Office

As the hangar doors in 680 parted, the Agribusiness Development Team 3 marched in proudly as they were greeted by loud heartfelt cheers from family, friends and fellow service members during their home coming ceremony from Afghanistan, Oct. 23, 2011.

Approximately 60 members of the Kansas Army and Air National Guard deployed to Afghanistan under the command of Col. Howard Wheeler in November 2010.

The Agribusiness team worked with numerous agencies within Afghanistan's Laghman Province to assist in building capabilities for increased agricultural production, training and services, and improving the safety of food and other agricultural products that are produced and distributed to the Afghan people. The team also provided assistance in developing sustainable agriculture and other related enterprises in hopes of increasing the economic well-being of the Afghans.

"We [ADTs] are really laying the foundation for the overall mission in Afghanistan," said Wheeler. "We are out dealing with the local farmers and local people making personal contact with those folks. They get to see Americans one-on-one and understand that we are here to help. As far as counter insurgencies goes, we work with farmers and most insurgencies are fueled by farmers so, anything we can do to turn their opinion, that's where it really helps."

These members arrived on Christmas Day of 2010 and got right to work. They were able to affect and enhance the lives thousands of Afghan people with low cost projects that will have an enormous impact for many years to come. The team was able to put thousands of acres of underuti-



Jake greets his master, Senior Airman Brent Garrison, a medical service technician with the 190th Air Refueling Wing, during the welcome home ceremony for Agribusiness Development Team 3. Although a member of the 190th, Garrison deployed with ADT 3. (Photo by Jane Welch, Public Affairs Office)

"The Guard is a great fit for this mission... What we are really doing is applying our civilian background in a military environment so being Guardsmen allows them the ability to go out and operate in a military environment and still apply their civilian skills."

*Col. Howard Wheeler
commander, ADT 3*

lized land back into production and established several new agribusinesses. These expert guardsmen were able to pass agricultural knowledge to students and farmers that spread to 126 villages and more than 8,000 citizens.

"The Guard is a great fit for this mission," stated Wheeler. "We have so many folks that have some sort of an agriculture background. What we are really doing is applying our civilian background in a military environment so being Guardsmen allows them the ability to go out and operate in a military environment and still apply their civilian skills."

The Kansas National Guard, while partnering with Kansas State University, continues the ADT missions to build continuity and relationships with local Afghan leaders and citizens. The Agribusiness Development Team program is a joint effort of several federal government agencies and the National Guard. Information about the program and its goals can be found at http://www.army.mil/aps/08/information_papers/other/ARNG_Agribusiness_Development_Team.html

National Guard's 375th Birthday

The U.S. National Guard traces its long history back to the early colony days when the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony on December 13, 1636, ordered the formation of three regiments in the Boston area. A militia and defense act by the first Congress in 1792 directed the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions. The National Guard has played a major role in defense of the United States ever since. These citizen Soldiers firmly believe that their military service is required to make their nation and communities a safer and better place.



Kansas ADT 4 readies for departure

Continued from Page 1

This team will work in conjunction with Provincial Reconstruction Teams, USDA, USAID and local Afghan government on multiple projects that will generate legal profits for the local population.

ADT 4 is comprised of Soldiers from the 772nd Engineer Company, who make up the Security Force, and Soldiers from other Kansas and Maryland National Guard units, who comprise the individual agricultural expert team and headquarters section. Among their ranks are linguists, hydrologists, a geologist, and numerous specialties that have been identified as keys to making them successful on their special mission. The entire team came together for the first time on Aug. 5, 2011, in Salina, Kan., for their pre-mobilization training.

ADT 4 hit the ground running, first with nearly the entire team completing the Com-

bat Life Saver course. Then, it was straight to Fort Riley for Crew Serve Weapons Qualification in 100 degree, humid Kansas heat peppered with the occasional thunderstorm. Each member has become proficient with both their M4 rifle and M9 pistol. Before they got a chance to enjoy their farewell ceremony and a well-earned three-day pass with their family, they completed a Collective Training Exercise and Gunnery.

Pre-mobilization ended at Camp Atterberry, Ind., and they finally headed to Afghanistan to pick up where Agribusiness Development Team 3 left off.

Kansas' participation in the Agribusiness Development Team has been a big point of pride, as it highlights the state's rich farming heritage and academic agricultural resources. With both their arms, and their plowshares, ADT 4 was prepared to deploy.

Guard recruiters combine efforts

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

Recruiters from Wichita and Topeka gathered together at the Jayhawk Roost, 184th Intelligence Wing's dining facility, Aug. 11, 2011, for a day of trading ideas, experiences and business cards.

The purpose of the event was to get all Kansas Army and Air National Guard recruiters in one location to meet and discuss ways to help each other. Each unit gave a presentation on the recruiting techniques they use and guidelines they must follow.

"It's the first of its kind," said Staff Sgt. Jason McAndrews, production recruiter with the 184th Intelligence Wing. "This is a great opportunity to get everyone together and get everyone on the same page."

McAndrews developed the idea for the mixer as a result of a successful working relationship with an Army National Guard recruiter, Staff Sgt. Michael Bowlin, Recruiting and Retention Battalion.

"Sergeant McAndrews and I started building a working relationship about two years ago," Bowlin explained. "We began talking about ideas for this event over a few lunch meetings."

One main idea discussed during the assembly was sending potential recruits to each other when a recruiter can't help the individual. The Army and Air Guard have different qualifications and requirements that enlistees must meet in order to join. The two branches also differ in benefits, career choices and combat roles.

"Just because a recruit can't enlist with

one branch doesn't mean they can't enlist with another," Bowlin said as he briefed his counterparts. "The National Guard is both Army and Air."

Many times, when a recruiter can't help a potential Guardsman, the person contacts the active duty or reserve components of another military branch. These components have a higher potential to uproot the enlistee and move them to another state or country.

"The goal is to keep the recruits in Kansas," said McAndrews.

Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, traveled from the State Defense Building in Topeka, Kan., to attend the gathering. He emphasized the importance of working together toward a greater goal.

"If we don't combine our skill sets, we're not going to be successful," said Peck.

With budget cuts and manpower reductions tightening their grip on National Guard programs, Peck offered some advice.

"One thing to consider is targeting the people in our communities who have the physical and mental attributes to allow us to prepare for future missions."

As the day came to an end, the overall mood of the attendees was light and friendly. Many recruiters discussed what kind of help they need from their colleagues, as well as the kind of help they could offer.

With ideas, hand-shakes, and contact information being traded, McAndrews and Bowlin had successfully encouraged their colleagues to take the first step toward statewide, shared recruiting.



Brig. Gen. Eric Peck briefs Kansas National Guard recruiters on the importance of combining efforts. Army and Air Guard recruiters gathered in the Jayhawk Roost on McConnell Air Force Base, Wichita, Kan., to discuss ways to help each other succeed. (Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

Soldiers, Dept. of the Army civilians gain valuable skills

By Diane Walker
Combined Arms Center-Training

A mix of active Army, National Guard, Army Reserve Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians benefitted from the most recent Command and Control Digital Master Gunner class at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

"This is the Army today," Col. Pat White, Combined Arms Center-Training deputy commander, told the students of the Army's new direction toward using more technology and digital systems.

He complimented the skills and knowledge the students developed during the two-week class, which is designed to help them train others in their units on effectively operating, troubleshooting and integrating the Tactical Mission Command client within a Tactical Operations Center.

Coordinated by the Combined Arms Center-Training's Collective Training Directorate, the class is offered monthly at Fort Leavenworth. The recently completed session included 16 students from the 244th Aviation Brigade in New Jersey, National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., 415th Chemical Brigade in South Carolina;

Mission Command Training Program at Fort Leavenworth; 35th Infantry Division with the Kansas National Guard; Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 41st Fires Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas; Headquarters and Headquarters Company 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and Brigade Special Troops Battalion as well as HHC, 40th Brigade Support Battalion from the California National Guard; and U.S. Army North at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Details about C2DMG as well as Battle Command Systems Integration classes are available on the Army Training Network (<https://atn.army.mil>). Type "C2DMG" in the search field.

Part of the Training and Doctrine Command, the U.S. Army's Combined Arms Center-Training delivers training programs, products and services to leaders and units in support of Army readiness. Wherever Army training occurs, the Combined Arms Center-Training helps make it happen. To learn more about the Combined Arms Center-Training, visit <http://usacac.army.mil/cac2/cac-t/>, www.facebook.com/usacactraining.

Facebook a fertile field for fraud

By Sgt. Jason Lee
Public Affairs Office

Many people are probably not familiar with Liu Hsu-jen. She is a Taiwanese engineer, once manager of the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, and a social media user. She is currently engaged to the newly-sworn in director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Gen. David Petraeus. At least she thought she was.

Hsu-jen was having a Skype conversation, a software application that allows users to have peer-to-peer interactions with a man she believed to be Petraeus. The Petraeus impersonator managed to convince Hsu-jen that he was "in love" with her and that he wanted to bring her back to the United States, but would need \$30,000 from her for fuel costs because he intended to use a government plane in order to bring her into the United States. Like many social

media scam victims, Hsu-jen fell for the lie and sent the money.

Although using Skype and looking like Petraeus may be hard for many people to pull off, there are easier ways online scammers are using to get money from unsuspecting people.

Facebook is fertile ground for stealing service members' identities. As Soldiers and Airmen you have seen and done things that most people have not. People are willing to listen to military stories and help out service members who have fallen on hard times.

As Kansas National Guard members, we must do what we can to keep people from stealing our images and taking our online identities. We should never allow people to take what we have earned and make it their own and allow them to exploit us, our families or friends for things they've never done.

The first line of defense is to review your settings. Below are some ways to better protect yourself and your information. Facebook has many options that allow you to customize your personal settings making it harder for people to gain access to your information.

Sharing

One of the first things you should do when using Facebook is to make sure that you set your sharing settings so that your content can only be viewed by certain people. This is done by going into your account, then clicking privacy settings, then click on sharing on Facebook.

Connecting

Another important setting to make to your profile is the connecting to Facebook option which gives people the ability to see your photo, gender, age, education and other information you choose to put on it.



You need to make sure to change the settings so that only people you wish to see are the only ones who can.

Your image as a Soldier is important to a lot of people, including potential scammers. Make sure that you protect existing photos by editing the privacy settings on your existing photos under the Edit album privacy for existing photos. You can change the privacy setting for all your photos including your Wall Photos.

Facebook Places

Not everybody should be able to find you. To better protect your online identity, you should disable the Public Search option in your privacy settings.

Putting your location on your Facebook account is fine as long as you do not change it every time you go to another location for short periods.

Facebook has an option for Facebook Places. This feature allows you to "check-in" to places so your "friends" can see where you are in real time. They can find you on a map and get precise directions to your location. This feature, as of right now, can only be used in the United States. You should be careful when using this setting, because you don't know who is watching you and what everybody's intentions are.

Online scammers create stories based off of where people have been and things that they have done. Never let your friends "tag" you in locations that you have been. The more you get tagged and located, the more credible and believable the scammer can make his story sound.

Facebook Friends list

With this feature, you can put your "friends" into categories and set the security settings for each category.

Another way to protect your privacy settings to keep outsiders from gaining access to them is to realize who you are "really" friends with. You don't have to accept every "friend request." If you don't know a person or have never met them, are you really friends with them?

Talking about what you have accomplished overseas can be an enticement for online scammers. They may take what you have done overseas and use it for themselves. Once people are hooked, they lay on the sob story and start asking for money.

By understanding what you should post and should not post and by having correct privacy settings you can make your online presence known, but also protected. Remember, if you don't protect yourself online, you could end up being engaged to a Taiwanese engineer.

Tutor.com services expanded for National Guard families

By Jane Welch
Public Affairs Office

David L. McGinnis, acting Assistant Secretary of Defense, recently announced the enhancement of Tutor.com services to families of all members of the National Guard and Reserve components regardless of their duty status. Prior to this enhancement, Guard and Reserve families could only access free Tutor.com services while on Title 10 (Active Duty) status.

As members of the Reserve Components continue to operate at a high tempo, it is critical that families are provided resources to focus on the health, well-being and education of students and children. National Guard and Reserve families can now receive online tutoring and homework assistance from Tutor.com at no charge. This program allows K-12 and adult students to connect to a live tutor online at anytime for

help with homework, studying, exam preparation, college coursework and more.

Guard and Reserve families accessing services at Tutor.com are matched with one of more than 2,500 carefully screened experts who include certified teachers, college professors, graduate students, select undergraduates from accredited universities and other professionals. Tutor.com tutors are primarily based in the U.S. and Canada with some bilingual specialists located internationally. This service is offered at no cost to families of the Guard and Reserve members.

This is a collaborative effort between the Department of Defense Morale Welfare and Recreation Library Program and the DoD Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

These enhanced services took effect Oct. 3, 2011. For information, contact Glenn F. Welling at Glenn.Welling@osd.mil; 703-571-3180 or visit www.tutor.com/military.

This holiday season, remember those who serve

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

The holiday season gives us a chance to reflect on all we have to be thankful for and I'm especially grateful for every Kansas National Guard member and the families supporting them. I'm also grateful for our emergency management and first responder personnel throughout the state.



Maj. Gen. (KS)
Lee Tafanelli

The sacrifices our Soldiers and Airman make to be a part of this organization are huge and we know they couldn't do it without the support of family and employers, too. Currently, the Army Guard has approximately 900 Soldiers deployed to Kuwait, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa. The most recent deployments include the 108th Aviation to Kuwait and the Agribusiness Development Team # 4 to Afghanistan. Ap-

proximately, 100 Airmen are currently deployed, primarily to Southeast Asia. We welcomed home approximately 80 of them with the 134th Air Control Squadron back from Afghanistan just before Thanksgiving. As they were returning, approximately 10 Airmen from the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron were preparing to leave for a five month deployment, their first combat deployment for this unit, established in 2009. Let's pray for the safe return of all of our deployed members and for their families waiting to have them home again.

Like our deployed troops, many of our emergency managers and first responders in Kansas are often on call during the holidays and their job doesn't stop for celebrations. I know the sacrifices of law enforcement, fire personnel, medical responders and emergency management personnel are significant. I am thankful for your hard work in keeping us safe here in Kansas.

In an effort to share the agency's goals and initiatives for 2012, I've been traveling around the state visiting some of our armories and the community leaders. It's been a great opportunity to meet some of the National Guard members I don't nor-

The sacrifices our Soldiers and Airman make to be a part of this organization are huge and we know they couldn't do it without the support of family and employers, too... Let's pray for the safe return of all of our deployed members and for their families waiting to have them home again.

mally get to see and to get feedback from them and local mayors, council members and other city officials. We continually look for opportunities to partner with local communities and the private sector.

In our current fiscal environment, it's critical we think more about partnerships because the federal and state budgets are both getting tighter. Unfortunately, the Congressional Super Committee was unable to reach an agreement on the federal budget and the proposed budget cuts could trigger Department of Defense cuts as high as \$1.27 trillion. The state legislature will reconvene in January and address state budget issues. Meanwhile, we continue to assess the impact of future cuts on our agency.

To address the challenges of tighter budgets in the future, I would like to remind everyone of our agency's four focus areas:

1. threats and trends – understanding long-term economic, national security and geopolitical trends and threats,
2. organization structure – examining how we are currently structured to see if it is sustainable given our threats and trends,
3. interagency culture – examining how we can enhance capabilities working with

other agencies, educational institutions, and non-governmental organizations and private industry, and

4. individual development – examining how we can best prepare our staff and Guard members for the future. We will be focusing on aspects of each of these in my monthly columns in 2012.

In preparation for winter weather, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and National Guard personnel are reviewing plans and preparing to coordinate response and to deploy state and Guard assets for ice/snow/power outages, or other problems that may result for massive winter storms. I encourage everyone in Kansas to begin making preparations now to keep yourself and your family safe. The easiest way to do this is to ensure you have an emergency kit in your home and your car with items including bottled water, non-perishable food, medicines, blankets, flashlights and batteries. Go to www.ksready.gov for a complete list.

To ensure our state is prepared to respond to a nuclear emergency, our agency recently conducted its biannual graded exercise with Wolf Creek Generating Station in Burlington. The preliminary results from FEMA and the NRC indicate the exercise went well and the objectives were demonstrated successfully by all those involved including the state, the county and the plant. Congratulations to everyone involved in this exercise. Great job!

As we head into the new year, I want to thank and congratulate Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose on her retirement and her many years of service in the Kansas National Guard. And congratulations are in order for Chief Warrant Officer 5 Hector Vasquez on his recent promotion. We also have to new inductees into the Hall of Fame: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Steven D. Evans and Command Sgt. Maj George E. Steven. Please join me in congratulating these individuals. I'm proud to serve with you! Happy Holidays everyone!

New warrant officer call will promote professional interaction

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

I would personally like to thank all of our veterans, past and present, for their sacrifices and service to our nation. Everyone who has ever donned a uniform knows that freedom isn't free, so "Thank You," and thanks to the rest of the Guard family for all that you do, as well. Less than one percent of Americans today choose to serve this great country and many do not know the sacrifices you make, but without you all, we couldn't enjoy the liberties that we do every day.



Command Chief
Warrant Officer 5
Hector Vasquez

Fall is here and winter is just around the corner and now is the time to start winterizing your outdoor equipment, as well as your home. Don't forget to have a winter emergency kit in your vehicles which contains items like a blanket, flashlight, emergency roadside markers, and anything else that you think you might need to have on hand. It's not hard to lose control of your vehicle in the ice, snow, or

sleet and end up in a ditch or stranded for a period of time, so always stay prepared.

