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PLAINS GUARDIAN

VOLUME 54 No. 5 *Serving the Kansas Army and Air National Guard, Kansas Emergency Management, Kansas Homeland Security and Civil Air Patrol* SEPTEMBER 2011

Kansas helicopter battalion deploys for mission in Iraq

By Sgt. Jason Lee
Public Affairs Office

Friends and family members gathered at the Ramada Convention Center, Topeka, for the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment departure ceremony Aug. 24.

Approximately 250 Soldiers will deploy to Iraq for one year as part of Operation New Dawn.

“Without you and your unparalleled support, we cannot do this mission and do it well,” said Lt. Col. David Leger, battalion commander. “Everything we accomplish this year will be as a team of Soldiers, and accomplished with you behind us.”

The aviation battalion, using UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, will be transporting troops, supplies and equipment.

“As Operation New Dawn nears an ending point in Iraq, there is still work to be done,” said Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli. “We are honored to send our very best aviation battalion in the country that will do that work.”

“We will accomplish the mission to the best of our abilities and bring honor and respect to the United States [and] the state of Kansas,” said Leger.

The 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, also served in Iraq at the Logistical Support Area Anaconda base from 2006-2007 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Soldiers will go to Fort Hood, Texas, for additional training before they depart the United States for their tour of duty.



Four UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, Kansas National Guard, take off on the first leg of their journey to Iraq the morning of Sept. 2. Approximately 250 Soldiers of the battalion are deploying for a year-long mission. (Photo by Jane Welch, Public Affairs Office)

“Everything on the table”: Tough choices coming on budget cuts

By Andrew Tilghman
Army Times

Troops should expect to tighten their belts in the coming years – but by how much remains an open question, the nation’s top military officer said.

“We are a well-compensated force right now – and we should be, given what we’re doing,” said Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs. “But the reality is... we’re

going to have to make some changes where the money is.”

The Pentagon is conducting a sweeping review to try to flesh out what the pay and compensation package should look like in the future, he said. Mullen spoke to Military Times at length about force structure and compensation levels for the first time since former Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced plans earlier this year to cut up to 47,000 troops from the Army and Marine Corps. President Barack Obama said in April that he wants to slash \$400 billion from the defense budget over the next 12 years.

Steep troop cuts unlikely

However, said Mullen, there’s little chance of steep cuts in the next several years. The military’s complex personnel systems make it difficult for the individual services to cut more than about 10,000 troops, at most, in a given year, Mullen said.

The Army and Marine Corps are still struggling to reach an operational tempo that allows for twice as much time at home as time spent deployed. They may reach that by the end of 2013, Mullen said.

Cutting back on troop levels also will have a direct effect on the future stress on the force.

“In doing simple math, clearly any drastic reduction in end strength... is going to have an immediate impact on dwell [time]. It must, or we’ve got to slow [operations] down. Those are the two variables that you can actually adjust,” Mullen said.

Military compensation will have to remain competitive because the nation is fundamentally committed to our military force, Mullen said.

“Any changes that we make, we have to keep in mind this all-volunteer force. So we’re in a time right now where retention is good, recruiting is good. It’s always bet-

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Automated air refueling may extend U.S. air power range

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

Flying high and moving fast, boom operators in KC-135 air refueling tankers can still look down and see a pilot when they refuel a plane. Eventually, however, the cabin may be empty.

Forbes Field was selected to host the first group of tests for automated air refueling. After the first set of tests concluded, the engineers could have gone elsewhere – other bases would have been happy to host them – but they chose to come back to Forbes.

The 190th Air Refueling Wing was first selected largely because of its location near

Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., but with less air traffic than Edwards AFB in California. Engineers complimented the wing’s willingness to innovate and noted the outstanding effort by the Maintenance Squadron, specifically mentioning Tech. Sgt. Jason Piper and Tech. Sgt. David Powelson from the 190th Avionics shop as part of their reason for returning for the second round of testing.

“We flew eight days in a row. Our guys were always there,” said Maj. Jeff Warren-der, a 190 ARW pilot who participated in the testing. “They were just superb, actually.”

By early December, they had performed

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The sight of a pilot in the cockpit may become a thing of the past for air refueling boomers. A new automated air refueling system is currently being tested, a system that would allow pilots to take a break during the process. (Photo by Master Sgt. Allen Pickert, 190th Air Refueling Wing)

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Serving in the Kansas National Guard a family "tradition"

By Sgt. Jason Lee
Public Affairs Office

A lot can be said about family traditions. Recipes, mottos, hobbies and beliefs can all be traced back to a family's tradition.

One family has made their "family tradition" joining the military. Members of the Wellman family have been serving in the Kansas Army National Guard since the late 1980s and this trend shows no sign of ending.

Sgt. 1st Class Roy Wellman, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 235th Regiment, has three sons and a son-in-law who have followed in his footsteps: Spc. Kyler Wellman, 226th Engineer Company; Levi Wellman, 2137th Forward Support Company; Joseph Wellman, Forward Support Company, 891st Engineer Battalion; and Pfc. Jake Mathews, Company A, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, have all joined the Guard and kept the tradition of being Kansas National Guard Soldiers going.

To understand this portrait of patriotism you have to stand back and look at the whole picture, the whole "Wellman family" picture.

Though Roy and his three sons and son-in-law all wear the uniform, they are not the only ones in the Wellman family to do so. Roy's brothers, Jim and David Wellman, also serve in the Kansas National

Guard. Staff Sgt. Jim Wellman and Sgt. 1st Class David Wellman are part of the 35th Division. However, the family tradition continues to grow as Jim's wife, Kathleen and son, Nathan, also serve in the Kansas National Guard. Jim, Roy and David's nephew, Brandon Vannoy, enlisted in the Kansas National Guard, as well.

"Overall, it is a good thing, it is good for the family," said Roy Wellman. "When you come home (from deployment) you cannot explain what you have been through, but when your family served it gives you someone to talk to that understands you."

"They have a strong sense of pride in country, faith and family. They have always been willing to volunteer for the tough jobs," said family friend Michele Henry. "They have always been the kind of people that you could count on when times were tough. If there was work to be done at school or church they were always present."

"They are humble people and ask very little in return," said Henry. "They have instilled such a strong sense of duty that they have generations of family members serving our country in the military."

Other members of the extended Wellman family also serve in the military. A brother-in-law serves in the Army and two members of the family are in the Air Force.



A squad unto themselves, members of the extended Wellman family have been serving in the Kansas National Guard since the late 1980s. (Photo by Heather Wellman)

Agribusiness Development Team 4 leaves for Afghanistan

By Sgt. Jason Lee
Public Affairs Office

Kansas National Guard members from the fourth Agribusiness Development Team were honored in a departure ceremony at the Kansas State University Salina Recreation Center Sept. 2.