I attended a USA Warrant Officer's Association meeting last month at Fort Riley, Kan. This chapter, Chapter 303 "the Mid-America Chapter," was just reinstated and consists of Active, Reserve, National Guard and retired warrant officers. Chapter 303 is also part of the Mid-Northern Region, which is composed of Warrant Officer Associations in Kansas, Missouri, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska and Kentucky. Some of the topics discussed during this meeting are as follows:

- College credits are being given for Warrant Officer Schools. For WOCS – 8 hours lower level, for WOSC – 6 hours upper level and WOSSC – 5 hours upper level.
- An updated NGR 600-101 should be released within 30 days.
- Providing compensation for Distant Learning courses for WOCS, WOSC and WOSSC is in the works.
- Ways to increase membership of junior warrants in the USAWOA. Currently, after a one-year free membership for completing WOCS, only 11 percent of WO1s through CW2 renew their membership.
- A new program has been implemented for the Junior Warrant Officers called the Junior Warrant Office Advisory Council JWOAC (also on Facebook).
- As part of being a professional and a

(Continued on Page 5)

Soldier to Soldier The 3 Rs and 3 Cs to success

By Command Sgt. Maj. John Ryan
Joint Forces Headquarters

Leadership teams have been hearing a steady message of the budget coming down and what the impact may be. What impact you ask? Well with a decreasing budget our ability to do all the things we need to do will be hampered. It is easy to say we can't do this or that because of the budget. This may be true in some cases however, I suggest,



Command Sgt. Maj.
John Ryan

probably not true in most. Noncommissioned Officers (NCOs) as leaders play an important role in the overall success of our units. We can't control the budget, but we can control and be more efficient in executing the dollars we have to spend.

The goal is to maintain and train a force that is, Ready, Reliable and Relevant (three Rs) to respond to the needs of our communities, our state and our nation. Doing this with less money (a decreasing budget) will be challenging. We can accomplish this if we as leaders to Communicate, Coordinate, and Cooperate (three Cs) up and down the leadership chain. We must communicate with the leaders above us so we understand the mission and commander's intent and with

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PLAINS GUARDIAN

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Practice good safety attitude

By Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marvin Terhune
Safety Office

This is the time of year that you are reminded that winter is approaching and to be prepared, both with your vehicle and your home. I am going for a different approach and ask you about your "safety attitude." What do you really think about safety? Would you stop an unsafe act before the person injured themselves? We all think that we would if faced with the situation to help someone.

A simple act of prevention may remove the source of the accident before it happens. Cleaning up a spill or removing the extension cord will prevent a trip hazard for someone else. Inspecting our equipment and tools for wear before we use them may prevent a future accident. We can't prevent every acci-



Chief
Warrant Officer 3
Marvin Terhune

dent, but by raising the awareness level and by just "helping someone else to be safe" we dramatically lower the numbers. Accidents cost resources, by lowering our accident rate we save valuable resources that can be used where needed. I want you to keep the thought on your mind. Would you stop an unsafe act before the person injured themselves?

Lessons learned in Greensburg help create PI/GIS vehicle

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

When a large-scale disaster strikes a community, there are a number of essentials that the residents need – food, water and shelter being the most basic. One other essential disaster victims need is information.

In the wake of a disaster, it is important that accurate and credible information be delivered to the public in a timely manner. That is the job of the public information officer. However, the same factors that hinder the delivery of basic essentials also impacts delivery of information.

Sharon Watson, public affairs director for the Kansas Adjutant General's Department, found this out first-hand when the town of Greensburg, Kan., was devastated by a tornado in May 2007. After driving to Greensburg, she found there was no place for her to do her job.

"When I arrived in Greensburg, I had a minivan from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. I went there hoping to find a location where I could work."

What she found was most of the buildings in the town were destroyed or heavily damaged and there was no power or telephone lines.

"I had a laptop, but no power to run it," said Watson. "I had three different cell phones with different carriers, a notepad and a pen. That's what kept me going for the next week."

She characterized the week as "chaotic" from a Public Affairs perspective. News media from all over Kansas and across the nation had news vans lined up along a two block area. However, in order to gather information, Watson needed to remain close to the Incident Command Post, which was five blocks from where the news vans were located.

"I had to use the phones a lot to coordinate with Incident Command," said Watson, "and I had runners from the Kansas National Guard and help from the Kansas Highway Patrol."

Providing geospatial information to the incident commander was also a problem. Mapping support for the Greensburg disaster was handled by a contractor who worked for a neighboring county. The contractor had no on-site location to work out of, so long delays occurred in getting maps to the responders and incident management personnel. Only when the Environmental Protection Agency arrived with their response vehicle was there on-site large format printing capabilities, which only lasted for a short time before it broke.

By the time additional resources could be moved in, most of the media had left Greensburg. But Greensburg was definitely a "lessons learned" experience for Watson and the Adjutant General's Department. Out of those lessons came the Public Information/Geospatial Information vehicle.

"If we can't learn something from every disaster response, then we're not paying attention," said Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general and director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. "Greensburg showed us an area where we could improve ourselves and we took positive action to develop our on-site public information capabilities during disaster response."

Developed by the Integrated Initiatives Office of the Adjutant General's Department in conjunction with Northrop Grumman Corporation, the vehicle, called the PI/GI for short, is a mobile public affairs and geospatial information command post, the first of its kind in the nation that is dedicated to emergency response operations.

The PI/GI is a 24-foot Ford Super Duty Econoline van with self-leveling capabilities. The vehicle was designed to be operated with minimal logistical support. One person can deploy it and two people can operate it for sustained



The Public Information/Geospatial Information System van allows public information and GIS personnel to work on-scene at a disaster with the same capabilities as back in their offices. (Photo by Sharon Watson, Public Affairs Office)

24-hour operations. If electric power is available, the PI/GI can tie in to that, but it can also run off a built-in 7.0 kW generator that can self-sustain power for 48 hours. On the roof are two satellite dishes, one for Internet and the other for television, and an additional antenna that give access to broadcast television and wireless signals.

Inside are four work stations. Each workstation has Internet access, networked data storage and a laptop computer connected to a docking station. All of the computers in the vehicle have access to a multifunction scanner, copier, fax machine and a large format plotter through an internal network. Two stations are dedicated to public affairs use to generate news articles for distribution to the media, as well as information for the public. Four independent television monitors allow the PAOs to keep track of local and national news coverage of the incident and DVR/DVD recorders can capture that information for later analysis and training purposes. The Internet capabilities allow the PAOs to upload articles, photos and videos direct to the Adjutant General's Department website. Expansion plans include adding live video and audio streaming.

The two additional workstations are for Geographic Information Systems support, a capability that can provide critical information for the Incident Command Post. GIS personnel can generate near real time updates of maps, showing damages, search and rescue, and other features that enhance the incident commander's general situational awareness.

The department coordinates a statewide GIS Response Team comprised of 16 local and state GIS personnel from across the state who can be called on to staff the PI/GI. In 2011, the team and vehicle have been deployed for GIS support to the Reading tornado and to Doniphan County in support of the Missouri River flooding response.

The value of the GIS response team is their direct support to the on-scene responders and incident management team. The team members can either directly support local GIS personnel or augment them by allowing the local GIS staff to focus on city and county emergency operation needs.

"It is extremely difficult to directly support on-scene op-

erations from the state emergency operations center because we don't always get all the details we need to in order to produce the best map for decision support," said Jessica Frye, GIS coordinator. "Through the PI/GI and GIS Response Team members, we have the opportunity to be on-scene and to gather the needed details prior to publishing a map."

A local GIS data backup program, available through the Kansas Data and Access Support Center, allows local data to be available in the event of a disaster. The data is stored in the vehicle on a two-terabyte server. In addition to local data stored in the vehicle there is also a copy of all of the Kansas Adjutant General's Department Geospatial Technologies Section collection of data. This data contains more than 1,000 different data layers and the latest statewide aerial photography.

A large format plotter allows large maps to be created, printed, and updated on scene, reducing the distribution time for initial maps and updated maps. A separate multifunction printer allows smaller hand-held maps to be printed to hand out to on-site responders, increasing their situational awareness.

The PI/GI also provides a satellite phone system in case local communication lines are damaged. The vehicles exterior has electrical connections and jacks for additional computer and telephone hookups.

Perhaps the best part for first responders across the state is the PI/GI is available for their use when a disaster strikes. "This is a state resource that we can take wherever it's needed," said Watson.

The PI/GI deployed this summer to Reading, Kan., when an EF3 tornado struck the town May 21.

"Early in the morning following the tornado in Reading, the PIO/GIS response vehicle was on scene and set up," said Chief Jack Taylor, Emporia Fire Department. "The provision of GIS mapping in this rural area and an office for the PIO to conduct their work were a great asset for us as we began the recovery phase of the incident. Not until you have needed it will you realize how important this addition is to Kansas disaster response," Taylor concluded.

New warrant officer call will promote professional interaction

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U.S. Army Officer, we all should be a member of a professional organization. Whether it's our local Veterans of Foreign Wars or our branch-specific association, these organizations benefit the Soldier as well as the Warrant Officer and the USAWOA is a good organization worth looking into.

I have been thinking of ways to generate more involvement and interaction among Kansas Army National Guard warrant officers, both technicians and aviators. So, I have decided to establish a Warrant Officer's Call starting in December. The intent is for us to interact as professionals, but in a casual atmosphere. In my experience, I have seen many good ideas and many problems solved as a result of these interactions, plus it allows us to break the monotony of our everyday routine. Right now, our first

In my experience, I have seen many good ideas and many problems solved as a result of these interactions, plus it allows us to break the monotony of our everyday routine.

meeting will be in Topeka (location TBD) and I'm taking suggestions for other future meeting places.

As usual, I am asking your help to find outstanding noncommissioned officers who you think will fit well in our corps. We are currently short about 40 warrants throughout the state. If you know of a high-speed NCO in your branch that could fill a vacancy (or projected vacancy), please en-

courage them to contact Warrant Officer I Sam Bonham about becoming a warrant officer; 785-817-3197 or samual.c.bonham@us.army.mil. Right now we have vacancies in several military occupational specialties with concentrations in chemical, quartermaster, engineer, and field artillery branches. Bonham and I have been calling Soldiers, writing letters, visiting units and spreading the word as best we can, but really need your help to find those stellar Soldiers who will make the cut. As of now, we are still accepting warrant officer pre-determination packets for our upcoming class in March. However, there isn't much time left if you want to make the FY-13 WOCS class, so please get packets in to Bonham as soon as possible. We are looking to field our biggest WOCS class yet out at the Kansas Regional Training Institute, so please help us out.

In each publication of the Plains Guardian, I try to give out helpful advice to new and junior warrant officers, so the advice I have for this issue is:

You've been through enlisted life, so please pass on what you've learned. Keep an eye out for future warrant officer candidates who can improve our Warrant Officer Corps. Encourage Soldiers to strive for excellence because we fight as we train. Be honest when counseling and don't be afraid to annotate both strengths and weaknesses, because if you don't rate a Soldier properly you've just hurt the Soldier, weakened the team and added to the problem.

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

First responders share technical rescue skills at conference

By Sgt. Jason Lee
Public Affairs Office

Technical search and rescue personnel from across the state of Kansas participated in the 4th Annual Kansas Technical Rescue Conference Sept. 29 through Oct. 1 in Salina, Kan., sponsored by the Kansas Search and Rescue Working Group, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Kansas Adjutant General's Department, Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center, Crisis City and Kansas Fire and Rescue Training Institute.

The three day conference began with a half-day session that took place at the Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina. The session included presentations by keynote speaker Ari Vidali, CEO, Envisage Technologies and founder of The Readiness Network USA.

Hands-on classes took place at the Crisis City training venue near Salina. Search and rescue personnel trained on various venues, which included classes on Vehicle and Machine Rescue Level Two, Search Operations, Advanced Rope Rescue, Technical Rescue Rigging and Advanced Shoring Operations.

"We have multiple training venues going on with expert instructors in advanced shoring techniques, vehicle and machinery recovery and stabilization, advanced metal



Rescue personnel practice their low angle rope rescue of a live victim at the Technical Rescue Tower at Crisis City, part of the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, Kan., Sept. 30, 2011. (Photo by Sgt. Jason Lee, Public Affairs Office)

cutting techniques, breaching and breaking of concrete and other materials," said Frank Coats, Crisis City manager. "We have advanced rope, high and low angle

rescue, just a whole host of good times to be had by all."

"The instructors are spot on. The students have had nothing but good things to

say. We are not just rehashing over and over the same old training; this is stuff that they have not seen or that they have not seen for a very long time."

All of the classes lead to a mass training exercise on the third day of the conference, which involved a simulated tornado.

"You are bringing in multiple agencies and units together," said Daniel Lawton, Fort Riley Fire and Rescue. "You are creating good working friendships and getting agencies an opportunity to spend time working in the same training environment together and becoming proficient. It is a fantastic opportunity to be out here."

Many entities, including National Guard units, active duty Army personnel, emergency management personnel and first responders use Crisis City to train for emergency hazards that could occur, as well as utilizing its urban assault village to train for terrorism situations.

"With it (Crisis City) being centrally located, the size of the training ground, and the amount of variables and objectives that can be performed out here, it is really the one-stop-shop for us to be able to be out here," said Lawton. "You have so many different venues going on right now inside Crisis City, there is just a lot of diversity and a lot of areas to work in, and it really is a fantastic training environment for everybody."

ATEAM, Fort Riley company makes impact on economy

By Dena O'Dell
Fort Riley Public Affairs

A little-known facility located on Marshall Army Airfield is making a big impact on the local and regional economy, as well as saving taxpayers money, according to its shop supervisor, Maj. Luke Foster, Advanced Turbine Engine Army Maintenance.

The ATEAM currently employs 90 Kansas Army and Air National Guardsmen and women, with a payroll totaling about \$6.2 million. It is a military special repair activity, and is one of two operations in the world that can produce the new Total InteGrated Engine Revitalization engine, Foster said.

The company is tasked with the job of rebuilding and supporting the M1 Abrams main battle tank power plant; rebuilding transmissions, giving the facility the capability of producing full-up power packs to zero hours condition; and rebuilding engines for the Regional Sustainment Maintenance Site, Fort Riley, in support of its 900-series truck rebuild program.

The ATEAM's workforce is expected to double within the next five years, Foster said, with projections of annual funds received and disbursed at \$40 million; annual payroll at over \$8 million and the addition of 80 employees to complete current contract demands.

In 2004, the ATEAM was approached by the Foreign Military Sales Division of Tank-automotive and Armaments Command, or TACOM, about rebuilding AGT 1500 engines for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. More recently, the ATEAM has been working with TACOM to provide full-up power packs for 314 of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's M1 Abrams tanks by December 2016, resulting in up to \$170 million for parts, labor, and contracts coming through the ATEAM's 50,000-square-foot facility.

In order to complete the work, the ATEAM will need to hire an additional 80 to 90 Soldiers, and possibly civilians, for a three-year period, Foster said.

"Over the next five years, we will probably have about \$170 million of operating capital that will be distributed throughout Kansas and the nation," he said.

TIGER program – Future for the tank fleet

The ATEAM is one of only two facilities in the world that can build a TIGER engine. It utilizes the TIGER program – a lifecycle management approach to improving operational readiness and durability of the AGT 1500 tank engine, while reducing operating and support costs. This strategy involves performing a one-time "refresh" to every engine in the fleet, creating a single standard engine, and then maintaining the refresh using condition or fact-based maintenance principles to gather data.

By utilizing the TIGER initiative, the ATEAM will be able to save taxpayer dollars by repairing or replacing parts based on known facts and life-cycle statistical data, Foster said.

Other ways to save

When engines come into the ATEAM's two adjacent facilities and get torn down into various parts, the company reutilizes in the neighborhood of 600 of the 1,200 engine parts by cleaning and vigorously inspecting them with the use of non destructive testing. The parts also are coordinate measured with a coordinate measuring machine, oil flowed, hardness tested and balanced before putting them back into the engines, Foster said.

In the inspection and verification section, each part is checked to rigorous standards through a database and inspection criteria to ensure it can be reused, he said. About 483 of the engines parts are mandatorily replaced.

"Reused parts actually save the taxpayer money," he said. "If the part meets inspection criteria, it gets approved and tagged and it's put into the equipment on hand supply. If it fails, it washes out and we turn it back into the Army system and they turn it into scrap."

"We do a tremendous amount of analysis on what normally causes failures, so we try to do all the tests we can to try to eliminate failures. We warrantee our engines for five

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Wood accepts battalion command from Mittman

By Spc. Jessica Zullig
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Maj. Robert Wood took command of the Kansas National Guard's 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment during a change of command ceremony Sept. 17, 2011, at the Ramada Convention Center in Topeka, Kan.

During the ceremony, Lt. Col. Gregory Mittman turned over command to Wood. Mittman completed a successful command, including a deployment to the Horn of Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and will now assume the duties and responsibilities as the operations branch chief for the Kansas Army National Guard.

The 2nd CAB, 137th Inf. Reg. is headquartered in Kansas City with subordinate units located in Emporia, Junction City, Lawrence, Lenexa, Manhattan, Topeka and Wichita.

"I am honored and excited to be taking command of the 2-137th Combined Arms Battalion," said Wood. "I have served in this organization in a variety of positions and look forward to getting back to my family."

Mittman also commented on the change of command by saying it was an honor to lead and serve with the unit.

"I have had many opportunities to ad-

dress you over the last two years, and each time I have tried to express my sincere appreciation for your service and the honor I felt being your commander. Together we have discussed the past a great deal. Today, let us look to the future.

"Your new commander, Major Robert Wood, is a battle tested leader. He understands maneuver warfare and the supporting systems necessary for battlefield success. I have no doubt he will continue to improve the work we have undertaken to improve our administrative and logistical readiness. I have no doubt, that if called upon again to serve our nation, Major Wood will ensure the battalion is ready."

Wood thanked many people whom had helped him get to where he is today, in his remarks.

"I know this command is in great shape because of Leutenant Colonel Mittman's proactive time in command while in Djibouti, Africa. He has truly set me up for success. Leutenant Colonel Mittman has deployed multiple times and proved successful as a commander during a difficult mission. I truly have large shoes to fill."

Mittman enlisted in the Kansas Army National Guard in 1985. Wood was commissioned in the Kansas Army National Guard in June 1994.



Command Sgt. Maj. Tim Tiemissen, senior noncommissioned officer of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment; Lt. Col. Greg Mittman, outgoing commander of the 2nd CAB, 137th Inf. Reg.; Col. Anthony Mohatt, commander of the 69th Troop Command and Maj. Robert Wood, incoming commander of the 2nd CAB, 137th Inf. Reg., await the passing of the colors, completing the change of command at the Ramada Convention Center in Topeka, Kan., Sept. 17. (Photo by Spc. Jessica Zullig, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Former Kansas Guardsmen Inducted into Hall of Fame

The Museum of the Kansas National Guard added two new names to the ranks of honored service members. Officials for the Hall of Fame hosted an induction ceremony Nov. 6 to pay tribute to the new members. Inducted this year were retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Steven D. Evans and retired Command Sgt. Maj. George E. Stevens.

Past Hall of Fame inductees range from Soldiers who served in the Civil War and on the Western front to more recent members who battled in Vietnam.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Steven D. Evans

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Steven D. Evans devoted more than three decades of service to his nation, the state of Kansas and the Kansas Army National Guard. He built his military career around his love for music and the care and training of members of the 42nd and the 35th Division Bands of the Kansas Army National Guard.



**Chief Warrant Officer 4
Steven D. Evans**

During this period, he worked as a band director for the Olathe, Kan., school district. He has conducted music groups performing in 14 states and six foreign nations, appearing before the president, vice-president, six governors and three foreign heads of state.

Evans entered the military in the 40th Army Band of the Mississippi Army National Guard on April 25, 1963. After Basic Combat Training, he was assigned to the Post Band, 60th United States Army Band, Fort Polk, La. Later in his military career he served in the 47th Army Band, Minnesota Army National Guard; the 1st Battalion, 156th Brigade; and the 31st Infantry Division of the Louisiana Army National Guard before joining the Kansas Army National Guard's 42nd Army Band.

In 1984, he became the conductor of the band, and later, the bandmaster and commander of the 42nd. He was commander of the 35th Division Band for 17 more years.

The band doubled in size in 1984 and by

1987 it was at 100 percent authorized strength. The band was selected for missions in Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Panama and Ecuador.

Evans continues to dedicate a tremendous amount of time to civic and community organizations. One of his favorite activities is to teach radio communications in amateur radio clubs. As a current resident of Florida, his experience with radio communications proved invaluable to the communities experiencing the devastation from hurricanes Ivan and Katrina. Evans serves his community in his retirement by supporting civic, church and amateur radio operations for disasters.

Command Sgt. Maj. George E. Stevens

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. George E. Stevens' service to the Kansas Army National Guard spans more than 40 years and continues today as he serves as a scout for the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. He enlisted in the Kansas Army National Guard in 1965. He has served in field units his entire career and in 1988 he was promoted to the rank of sergeant major.



**Command Sgt. Maj.
George E. Steven**

He has served as command sergeant major for the 1st Battalion, 161 Field Artillery; the 35th Division Artillery; and the 287th Sustainment Brigade. During a deployment to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 2003, Stevens served as command sergeant major for Joint Military Affairs as part of the 35th Infantry Division's peacekeeping mission.

In 1991, he led in the organization of the 18th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, a unit of the Kansas Militia, a volunteer organization dedicated to preserving this important history of the Kansas military. He served as the regiment's command sergeant major since it was chartered. During the Kansas National Guard's 150th anniversary celebration, he appeared in a replica 18th

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Family Assistance versus Family Readiness

By Sgt. Jessica Barnett
Public Affairs Office

Being part of a military family is a unique lifestyle. It can seem complicated and daunting at times, but there are many programs available to help.

One of the many people available to help military families is the Family Assistance Center Specialist (FACS). The FAC specialist provides assistance services for all military members, families and veterans regardless of service component. They help serve as a liaison between the chain of command and families.

"The FACS job is to find the answer. We are on call 24/7 and our focus is on making sure families get the information they need to relieve the stressors of deployment," stated Cherie Herlinger, Kansas National Guard Family Assistance Coordinator. "We continue to work with the Family Readiness Groups to maintain updated information on families and to relieve the workload of their volunteers."

The FACS will provide assistance on six essential services:

Crisis Intervention and Referral

- Domestic Abuse
- Child Abuse/Neglect
- Danger to Self and/or Others
- Abuse/Neglect of a Vulnerable Adult

Legal Resource/Information and Referral

- Assistance with Power of Attorney/Wills
- Information and assistance with Service Members Civil Relief Act
- Assistance with referral for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

Financial Resource/Information and Referral

- Understanding Military Pay
- Assistance with financial assistance and loan application through the American Red Cross and other agencies
- Referral to the availability of grants
- Provide referrals for budgeting classes
- TRICARE Resource/Information and Referral
- Provide general information on insurance benefits
- Assist with TRICARE Medical and Dental Applications
- Assist with finding local participating providers
- Assist with challenging claim denials

ID cards and Defense Eligibility and Enrollment Reporting System information and referral

- Provide information on DEERS Rapids centers
- Assist with obtaining an ID card

Community Information and Outreach

Provide a list of local community resources including but not limited to the following:

- Assist with child care resources and referral
- Assist with referral to financial

resources

- Assist with finding a local Family Readiness Group to assist with Family Readiness
- Assist with finding community specific services (i.e., food pantry, car repair, etc.)

Family Assistance Centers are often staffed with contract employees and are responsible for providing assistance to military families in their designated FAC, or in other locations as needed. They assist service members and families with pay and financial issues, military medical benefits, legal issues, ID cards, DEERS enrollment, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, in accessing benefits and services on a wide variety of other family-related issues. This list is not all-inclusive. All family problems and concerns of service members will be effectively and appropriately addressed.

FAC employees are responsible for maintaining and updating the directory of resources, agencies and organizations available to assist military families. They are also responsible for becoming familiar with, and accessing, all regulations and guidance that are applicable to the operation of the FAC.

Upon request, FAC employees are responsible for providing advice and guidance to Family Readiness Support Assistants as well as assisting them in gathering, collating, maintaining and disseminating information to families.

Comparatively, a Family Readiness Group is an official Army organization sponsored by the command. FRG membership includes Soldiers assigned to the unit, civilian employees, family members (immediate and extended) and volunteers. Its purpose is to provide functional, social, and emotional support. In addition, the FRG helps keep families informed via a structured communication network between the command and family members. This support is designed to sustain families and ease the stress associated with military life.

"The FRGs work with a commander to execute the commander's readiness plan," said Michelle Williams, senior Family Readiness Support assistant for Joint Forces Headquarters. "FRGs also collaborate with the FACs to ensure resources are provided to serve members and their families."

Traditionally, an FRG is organized at the company level with guidance and support from the battalion. The organization serves as a conduit for information, mutual support and concern. The type and scope of activities conducted by an FRG depends on the commander's budget for FRG activities, identified needs, command interest and emphasis, number of FRG members, time available for planning and execution, creativity of FRG membership, makeup of the FRG (i.e., Soldier and family demographics)

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Teen Leadership Summit: An Experience to Remember

By Sophia Olsen
Teen Council Member

The 2011 Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard Classic Teen Leadership summit was an experience that I will never forget. I submitted two essays and was selected to attend the Summit out of 800 applicants nationwide.

The Classic Teen Leadership Summit was held at the Wahsega 4-H Center near Dahlonega, Ga. Challenging physical activities like high ropes courses, low ropes courses, a survival class and white water rafting were useful for teaching us how to build and use teamwork, creative thinking, and strategizing in a variety of situations. Community service projects provided the opportunity for us to serve others, as well.

Most importantly at the summit, we participated in a variety of leadership classes. Star Power used a game where few rules were explained to show how people are

limited by circumstances in life.

The True Colors workshop challenged us to define ourselves to a personality type and interact with others who were very similar to us or who were extremely different. This gave us a better understanding of those around us. We also attended a resilience class that explained ways in which people will react or change from something like a deployment.

The summit introduced us to community partners of the Air Force that could be useful to us at home. Examples include Our Military Kids grants, 4-H, YMCA, Military OneSource and Boy and Girl Scouts.

From the Teen Leadership Summit, I gained new leadership skills, a better understanding of teamwork, and many great memories.

Sophia Olsen (left) poses with a camp friend in the shelter they made during survival class. (Courtesy Photo)



Kansas Guardsmen gain desert skill sets from French troops

By Sgt. Leon Prather

1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery

The desert is an unforgiving and potentially lethal ecosystem, one in which many U.S. servicemembers have found themselves operating while deployed.

The French army conducts a required desert survival course for all French forces in Djibouti. The course is taught by instructors from the French army's 5th Regiment.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery acquired the knowledge, confidence and experience of what it takes to survive and operate in the desert without the comfort of pre-cooked rations and canteens of water during a desert survival course Sept. 13 to 22, 2011.

Fourteen members of the 1-161 FA took the opportunity to learn desert survival skills and train with their French comrades. The course covered techniques such as capturing, preparing and cooking wildlife.

"Having to kill, clean and cook a goat was a unique experience," said Spc. Jameka Garman, a rifleman with 35th Military Police Company, from Salina.

Training provided Soldiers skills in water filtration and purification, booby trapping enemy forces, first aid, cooling

"Communication was hard, but we quickly learned that playing charades works to get the message across. Using hand gestures and visually communicating helped us build friendships..."

*Spc. Aaron Stoesz,
35th Military Police Company*

water with a sock and general desert survival skills. The course also included nightly marches to retrieve needed supplies such as water and rations from a point on a supply route.

"I would encourage anyone to do the course. It is a very physically demanding, but with a strong positive mental attitude it can be done," said Spc. Donna Schilds, Derby, Kan., an automatic rifleman with Battery B.

The course was physically and mentally demanding and there was a language barrier,



Spc. Jameka Garman, a rifleman with 35th Military Police Company, and Sgt. Sean Cody, a team leader for 1st Battalion, 161 Field Artillery, evaluate a French soldier during a Desert Survival Course held in the Grand Bara desert under the instruction of the 5th Regiment of the French army, Sept. 15, 2011. (Photo by Spc. Donna Schilds, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery)

Mass casualty scenario exercises teamwork with local agencies

By Tech. Sgt. Emily F. Alley

190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The 190th Air Refueling Wing teamed up with local emergency agencies for a mass casualty exercise.

According to the imaginary scenario, an antagonist entered the base and stashed a rocket launcher, which was used to fire at a KC-135. The resulting explosion caused the simulated death of 14 passengers and the injury of 45 additional people.

Volunteers from the Boy Scouts and student flight members played victims.

"It helps responders and you understand how a victim feels," said student flight member and future avionics technician Airman 1st Class Nick Sester, who felt the training would increase empathy for responders who assist in future disasters.

Sester played an injured aircraft passenger who had a wounded ankle and was suffering from shock.

"We have lots of new folks and this is something that has to be exercised," said Lt. Col. Scott McGregor, Exercise and Evaluation Team Chief. "Execution is also a matter of training."

One of the additional goals of the exercise was to improve communication among emergency response agencies. The wing hosted a number of outside respon-

ders that included Shawnee County Emergency Management, Topeka Emergency Management, Shawnee County Dispatch, Metropolitan Topeka Aviation Authority, the Shawnee County Sheriff's office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"We know how to do our job, but we also have to interface with others who are doing their jobs," said Senior Master Sgt. Steve Nelson, installation emergency manager. "If you're getting a business card at the accident site, it's too late."

Within a few years, Nelson hopes to be able to run a full-scale scenario with other emergency responders. In such an exercise, patients would be collected from the accident site and moved to an outside hospital, for example. The scenario would be carried outside Forbes Field.

Awards and Decorations

KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Meritorious Service Medal



Lt. Col. Craig Fox, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Lt. Col. Gregory Mittman, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Lt. Col. Dana Shopfner, HHD, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Lt. Col. Monte Weathers, 69th TC, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Maj. Robert Stinson, HQ, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Chaplain (Capt.) Richard Dunn, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Capt. Elizabeth Tipton, KSARNG Med Det, Lenexa

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Mark Looper, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Master Sgt. Monte Sheets, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

1st Sgt. Jason Fears, HHB, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

1st Sgt. Edward Monteith, Co D, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka

Staff Sgt. John Alderson, Rec & Ret Bn, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. Terry Jameson, HHB, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Army Commendation Medal



Capt. Kevin Kennedy, Co G, 2nd Bn, 135th Avn, Topeka

Master Sgt. Darin Linn, Rec and Ret Bn, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. Jason Baetz, HHD, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. Keith Bartlett, Rec and Ret Bn, Topeka

Staff Sgt. Michael Mader, 35th Div Band, Olathe

Sgt. Sylvia Klingbeil, 35th Div Band, Olathe

Sgt. Elissa Millan, Rec and Ret Bn, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Ricardo Sepulveda, HHD, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Kansas Distinguished Service Medal



Sgt. John Decker, 235th Regiment, Salina

Kansas Meritorious Service Ribbon



Lt. Col. Russell E. Richardson, 635th RSG, Hutchinson

Retirements

Kansas Army National Guard

Maj. Clark Harris, 35th Div, Fort Leavenworth

Maj. Brian Schoenhofer, 35th Div, Fort Leavenworth

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Stan Magnuson, Co G (-) 2nd Bn, 135th Avn, Topeka

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Mark Looper, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

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

1st Sgt. Jason Fears, Btry B (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Horton

Staff Sgt. Bradley Hesse, FSC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola

Staff Sgt. Alin Martin, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville

Staff Sgt. Mark Mulkey, Det 3, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Topeka

Staff Sgt. Robert Quintanilla, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Staff Sgt. Brad Russell, 137th Trans Co, Olathe

Sgt. Oad Sears, Co B, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita

Sgt. Ricardo Sepulveda, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Spc. Justina Decker, 250th FSC (-), Ottawa

Spc. Brian Wiggans, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Kansas Air National Guard

Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka

Senior Master Sgt. Keith Guffy, 190th ARW, Topeka

Master Sgt. Larry Endecott, 184th IW, Topeka

Master Sgt. Wayne King, 184th IW, Topeka

Master Sgt. Brian Leabo, 184th IW, Topeka

Master Sgt. Don Sawyer, 184th IW, Topeka

Master Sgt. Jack Willenberg, 184th IW, Topeka

as the course was taught entirely in French.

"Communication was hard, but we quickly learned that playing charades works to get the message across," said Spc. Aaron Stoesz, Wichita, a rifleman with 35th Military Police Company.

"Using hand gestures and visually communicating helped us build friendships, as well as get a better understanding of the task at hand."

Along with the new skills and techniques, Soldiers interacted and gained an invaluable experience working with foreign forces.

"The classes were informative and using sand tables was helpful when it came to the hands on training," said Spc. Isaac Leihy, Hillsboro, a rifleman with Battery E (Target Acquisition), 161 FA. "I learned that we do a lot of the same training, but the difference is in the method used to achieve the task."

"I better understand how to communicate and coexist with foreign military personnel. This will be useful in light of the

number of joint deployments that the U.S. is involved with," said Spc. Andrew Wieland, an automatic rifleman with Battery B, from Osawatomie. "The French use different tactics to engage and disengage the enemy, but we share the same soldier issues."

There are several ways to help fellow Soldiers through a course like this.

"Desert survival is made easier when you have a team to encourage you and help share the workload. All the Soldiers learned the importance of team building," said Sgt. Robert Davis, Lansing, team leader for Battery B.

The 1-161 Soldiers gained valuable skills to aid them during the remainder of their deployment, with the combined Joint Task Force—Horn of Africa.

"The newly acquired skill sets will serve us well as we continue our current mission, working with partner nations," said Sgt. 1st Class Shannon Bronson, a rifleman with 1161 Forward Support Company, from Gardner.

Annual golf outing raises money for 190th emergency fund

By Tech. Sgt. Angela Brees

190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

More than 90 190th Air Refueling Wing members, former Coyotes and friends picked up their clubs for a good cause at the second annual Coyote Open Golf Tournament Sept. 16, 2011.

An unseasonable chill nipped at the early morning players who drove out to the Western Hills Golf Course, but it didn't seem to dampen the attitude.

"Some of us just got back from deployment. It's cold out here!" Tech. Sgt. Chris Dubois shouted jokingly when asked about the weather.

Mark Mertel, retired boom operator who now works in the fuels section as a civilian, and Tech. Sgt. Andrew Piper, 190th Logistics Readiness Squadron, organized this year's event. Including corporate and individual contributions, the team raised about \$7,000 for the Friends of Forbes emergency fund and were able to hand out close to 300 donated prizes to the participating golfers.

"The local economy is struggling this year, so it was a challenge to raise as much as they did last year," Piper said. "We received less from businesses, but more from members. So we were able to hold strong to the \$7,000 that was raised last year."

Piper is grateful to all that braved the weather and helped plan this year's tournament.

"I want to give a big 'thank you' to all that helped and played in the tournament

this year – you made it a great success. And I'm sure we'll see everybody again next year," he said.

The Friends of Forbes emergency fund began in August 2010. Mertel and Piper organized the first golf tournament to raise money for the fund that next month. The fund is intended to help wing members faced with unforeseen emergencies – extended illness, victims of a natural disaster or other economic hardships. Of the nearly \$14,000 raised for the fund since it began, almost \$10,000 has been distributed to wing members.

A two-person committee reviews the request for funds. The majority of cases will require members to either attend a Financial Peace University course offered free by Family Readiness or a free one-on-one session with a personal financial counselor.

"This has been a very successful program so far," said Capt. Joe Blubaugh, 190th Family Readiness volunteer. "And we want to keep doing it right, which is why the two-person committee was created and the wing developed a Standard Operating Procedure around the program."

"Donations are always needed, Blubaugh said. "Because of the economy, we have many folks going through tough times. We always welcome help."

Wing members can donate at the credit union on base, asking to deposit into the emergency fund, or stop in the Family Readiness office.

Safety program pays for Motorcycle Safety Foundation classes

By Spc. Stephanie Hodges
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Twenty-one Army National Guard Soldiers were killed or seriously injured nationwide in motorcycle accidents in the past year. As of June 20, 2011, an additional 10 Soldiers have been added to the list of accidental motorcycle fatalities. Safety reports of non-duty and duty-related fatalities have found that in many of these tragic instances, both new and experienced riders displayed a lack of training and skill.

“The National Guard is an organization committed to the safety of personnel,” stated Master Sgt. Jeffery Arnold, state safety specialist. “We strive to save lives and to maintain a safer environment for our Soldiers.”