Families, friends and well-wishers attended the going away ceremony to show support for the Soldiers before they deployed to the Laghman Province of Afghanistan.

"ADT 4 has prepared ourselves to assume the mission from ADT 3, that is currently in Afghanistan," said Lt. Col. Russell Richardson, Agribusiness Development Team commander.

The Agribusiness Development Team, comprised of approximately 60 Kansas National Guard Soldiers, will work with the Provincial Reconstruction Team, USAID, USDA and the Department of State to assist

the Afghan people in improving and sustaining their agricultural process.

"These ADTs have worked with the Afghan population to develop more efficient and effective methods for their agriculture production and for their storage," said Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general. "We know that you will continue to carry on the successful mission that your Kansas Guard colleagues have been doing for the past two-and-a-half years."

The Agribusiness Development Team and other agencies will work to increase the agricultural productivity in the Laghman Province, as well as work to improve the safety of the food and other agricultural products found in that region.

Members of the Kansas National Guard have been assisting the Afghan people with their agricultural needs since the first Agribusiness Development Team deployed to the region in 2009.



Soldiers of Agribusiness Development Team #4 stand in formation during their Sept. 2 departure ceremony at the Kansas State University Recreation Center in Salina. (Photo by Sgt. Jason Lee, Public Affairs Office)

Adjutant general visits partner nation of Armenia

Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, made his inaugural visit to Armenia Sept. 20-23. Since 2003, Kansas and the Republic of Armenia have been partnered under the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program to foster military and civilian relationships.

"Previous visits by Kansas National Guard leadership have resulted in strong relationships with the leaders of the Armenian government and military," said Tafanelli. "I want to continue to build upon the foundation that has been developed. We have much to offer the people of Armenia and I know they have as much to offer us."

"These types of partnerships are critical to our country," said Tafanelli. "As has been demonstrated in Iraq and Afghanistan, the United States is most successful when it partners with friends and allies to achieve mutual security goals. Armenian peacekeepers have trained alongside Kansas Guardsmen as a result of the State Partnership Program, and many other enduring relationships have been developed benefitting both Armenia and the United States."

During his visit, Tafanelli met with Seyran Ohanyan, Armenian minister of defense; Yuri Khachaturov, chief of the general staff and Armen Yeritsyan, minister of emergency situations. In addition, he participated in a parade marking the 20th anniversary of Armenia's independence and

several other events.

"Although they are a young nation, the people of Armenia have a history dating back thousands of years, including the distinction of being the first nation to adopt Christianity (301 A.D.)," said Tafanelli. "They are a tough, proud people and justifiably so. It was an honor to join them in celebrating their 20th anniversary of independence."

Tafanelli was accompanied on his visit by Col. Scott Dold, senior legal advisor to the adjutant general; Lt. Col. Brent Salmans, director, State Partnership Program; State Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Hawthorn, senior enlisted leader of the Kansas National Guard; State Command Chief Master Sgt. James Brown, senior enlisted leader, Kansas Air National Guard; Lt. Col. Dave Young, Integrated Initiatives Office; and Capt. Aaron Isaacson, escort officer.

Armenia, formerly part of the Soviet Union, is an independent nation neighboring Turkey, Azerbaijan and Georgia with a land mass slightly smaller than Maryland. Members of Armenia's Peacekeeping Brigade have deployed to Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan as part of international peacekeeping forces. Kansas and Armenian officials, both military and civilian, have been involved in a number of exchanges/visits over the years to conduct training and discuss issues of mutual interest.



Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli (left), the adjutant general, is given a briefing on equipment used by the Armenian Peacekeeping Brigade during his visit to Armenia Sept. 20-23. The trip was the general's first visit to Armenia. (Photo by Lt. Col. Brent Salmans)

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Briefing offers planning guidance to “gray area” retirees

By Sgt. Michael Mathewson

Are you a “gray area” retiree? Were you a traditional drilling Soldier or Airman? Have you qualified for retirement from the Kansas Army or Air National Guard, currently in the Retired Reserves and awaiting retirement pay? Then you are a gray area retiree.

The Kansas National Guard Retirement Services Section has started an outreach to gray area Soldiers. Earlier this year, the Retirement Section conducted the first of its planned annual pre-retirement briefings. The briefings were conducted in Topeka’s Armed Forces Reserve Center. The briefings were open to traditional Soldiers and Airmen between 55 and 60 and members over 60 who had not yet applied for retirement pay. Current drilling members over the age of 55 were also invited to attend, along with their spouses.

Sgt 1st Class Beverly Claycamp, Retirement Services Noncommissioned Officer briefed those in attendance on the retired pay applications process and Annuity and Survivor benefits for both Army and Air Guard retirees. Glenn Seutter from the TRICARE office at Fort Riley and Joseph Montoya, from Delta Dental West Central region office, briefed during the morning session. The afternoon session consisted of briefings by Eric Rohleder from the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs and Laura

Snow, from the Topeka VA office.

Sgt. Shawn Evans from the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System/Identification Office was also on site. Evans provided identification cards for the retirees and their spouses.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Lynn G. Saathoff said, “I enjoyed the seminar and learned some interesting facts, both from the presenters and the attendees.”

“In a few words it was very beneficial to those who attended,” said retired Sgt. Maj. Lynn Holt. “The mix of subject matter experts for this event were just who our gray area retirees needed to hear from.”

Coincidentally, the Museum of the Kansas National Guard and the Combat Air Museum were conducting activities in honor of the Kansas’s 150th anniversary of Statehood. This provided the attendees many choices for activities and eating during their lunch break.

“I am happy with the attendance at this first briefing,” said Claycamp. “However, there are still many more retirees that we need to reach. I am looking for a much larger turnout next year.”

Anyone having questions about retirement, please feel free to contact the Retirement Service Office. Claycamp may be contacted by e-mail at beverly.claycamp@us.army.mil or by phone at 785-274-1574.

Diversity can be a source of creativity and productivity

By Senior Airman Matt Lucht
184th Public Affairs Office

In a time where technology is making the world smaller and smaller, the understanding of diversity has become more important. The U.S. military sees the importance of this and knows that training their Soldiers and Airmen in diversity would be beneficial.

That is why the Nevada National Guard hosted the Leading Diverse Teams pilot conference June 20-23 in Las Vegas. Staff Sgt. David Schonberg, who volunteers as a Victim Advocate from the 184th Intelligence Wing, Kansas Air National Guard, had the opportunity to attend and gain valuable knowledge.

“I was extremely impressed by the necessity to fully incorporate diversity into our Guard environment,” said Schonberg. “Prior to the course, even though I am a trained social worker, I still did not fully grasp the positive impact that diversity can make to our unit.”