Since 2008, the Army National Guard has been combating the lack of motorcycle skill among Soldiers by providing funding and mandating compliance for motorcycle training. It is required that Army National Guard personnel operating a motorcycle in any military status, comply with Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 6055.4, Army Regulation (AR) 385-10 and complete a Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) approved motorcycle rider basic safety course.

To help minimize the risk of motorcycle fatalities and injuries, Kansas offers 23 MSF Basic Rider Courses across the state. Participants are guided on the requirements of the MSF, which is designed as a 20-hour curriculum. Classes are typically conducted evenings and weekends. The classes must be attended in a military duty status. The course is offered free of charge to military personnel, if the course is completed satisfactory. Each course covers motorcycle fundamentals and provides an opportunity to learn the physical and mental skills important for operating a motorcycle. There is no prerequisite to participate in this course.

“As an experienced rider, the course helped me to learn to

use my own judgment and made me a more confident rider,” said 2nd Lt. Ronald Marshal, Joint Forces Headquarters. “If you are an experienced rider, the course acts as a refresher course. If you are a beginning rider, it gives you the basic fundamentals. It teaches the basic principles of motorcycling.”

for the physical skills of basic control, including clutch/throttle control, straight-line riding, stopping, turning and shifting. Later, participants moved on to more advanced skills such as stopping quickly, cornering and swerving.

Once students go through 18 range exercises, they take a motorcycle skills exam. The test requires a student to perform various basic motorcycle tasks they have been practicing. Upon completion of the physical skills test, the students take a written motorcycle knowledge test on traffic signs, motor vehicle laws and safe driving techniques.

With satisfactory completion of each, participants receive a DE-99 form. Once this form is presented to the Kansas Department of Motor Vehicle, the participant will qualify for a Kansas motorcycle license. All participants will receive a Motorcycle Safety Foundation Rider Course completion card once they have completed the Rider’s Edge Course.

Steve Roth, director of Harley-Davidson Rider’s Edge Motorcycle Training, discussed the benefits of participating and completing the Rider’s Edge Course.

“This training develops safe riding skills from trained and experienced instructors,” he said. “Some insurance companies will provide a discount on motorcycle insurance and military members receive the Motorcycle Safety Foundation completion card required to ride on military installations.”

As motorcycling continues to become an increasingly popular mode of transportation and recreation, it is imperative that the readiness of the Kansas Army National Guard is not compromised by ill-prepared motorcyclists. MSF Basic Rider Courses allow Soldiers to be aware of the educational and safety requirements of the operating motorcycles.

For more information about BRC contact Master Sgt. Jeffery Arnold, State Safety Specialist, at Jeffrey.arnold1@ng.army.mil or (785) 861-3879.



Linda Geiger, Harley-Davidson Rider's Edge Instructor, demonstrates what the students will be performing on the skills exam during the Rider's Edge Motorcycle Training June 26, 2011, in Topeka, Kan. (Photo by Spc. Stephanie Hodges, 105th Mobile Public Affairs)

Harley-Davidson’s course, Rider’s Edge, is one of the available courses provided to the Kansas National Guard Soldiers. In their classroom, participants learn ways to minimize risk and handle special riding situations by means of an interactive seminar, discussions and audiovisual support.

After the classroom, the participants are introduced to the range – a controlled environment designed for real road experiences. One at a time, participants started out slowly, becoming familiar with the motorcycle. Then an introduction was given

Safe and Prepared Schools Conference held in Topeka

By Sgt. Jason Lee
Public Affairs Office

On Aug. 30, Gov. Sam Brownback signed a proclamation designating Sept. 12 to 16 as “Kansas School Preparedness Week.” On Sept. 26 and 27, educators, administrators and emergency management personnel gathered at the Capital Plaza Hotel and Convention Center in Topeka for the 2011 Safe and Prepared Schools Conference.

The conference, sponsored by the Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools, Kansas Homeland Security, Kansas Attorney General’s Office, Kansas Department of Education and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, focused on fostering a safe learning environment for Kansas students.

Keynote speakers included Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general and director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management; Dr. Scott Poland, associate professor at the Center for Psychological Studies, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; and Carol Greta, legal counsel for the Iowa State Board of Education.

The conference focused on topics such as bullying prevention, emergency preparedness, working together, tobacco use prevention, sex trafficking and other topics.

“School safety is more than just an edu-

cational issue,” said Dr. Bob Hull, director of the Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools. “It takes the entire community, it takes first responders, police, fire, medic, and emergency management.”

Representatives from all levels, students through program managers, sat on a panel and discussed why these issues are critical to student and school safety.

“For adults to get together and organize and to share ideas, kind of a pot of ideas that they can throw around and come up with ideas to help their students and to keep their students safe, that is always important,” said Matthew Brettman, Blue Valley Northwest High School student representative.

Turn out for the conference exceeded expectations with around 400 participants.

“We originally, as we were planning for the conference, we were told best guess to plan for about 225. As of right now we have approximately 400 that are here at the conference,” said Hull. “We hope that it continues to grow.”

“Most importantly,” Hull continued, “we hope that somehow that it will have enough impact so that the people here at the conference will take the knowledge, training, skills and resources back to their local schools and implement change, or implement better preparedness and safety activities back in their local schools.”

Nominate your employer for ESGR 2012 Freedom Award

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense agency, is now accepting nominations for the 2012 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is the DoD’s highest award for civilian employers supporting Guard and Reserve members.

The DoD encourages all Guard and Reserve members to nominate employers who have provided exceptional support of their military service. Nominations may be submitted by service members, or a family member acting on their behalf, at www.FreedomAward.mil through Jan. 16, 2012.

“Employers who go above and beyond in their support of Guard and Reserve members are providing a tremendous service to our country; they are contributing to the resiliency and peace of mind of the more than one million men and women who stand ready to serve when our nation calls on them,” said David McGinnis, acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. “Guard and Reserve members who feel their employers have gone the extra mile in supporting their military service should nominate them.”

With employer support acknowledged as a critical component of our national defense, ESGR enhanced the nomination website this year to help guide nominators in capturing the most important details of their employers’ support. Previous recipients garnered recognition

for supportive measures including organizing colleagues to provide dinners to a deployed employee’s family, covering extra shifts during an employee’s military training, taking a deployed service member’s children to sports practices and other family events, and establishing robust military support networks.

The 2012 recipients will be announced by early summer and honored in Washington, DC during a special ceremony early next fall.

About ESGR and the Freedom Award:

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of ESGR to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. In the years since, 160 employers have been honored with the award. ESGR was established in 1972 to develop and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service. ESGR advocates relevant initiatives, recognizes outstanding support, increases awareness of applicable laws, and resolves conflict between service members and employers. Paramount to ESGR’s mission is encouraging employment of Guardsmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce.

For questions or interviews regarding the Freedom Award, please visit www.FreedomAward.mil or contact Beth Sherman, ESGR Public Affairs, at 703-696-1171, ext. 539 or by email at ESGR-PA@osd.mil.

Equal Opportunity News: Army’s diversity vision

By Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sandra Lashley
State Equal Employment Manager

“When it comes to principles of equity, fairness and inclusion, senior leaders in an organization set the tone and their commitment must be visual and personal,” said John M. Robinson, Diversity Inc.

The Army’s diversity vision is to be the national leader in embracing the strengths of diverse people in an inclusive environment. This includes investing in and managing talent, valuing individuals and developing culturally astute Soldiers and Civilians who enhance our communities

and are prepared for the human dimension of leadership and global engagements.

Leaders must remember that they are being watched by their subordinates and what they do or say makes an impact on how their subordinates will conduct themselves. Leaders set the tone for the work environment and that culture is a direct reflection of the leadership. Setting the tone of the environment is easiest when done from the first day a leader starts. If the culture has been left to develop into a bad environment, a leader can turn it around but it is a lot more work to correct a bad environ-

ment than to set a good environment from day one. The example a leader sets is key.

Ensure your people know your leadership philosophy; counsel your subordinates from the first day; correct poor performance or poor behavior immediately to ensure your expectations are understood. Keep the lines of communication open so that any situation can be handled at the lowest level and everyone is able to concentrate on the organization’s mission not defending themselves from a co-worker or supervisor. Let your people flourish and your mission will be completed successfully.

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New house a “God-send” for family of wounded veteran

By Spc. Jessica Zullig

105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Retired Staff Sgt. Allen Hill, a Kansas Army National Guard veteran, and his family, received the surprise of a lifetime, July 31. It was a knock on their door from the Extreme Makeover: Home Edition crew to inform them that they would be the recipients of a new home, a home built with Allen in mind and constructed specifically for their family.

The road to their new home has been painful and joyous and includes some unlikely players. However, without the new home, the family would continue to be split apart by the invisible wounds of war.

Hill was almost killed by a massive roadside bomb Nov. 21, 2007, while serving on his second tour in Iraq. He deployed the first time in August 2005 through November 2006. He returned home and then was deployed again January 2007 with the 731st Medium Truck Company to provide security for northbound supplies feeding and housing troops closer to the fight.

"The night I was injured, I was serving as a gunner for the last truck in the convoy," stated Hill. "The trip back to our base started out normally. Our convoy was the only one to leave Baghdad that day. We were rolling down the road when I saw a guy out in the field messing with something in his hand. The next thing I see is a bright light and then I felt rocks and grit hit me in the face," Hill recounted.

Hill has no memory of anything else that night. His next memory is from when he woke up in Germany, thinking he was still in Iraq. Filled in on the rest of what hap-



Retired Staff Sgt. Allen Hill, a former Kansas National Guardsman and recipient of a new home built by the Extreme Makeover: Home Edition crew and volunteers, stands with his family before the revealing of his new residence Aug. 6 in Ottawa, Kan. (Photo by Spc. Stephanie Hodges, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

episodes are particularly dangerous as they can send Hill running for cover.

After fighting the disorder at home for some time and secluding himself inside his home, Hill moved to a veterans treatment facility in northern California, where he had been for more than a year. In order to return home, he would need a house that met some specific criteria. It would need to be a “quiet” home. Their Ottawa residence

extensively with them to explain his condition and filling out loads of paperwork, Hill was awarded his service dog, Frankie.

Through working with the Puppies Behind Bars organization, the Hills were extended the invitation to meet the trainer of Frankie

the Hills need for a quiet home. It was Close who nominated the family to receive the new home from the Extreme Makeover organization. It is through the building of this home by the Extreme Makeover people and the community that the Hills have been reunited as a family.

"This is truly a dream come true," said Gina Hill. "We couldn't have asked for a more perfect home. It is hard to believe that this would happen for us."

"So many things have been a struggle; we have had some amazing blessings along the way, for sure, but this is the one thing that was keeping us separated," she continued.

"This whole thing has just been a God-send," Hill added. "I struggled with quite a few environmental triggers that I really couldn't control in our old house. That made life for me pretty hard. Coming to this...it really hasn't sunk in yet. I'm still pinching myself!"

The new house features a sound proof “quiet” room where Allen can go when he needs things to be quiet, as well as foam insulation, triple glass windows, and multiple other features that reduce outside environmental noise, according to builder Robert Andrew of M.A.C. Corporation, one of the primary builders.

"It really means a lot for us to be able to do this for Allen and the family," he said.

"They have given so much for us; it is only fitting that we be able to give back to them."



Retired Staff Sgt. Allen Hill, a former Kansas National Guardsman and recipient of a new home built by the Extreme Makeover: Home Edition, receives free tax preparation for life from H&R Block during a press conference at his new home, in Ottawa, Kan., Aug. 7, 2011. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th Mobile Public Affairs)

pened by various people, he remained in Germany until Nov. 25, when he was transferred to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington D.C., where he recovered until March 2008.

He has recovered from the physical wounds, but it is the injuries that can't be seen that haunt him. Environmental triggers such as loud noises, dimly lit spaces and long hallways instigate Post Traumatic Stress Disorder episodes. Some of these

was near a quarry and railroad tracks and the noise actually triggered episodes. In order to be together as a family, the Hills would need a new home. This is where the story broadens and takes on some unique players and involves a dog and an award winning actress.

While looking for things that could help Hill, his wife Gina came across the program Puppies Behind Bars. After contacting the organization and talking



While the Hill family was on vacation at Yosemite National Park, the “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” crew, as well as local builders M.A.C. Corporation and Canyon Creek Construction, LLC and community volunteers, built them a home in one week that will allow Hill to continue to recover and receive treatment. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

on an episode of the Oprah Winfrey Show.

The Hills met Glenn Close, an award winning actress, during the filming of the Oprah Winfrey Show in which she witnessed the meeting between Roberto Rodriguez and Hill at the Fishkill Correctional Facility in New York. Rodriguez, the trainer for Puppies Behind Bars and Hill's service dog, is an inmate at the men's medium security prison. The PBB program allows service members who struggle with PTSD, like Hill, the opportunity for a service dog to aid them in their struggle. The dogs are trained by the inmates.

Through this meeting, Close discovered

Through the week, more than 3,000 people from the region volunteered and worked on the house in blistering summer heat, running shifts of eight hours. Construction on the home never stopped for the entire seven days it took to build.

From the time the foundation was laid, right up to the time it was presented to the Hill family, scores of community members worked 24-hours a day to ensure that the home was finished on time.

"This means we get to be a family again," said 10-year-old son Dreyson as he clung to his father's side. "Dad is finally home."



Adjutant General challenges Kansans to Army fitness test

Pvt. Anna Laurin
105th Mobile Public Affairs

More than 300 civilians and Soldiers participated in the 2011 Adjutant General's Army Physical Fitness Test Fitness Challenge, Sept. 10, at the 235th Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina, Kan.

"The competition included two minutes of pushups, two minutes of sit-ups, and a two-mile race against the clock, which began at 9 a.m.," said Lt. Col. Douglas Hinkley, commander of the 2nd Modular Training Battalion, 135th Regiment.

This is the 16th year the Fitness Challenge has been hosted and is continuing to grow. This annual competition started off as a military-only event, but has grown to now involve the community, with competitors and sponsors. Civilians across the state compete alongside servicemembers including local schools, like Wichita South's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, which brought 12 students.

"The Fitness Challenge is a premier event and opportunity for physically fit high school athletes to become engaged with the National Guard," said Col. Robert Windham, commander of the 235th Regiment. "This event is a win-win situation for the youth, the National Guard and the community."

"This event was not meant to be a recruiting event," said Hinkley, "but it is a re-

ward from the effort."

The challenge was conducted within a two-hour limit, so that service members who competed could count this as an official APFT. Scoring points were counted on a sliding scale so that all competitors had the opportunity to score above a perfect APFT score of 300 points on to the extended scale up to 400 points.

An award ceremony was held after the competition to celebrate those who met the challenge. Awards were handed out by Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general. Awards were given out for first, second and third place for each age category for the military and the civilian side; then for the highest repetition of sit-ups, pushups, and the best time in the run. Awards were also given out for the teams who scored the highest overall, with the first place team having their name put on the TAG Fitness Challenge award, with the previous years' team winners names also engraved onto the award.

The event was filled with static displays from different Guard units across Kansas. A life-flight display, local police and fire fighters, and some of the civilian sponsors including the University of Phoenix, Sea Port Airlines and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kansas took part in the display.

Along with the sponsors booths set up

around the challenge, there were other sponsors who were involved in helping run the event. The Salina Running Company collected and produced the times for the two-mile event. The civilian and commu-

nity sponsors are appreciated for their help and involvement throughout the years. Plaques were also presented to the community sponsors who helped make this year's event run smoothly.



Mark Butcher of Goddard, Kan., performed 88 pushups, 88 sit-ups and ran two miles in 12:23, during the 16th Annual Kansas Army National Guard Adjutant General's Physical Fitness Challenge held Sept. 10, 2011, in Salina. Butcher, the youngest competitor, was presented the Adjutant General's Coin by Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general. The 235th Regiment hosted 131 civilian and military participants in team and individual events. (Photo by Sgt. Dustin Furre, 235th Regiment UPAR)

Kansas National Guard recruits conduct ruck-march to Governor's Mansion



Kansas Army National Guard recruits conducted a four mile ruck-march in Topeka from Hummer Sports Complex to the governor's mansion, Oct. 15, 2011. After arriving at the governor's mansion, the Soldiers conducted field maneuvers, followed by a march back to Hummer Sports Complex.

"This is the first time we have done a march like this," said Staff Sgt. Craig Jackson, Recruiting and Retention Battalion. "A classroom environment works well for putting out information. However, getting these future Soldiers out into a field environment and doing practical exercises will allow them to put the knowledge they learn into proper use. This way, we cover more dimensions of learning than simply a classroom-only discussion."

The future Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers carried "ruck-sacks," full field packs, as well as inert weapons. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jimmy Hubbard, Recruiting and Retention Battalion)

ATEAM, Fort Riley company makes impact on economy

Continued from Page 6

years or 1,400 hours, and we're the only repair activity that does that."

Another example of innovative cost saving measures that Foster gave was the price of a forward header on an engine. Brand new, the part typically sells for about \$22,000, he said. The ATEAM developed a repair process for forward headers in conjunction with a Topeka-based company, where the parts are brought back to zero hours condition for about \$8,000.

"That's quite a bit of savings realized just by doing that," he said. "It benefits Kansas companies by doing this and it also saves the Army, and ultimately, the taxpayer money."

After the parts are run through the verification and inspection section, they go into supply or allied trades. In the allied trades section, defected or flawed parts are repaired either in house or sent for repair to Topeka or different companies throughout

the nation, he said.

"If it's not good, we wash it out. We obviously have to be very strict on the parts we use because our warranty is so strong," he said. "We have never had a catastrophic failure to date, with over 1,000 engines provided to the Army National Guard, the Army, Marine Corps and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

Ensuring durability

In addition to performing nondestructive testing on its parts, the ATEAM also does oil analysis to ensure the reliability of its products.

"As part of our warranty program, we ask our customers to provide us with oil samples on a set basis, and we do our own analysis on them," Foster said. "If we detect any problems, obviously we can go out and address the issue."

During engine and transmission assembly, each station has a set of work instructions telling the technician how to build it,

what measurements to take and the serial number for parts.