The Air Force defines diversity as: a composite of individual characteristics, experiences, and abilities consistent with the Air Force Core Values and the Air Force Mission. The intense three-day conference allowed attendees to learn the strategic

value of diversity, identify challenges that diversity can create and how every rank can use diversity to be more productive.

“It’s much more important than just meeting requirements,” Schonberg explained. “Diversity is about performance, and we must excel in this, just as we excel in our missions.”

Attendees used real world scenarios in their discussion groups to give them the tools to be successful when going back to their home units or wings.

Schonberg feels that diversity, when managed, is a source of creativity and productivity. However, when left unmanaged, it is a source of conflict and strife. Schonberg plans to use the information and tools that he received at the conference to better his personal, civilian and military environments.

“How we individually respond to diversity will determine if we see ‘diversity’ bringing a positive or negative impact into the shop, unit or wing,” he said. “We don’t have to go looking for diversity; we’ve got it. We can manage our own actions, attitudes and beliefs in a way that fosters an environment that is welcoming to differences and, consequently, see an increase in creativity and productivity.”

Tough choices on budget cuts

Continued from Page 1

ter [for the military] when you’re in some kind of recession. So the decisions we make have to be informed by the fact we will swing out of this [recession] at some point and retention will not be as good in the future, nor will recruiting.”

Changes to retirement?

As part of the Pentagon’s cost-cutting initiatives, some top officials have begun reviewing the military’s retirement package – specifically, its promise of a healthy lifetime pension immediately after 20 years of service. Mullen said he does not think changes to the retirement system are imminent, but also noted that he can’t be sure – and in the budget discussions to come, he believes everything should be on the table. “There is nothing out there, from my perspective, that has [military retirement bene-

fits] on the table for immediate changes, that I am aware of,” but at the same time, he said, the military retirement system’s budget “is not an insignificant amount of money.” Mullen said he supports the existing system and views it as a vital retention tool. He hopes officials will consider ways to maintain it into the future.

“We’ve got to make sure that we have a force that can prevail in these fights and also prepare itself for the future,” he said. “If we were going to make changes specifically to the retirement system, I think we have to figure out a way to do it in a way that sustains the force, incentivizes our people in ways that are positive,” Mullen said. “The retirement package is a very robust retirement package. Is it exactly right? I think we need to [work] our way through what the possibilities might be,” he said.

Learn the rules for social media

By Sgt. Jason Lee
Public Affairs Office

In the world of social media, people can get their personal messages out with just the simple push of a button. These messages can be read by anybody with ties to our social media content. Sites such as Facebook and Twitter allow us to instantly post messages and photos to the Web. Within seconds of the postings, the contents can be delivered to friends and followers around the world.

As members of the military, we must carefully consider who our audience is and what messages we are sending. Members of the Armed Forces have a set of social media guidelines that help us steer clear of trouble. These policies allow us to freely use social media platforms while making sure that we, as members of the military, are held to high moral and ethical standard.

The military openly supports freedom of speech. However, in these times of instant media, we must examine the messages and content we intend to distribute. We must have an understanding of the laws that apply to the military and the proper use of social media platforms.

As Americans, the Constitution, along with the First Amendment, give us the right to speak our minds and give our opinions on subjects that we are concerned about. We must remember that, when we utilize social media sites, on or off duty, we are doing so as Soldiers and Airmen, and therefore are representing our branches of service.

It is Department of Defense and Kansas National Guard policy that all Soldiers and Airmen, whether in uniform or not, follow the rules and regulation on protected speech in the military so that we don’t become subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice or the Kansas Code of Military

Justice. We, as members of the military, face severe UCMJ or KCMJ action if we violate any of the military laws that constitute libel or slander. Articles 88 and 134 of the UCMJ state that a Soldier may be punished for any negatively written statements about his or her commander-in-chief, vice-president, secretary of defense, or

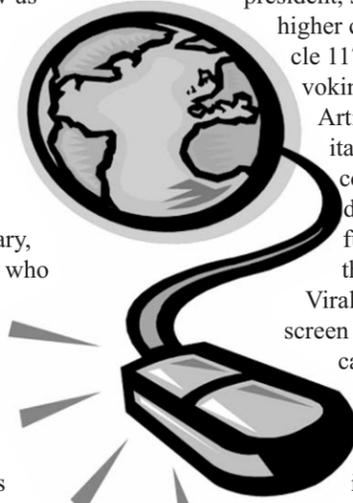
higher command. The UCMJ Article 117 outlaws the use of “provoking” or “reproachable” words. Article 82 is violated when military members say things that could make fellow members desert their unit, disobey lawful orders or refuse to do their jobs.

Viral messages can travel fast. A screen grab, or a Twitter message can quickly show what a member of the military posted. Once the message is out you cannot get it back. The snowball effect of the message can have severe

backlash on the member of the military. Another thing to consider is that you may have had the best of intention with your message, but a misinterpretation at the other end could result in an explanation to your higher command.

Social media sites are great communication tools to have around. Instant communication can allow us to share what we want as an event is happening. What we must remember is that we are Soldiers and Airmen first and Facebookers and Tweeters second. We should never want to downgrade our command or fellow military members. We must hold ourselves to the highest moral and ethical standards. When using social media we must, as members of the military, understand the rules and regulations that go along with them.

By following all Department of Defense social media regulations we will ensure that we do not put our lives or careers, or those of our fellow Soldiers and Airmen, in jeopardy. Remember it is social, not private, media.



Guardsmen receive training at University of Kansas hospital

By Bob Hallinan
University of Kansas Hospital

When the federal government closed Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., the door to hands-on training for medical members of the Kansas National Guard was opened at the University of Kansas Hospital in Kansas City, Kan.

Quarterly training began with the first 19 Soldiers in August, with a long-term goal of providing monthly training.

Although the Kansas Air National Guard used to go to Walter Reed for its annual medical training, the trainees say the change to a facility closer to home has resulted in making them better prepared.

“To come here and be able to see hyperbarics, to come to the ER and burn unit is a great opportunity for us,” said Senior Airman Sarah Molstad, aerospace medical technician at Forbes Field.

“Our training has always been done through simulators and PowerPoint presenta-

tion,” said Master Sgt. Sherry Willard. “I do physical exams in my daily job which have nothing that compares to what we do in a deployed location. We’ve been here a day and half and I have already seen more than I have in the last two years. It’s been good.”

The training program has taken four years to come to fruition, primarily because of a disparity in the scope of services.

“Med techs in the military field are certified to do IVs, suture, cast and splint, whereas regular med techs are not,” explained Carol Cleek, nursing director of emergency and critical care services. “So, figuring out the trainees’ roll in our civilian hospital has presented challenges.”