"The whole thing is tracked," Foster said. "We are in charge of the entire process, and that process is what gives us our ability to maintain the quality that we provide to the customer. Quality is what we offer and also cost effectiveness."

Before leaving the facility, each engine and transmission is given a health test using a dynamometer to ensure it was put together correctly, and if there are any issues, they can be found before the product is shipped to the customer.

Joint partnership

In addition to building and rebuilding engines, the ATEAM also recently assisted Fort Riley's Safety Office with inspections and testing of its many weapons parts like the M2 50-Caliber barrel extensions and 81MM mortars to ensure safety during training exercises, Foster said.

"We have a good working relationship

with Fort Riley," he said. "(We have) always had things come up where we can help them and they can help us. Usually, if a tank unit is out in the field and they have an issue or have a need for a part or if something goes down, they can come out here and we will get them taken care of."

"That good working relationship results in employment opportunities and economic impact with Fort Riley and the surrounding area."

Foster said he considers the ATEAM's workforce as the "best of both worlds."

"We have the Midwestern work ethic with the Army attention to detail that creates a high standard product," he said.

The ATEAM currently has 10 job openings, with eight of the 10 positions open until they are filled. At this time, those applying for jobs must be members of the Army or Air National Guard.

For job listings and to apply online with the ATEAM, go to www.kansastag.gov.

Give help | Give hope

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

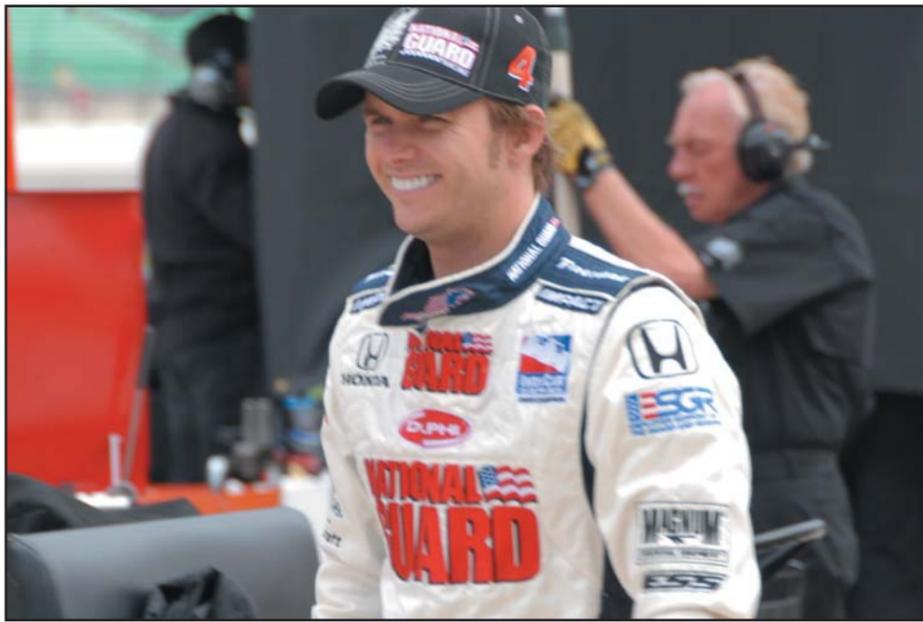
Dan Wheldon: More Than an Indy Driver

Sgt. Maj. Christopher Curtis
Army National Guard

The Army National Guard lost a true friend and champion Oct. 16, 2011, when Dan Wheldon, 33, driver of the Guard's Number 4 IndyCar during the 2009 and 2010 seasons, died from injuries sustained during a tragic 15-car crash. The accident occurred during the final race of the 2011 season at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

IndyCar drivers and fans alike admired Wheldon, a two-time Indianapolis 500 winner and the 2005 IndyCar Series champion, but his popularity among Soldiers went well beyond what he accomplished on the track. When not racing, Wheldon visited Soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and veterans hospitals around the country. His compassion for Soldiers and the National Guard was accentuated during a 2009 visit with wounded troops when Wheldon stated, "Just the strength and character these people [wounded Soldiers] have. The fact one person was disappointed they couldn't stand to [greet] me. But he didn't have any legs. It's incredibly emotional."

Visiting troops and spending time with them remained important to Wheldon even after he stopped driving the Guard IndyCar following the 2010 season. Wheldon also served as a spokesperson for the National Guard Youth Challenge Program, which supports at-risk teenagers and young adults around the country.



National Guard Indy car racer and 2011 Indy 500 winner, Dan Wheldon, prior to a race at the Kansas Speedway, April 24, 2009. Wheldon died at the age of 33, Oct. 16, 2011, while racing in the Las Vegas Indy 300. (Courtesy Photo)

With Wheldon at the wheel of the Guard's IndyCar, the National Guard brand gained nationwide exposure that was amplified because of his belief in the organization and its members. More importantly, his interaction with Soldiers increased organizational pride throughout the Guard. Wheldon's support of the Guard was apparent through much more than a logo on his car or uniform, or his willingness to sign autographs for Soldiers. Wheldon was an advo-

cate for those serving their country, those recovering from combat injuries, and even those striving to join the Guard.

Dan Wheldon's passing leaves a void in the hearts of many Soldiers, but his smile, personality, integrity, and his love for the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces will be remembered forever. His entire family remains in the thoughts and prayers of countless members of the National Guard.

New MTOE means big changes for 995th Maint. Co.

By Spc. Lindsey Bogner
995th Maintenance Company UPAR

A new Modified Table of Organization and Equipment means new capabilities for the 995th Maintenance Company of Smith Center and Concordia, Kan. Adding capabilities means adding Soldiers. The 995th Maint. Co. is now authorized 143 Soldiers, 54 more than the previous authorized number. Several Military Occupational Specialties have been added to the unit.

The U.S. Army handed down the new MTOE and it went into effect Sept. 2, 2011. The MTOE brings more support maintenance MOSs to the state. These new MOSs give the state more options in responding to missions.

"The more capabilities we have, the more options we have to solve problems, whether on a domestic response mission or a deployed mission," said Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, assistant adjutant general and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard.

Soldiers already in the unit are re-classing or shifting laterally to fill the new MTOE, but no matter how much education a single Soldier gets, the 995th Maint. Co. will need more. Many positions are open for lateral transfers and new recruits. Among those MOSs needed include:

- 91B – Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic
- 91C – Utilities Equipment Repairer
- 91D – Power Generation Equipment Repairer
- 91E – Allied Trades Specialist
- 91F – Small Arms/Artillery Repairer
- 91J – Quartermaster/Chemical Equipment Repairer
- 91K – Armament Repairer
- 92A – Equipment Receiving/Parts Specialist
- 92G – Food Operations Specialist
- 94E – Communication Security/Radio Equipment Repairer
- 94F – Computer/Detection System

These MOSs need to be filled to give the state and unit its full capabilities.

"It takes a whole team to make things happen. If a part is missing or can't do their part, the team can't complete their mission," said Peck.

"These MOSs are important to the Army as a whole," said 1st Sgt. Ray Nussbaum of 995th Maint. Co. "Without mechanics with these skills, the Army doesn't move."

The 995th Maint. Co. has many positions open in lower ranks that give plenty of room for promotion. The unit also has senior noncommissioned officer positions that are filled through the Enlisted Promotion System. Soldiers in the 995th Maint. Co. have many training and schooling opportunities to sharpen their skills in their MOS and gain Enlisted Promotion System points.

The civilian compatibilities for technical skills used in the 995th Maint. Co. are abundant. Many Soldiers find themselves with the proper training and experience needed to work in the civilian industry across the state, often with little to no extra training. This makes traditional Soldiers of the unit very marketable.

"We have the MOSs that are the most compatible on the civilian side," reported Nussbaum.

If a Soldier wants to become a technician, they can apply at a Field Maintenance Shop, Unit Training Equipment Site, Regional Training Site Maintenance, Combined Support Maintenance Shop, Advanced Turbine Engine Army Maintenance, or the Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site with the skills learned and used in the 995th Maint. Co. These technician positions use military skills already acquired, while allowing Soldiers to be employed by the federal government.

If anyone has questions about the new MTOE or positions available in the 995th Maint. Co., please contact Sgt. 1st Class Dave Carron at 785-282-3971 or david.carron@ng.army.mil.

The zombies are coming! Are you prepared?

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

Envision this: Hordes of walking corpses roaming the landscape with only one goal – to kill and devour the living.

It is, of course, a nightmare scenario straight out of a Hollywood movie, but what if it were real? Would you be prepared?

With tongue firmly planted in cheek, that was the question posed by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management during October's Zombie Preparedness Month, part of a national campaign to encourage the public to take an all-hazards approach to preparing themselves for tornadoes, floods, fires, hurricanes, terrorist attacks and other disasters – including zombie attacks.

"If you are prepared for a zombie attack, you are prepared for anything," said Devan Tucking-Strickler, KDEM Human Services officer. "No matter what the disaster, the preparations are the same: make an emergency kit that will allow you and your family to survive for a minimum of three days until help can arrive, devise a home emergency plan and practice it so that everyone knows what to do if a disaster strikes. For information about the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and emergency preparedness, go to www.kansastag.gov/kdem_default.asp

The 3 Rs, 3 Cs to success

Continued from Page 4

our Soldiers so they understand their task to make us successful. We need to coordinate the training, starting with a good training plan and combining training with other platoons/sections to maximize resources when possible. We must cooperate by sharing instructors and equipment to make efficient use of the time we are given.

Managing our force ensuring Soldiers are at the training on time and the training is to standard. Making good use of the resources (Soldiers, equipment, and time) we are given to accomplish the goal/mission.

Now that you know what the 3 Rs and 3 Cs are, how do they apply to us as individual Soldiers? All of us from the newest private to the old crusty sergeant major (Officers, too) must be Ready--maintaining our medical readiness, military occupation skill, meeting the standards for physical fitness, height and weight and the education for our current position and the next so we are ready to move up and be promoted. We must be Reliable--showing up at drill on time, performing our duties to the best of our ability and stepping up when we are called upon to do those things that make our section, platoon and unit successful. We must be Relevant--being the best in our military occupational specialty and NCO in our unit!

We as Soldiers are responsible for doing our part to be ready, reliable, and relevant. We must Communicate, with our section and platoon sergeants so we know what schools we need to get into to be ready for advancement. We must keep our families and employers informed so they will know when we will be gone. We must Coordinate, our school dates and other dates to maintain our individual readiness. We must Cooperate, making sure we attend the Soldier Readiness Program when scheduled, take the APFT, and make sure the pre-execution checklist is completed in a timely manner to go to school and other training to maintain our personal readiness. These are but a few of the things we as Soldiers need to do.

We as individual Soldiers have some control over our carriers and by communicating, coordinating and cooperating we can be a ready, reliable and relevant members of our unit and the Kansas Army National Guard.

Now, go do the right thing.

Kansas Speedway donates tickets to Guardsmen

In recognition of the service of the men and women of the Kansas National Guard to the state and nation, Kansas Speedway donated 1,000 tickets for the Kansas Lottery 400 Hollywood Casino/NASCAR Nationwide Series racing events that were held Oct. 9. The tickets were presented to Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafaaneli, the adjutant general, by Pat Warren, Kansas Speedway president, and NASCAR driver Kurt Bush in Kansas City, Kan., during a press conference, Sept. 28.

"I'm honored to be able to make this donation today on behalf of our partners," said Warren. "The men and women of the Kansas National Guard, along with thousands of other military members who protect our country, make it possible for us to do what we love to do. I thank each of them for their service to our state and our country and we look forward to hosting members of the Kansas National Guard at Kansas Speedway for a terrific weekend of racing."

"The men and women of the Kansas National Guard stand ready 365 days a year to answer the call to duty from the state or nation," said Tafaaneli, "often putting their lives at risk in that service. Yet they never ask for thanks. So, it's gratifying when organization such as Kansas Speedway recognize their service with generous donations like this."



Kansas Speedway president, Pat Warren, presents NASCAR tickets to Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafaaneli, the adjutant general, Sept. 28, 2011. (Photo by Jane Welch, Public Affairs Office)

Division makes history with first ever full-spectrum exercise

By Michael Johnson
Mission Training Complex

The 35th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Kansas National Guard, headquartered at Fort Leavenworth, made Army history in September as the first ever unit to conduct a division-level Full Spectrum Exercise. The division conducted exercise Tornado Strike Sept. 7-30, 2011, at Fort Leavenworth's Mission Training Complex.

The division is the first Army National Guard Division Headquarters to meet Army Force Generation Contingency Expeditionary Force Training Strategy Aim Points and move into the available year as a globally-deployable, modular division headquarters. The Full Spectrum Exercise is designed to focus on the traditional Army warfighting skills that have atrophied and been downplayed in our current operational environment. While a number of Army brigades have already conducted Full Spectrum Exercises, Tornado Strike was the first division-level exercise in the Army and the first such division-level exercise in the past five years.

"This is really the proof of principle test

for the Army on the FSX construct, as well as the National Guard variant of the FSX," said Lt. Col. Dave Johnson, 35th ID chief of plans.

The 35th Infantry Division worked in concert with trainers of Operations Groups Alpha and Delta of the Mission Command Training Program at Fort Leavenworth to conduct this exercise. Using the Corps Battle Simulation as the exercise driver, the division trained as a multicomponent headquarters, commanding both Reserve Army National Guard and Active Component units for more than three weeks.

Another first happens also to be a last – the last use of the Corps Battle Simulation as an exercise driver, to be replaced in the future by the Warfighter's Simulation, a computer-based simulation developed by the U.S. Army Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation.

The 35th ID, commanded by Maj. Gen. John Davoren, and under the command of the notional X Corps commanded by Maj. Gen. Tod Carmony, current commander of the 38th ID Indiana National Guard, fought ten brigades in a Caspian Sea scenario in



Key leaders are briefed during Full Spectrum Exercise Tornado Strike, conducted Sept. 7-30 at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. From the left are Maj. Gen. Tod Carmony, 38th Infantry Division and notional X Corps commander; Maj. Gen. Kevin Wendell, 1st Army Division East and exercise director; and Maj. Gen. John Davoren, 35th Infantry Division. (Photo courtesy of Mission Command Training Program, Fort Leavenworth)

support of notional allies. The Santa Fe Division conducted a conventional attack to secure two objectives using combined arms maneuver and simultaneously conducting wide-area security operations, followed by stability operations. The exercise concluded with planning for handover to host nation authorities.

Lt. Gen. Mick Bednarek, commanding general, 1st Army, served as the exercise director. He was assisted by his 1st Army Division East Commander, Maj. Gen. Kevin Wendell, who explained his duties as the exercise director on the ground.

"My job is to help the division achieve their training objectives and to influence and shape the exercise by working with team of senior mentors, trainers, and support teams," said Wendell.

More than 1,000 Soldiers from nine ARNG and Active Component brigades from across the nation exercised under a single headquarters. These units included the 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Illinois National Guard; the 155th Heavy

Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi National Guard; the 38th Combat Aviation Brigade, Indiana National Guard; the 555th Engineer Brigade, Washington, (Active Component); the 110th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Missouri National Guard; the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team; Pennsylvania National Guard; the 142nd Fires Brigade Arkansas National Guard; the 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade; Alaska National Guard; the 287th Sustainment Brigade, Kansas National Guard; and the Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion of the 35th ID. The 38th Combined Arms Battalion role-played the 35th ID Combined Arms Battalion, Missouri National Guard during the exercise.

Operations Group Delta, Mission Command Training Program, at Fort Leavenworth provided exercise oversight and experienced observer/trainers to train and mentor the players. Mission Training Command-Leavenworth hosted the units, while providing systems support from the Army Battle Command Systems Support Team.



Leaders and staff conduct river-crossing rehearsal on a large-scale map mock up during Full Spectrum Exercise Tornado Strike, conducted Sept. 7-30 at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. (Photo courtesy of Mission Command Training Program, Fort Leavenworth)

Red Cross helps military members receive information overseas

By Sgt. Jessica Barnett
Public Affairs Office

Although today's technology allows for deployed service members to keep in touch with their loved ones back home better than ever before, American Red Cross messages are still a vital part of emergency communication.

When a military family experiences a crisis, the American Red Cross is there to help, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Red Cross can quickly send an official emergency message to deployed service members on behalf of their family. Therefore, service men and women are able to focus on their mission and have peace of mind knowing when they are deployed, possibly leaving cell phones and email capabilities behind, they are still connected to loved ones back home.

While providing service to 1.4 million active duty military personnel and their families, the Red Cross also reaches out to more than 1.2 million members of the National Guard and Reserves and their families who live in nearly every community in America.

When a military family experiences a death or serious illness of an immediate family member, the birth of a service member's child or grandchild or when a family faces other emergencies, they can contact the Red Cross to send an official verified message to the service member and their command.

"The Kansas Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross takes great pride in the delivery of this part of our mission, and our responsibility to the men and women of our Armed Forces very seriously," said Gregory Simms, chief executive officer, Kansas Capital Area Chapter of American

Red Cross. "Locally, we provided emergency communications assistance last year (July 2009 through June 2010) to 342 families and aid to 306 families so far this year.

"We extend to all service men and women, and their families, our sincere thanks for their service to our country, and want them to know that should the need ever arise, they can count on us to be there to support them."

If you are an active duty service member stationed in the United States, or a family member residing with them, contact the Red Cross for assistance by calling toll-free at 877-272-7337.

Contact your local Red Cross chapter, which is listed in local telephone directory and at your local Red Cross, if you are:

- o Family members of active duty service members who do not reside in the service member's household
- o Family members of Department of Defense civilians assigned overseas
- o Members of the National Guard and Reserves
- o Recruiters, Military Entrance Processing Command personnel
- o Veterans
- o Civilians

When calling the Red Cross, please provide as much of the following information about the service member as is known:

- Full name
- Rank/rating
- Branch of service (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard)
- Social Security number or date of birth
- Military address
- Information about the deployed unit and home base unit such as region/location (for deployed service members only)

However, a Red Cross message alone does not grant a service member the ability to come home on emergency leave. Instead, it helps the command understand the situation at hand more clearly through verified information.