The first Guard trainees spent their time observing in emergency, the burn unit and operating room, as well as participating in classroom instruction for drawing blood.

Guardsmen return in October for air medical evacuation training involving helicopters.

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Economic pressures will cause changes, but we will survive

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

The next several years will pose a significant challenge for the Kansas National Guard, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and all of our counterparts across the nation. You are probably hearing lots of budget rumors and speculative news reports. I just wanted to take a moment to share my thoughts on what's likely ahead and what we need to do.



Maj. Gen. (KS)
Lee Tafanelli

It's clear that the public is very concerned about the economy, as well as what increased budget pressure means for the future. I would love to say that the problem is overblown or that it will magically fade away soon, but that would not be honest. We are just now beginning to face profound federal fiscal challenges that will dwarf any previously faced by our generation and they will not go away quickly or easily.

As of right now, I can't give accurate details of projected cuts at the federal level or what those cuts will ultimately mean to us. This is not because I don't want to, but because I don't have solid figures yet. However, I am certain there will be cuts and they will have a significant effect on us. What I do know is that a number of our re-

sources and the associated funding will be reduced.

Fortunately, we had the foresight to see this trend at both the state and federal level some time ago and have been preparing for it. In response to budget cuts we've experienced in the past two years, we've held positions vacant, reduced the number of temporary positions and contractors, closed armories, evaluated work processes and programs, and asked our leadership to look for ways to become much more efficient.

Right now, multiple teams across the state are developing flexible plans to ensure that we can fulfill our responsibilities to the people of Kansas. We can't change the budget trends, but we can take steps to ensure that we do our job well and remain relevant.

We are very mindful of the challenge, as well as the justified concern that all of us feel. Your leaders are doing, and will continue to do everything they can to ensure we make it through this in good order.

What I need from all federal and state leaders within the Kansas National Guard and the Adjutant General's Department is to be judicious with the resources that we will have. Many of us have been through this before and we will get through it again, but there will be many difficult decisions ahead.

From the employees, Soldiers, and Airmen, I need your help as well as to pay attention to how and where we are spending our money; looking for cost effective ways to do business while maintaining a positive readiness posture. We also must look for ways to save money and leverage efficiencies.

I also ask each and every one of you for

We can't change the budget trends, but we can take steps to ensure that we do our job well and remain relevant.

your trust and your help in the following three ways:

First, look after each other. If you see coworkers going through a rough time or getting stressed out because of concern for the future, please talk to them. Remind them of the resources that we have available to help, such as the state chaplain. Let them know that they are not alone.

Second, avoid getting caught up in the latest rumor cycle. Over the next year, I guarantee there will be endless speculation about supposed "plans" from Congress and the Pentagon that will affect the Kansas National Guard or the Adjutant General's Department. I'm not worried about the 5,000 incorrect guesses of what might possibly, perhaps, could happen. Don't listen to this stuff. When we have solid information on things like the budget, we'll give you that information and also our assess-

ment of what it means for all of us.

Third, keep a positive spirit of goodwill and resilience. Our grandparents and great-grandparents faced challenges that we can't even imagine and they didn't even blink. They drew together and focused on what had to be done. Mirror their hardiness. Focus on providing excellent service to those that count on you – the people of Kansas. They deserve our very best, especially when circumstances make it hard to do.

History tells us that when people face a genuine challenge, they either draw together, forging their greatest moments as a people, or they turn on each other, destroying the very things about themselves worth defending. One of the things that make Americans stand out in this world is the hearty characteristic of pulling together in difficult times, like we did on Sept. 11, 2001.

It's the characteristic most embodied in the spirit of the Adjutant General's Department. It's at the core of what we do and why we exist – to protect our citizens.

I know I can rely on you to draw together as we head into rough seas. Please stay focused on continuing to do the great job you do every day and look out for each other. If we do this, we will make it through the approaching storm.

Soldier to Soldier

The question is: Who is in control?

By Command Sgt. Maj. John Ryan
Joint Forces Headquarters

Not long ago, I was talking with my grandson, age 17, who was complaining that he was never in control. "Everyone tells me what to do or not to do. I never get to choose for myself."

I told him that I understood how he felt, Grandma is always telling me what to do and most of the time where to go, I then told him that in reality he/we are always in total control. You get to choose every time, and, as usual, he looked at me with that look of "You're crazy and probably need a reality check."

I went on to explain that all of our lives we have someone telling us what to do,



Command Sgt. Maj.
John Ryan

where to be, what time to be there, pay this much in taxes. Everywhere we look we have rules to follow. Even if we own a business, we have rules and expectations – the unwritten rules – we follow.

This being said we still get to choose to follow the rules or not to follow the rules. By our choices, we either reap the benefits or suffer the consequences, whatever they may be. That is why we are always in control.

As leaders, we are in control and need to understand our Soldiers are also in control. Noncommissioned officers have two basic duties: take care of the Soldiers and accomplish the mission. The Army National Guard of today is different than the National Guard of old. Our Soldiers bring many additional skills to the table other than those in their Military Occupational Skill. Their diversity adds value to our team. Our Soldiers have a sense of Loyalty, Duty, Respect and Selfless Service (Did I just mention some of the Army Values?) to their unit, platoon, section
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Congratulations are in order for our new warrant officers

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

On July 30, the Warrant Officer Candidates from the Kansas Regional Training Institute graduated from Phase III at Camp Atterbury, Ind. The KSRTI had their first Distinguished Honor Graduate, Warrant Officer 1 Aaron Carpenter. I congratulate Carpenter, as well as Warrant Officer 1 Carol Sprawka, Warrant Officer 1 Steven Stienike, Warrant Officer 1



Command Chief
Warrant Officer 5
Hector Vasquez

Jedediah Gassen, the Teaching, Advising and Counseling officers and instructors for a job well done.

Sprawka will be attending her Warrant Officer Basic Course at Fort Sill, Okla. When she graduates from the Artillery Warrant Officer School, Sprawka will become Kansas first female artillery warrant officer. So good luck to her.

Now that the Warrant Officer Candidate School Class 11-001 has graduated, it is time for those interested in becoming a Warrant Officer to start or finalize your predetermination packets. It takes about five months to approve a packet, plus you will have a Distance Learning course to complete prior to the class starting. If you are interested in becoming a warrant officer, please contact Warrant Officer 1 Sam Bonham (samual.c.bonham@us.army.mil) or me.
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Letter to the editor

Air show an emotional experience

My Dad was Air Force, and I was born on an air base and lived on bases all my growing up years.