Emergency leave is a commander's program, meaning the unit commander is the level of authority that grants leave. The program varies from branch to branch, and individual cases vary from unit to unit. Granting leave requests varies from Soldier to Soldier based on that Soldier's job or the current operations and missions.

According to Army Regulation 600-8-10, Soldiers may be authorized emergency leave for up to 30 days for emergency situations within the immediate family. For a person "in loco parentis" (acting in the place of a parent), the Soldier must sign a statement verifying this status (which should be established during pre-deployment Soldier Readiness Programs). The immediate family includes the following family members of either the Soldier or the Soldier's spouse:

- (1) Parents, including stepparents
- (2) Spouse
- (3) Children, including stepchildren
- (4) Sisters, including stepsisters
- (5) Brothers, including stepbrothers
- (6) Only living blood relative
- (7) A person in loco parentis. A person in loco parentis is one who stood in place of a parent to the Soldier or the Soldier's spouse for 24-hours a day, for at least a five year period before the Soldier or the Soldier's spouse became 21 years of age. The person must have provided a home, food, clothing, medical care and other necessities, as well as furnished moral and disciplinary guidance and affection. A grandparent or other person

normally is not considered to have stood in place of a person when the parent also lived at the same residence. A person is not considered in loco parentis for performing baby-sitting or providing day care services.

Within the regulation authorization of emergency leave can be granted when:

(1) The Soldier's presence will contribute to the welfare of a terminally ill member of the immediate family when the expected date of death is within the month.

(2) Because of the death of an immediate family member.

(3) For a serious situation involving accident, illness, or major surgery that cannot be postponed due to the urgency of the medical condition. The situation must result in a serious family problem. The family problem must impose important responsibilities on the Soldier that must be met immediately and cannot be accomplished from his duty station or by any other individuals or by other means.

(4) Because the Soldier is personally affected by a disaster (for example, hurricane, tornado, or flood) such that severe or unusual hardship would be encountered if the Soldier failed to return home.

Guidelines for other types of situations where a Soldier may request emergency leave for situations within the immediate family, but where ordinary leave should be considered, are as follows:

(1) Pregnancy of spouse and childbirth. Request should be approved if a severe life threatening situation is documented.

(2) Marital problems that need resolving, threatened divorce, or other personal problems. Request should be approved if a severe life threatening situation is documented.

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184th Intelligence Wing celebrates 70th Anniversary

By Rick Plumlee
The Wichita Eagle

For 66 years, this Kansas Air National Guard wing always had a flying mission.

Propeller planes during World War II. F-84 Shooting Star jets in the 1950s. F-100s when it was activated in 1968 following the North Korean seizure of the USS Pueblo. F16s of the 1980s.

It became the nation's first Air Guard unit to fly a heavy bomber, the B-1B, in 1994. The 2000s brought the KC-135 tankers.

"It was an adventure," said Joe Lara, a maintenance crew chief for the unit from 1962 to the early 1990s. "We were a team."

The team remains. The mission is far different.

The wing put away its flying mission entirely in 2008 and focused on gathering intelligence. The 184th Intelligence Wing — the unit's 12th name since it was launched as the 127th Observation Squadron in August 1941 — goes about its work without touching an aircraft.

About 200 current and former members of the unit gathered, Nov. 4, 2011, for a 70th reunion at the Kansas Aviation Museum, across the road from McConnell Air Force Base, where the 184th is based.

They gathered around tables filled with old pictures and swapped tales. Some old-timers shook their heads at the thought of their unit no longer having a flying mission.

"Very strange. Weird," said Bill Quint, a weapons and munitions supervisor for the unit from 1949 to 1979 — after he served in the Army during World War II. "But the younger folks are a lot more technology smarter than we were."

Sharp folks who may have begun with the unit as aircraft mechanics now sit behind computers, grabbing information fed from unmanned aircraft flying primarily over Afghanistan and Iraq.

Around the clock, seven days a week, they analyze the data and often feed intelligence reports back to troops on the ground.

"Do I miss flying?" asked Col. John Hernandez, the wing's commander.

He spent a decade as a Navy pilot before joining the Kansas Air National Guard wing 15 years ago and flew the B-1 bomber.



Col. John Hernandez, commander of the 184th Intelligence Wing, Kansas Air National Guard, stands in front of an F-86L at McConnell Air Force Base, Wichita, Kan., during the unit's 70th Anniversary celebration, Nov. 5, 2011. The Kansas Air National Guard flew that plane from 1958-61, one of many missions they've had over the years. (Photo by Rick Plumlee, The Wichita Eagle)

"Every day I miss it," Hernandez said. "There's not a day I hear a jet and don't look up. But in a perfect world, I would get to do the intel stuff and get strapped into jets."

"So this job is far from an also-ran."

The 184th is one of only three Air National Guard wings across the country that does this work. Five of the nation's Air Force bases also do it.

Most of what they do is classified. Hernandez explained in as much detail as he's allowed.

Data sensors on the Predator and U-2 unmanned aircraft feed information to a large room filled with computers and 184th members, who have a variety of intelligence specialties. Sometimes they talk with troops on the ground, using chatter wrapped in security.

"If you watch a police helicopter video, you see people walking around," Hernandez said. "What's going on? You don't know. You need context. You need a trained eye to put it in context."

That's what the 184th's intelligence ana-

lysts do. Put it all in context.

"Sometimes a war fighter needs pivotal information, like 'Do you see anything on the road ahead of me?'" Hernandez said, using a simplified language.

Sometimes intel is needed about more than what the bad guys are doing.

"Should I turn left or turn right?" "No, there are three people on a rooftop and one of them is a child," Hernandez said.

"That's the kind of information you need, particularly in the up-close combat."

"We can't just shoot our way in and out of something. That requires intelligence."

The 184th isn't all about intelligence. Some of its 1,400 members, including about 600 who are full time and stationed at McConnell, do such things as civil engineering, air traffic control, medical services, communications and munitions. About 80 members serve at the Guard's Smoky Hills range near Salina.

About a third of the wing is strictly intelligence.

"That's the meat and potatoes of what we

do," said Maj. Jess Sojka, the wing's executive officer.

It's a unique job, evolving from the war on terrorism over the last decade.

On Sept. 10, 2001 — the day before 9/11 — the 184th was assigned to fly KC-135R tankers. Almost exactly a year later, the shift to an intelligence unit began. Hernandez was put in charge of making that happen.

In 2006, one of the wing's squadrons began doing intelligence missions by analyzing information gained from the Predator.

Although intelligence still wasn't the wing's official task, \$6 million worth of equipment was installed and \$10 million in construction was completed. Two years later, three squadrons had shifted to intelligence and the unit was renamed to fit its mission.

"Our grand opening came after we were completely established," Hernandez said.

Sometimes the need rushes ahead of the paperwork. And the need was ever growing as commanders in the field demanded more and more intelligence.

The 184th took another step up last summer, when it became the first Guard unit to begin analyzing data gained from the U-2.

To make all that happen, scores of trained air mechanics had to spend up to a year being trained to handle intelligence. Not an easy shift.

Charlie Ballard was a jet engine mechanic on the B-1 bomber when he joined the 184th in 1998. He shifted to intelligence in 2007 and is now an analyst.

"It just goes back to the discipline to do what you need to do," he said. "I'm just as excited about doing intel as I was the B-1s. We have to carry on our legacy."

No more jets taking off, feeling the thrill of a mission in the air.

But the 184th's wings really haven't been clipped.

"Everyone looked after each other," said Quint, recalling his days as a former weapons and munitions supervisor. "Generals to privates, we were all guardsmen from Kansas. The Guard was family."

Then he gazed across the chatty crowd and added, "Looks like they still are."

995th Maint. Co. trains at National Maintenance Training Center

By Spc. Lindsey Bogner

995th Maintenance Company UPAR

The 995th Maintenance Company, Smith Center, Kan., went to Camp Dodge, Iowa, to hold annual training Oct. 15-29. While there, they worked on equipment at the National Maintenance Training Center and trained on new equipment and tools with the Iowa National Guard. Annual training provided the Soldiers the chance to use what they had learned to "get their hands dirty."

Annual training came complete with a visit from Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, assistant adjutant general and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, and Command Sgt. Maj. John Ryan, command sergeant major for Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas - Land Component.

"We like to see the troops and make sure that they are getting the training they need. It's critical to the (Kansas Army National Guard) mission," says Peck.

"These types of camps help Soldiers become more familiar with equipment so when deployed or responding domestically, troubleshooting and diagnostics are no longer a learning process, they become a reaction," explained Ryan.

With shop office being a main focus for annual training, it took a very important role. 1st Lt. Kenneth Brennan was tasked as Maintenance Control Officer to manage a shop for the first time.

"I have developed a better understanding of how a maintenance shop works and acquired real life experience preparing for maintenance production meetings and briefings," says Brennan.

The main role of a support maintenance company is to provide ground vehicle maintenance to other units in the battalion, brigade and state. In order to manage the maintenance process in the company, the shop office becomes the central collection point for opening and closing work orders, changing statuses and running reports. Inspectors also fall under shop office. New inspectors received training from technician full-time inspectors.

Soldiers were trained in three other areas: automotive, ground support equipment and allied trades.

Soldiers in the automotive shop worked on Medium Tactical Vehicles, up-armored HMMWVs, and Armored

Security Vehicles.

"The training allowed them to work on equipment new to our unit and it will be the type of equipment we'll work on if we do deploy as a maintenance unit," said Sgt. 1st Class Darrin Sack, motor sergeant for the 995th Maint. Co.

Soldiers trained in the ground support equipment shop cross-trained between two Military Occupational Specialties — 91C, Utilities Equipment Repairer and 91D, Power-Generation Equipment Repairer. Each Soldier was able to be team leader for a day, providing them with the opportunity to learn the Critical Risk Management and paperwork process that goes along with shop work.

Ryan was impressed with the unit during his visit. "Soldier morale was high. Soldiers were actively engaged, particularly with the paperwork. They were excited to learn that side of the business."

Six ground support equipment and automotive Soldiers also received training and were Automotive Service Excellence 609/heating, ventilation, and air conditioning certified at the National Maintenance Training Center.

Allied trades, while a small section, was a big training area. With changes in MOS requirements, Soldiers were training to fill gaps in their military education. Welders and machinists are no longer in two MOSs; they have been combined into a single MOS. Soldiers that have one job must learn to do the other. Soldiers in the allied trades section were also introduced to the future of machining in the Army. The mobile Computer Numerical Control mill and lathe will become a part of Modified Table of Organization and Equipments of tomorrow. The prototype is still in the contract phase. Manufacturers are developing a unit to Army specifications. It will be a containerized machine shop that will be used to make the allied trades section more efficient in the field.

For some Soldiers, annual training is the first chance they have to work in a military maintenance shop.

Pfc. Johnathon Earl recently graduated from Advanced Individual Training and is just joining the unit to start work on power-generation equipment.



Spc. Robert Owen works under a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle during annual training at Camp Dodge, Iowa, with the 995th Maintenance Company, Oct. 15-29, 2011. (Photo by Spc. Lindsey Bogner, 995th Maintenance Company UPAR)

"I learned a lot from my senior NCOs about everything — leadership, shop paperwork, even things I hadn't learned in AIT," said Earl. "I had a lot of fun with everyone in the unit. I do a lot of physical training on breaks, just laughing!"

The unit fulfilled its mission, said Capt. Wallace Miller III, commander of the 995th Maintenance Company.

"Soldiers were able to build on experiences and training from their June annual training in Fort Riley and further refine those skills while at Camp Dodge."

The 995th annual training also helped the state in its mission. "With a maintenance unit, anything they do to get better helps the other units' missions, whether on a domestic response mission or deployed," said Peck.

"We will return home and begin working on equipment and taking classes to further the education that our Soldiers received," reported 1st Sgt. Ray Nussbaum, 995th Maint. Co. "We have to maintain the positive momentum and drive on."

Female Engagement Team creates bonds with policewomen

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

Naseema, a 17-year-old, holds her baby on her lap, smiling from beneath a white Chadaa, or headscarf, which is folded over her forehead, tucked behind her ears, then wrapped about her shoulders.

Her smile extends to her large brown eyes, and her laugh crinkles the bridge of her nose in a charming, young expression of true happiness.

Naseema's engaging personality almost comes across as unseemly in contrast to the nature and dangers of her job. She is a female Afghan Police Officer in war-torn eastern Afghanistan.

"Who takes care of your baby while you are at work," asked 1st Lt. Shawna Woodard of Norman, Okla.

"She takes the baby with her to work," the interpreter replies.

Woodard is the executive officer with Company E, 700 Brigade Support Battalion, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and member of the Laghman Female Engagement Team.

The team, comprised of Soldiers from the 45th IBCT, Kansas Agribusiness Development Team and Law Enforcement Professionals from Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam, visited Naseema and her fellow female officers assigned to the local Afghan Police Station.

Once the male soldiers left the room, leav-



Spc. Darlene Cantrall of Glencoe, Okla., and a member of Company E, 700 Brigade Support Battalion, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team assists Naseema with trying on her Improved Outer Tactical Vest during their first meeting, Oct. 18, 2011. Cantrall is a member of the Female Engagement Team who visited with women of the Afghan Police Force. (Photo by 1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza-Pangburn, Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4)

ing the women alone, Naseema and her 15-year-old sister-in-law, Leena, pulled the blue burkas off their heads, and folded it on the back of the chair. For a moment, this little office was a place for Leena and Naseema to discuss the successes and challenges they face in their daily lives.

"One female officer was shot 18 times," says the interpreter, as she recalled a time when the female police officers accompanied American Soldiers during a raid. "She was such a wonderful, nice girl."

The female Soldiers listened with great interest, as they told their stories.

Naseema bounces the baby on her knee as the fussy infant lets out a high-pitched laugh. Leena is particularly perceptive.

"She has 12 years of schooling, she can read and write, and use a computer," the interpreter explains. "She took two grades worth of exams from her home, studying by herself, so that she could finish school early."

"You know, you girls are doing so much at so young," said young Spc. Ashley Bryant of Glencoe, Okla. and member of Company E, 700 BSB, 45th IBCT as she played with the infant tugging at his yellow shirt, who cooed quietly on her lap, "You make us feel good about being here."

The interpreter extends those words, and Leena smiles.

"We are inspired by the fact that, even though Afghanistan is not America, we can see

you all here," said Naseema with a flat palm indicating the body armor and M-4s that littered across the room. "One day, Afghanistan will be okay with women doing these jobs."

Naseema and Leena come from a very progressive family.

"My mother has been a police officer for more than ten years," Leena says with a proud smile. "She's in the United States right now for training."

"Except for one teacher, our family are all Soldiers or Police Officers," Naseema added. Naseema's husband, who is also Leena's brother, is a fellow police officer with the local police force.

Naseema and Leena tried on the female Soldier's hats and their body armor while the U.S. Soldiers donned the girl's burka, gaining some perspective of each others lives and how they work.

After the handshakes, the hugs and farewells, the female Soldiers walked away with their heads filled with ideas of projects that may help these extraordinary women with a great sense of camaraderie.

These teenage girls are changing the course of history, doing the things that others are unwilling to do.

"This is what we wanted to do," said Spc. Darlene Cantrall, Glencoe, Okla. a member of Company E, 700 BSB, 45th IBCT as they walked away from the police compound. "Those girls are amazing!"

Family Assistance vs. Family Readiness

Continued from Page 7

and geo-dispersion) and the unit's training and deployment schedule.

The unit commander appoints someone from a unit member's family to be the FRG leader. FRG leaders are responsible for supporting the commander's family readiness goals; providing overall leadership of the FRG, which includes planning, running, and supervising FRG activities; ensuring that the FRG's communication systems are effectively keeping families informed, providing timely, accurate information from the command to families; recruiting the volunteers needed to conduct required FRG activities, including activities requested by command; ensuring families are referred to appropriate FAC for needed assistance; identifying important FRG

issues and informing the command of them and attending training provided by the State Family Program Office to ensure volunteer regulations are followed.

In short, the Family Readiness Group is there to provide support to military members and family members of the unit while Family Assistance Centers provide subject matter experts that can help with specific situations.

For further FAC information please contact the Kansas National Guard Family Assistance Coordinator, Cherie Herlinger, at 785-806-1761/785-742-5652 or e-mail her at cherie.herlinger@us.army.mil

To find out more on FRGs please contact the Family Readiness Assistant, Michelle Williams, at 785-274-1173 or e-mail her at michelle.williams24@us.army.mil.

Red Cross gets info out

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(3) To attend court hearings to resolve financial problems. (Money spent on emergency leave may aggravate problems.)

(4) To assist in harvesting crops or participating in managing business firms.

(5) Psychoneurosis based on family separation. Exceptions may be made when the attending physician believes that a severe psychotic episode is indicated and the member's return might prevent institutionalization.

(6) To settle estate of a deceased relative.

(7) Situations involving a grandparent (not in loco parentis) aunt, uncle, cousin, niece, or nephew (when not the only living blood relative) or for a friend, fiancée or fiancé.

Even if the service member receives an e-mail or phone call from home, Red Cross-verified information assists commanding officers with making a decision regarding emergency leave. Without this official verification, the service member may not be able to come home during a family crisis.

Communications with families have greatly improved compared to prior deployments. The need for emergency leave is inevitable based on Soldier's lives and family dynamics as they deploy. The availability and methods to communicate be it over the internet or through Morale, Welfare and Recreations facilities have changed so much that there is no longer degradation to the calls home. This dovetails well with Soldiers who either know something has happened or will happen which has been the case in two of the three emergency leave Soldiers of the 1161 Forward Support Company, shared Capt. Doug Iverson, commander of 1161, and Hutchinson, Kan., native.

"Based on qualifying Red Cross messages this Command has allowed Unit Commanders the flexibility to support the Soldiers needs (Chaplain, family support organizations) in a time of stress and angst," said Iverson. "It is unfortunate that we cannot be there immediately but this command has placed emphasis to get us home on the next available flight, generally the next day or even that evening. In the end the decision making process is easy as we have policies in place that allow us to be clear on qualifying events allowing Soldier to return home."