My family always loved all the air power, watching 'em take off, land, reading about them, running out when ya hear 'em comin'. There was a time, you know, when we all got excited about a sonic boom! "They're up there!"

I was fortunate to live near Salina for many years and watch the fighter jets over Lake Kanopolis. I even had one pass in front of me at eye level north of Ada, Kan., one hot summer day. *Very cool!*

Well, I'm down here in southeast Kansas now and even hearing a military aircraft is very, very rare.

I did go to one air show and rode in a B-24. *Super* experience. Almost cried. It was very emotional for me. Sat where my dad would've sat, right behind the copilot, on the wing as a waist gunner with Col. Jack Banks in Australia.

However, I was privileged to attend the demonstration that was opened to the public on Aug. 6, at the Smoky Hill Bomb Range this year, having heard about it from family in Salina. I have to tell you that was so *fun* and so *emotional* for me I almost cried again. That air power gets to you and you never get over it, I guess.

I just want to say, to whoever I need to say it to, and please, if you are not who I want to be thanking right now, please forward this to those people.

Thank you for a wonderful, exhilarating and educational experience. My brother, a Vietnam vet, was there with us, and the whole family was absolutely *in heaven* with all the sights and sounds of the planes, the maneuvers, *everything!* The helicopters! The pilots, and the military guys in the tower, and on the ground.

Thank you for sharing. I felt honored to be in your presence. You are brave and brilliant specialists, and because of people like you, I come and go as I please, and have a darn good life.

How lucky for us to see B-52s! I am in *heaven!* I felt so lucky to be there witnessing all that! And thanks for the low flybys! That's always been so thrilling, love to hear the afterburners, love the rumble and scream. *Wow!*

Thank you. I really hope I see all of you again in two years.

And if ya get down this way, buzz my tower! I'll be the one running out in the street to see what's goin' over. Once you get exposed, it just never goes away. When you live by the runway all those years, you just love to see 'em, hear 'em, goin' out, comin' in, and just know they are up there doin' what they do.

What a wonderful day I had. I will *never* forget it!

Mary Lou Keim
Pittsburg, Kan.

PLAINS GUARDIAN

The PLAINS GUARDIAN is published under the provisions of AR 360-1 for the personnel of the Kansas National Guard. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of The Adjutant General's Department PA Officer. Contents of the PLAINS GUARDIAN are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of the Army or The Adjutant General's Department. News, features, photographs and art materials are solicited from readers; however, utilization is at the discretion of the editorial staff. All photos must be high resolution and include complete caption information, including photographer's name and rank. No paid advertisement will be accepted, nor will payment be made for contributions.

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

Circulation: Approximately 15,500	
Printed under contract with the U.S. Government Printing Office	
Commander-in-Chief Gov. Sam Brownback	Public Affairs Office Director Sharon Watson 785-274-1192
Adjutant General of Kansas Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli	Assistant Director Stephen D. Larson 785-274-1194
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Weapons system provides greater safety for humvee gunners

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

The security forces from Agribusiness Development Team 4, ADT 5, and the Air Force National Guard 284th Air Support Operation Squadron, trained to become operationally certified with the XM153 Common Remotely Operated Weapons Station July 5 through 9 at the Kansas National Guard Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, Kan.

Staff Sgt. Derek Redenius, an observer controller trainer with the Kansas National Guard Pre-Mobilization Training Assistance and Evaluation Team, said the class consisted of 32 hours of classroom training, a handwritten exam, and a day out on the range, where participants had the opportunity to identify targets and shoot 200 rounds with the station.

"It's just like a video game," said John McQueen an instructor for the CROWS NET team.

To control the weapons station, the gunner sits inside the humvee and aims the armed weapon by a control grip while looking at a display control panel, explained instructor Boyd Crist. Compared to a gunner standing out the roof of the Humvee, said Crist, the CROW Station keeps the gunner inside the

vehicle and therefore has a higher gunner survival rate. Not only does it protect the gunner from unfriendly fire, but if the humvee should pass over or near an improvised explosive device, it provides the protection of the vehicle from shrapnel and the impact, said Crist.

The CROW Station can adapt to four weapons, the M2, Mark 19, M240B, and the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, said Redenius. Also it can hold a thousand rounds at time.

The station has a Visual Imaging Module, Thermal Imaging Module and a Laser Range Finder, which provides a higher level of accuracy, a longer range, and the dual cameras provide day and night vision, said Mike Creed, instructor.

"CROWS will be used primary down range and allow spotting and identifying targets without leaving the vehicle," said Maj. Michael Arnold, 284th ASOS. He believes that CROWS will help protect Airmen. CROWS will allow more missions outside the wire for the 284th.

The 284th ASOS deploys and coordinates with Army National Guard units. They call in supporting air power to the ground units' movement and missions. The squadron acts as an Air Force liaison to the units they



The new Common Remotely Operated Weapons Station will give humvee gunners a greater measure of safety because it is operated from inside the vehicle. (Photo by Pvt. Anna R. Laurin, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

work and coordinate with, said Arnold.

The Air Guard squadron does not often get the opportunity to train with the Army National Guard units of Salina, although their training areas are within the same facility. The 284th trains out of the Smoky Hill Weapons Range on the Great Plains Joint

Training Center in Salina, Kan.

Arnold said his Airmen enjoyed the joint service class and hopes that there will be more integrated training in the future. He and his airmen found the CROWS class instructive, useful and look forward to using the station down range.

Kansas Guardsmen conduct joint air assault operations

By Sgt. John Whistler

On June 11, 2011, during the darkness of night, two squads assigned to the Joint Combat Search and Rescue platoon of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery worked with members of the United States Marine Corps sling-loading a vehicle with CH-53 "Sea Stallion" helicopters. Both squads had never attempted sling load operations before and were given training from the Marines before the operation.

"Training opportunities in forward areas can better prepare Soldiers for real life situations that may arise," said Sgt. 1st Class David Schild.

Sling load operations are one of the many ways the military maintains its mobility. These operations are important in moving equipment across terrain that is nonnegotiable for ground vehicles in a short amount of time. Soldiers are responsible for securing their loads with ropes and chains that they connect to the bottom of the helicopter with a hook. The helicopter builds up a static electric charge until it is grounded, so Soldiers use a grounding pole that they attach to the hooks prior to connecting the load. The Soldiers on the ground are also responsible for guiding the helicopter into the loading area and directing the pilots during the hook up process.

"As with most training, there is an expected level of danger," said Staff Sgt. JohnPaul Lavigne.

Soldiers are expected to work under a

helicopter that is hovering just over their heads. There is also the danger of static electric shock from the helicopter.

"It was an intense experience. The noise, the wind, the pressure of bringing in the bird, not to mention close calls (with the helicopter), it was complete controlled chaos, but I enjoyed the experience of the operation" said Lt. Monty Johnson, a chaplain who was embedded with the Soldiers.

The helicopters belong to the United States Marine Corps and were operated by their pilots and crew.

"It was a great refresher and training opportunity to come out and do these operations, something I haven't done very often before coming here," said Capt. Robert DeGeorge, Marine pilot.

"Training opportunities like these are an excellent way for our Soldiers to maintain readiness in the field and to learn more skills with a hands on approach," said Sgt. Kevin Fischer. "It also helps me to further train my Soldiers back home with the experiences I've had here for possible future missions."

At the end of the operation, both Soldiers and Marines were a mission success. The training proved useful for both pilots and ground crew and gave a sense of satisfaction that comes with being proficient at your job. The Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery are looking forward to many more training opportunities like this one.



Marine helicopters descend over Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, to begin sling load operations with Soldiers from the Kansas National Guard's 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Daryl Davis)

4-H project aids emergency management, homeland security

By Nancy Peterson
K-State Research and Extension News

Mention 4-H and images of the perfect cookie or a well-nourished calf may come to mind. But, this is 2011: How about geospatial literacy? Emergency management? Homeland security?

A savvy 4-H project tech group from Leavenworth County, Kan., earned second place in the K-12 division of an international geographic information system mapping contest – and praise from emergency management and homeland security officials in Northeast Kansas.

The international competition was sponsored by Esri, a GIS technologies software provider, during its recent International Users Conference Map Gallery held in San Diego, Calif. The conference drew more than 14,000 users of geospatial technologies with the Map Gallery drawing more than 1,000 entries submitted by GIS users from more than 100 countries.

The 4-H-produced Foreign Animal Disease Biosecurity Map pinpoints the locations of herds with 100 or more cattle, dairy cows, sheep and other cloven-hoofed animals in the county, said Chuck Magaha, Leavenworth County, Kan., director of emergency management.

In praising the youthful, but tenacious 4-H team, Magaha noted that the teens accomplished a task that, due to limited time and resources, had not been possible for county staff to do.

"Making it happen is a story," said Magaha, who credited Beth Hecht, K-State Research and Extension associate 4-H specialist in geospatial literacy, for her

work with the team.

As a member of the state 4-H Youth Development Department, Hecht teaches extension agents and 4-H leaders how to use GPS and GIS technologies and applications. As a former 4-H agent, she was among the first to introduce the technologies to local 4-H members via geocaching, which is similar to a scavenger hunt.

"Middle and high school age youth picked up on this right away," said Hecht, who started looking for other ways to use the technologies and to combine them with service learning to supplement community resources.

One of the earlier projects focused on mapping former and current rail lines in the county. Teens involved in the project became much more aware of the decline in rail service than they had been before, she said. Another project focused on mapping the locations of former schools.

Mapping high-water marks and erosion along the Kansas River also interested the 4-H teens, and prompted Hecht to invite Magaha and local officials to a presentation on the technology projects.

While the 4-H members invited project ideas from government officials, Magaha, a former 4-H member, was already mentally making the connection and suggested that he would do some homework and follow up.

In suggesting the livestock herd mapping project, he reasoned the teens have time available, skill in using the technologies and knowledge of their communities.

Before moving ahead, Magaha consulted with Jessica Frye, GIS coordinator

(Continued on Page 11)

Congratulations to new warrant officers

Continued from Page 4

The KSRTI is in need of TAC officers, both male and female. We are looking for senior chief warrant officer 2 through chief warrant officer 4. If being a warrant officer has been good to you, this would be good opportunity to give back to the Warrant Officer Corps. I was a TAC for three years and enjoyed every year that I was able to give one-on-one counseling to our future warrant officers. Anyone interested in becoming a TAC officer can contact me or Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Smith

(michael.william.smith@us.army.mil.)

One last note: There will be a Warrant Officer/Officer Symposium in Salina on Nov. 19 at Peters Science Hall, Kansas Wesleyan University, starting at 10 a.m. The Career Day will provide you an opportunity to interact with the recent graduates of the Officer/Warrant Officer Candidate Schools. You will also hear from subject matter experts on officer bonuses and incentives, officer unit vacancies and opportunities to excel as a leader in the Kansas Army National Guard.

Battle-bound troops receive realistic training close to home

By Maj. DeAnn Barr

Great Plains Joint Training Center

Amidst the fervor of two low-flying OH-58 Kiowa scout helicopters, with the din of Islamic Call to Prayer music blaring from the mosque within the Urban Terrain Village, and the distinctive pop of rapid gunfire erupting from all directions, 80 infantrymen begin an air assault exercise that has all the ingredients of actual battle — except for the fact that it is taking place in Salina, Kan.

The 34,000 acres of the Great Plains Joint Training Center, operated by the Kansas National Guard, played host in August to the joint air assault operation of the 4th Heavy Brigade Combat Team from Fort Riley, Kan. This active duty unit was anxious to take advantage of the multifaceted training opportunities available only 60 miles from home station.

“We have been excited about doing what is taking place here today,” said Lt. Col. Matthew Cody, commander of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment. “This is really excellent training for us and replicates what we might face in Afghanistan. Media role-playing on the battlefield and the close air support provided by the Air Force provides a level of complexity that is difficult to emulate outside a deployed setting.”

Although the main focus of the brigade exercise occurred at Fort Riley and tactical command and control assets operated out of Fort Sill, Okla., the air assault portion of this well orchestrated event included as much realism as possible. The 10th Air Support Operations Squadron provided all forward air control and joint terminal at-

tack controllers and close air support coordination during the training period, the same ASOS the unit pairs with in real-world situations. The 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Guardsmen from Topeka, Kan., and Airmen from the 184th Intelligence Wing provided media and role-playing injects into the exercise.

The first iteration of the exercise at the GPJTC occurred on Aug. 16 when 80 members of the 1st Company of the 4th Cavalry egressed from two Chinook transport helicopters immediately following close air support coverage from two F-16s on a routine training mission over the Smoky Hill Weapons Range. As per their mock intelligence brief, the infantrymen began their search for opposing forces, played by members of the Joint Forces Headquarters Command and Control Team, Guardsmen coincidentally performing their annual training and able to lend their support.

As the ground troops approached the Military Operations on Urban Terrain site, Airmen from the 184th Intelligence Wing, Wichita, Kan., role-played insurgents and angry villagers dressed in traditional garb. Spurred by the 100 degree heat, the smell of sulfur from erupting faux grenades and blank rounds, the mosque music and villager clatter, and the roar from the continually orbiting Kiowas, the adrenalin rush for the Soldiers was intense.