778th Transportation Company welcomed home

By Sgt. Jessica Barnett
Public Affairs Office

Soldiers of the 778th Transportation Company (Heavy Equipment Transport) were welcomed home Oct. 23, 2011, after a 12-month deployment.

Approximately 240 Kansas National Guard Soldiers of the 778th Tran. Co. (HET) marched into the Bicentennial Center in Salina, Kan., where friends, family, and co-workers anxiously awaited their return.

Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, and Lt. Gov. of Kansas Dr. Jeffery Colyer, acknowledged the deployed Soldiers, family members and community with words of appreciation for their service and sacrifice.

"Welcome home 778, welcome home," said Colyer, "General Tafanelli, General Peck, commander, Specialist 'Baby-cakes,' all Soldiers here today, we are so proud of you and your service to the United State of America. Thank you so much from all Kansans."

"To your families, let me say thank you for your service, sacrifice and support of your Soldiers this past year," said Tafanelli. "It has truly meant a lot. It's made the difference in their ability to get their mission accomplished. But it's not over yet... last, but not least, let me say 'Job well done, 778. Mission complete.'"

Following the chaplain's closing prayer, family members scrambled from the bleachers to meet their loved ones outside. Star-spangled welcome signs and waving flags quickly gave way to a frenzy of hugs and kisses.

"I am ecstatic to be home and with family," shared Staff Sgt. Joseph Duncan, a



Spc. Allen Barnes, a motor transport operator with the 778th Transportation Company (Heavy Equipment Transport), and resident of Leavenworth, Kan., embraces his son after his unit's welcome home ceremony at the Bicentennial Center in Salina, Kan., Oct 23, 2011. (Photo by Jane Welch, Public Affairs Office)

multichannel transmission systems operator - maintainer with the 778th Tran. Co. (HET). "I am glad that all the time I have been gone has come to this reward."

The unit served a year in Kuwait and Iraq supporting operations New Dawn and Enduring Freedom.

Soldiers of the 778th Tran. Co. (HET) served as a forward deployed heavy equipment transportation company of a transportation battalion, providing responsive, tailored, adaptive HET capabilities

for staging, onward movement, integration, retrograde, and sustainment operations in support of Operations New Dawn and Enduring Freedom.

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

3rd Air Force, Kansas Air National Guard medics train with Armenians

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

The Armenian military deployed its only rapid response medical package for the first time ever during a recent medical field training exercise. Joining them in Armenia were medical professionals from 3rd Air Force and the Kansas Air National Guard, who watched the Expeditionary Medical Support (EMEDS) 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 Baddock, 3rd AF 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 of the Kansas Air National Guard. He was the original bilateral affairs officer who helped get the ball rolling nearly five years ago, and he made the journey all the way 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. "So for me, I think it's very important for the Armenian people, as well as the Armenian military, to have this capability."

And the Kansas Air Guard has demonstrated the importance of EMEDS. They've already deployed their system twice in real-world situations, for Hurricane Katrina and following the tornado that all but destroyed the town of Greensburg, Kan.

"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 the United States, as well, since the U.S. military also uses EMEDS. This recent exercise helps 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 equip-



A team of Armenian surgeons simulate a field surgery in an Expeditionary Medical Support (EMEDS) system on the second day of a three-day exercise outside of Zarh, Armenia. It was the first time the Armenian military had deployed its EMEDS to the field. (Photo by Maj. Dan Zablotsky)

ment is the same," said Maj. Dan Zablotsky of 3rd AF's 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."

And that's only going to happen after lots of practice. So for three days the Armenian doctors, nurses and medical technicians not only had to put up the EMEDS, but

then started treating patients who were flown in on an Armenian helicopter. Once off the medivac the patients, who had a variety of injuries, 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.

170th Maintenance Company completes Combat Lifesaver

By Sgt. Jason Lee
170th Maintenance Company UPAR

Members of the 170th Maintenance Company completed a Combat Lifesaver course in Salina, Kan., Oct. 24 through 28, 2011.

The course was instructed by medical personnel from the Kansas National Guard's 235th Regiment out of Salina. The training was conducted as part of a requirement for the Soldiers of the 170th Maint. Co., who are set to deploy early next year.

The course consisted of hands-on field medical care, a practical exercise, in which the class had to run through scenarios set up by the instructors, and a written exam concluded the class.

"I thought everything went really well. It was a well structured, organized and well taught class," said Capt. Scott Weber, com-

pany commander of the 170th Maintenance Company. "The class had great hands-on training and real life-like situations. I think all of that together put the Soldiers in a spot where they could learn and react in a high-stress environment."

Primary combat lifesaver instructor Staff Sgt. Kimberly Fox set up the scenarios and organized the class, as well as walked the Soldiers through potential real-life scenarios that they may encounter when deployed. She asked the students to freely share some of the situations they may have already encountered.

"This training is important because it helps the Soldiers support their medics. Generally the medics will not be the first ones on the scene," said Fox. "It is important for Soldiers to know what to do until the medic gets there."

The class is taught in a relaxed environment where students work in groups. They practice applying medical care on each other and simulated dummies that have the ability to breath, blink, bleed and have a pulse.

"I hope the Soldiers have a lot of fun with this training so that they want to continue doing this type of training," said Fox. "I really hope that they never have to use this training, but I hope this training makes them more relaxed and confident if a situation ever comes that they actually have to use it."

The 170th Maint. Co. rotated several iterations through the Combat Lifesaver course through the months of October and November. It was in this particular class

that the commander and first sergeant attended the class.

"The students did really well, I think they really enjoyed the class," said Fox. "There was a lot of participation by the commander and first sergeant, which was a real plus to see the command get in and participate in the same things that their Soldiers are doing. The Soldiers are definitely more motivated to do it when they see their command is fully participating and doing it as well."

"The 235th Regiment offers really good training and I don't know if I could think of anything that would improve what they are doing now," said 1st Sgt. Scott Williamson, 170th Maintenance Company first sergeant. "The instructors did a great job in getting everyone, at every level, involved."



Spc. David Stanley, a machinist with the 170th Maintenance Company, and resident of Collyer, Kan., and Sgt. Matthew Hildebrand, a small arms/artillery repairer with the 170th Maint. Co., and resident of Manhattan, Kan., treat a casualty during a Combat Lifesaver Course in Salina, Kan, Oct. 27, 2011. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Kimberly Fox, 235th Regiment)

Pre-Flight checks



Prior to boarding the mission aircraft, Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Perkins, operations noncommissioned officer and aerial sensor operator from Topeka, Kan., Company B, 306th Aerial Exploitation Battalion, Task Force Observe, Detect, Identify and Neutralize - Afghanistan, checks various components of the collection equipment, Oct. 8, 2011. Perkins, a sensor operator with Detachment 37, Operational Support Command - Aviation, Kansas Army National Guardsman, provides real time information to ground commanders and decision makers throughout Regional Command East and North. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jack W. Carlson III, Task Force ODIN-A)

Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4 takes the helm

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

Members of the Kansas National Guard continue their presence in the Laghman Province of Afghanistan, in a Transfer of Authority ceremony, Oct. 11, 2011.

Members of the third and fourth Kansas Agribusiness Development Team formed ranks at Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam to witness Col. Joel Ward, commander of the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and Pryor, Okla. native, officially transfer authority of the Laghman Province ADT mission from outgoing commander, Col. Howard Wheeler, Manhattan, Kan., to the acting incoming ADT 4 commander, Maj. Ron Boyer, Liberty, Mo.

"You've got a great team here," said Wheeler, as he made his parting comments to the Soldiers and guests that stood before him. "And you will build on the success of prior ADTs and serve the people of Laghman well."

As the sun peeked over the crest of the jagged Afghan mountains, chasing away the brisk evening with its warm sunlight, the day marked the start of the journey home for the members of ADT 3. While their rotation in Laghman was demanding, it proved

to be very productive and rewarding for them and the residents of the province.

The Kansas ADT worked hand-in-hand with a wide variety of stakeholders including local village leaders, the provincial Director of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, and the United States Department of Agriculture to improve Laghman's agricultural situation. The team also has a special reach-back capability with Kansas State University. This collaboration allowed the team to brainstorm and problem solve agribusiness issues.

Once a lush and abundant landscape, Laghman Province was a leader in agricultural exports. However, years of war and tribal unrest, overgrazing and deforestation left the region and its people in need of assistance from the ADT's expert agribusiness specialists.

"We are here with the goal of creating a sustainable lifestyle and agriculture for the people of Laghman," explains Capt. Todd Stuke, Topeka, Kan. and officer-in-charge of the ADT 4 Agriculture Section, "and to reverse the damage that was done when the Russians burned and deforested the area."

The Transfer of Authority Ceremony closed with the casing of the outgoing ADT

3 guidon, and the uncasing and unfurling of the incoming ADT 4 guidon. This symbolic military ritual signifies a new chapter for Laghman Province, as a new group of agricultural experts arrive with a new perspective on how Afghan life can be improved.

"We are looking forward to working together with the local government and the people of Laghman Province to continue the successes of ADT 3," Boyer said. "This is a challenging mission and we have trained hard. We are ready to get started."



Members of the Kansas National Guard's third and fourth Agribusiness Development Teams form ranks for the Transfer of Authority ceremony, Oct. 11, 2011. (Photo by 1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza-Pangburn, Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4)

Preserving 184th Intelligence Wing Jayhawk History

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

Tucked away in an alley on the south side of Mulvane, Kan., are two small, white garages separated by a gravel driveway. To any passerby, they appear to be of no significance at all, but to a member of the 184th Intelligence Wing, they're treasure chests of historic value.

John Unger, retired master sergeant, spends most of his time in these garages. His walls are covered with memorabilia from the fighter days of the Flying Jayhawks.

"It was my career," Unger began. "For a man who's spent the years I've spent in the military, once you get started collecting, you're hooked."

John enlisted in the Air Force in 1956; however, he was denied a reenlistment due to having too many dependants. His son, Master Sgt. Joel Unger, currently serving in the 184th Intelligence Wing, happened to be one of those dependants.

Joel explained one of the differences between then and now.

"I can take a young Airman, who may be struggling financially, to get help with food stamps, childcare, or whatever they may need. In Dad's day, they would just deny your reenlistment. They didn't offer any help back then."

Shortly after he separated from the Air Force, John joined the Kansas Air National Guard in Wichita. He spent his career working on jets.

"You give me a tail number of an F-100, and I'll tell you if it was on station or not."

John reached over to a bookshelf and pulled off two books about flight checks, which he used while performing



Retired Master Sgt. John Unger, a former member of the 184th Intelligence Wing in Wichita, Kan., surrounded himself with memorabilia from his days in the unit. (Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

maintenance procedures on his aircraft.

"There was a time when I could tell you anything that was in those books."

Sharing space on his shelves were other books about airplanes, and binders filled with pictures, certificates and other paperwork from his years in the unit.

As he looked through a photo binder, John recalled his time spent overseas. In 1968, the 184th Fighter Group deployed 25 F-100s to Kunsan Air Base, Korea, in support of the Vietnam conflict. He vividly remembered his experience.

"Everything was sandbagged," John began. "On the first night, just trying to find a place to sleep was something

else, and two weeks into it we lost our water supply."

John told stories about conditions on the base, including a snow storm in the middle of winter. He remembered waking up to snow covering his bed, which blew in through cracks in the wall of his barracks.

The working conditions weren't much better.

"We worked out of a little tiny hangar; most of the maintenance was done outside. Many of us worked around the clock because there wasn't much else to do."

After closing the binder, John pointed to models and pictures of airplanes belonging to the 184th. He explained some of the history behind the jets while he told stories of old friends and coworkers.

"He'd still be out there if the Guard would let him," Joel said about his dad.

When John retired in 1987, he had boxes full of memorabilia sitting in his house that he'd collected throughout his career. Joel saw the importance of unpacking the boxes and putting the items on display. He suggested putting them in the basement of the house.

"Your mom would've killed me!" John told his son with a chuckle.

The final decision was to build a room in one of the garages which was dedicated to John's military career. Since then, another garage was built and the collection was spread out between the two.

John spends hours a day in his "hide-out," tinkering with his collections, surrounded by memories of a life spent serving our great state and nation.

"I'm not trying to be a glory hog. I'm a patriot. Ain't no doubt about that."

Kansas farmer finds niche in rural Afghanistan

By Capt. Wes Topel
RC-East Public Affairs Office

Looking to the symbol of the National Guard, we see a Revolutionary War Soldier, musket in hand, standing beside a farm plow.

Several states, including Kansas, have recognized the wealth of Guardsmen with deep roots in farming or civilian occupations in the agri-sciences.

At age 54, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark Baxa, a member of the Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4, and resident of Salina, Kan., may be the oldest member of the Kansas ADT, but his constant energy level and determination to share his expertise with the people of Afghanistan keeps him very young at heart.

Growing up in the rural community of Randall, Kan., Baxa has been involved in some level of farming all his life and worked for many years on his brother-in-law's family farm. This experience allows Baxa to apply a half century worth of farming knowledge to share with the farmers of Afghanistan.

Serving as the team's hydrologist, his knowledge of proper irrigation, water conservation and land management is essential to the work the team hopes to accomplish with local farmers.

Baxa believes in the ADT mission and fully enjoys working with Afghan farmers to reinforce techniques that will lead to better crop production and, in turn, better lives for the people of Afghanistan.

He focuses his work on specialized micro-grants, small monetary awards provided directly to the farmer. Baxa views the potential of the micro-grants as an avenue through which "young farmers' dreams may come true."

"You can live your dreams," said Baxa, summing up his philosophy on life. "By simply stating, I truly have enjoyed life. I'll go until the Army says we do not need you anymore, or until my wife says that is enough."



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark Baxa (center), a member of the Agribusiness Development Team 4, and resident of Salina, Kan., surveys local markets and talks to the population in order to get a feel for the needs of the community and plan projects that will make a lasting impact on the residents of Mehtar Lam. (Photo by 1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza-Pangburn, Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4)

Hall of Fame

Continued from Page 7

Cavalry uniform at a community presentation of a framed Heritage Print of the "Battle of Prairie Dog Creek" to the city library in Long Island, Kan.

In his community, he has been a member of the Pratt Fire Department for 40 years and serves as the assistant chief. In addition to these responsibilities, he built the announcers' booth at the Pratt Sixth Street Ball Park, served as fundraising co-chair for a new flag pole at the Pratt High School football field, as well as installing it and a new flag.

He serves as the coordinator of the community's Independence Day celebration, organized at his own expense. Stevens is the vice-chairman and special projects coordinator of the B-29 museum and the All Veterans Memorial at the Pratt Industrial Airport. He has also been instrumental in partnering with the Museum of the Kansas National Guard by securing and displaying aviation art. He holds membership in the American Legion, Patriot Guard, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Pratt Rifle and Pistol Association, Enlisted Association of the Kansas National Guard and other community organizations.

Plowing by horses in the Army

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

The Historic Prophetstown located in Battleground, Ind., is a site dedicated to the preservation and education of the virtues of horse-powered farming. A quick walk through their spacious barn and a look at their large Belgian mares will take the tourist back to a time when most Americans lived off of their own land. This is a place that harkens back to a time of horse-drawn farming, complete with a replica Sears Roebuck and Company catalog farmhouse filled with antique furniture.

On a brisk afternoon, two van loads of Soldiers drove up their quiet driveway and were immediately greeted by persistent goats that chewed on their uniforms and baa-ed at their entrance.

Dris Abraham, followed by his faithful farm dog, Mollie, welcomed them to the farm with a quick introduction on farming with horses.

“Using this technology,” with a grand gesture, he swept his arm to draw the eye on the vast land surrounding them, “could vastly increase an Afghan farmer’s efficiency.”

Almost immediately, the Soldiers were set to doing farm chores; milking cows, harnessing and driving the horses, slopping pigs and maneuvering a horse-drawn plow.

Capt. Todd J. Stuke was in charge of the group and began delegating tasks among his Soldiers.

“For our deployment to Afghanistan, we’re learning how to farm with horses,” chuckled Stuke. “The Army has changed in the time I’ve been in.”

The Soldiers are part of the Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4, which has a unique mission of working with government and non-government organizations to help reconstruct the agricultural backbone of Afghanistan – a legacy that has been lost in decades of war and turmoil.

“Afghanistan used to be a big producer,” said 1st Lt. Andrew Webster, “but since the Soviets came in, they wrecked the infrastructure and deforested the land. They’ve had a hard time rebuilding. That’s what our mission is. To help them be able to take over feeding themselves.”

The Soldiers and the staff of Prophetstown sat down to three meals each day in the 1920’s farmhouse.

“This is the best meal I’ve had since we

started [Pre-Deployment Training],” says Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark Baxa, who looked at his surroundings with a fondness, as he told stories about his civilian job as an auctioneer, working with antiques like the ones furnishing this little house. “I remember my grandma’s house having stove’s and cabinets just like this.”

“It’s lucky that we still have farms like this,” marveled Stuke, “because if these had all gone into the modern combines and we didn’t preserve that historical knowledge, we’d be going to Afghanistan with no reference point on what simple animal farming could do.”

Abraham and his partner, Melissa Brown, went in-depth about animal breeding, training, handling and caretaking. They were realistic about what could be possible solutions to some of the problems in Afghanistan.

They also brought out other experts who shared inexpensive fencing techniques that could help in the over-grazing problem prevalent on the stomping grounds of the ancient, nomadic Cochise people who have been traveling around the Hindu Kush for thousands of years. Their animals graze all vegetation out of the soil until nothing is left but dust in their wake. This decimation has proven problematic to those who want to alter the composition of the soil to help reverse the deforestation.

The unlikely relationship between Agribusiness Development Teams and Prophetstown began when it became apparent that stability and self-sufficiency were the greatest deterrents against insurgency. The Army, specifically the National Guard, married up with the USDA, USAID and other organizations to help bring agricultural knowledge down to the normal farmer, more concerned with tilling the soil, growing his crops and caring for his family than he does for war.

Though ADTs are largely made up of farmers, hydrologists, engineers and other specialties, there existed a great disconnect between the large availability of farming equipment in the United States and the older technology sustainable in Afghanistan.