“This is as real-to-life as we can make it in the states,” said Cody. “That is the capability the GPJTC provides.”

Exercise participant Spc. Patrick Treiber said the most valuable part of the scenario for him as an infantryman was the communication.



Soldiers of the U.S. Army 4th Cavalry Regiment prepare to enter a building at the Military Operations on Urban Terrain site on the Great Plains Joint Training Center, a multi-use training facility near Salina operated by the Kansas National Guard. (Photo by Maj. DeAnn Barr, Great Plains Joint Training Center)

“If we don’t talk to each other in battle we are ineffective,” said Treiber, “and the most challenging part of this exercise was communicating in the metal buildings on the Military Operations on Urban Terrain site.”

The air assault scenario was played out twice on Aug. 16, allowing for troops to alter and adapt all their skills to the unfamiliar terrain. Treiber said coming to a facility they were not familiar with also provided added value to the exercise, as that emulates a wartime situation.

The GPJTC is unique in that it offers commanders diverse environments to develop complex training scenarios and run them in a cost-effective manner.

“We are able to provide military units acres of area to train in, the air space for the helos to fly in this case and the fixed-

wing air capability built into our schedule at the Smoky Hill Weapons Range to effectively bring the CAS into the exercise,” said Maj. Russ Allen, commander, Detachment 1, Smoky Hill Weapons Range. “All these elements enhance the realism of what troops can expect down-range.”

Other features available at the GPJTC includes cost-effective billeting and messing, multiple target ranges and the Crisis City complex open to military and civilian first responders. Crisis City encompasses state-of-the-art exercise venues to include conference rooms, computer capability and an enclosed viewing tower over multiple scenario venues. Venues include a rubble pile, rail, urban village, agriculture and farm safety, technical rescue tower, collapsed structure, aircraft and pipeline venue.

Kansans test marksmanship skills against Kenyan sailors

By Sgt. Steven Koehn

While deployed to Manda Bay, Kenya, Soldiers of the Kansas National Guard’s Second Platoon, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery qualified with their personal weapons.

On the second day of qualification, the Soldiers invited the Kenyan sailors to the range, which is located on the Kenyan naval base, to participate in a marksmanship competition.

The Soldiers started out by firing their M4 rifles at a 25 meter target to verify their weapons sites were zeroed.

“It was nice being able to verify my zero since we have not had the opportunity since training,” said Spc. Timothy Pollock.

After verifying their weapons sites were zeroed they moved back to the 300 meter range to qualify. After qualifying with the M4 carbine rifles in the morning, the Kansas Soldiers spent the afternoon qualifying on the M9 pistol. The M9 qualifica-

tion consisted of shooting paper targets at a range of 25 meters.

On the second day of firing, shooters with the best scores from the previous day took part in a competition with the Kenyan sailors. The competition between the Soldiers and sailors involved both the rifles and pistols.

“Members from both countries expressed that the event was exciting and they enjoyed shooting their weapons,” said Spc. James Hilty. “Overall, the day was fun competing with the Kenyans and I enjoyed meeting all of them.”

The Soldiers of Second Platoon fulfilled the requirement to qualify with their weapons during this training exercise.

The Kansas Soldiers have been deployed to Camp Simba on the Kenyan naval base at Manda Bay since April 1. During their deployment to Camp Simba, they have completed multiple missions to provide force protection at the camp.



Kenyan naval personnel take aim at their targets during a day at the range with Soldiers from Battery A, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery. (Photo by Sgt. Steven Koehn)

287th STB Soldiers compete for “Best Warrior” title

Six Kansas National Guard Soldiers from the 287th Special Troops Battalion competed against each other in the Best Warrior Competition 2011 Aug. 6 at the Great Plains Joint Training Center, Salina.

The Soldiers were competing for best Noncommissioned Officer and best Soldier in the Best Warrior Competition 2011, with the winners advancing to the 287th Sustainment Brigade board. If the Soldiers make it through all the levels they will compete against other Kansas National Guard Soldiers to become the Kansas National Guard Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year, and have a chance to compete at the national level.

The Soldiers entered a board consisting of Command Sgt. Maj. Greg Kober and four 287th Special Troops Battalion company first sergeants. The Soldiers were tested on their reporting procedures, appearance, military bearing, knowledge of Army history, uniforms and awards, non-commissioned officer creed and current events, among other things.

“I was very pleased with the level of expertise that all the participating Soldiers had on the board,” said Kober.

Sgt. Serini Betancourt of the 731st Transportation Company competed against Sgt. Jonathan Ruthstrom of the 995th Maintenance Company and Sgt. Jason Lee of the 170th Maintenance Company to win the noncommissioned officer part of the competition.

“It is a privilege and an honor to continue on in the noncommissioned officer competition, and I am thankful for the

opportunity to compete,” said Betancourt. “Going into the competition I was a little nervous, but having been selected to compete for Soldier of the Year at a similar competition in the past, I was more at ease when it came time for the noncommissioned officer competition.”

Spc. Robert Jackson of the 995th Maintenance Company won the Best Soldier part of the competition against Spc. Thomas Philip of the 170th Maintenance Company and Spc. Jessie Worthington of the 731st Transportation Company.

“I was surprised to win because of the great Soldiers I competed with,” said Jackson.

Both Betancourt and Jackson will report to Fort Leavenworth Sept. 17 for the second round of the competition, where they will compete against Soldiers from the 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and the 891st Engineer Battalion.

“The Soldiers should expect tougher competition with more competitors,” said Kober.

Kober said that both Soldiers should expect to be challenged in the next round.

“I expect it will be a challenge, but I will do the best I can,” said Jackson.

“I am looking forward to the upcoming competition,” said Betancourt. “I expect to be competing against the best non-commissioned officers in today’s Army.”

So, with that in mind, I know that I need to be well prepared for the next round. I also expect that I am going to have to work hard, be dedicated and persevere in the challenges to come.”

KDEM employee left lasting legacy of service and friendship

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

“A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you and were helped by you will remember you when forget-me-nots have withered. Carve your name on hearts, not on marble.”

— Charles Spurgeon
*** **

The word “character” has many definitions. One definition is integrity, having a good reputation among your fellow men. Another definition, one that is a little harder to put into words, is that quality that makes people say of a person “Yeah, he’s a real character, all right.”

Those who knew him would say both definitions apply to Bill Brubaker.

Brubaker, Northeast Regional coordinator for the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, passed away unexpectedly Aug. 10, 2011. Brubaker joined KDEM in 2005 after 31 years with the Lawrence Fire Department and several years with Douglas County Emergency Preparedness. During his years of service, Brubaker’s professional integrity and easy-going personality earned him the respect and friendship of people across Northeast Kansas.