“This is the best training the Ag Team could have gotten,” said Sgt. Maj. Darrin Yuhn, “hands-on, practical and doable.”



Sgt. Maj. Darrin Yuhn, a Soldier with the Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4 learns the basics of using a horse-drawn plow during a visit to the historic Prophetstown located in Battleground, Ind. (Photo by 1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza-Pangburn, Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4)

From the Pages of History 69th Brigade’s history goes back to World War I

By Retired Lt. Col. Doug Jacobs
Command Historian

The Kansas National Guard’s 69th Infantry Brigade has played an active role with the 35th Infantry Division since its inception in World War I and can trace parent units back to the Civil War.

The 35th Division, and with it the 69th Brigade, was formed on Aug. 5, 1917, at Camp Doniphan, Okla. The division was composed of two infantry brigades, the 69th from Kansas and the 70th of Missouri. The 69th Brigade was composed of the 137th and the 138th Infantry Regiments.

When the main front of the war emerged in France, the 69th was there and served with distinction. Meuse-Argonne, Alsace and Lorraine campaigns start the list of the brigade’s lineage and honors. After the war, the brigade was returned to state control in May 1919.

In September 1921, the War Department authorized the Kansas National Guard to reorganize the 69th Brigade. The brigade spent the interwar years training, performing civil defense duties and giving organized assistance during natural disasters.

As the war again erupted in Europe, the 35th Division reorganized and the 69th Brigade, then composed of the 137th Regiment of Kansas and the 134th Regiment of Nebraska, was again ordered to active duty. After training at Camp Robinson, Ark., the division was reorganized and moved to Fort Ord, Calif. Under this triangular reorganization, the 69th was disbanded on Feb. 3, 1942. Its headquarters company was redesignated as the 35th Reconnaissance Troop, and fought in Belgium, France, Holland and Germany.

When the war was over, the 35th Division returned to Kansas. For 20 years, units of the division that were now integral parts of the 69th Brigade spent their time training and assisting during natural disasters, most notably the flood of 1951.

In the early 1960s, as the United States’ commitment of troops to Southeast Asia grew, Robert McNamara, the secretary of defense, initiated a program to upgrade and streamline the reserve components. This “McNamara Plan” dropped 30,000 men from the Guard and Reserves and eight divisions, including the 35th. However, out of the remaining manpower, six divisions and nine separate brigades, one of which was the 69th, were organized on April 1, 1963. The new 69th Brigade was headquartered in Topeka.

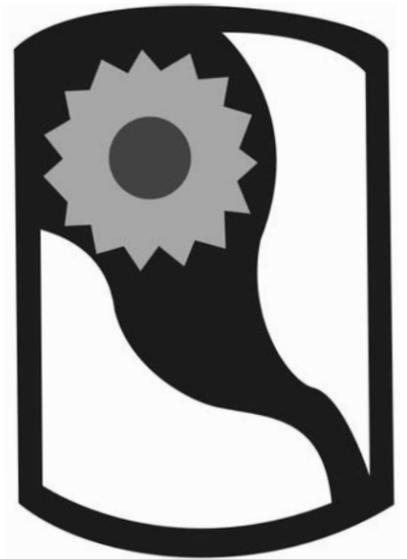
A realignment of the brigade in 1964 put the following units under its control: 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery; 169th Support Battalion; 169th Engineer Company; Troop E, 114th Cavalry; and the 1st and 2nd Battalions, 137th Infantry.

In October 1965, the brigade was made part of the Selected Reserve Force. Under this reorganization, the brigade picked up the 169th Aviation Company and the 1st Battalion, 138th Infantry, headquartered at St. Louis, Mo. On Dec. 15, 1967, the 3rd Battalion, 137th Infantry was added.

On April 11, 1968, a Presidential Order mustered 12,867 Army Guardsmen from 17 states into federal service. Among those called was the 69th Brigade. At this time, all

major commands of the 69th were Kansas-based, except for the 2nd Battalion 133rd Infantry out of Iowa. The 3rd Battalion, 137th infantry was not included in the call so it could serve Kansas in the event of civil disturbance or natural disaster.

In addition to being federalized, some of the members of the 69th Brigade were fulfilling their state missions, such as riot control near Kansas City, Kan., following the assassination of Martin Luther King. Although there was substantial damage to Kansas City, Mo., the Kansas Guardsmen effectively sealed off eastern Kansas.



The 69th Brigade was sent to Fort Carson, Colo., for intensive training and more than 2,000 Soldiers were levied for duty in Vietnam. In December 1969, an early release date was set for the brigade, cutting short their two year activation by five months. Thirty seven members of the 69th Brigade had been killed in action.

At least one Kansas Guardsman was left in Vietnam. Once this was discovered and he was located in country; he made the trip from Vietnam to the United States in less than 24 hours still wearing his jungle fatigues. He was escorted by a very embarrassed and senior commander. He didn’t mind because he was out of Vietnam!

In 1972, the brigade was again reorganized. This resulted in the loss of the 169th Aviation Company, which continued as a detachment of the brigade’s Headquarters Company. Each infantry battalion, however, gained a combat support company.

In 1975, the 135th Signal Platoon was organized in Topeka and joined the brigade. In 1976, 3rd Battalion, 137th Infantry was reorganized as the 891st Engineer Battalion, and the former 891st Engineer Battalion became the 1st Battalion, 635th Armor. In 1977, the brigade was fully reorganized as a mechanized infantry brigade. This reorganization turned the 1st Battalion, 127th Field Artillery into the 69th Infantry Brigade Artillery.

The 69th Brigade served as a mechanized unit, and rejoined the 35th Division when it reconstituted in 1984. This brought the brigade on line with units from Kansas, Colorado, Missouri, Nebraska and Kentucky. Member units of the brigade participated in many vigorous overseas and domestic annual training periods over the years, preparing themselves for any eventuality.

The 69th Brigade was inactivated in 1997.



Season Greetings

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season

Guardmember's daughter qualifies for the Boston Marathon

By Scott Elpers
Conway Springs Star

Melissa Hartman began running as a way to get back in shape after having her second daughter, but she never expected her new hobby to take her as far as it did.

Hartman, a sixth grade teacher at St. Joseph Catholic School in Conway Springs, and daughter of Senior Master Sgt. Pat Crowell of the 184th Intelligence Wing, recently qualified for the Boston Marathon. Hartman will run the famous marathon, which is estimated to have more than 27,000 participants, next April.

"It's pretty overwhelming to think of running with that many people," Hartman said. "I just want to do well and I hope my training pays off."

Hartman qualified for the nearly 27-mile Boston Marathon after running her first-ever marathon. She finished with a time of 3 hours and 31 minutes at the Oklahoma City Marathon, good enough for 13th place overall in the women's division and second place in her age group.

She has also been the first and second female finisher at half-marathons in Olathe and the Salt City Run for the Rocks in Hutchinson respectively. In addition, she placed fifth among women overall in the Prairie Fire Marathon at Wichita with a time of 3 hours and 29 minutes.

"I started with a half-marathon and after that thought I could do a full one," Hartman said. "I thought that would be my one and only, but I've ran another one since and I'll run the Boston after that."

Hartman will begin an 18-week training program in December to prep for the Boston Marathon. Her training program will consist of short runs during the week and longer runs on the weekend.

The toughest part of training is just trying to find the time, Hartman said.

"My shorter runs will be around six miles and my longer runs will be anything over 10 miles," she said. "On Saturday mornings I could be running for two or three hours, and with a family it's hard to find two or three hours of a morning to get out there and do it. I just try and make time for it."

Hartman was always an athlete growing up, but never much of a runner. She played basketball in college, but only competed in track for one year during high school.

"I've been an athlete, but I didn't like track because I didn't like to be forced to run," she said. "This is something I get to do for myself. I started as a way to get back in shape, now I just love doing it."

Hartman started running with her sister and now trains with her uncle, retired Senior Master Sgt. Gregory Hennes, former member of the 184th IW, who will also run the Boston Marathon next spring.

She doesn't plan on stopping anytime soon, and would even like to get her students involved when she travels to Boston for the big marathon.

"They think it's pretty cool," Hartman said. "I want to get them involved in the classroom in some way. They can get on the computer and track where I'm at."



Melissa Hartman, a sixth grade teacher at St. Joseph Catholic School, has qualified for the Boston Marathon. (Courtesy Photo)

ROTC takes Pittsburg State University Homecoming

Pittsburg State University

Pittsburg State University's Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps program swept the Pittsburg State University 2011 Homecoming not only in theme - "Gorilla Strong," a nod to PSU's military personnel and veterans - but in Homecoming royalty selections, as well.

At the Oct. 12 Convocation ceremony at Carnie Smith Stadium, seniors Hal Rivard of Wamego, Kan., and Callie Wheeler of Olathe, Kan., were named the Homecoming King and Queen.

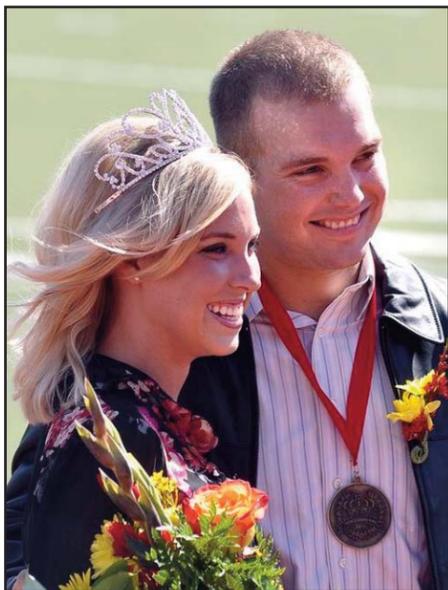
Both are psychology majors, military science minors, and members of the PSU Army ROTC program. Rivard and Wheeler will both be commissioned as of-

ficers in the United States Army when they graduate next May.

"I'm so excited," said Wheeler, visibly shaking as she accepted her crown and posed for photos immediately after the

announcement. "I am really, really honored."

Wheeler is the daughter of Col. Howard Wheeler, commander of the Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 3.



Callie Wheeler, daughter of Col. Howard Wheeler, commander of the Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 3, and Hal Rivard, both Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets, were chosen as the 2011 Homecoming Queen and King Oct. 12, 2011, during the annual Pittsburg State University Homecoming Convocation at Carnie Smith Stadium in Pittsburg, Kan. (Photo by Sean Steffen, The Morning Sun)

Kansas Guardsman feels a real connection to his sister

By Sgt. Jason Lee
170th Maintenance Company UPAR

Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Beougher, 170th Maintenance Company, showed what being a brother is all about. The Guardsman has always felt close to his siblings, but one surgery has allowed him to feel even closer to his oldest sister, Danita Tanzer. Beougher donated one of his kidneys to his sister after her first transplanted kidney began failing and she started getting sick.

Tanzer suffered from the birth defect renal reflex, which was not discovered until age 20. The renal reflex caused Tanzer to have to receive a kidney transplant. In January 1992 her father, William Beougher, donated one of his kidneys to her.

Everything went well for Tanzer but in the early spring of 2010 her father's kidney began failing and she started dialysis in April 2010. Beougher immediately stepped in to donate one of his kidneys to Tanzer. On Nov. 9, 2010, Beougher and Tanzer went into surgery. The kidney transplant was a success.

"It makes me feel so amazingly thankful

that he would do that for me. He jeopardized his own health, his career, his job," said Tanzer. "There is no way to describe how well I feel right now."

Tanzer said that because the sickness was a gradual process she didn't realize how sick she was becoming.

"Giving up a kidney wasn't even a matter of her asking. Once I knew she was going to need another one I was right in line, she didn't have to ask," said Beougher. "The first time around she didn't have to ask, and I knew she felt really guilty and it was really hard for her to ask all of us. As long as I knew I didn't need it and she did, it never seemed like a problem to me."

Beougher, who was concerned about his ability to maintain the Army Physical Fitness standards, said the recovery was slow, but manageable.

"A week after the surgery it still hurt to sit up and I had a lot of numbness," said Beougher. "Two weeks after the surgery I started doing sit-ups three at a time."

After over a month of recovery Beougher returned to work and has his Army physical fitness test score up to a 230.



Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Beougher, 170th Maintenance Company, and resident of Manhattan, Kan., poses for a picture post surgery with his sister Danita Tanzer and his father William Beougher (Photo by Sgt. Jason Lee, 170th Maintenance Company UPAR)

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Tanzanian, U.S. Soldiers share more than military skills



Sgt. 1st Class Tom Laiter, military police with the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, acts as safety observer on the firing range, Aug. 29, 2011, in Dar es Salaam. Laiter, originally from Garnett, Kan., traveled to Tanzania to share military police skills with the Tanzania People's Defense Force. (Photo by Maj. John Sherrill, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery)

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

How comfortable would one feel with taking concepts shared by foreign people with a language barrier and applying them to their profession?

The Tanzania People's Defense Force did just that. They put aside linguistic and cultural barriers to share military police best practices with U.S. servicemembers and civilians, Aug. 15 to Sept. 2.

"They were extremely perceptive," said Maj. John Sherrill, mission commander, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas National Guard. "I don't think there was a big language barrier between us. Soldiers understand soldiers."

The TPDF and U.S. team learned about each other's processes in areas such as riot control, crime scene management, personnel and vehicle searches and entry control point operations.

"Both teams were exposed to demanding skills like Military Operations in Urban Terrain and Very Important Person Protection," said Sgt. 1st Class Tom Laiter, military police with 1st Bn., 161st FA. "Both of those skills can't be learned overnight. They require a lot of practice."

According to Laiter, the TPDF focused mainly on team tasks that enhance teamwork. "It was a good baseline," said Laiter. "The TPDF built the team unity and fundamentals needed in deployed units."

According to Sherrill and Laiter, the TPDF and the U.S. team shared many military skills between them, but also built a bond among the soldiers. This bond was shared not only between TPDF soldiers, but also with U.S. Soldiers and civilians.

"All soldiers, especially infantry guys, are kindred spirits," said Sherrill. "From conversations, they had deployments that were similar to ours. We bonded over the chaotic nature of our work."

Coyotes walk against breast cancer

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

More than 50 members of the 190th Air Refueling Wing and their family and friends joined together in the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk, Oct. 23, 2011. The second annual event's goal was to unite communities to celebrate people who have battled breast cancer, raise awareness about preventing the disease, and raise money to find cures and support programs and services for those facing the disease.

The 190th team was not only the largest team at the event, but was also one of the top fundraising teams, raising just over \$2,500. This year's event drew more than 2,400 registered walkers and raised more than \$65,000 for the American Cancer Society.

Two members of the 190th team were breast cancer survivors and were recognized by the ACS at the event. Several other members of the team had loved ones who had battled the disease.

"I walked today because my grandmother passed away from it in 1979," said Senior Master Sgt. Tracy Vanstory. "There are five other women in my life that are breast cancer survivors. I bought and sent each one of them commemorative patches to let them know I was also walking for them today."



Senior Master Sgt. Rich Smith and his wife, Jerilyn, cross the finish line after completing the 5K "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk in downtown Topeka, Kan., Oct. 23, 2011. The Smith's joined more than 50 other Coyotes and their families to raise money and awareness for breast cancer research. (Courtesy photo)

Meet 'n' Greet with WWE wrestler Ted DiBias for Guardmembers



The Kansas National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion hosted a meet and greet for members of the military with World Wrestling Entertainment wrestler, Ted DiBiase, Jr. The meet and greet was held Aug. 30 at The Boathouse in Wichita, Kan. DiBiase went on to wrestle the same night at the WWE Smackdown at the Intrust Bank Arena in Wichita. Later that day, the Recruiting and Retention Battalion had military equipment on display outside the Intrust Bank Arena. Members of the military in uniform and anyone with a military I.D. received free admission to the event. (Photo by Staff Sgt. James Hubbard, marketing noncommissioned officer for the Kansas National Guard Retention and Recruiting Battalion.)

Deployed Kansas National Guardsman receives free car

By Staff Sgt. Daryl Davis
1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery

Cars 4 Heroes/Cars for Christmas donated a car to the family of Spc. Cameron Beakley, a Kansas National Guardsman with the 35th Military Police Company, who is deployed to the Horn of Africa as part of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery. The presentation of the vehicle took place Sept. 9 at the 104.5 Fox studios in Wichita, Kan.

Beakley left his job in Colorado and volunteered to go on the deployment to Africa. Beakley moved from Colorado to Newton, Kan., prior to the deployment this past spring.

The Beakley family has been without a car for some time. Beakley's wife, Leslie, has had to rely on friends and members of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion for transportation.

Beakley was nominated to receive a car from Cars 4 Heroes/ Cars for Christmas by his platoon leader, 2nd Lt. Erin Kelley. Beakley was notified about the donation by the 35th MP Company's executive officer 1st Lt. Lisa Whiteface and 1st Sgt. Todd Daniels.

When Beakley found out about his selection to receive a donated car he said, "I'm just speechless right now. I appreciate this so much. It is so nice knowing that I now have one less thing to worry about for my family while I am away. I'm just choked up right now."

"Cars 4 Heroes is an amazing organization. They changed a lot for Spc. Beakley and his family by giving them a vehicle. Seeing Spc. Beakley's overwhelming gratitude when he received the news was touching and memorable," said Whiteface.

"I was glad I could be a part of this. Being able to see Spc. Beakley presented with a car for his family back home and seeing his response was a memorable event. It is not often you get to witness and be a part of something



35th Military Police Company executive officer, 1st Lt. Lisa Whiteface, notified Spc. Cameron Beakley that his family received a car from Cars 4 Heroes/Cars 4 Christmas, Sept. 9, 2011. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Daryl Davis)

this unique," said Daniels.

In June, Cars 4 Heroes/ Cars for Christmas donated a car to the family of Master Sgt. Jeff Norling, a member of the 190th Air Refueling Wing and Kansas Highway Patrol, when his car was destroyed by the Reading, Kan., tornado.

Cars 4 Heroes/ Cars for Christmas is a not-for-profit organization that provides free basic transportation to disadvantaged individuals and veterans.

For more information on Cars 4 Heroes/ Cars 4 Christmas, visit their website at <http://www.cars4christmas.org>.

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