“Bill wasn’t a follower; he was always out in front,” said Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general and KDEM director, “especially when it came to working on projects and programs he knew would protect the lives and safety of the public.”

“Bill was a strong leader and had a real



Bill Brubaker gives instructions for a disaster scenario during an exercise at Crisis City. Brubaker, a long-time figure in the Kansas emergency management community, passed away suddenly Aug. 10, 2011. (Photo provided)

talent for building teams,” said Angee Morgan, KDEM deputy director. “His true passion was assisting local communities and he championed causes that made communities safer. Bill was my trusted friend and I am a truly blessed for having known him.”

“Bill was pretty much a straight shooter when he wasn’t messing with you,” said Rich Barr, who met Brubaker in 1977 when

he started work with the Lawrence Fire Department. “He generally spoke his mind and gave his opinions freely. However, when he was messing with you, you had to be on guard because he loved to string you along.”

“Bill had a very laid-back personality,” said Toby Prine, KDEM Northwest Regional Coordinator. “It wasn’t that issues didn’t bother him. His personality was such that on the exterior, it didn’t appear to bother him. He had issues that he was passionate about and discussions regarding those issues could get heated.”

“Bill was one that, if you were arguing against one of his passionate issues, you’d better know what you were talking about, because he could eat your lunch debating a particular stance,” said Prine.

“Everywhere you went you met people whose lives Bill had touched, always in a positive way,” said Dennis Colsden, KDEM North Central regional coordinator. “His friends were many and his enemies few and all that knew him respected him for his service and dedication to others.”

“Bill may have appeared gruff at times, but it was only for show,” said Jonathan York, director of KDEM’s Response and Recovery branch. “He was very kind at heart. He frequently brought treats in for staff, even going out of his way to grab someone their favorite treat.”

“He would tell you what he thought and was always happy,” said Alan Radcliffe, Franklin County emergency manager. “There were very few people Bill didn’t get along with. Bill would always tell stories about how he would play pranks on other people and never got caught.”

“He could joke with the best of us and be the most serious individual on items that he was more passionate about,” said Pat Collins, Riley County emergency manager. “I was always amused with Bill’s frustration with people who didn’t play well with others. Single-minded individuals were a particular sore spot across his career.”

“He loved the little guy and championed the locals,” recalled retired Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, former adjutant general of Kansas. “We will all do well to honor his memory by mirroring his approach and working hard every day with a wry smile and positive attitude.”

Brubaker poured his personality and passions into emergency service, both in response and in training. He led the State Deployable Resource Committee, which includes Incident Management Teams, Search and Rescue Teams, and the Law Enforcement working group, Kansas Task Force 1, Statewide Comprehensive Resource Management and Credential System, and many other projects. He worked countless personal hours to recruit and develop team members, as well as securing sponsors and partners for funding and equipment.

Brubaker was also instrumental in developing the state’s Incident Management Teams. He was one of the first team members deployed in support of the Greensburg tornado response and recovery efforts and the 2007 Southeast Kansas flooding.

“Without argument, response was where his heart was,” Prine said. “He responded to most, if not all, during their time of need.”

Prine related that while he was on vacation in June 2010, a grain elevator collapsed in Russell, Kan., killing two people.

“Bill’s influence was felt throughout the response to that incident,” said Prine, noting that the incident commander and Russell County emergency manager were both members of the Northwest Kansas Incident Management Team and had both been trained by Brubaker.

“Because I wasn’t available for response, Bill deployed to Russell to assist the county in their response,” said Prine. “Russell County responders will tell you of the great impact this had on their confidence.”

“Bill enjoyed his job because it kept him next to his emergency response family,” said Colsden. “Even though he was no longer an active firefighter, he was always part of that brotherhood and loved it. He often spoke of both families, the one at home and the one at work. He loved both.”

“Bill loved helping others,” continued Colsden, “but most of all, Bill always had our (regional coordinators) backs. He not only shielded us from the intentions of others expecting us to do more for them, he fought for us to improve our working conditions and the equipment we needed to do our jobs.”

“I believe he was always aware of his emergency responder experiences and he always viewed the circumstances with those eyes,” said Barr. “He was very supportive of those that got there first.”

As much as he loved responding himself, Brubaker also enjoyed teaching others about emergency management.

“Bill thrived on sharing his wealth of practical knowledge with others,” said York. “Bill enjoyed assisting local emergency responders preparing for response to incidents or disasters through teaching the fundamentals of emergency management and the incident command system, as well as assisting jurisdictions with exercises and providing technical assistance during response to incidents.”

“Bill wasn’t just a champion for emergency management, but rather public safety as a whole,” he continued. “Bill focused on ways to sustain and enhance capabilities, as well as building capabilities where none existed.”

“He wanted to make sure that people in general knew what to do, how to do it, and when to do things to keep themselves and others safe and ready,” said Don Button, Grant County emergency manager.

“I had the pleasure to work with Bill delivering the five-day Command and General Staff training 11 times,” said Button. “That included going with him to Mississippi twice to do the training. It was never a bore at the class, as Bill always made it fun. Bill always had a way of getting the best from the students and fellow instructors.”

The respect and admiration Brubaker’s associates had for his professionalism were reflected in the honors accorded him by his peers. He was named Instructor of the Year by the Kansas Emergency Management Association in 2008 and received the Owen V. Turrentine Outstanding Emergency Management Professional Award for Kansas in 2010.

That respect and admiration was also reflected in the shock the emergency management community felt at the news of his passing. Although he had suffered a heart attack months earlier, that did not stop Brubaker from responding to a call when needed. He was deployed to Northeast Kansas, responding to the Missouri River flooding in Doniphan County, when he suf-

(Continued on Page 9)

He Just Wanted to Save the World

By David Epps

*Bill wasn't much for touchy-feely,
Didn't fly his heart unfurled.
He just wanted to do his part,
Just wanted to save the world.*

*Don't be fooled by his down-turned
frown,
Or sometimes grumpy style.
Because inside he had an up-turned
heart
And would always go the extra mile.*

*Bill wasn't much for paperwork
And things that slowed him down.
He just wanted to get on with the job
Of helping every county and town.*

*Bill had stories to tell and tell he did.
A trip to a small town was one -
How his stay was memorable yet brief,
And not necessarily fun.*

*The motel wasn't much to see
But certainly accommodating to all,
Including little four-legged guests
Who were living within the walls.*

*When he turned in after a hard day,
And turned off the light,
He settled in for some well-earned sleep
But heard something in the night.*

*He flipped the switch to see what was up
Since response was always his motto.
The sound he heard was his keys jingling,
And a rat engaged in grand theft auto.*

*Bill's position will be filled after a while,
But he'll never be replaced.
No one could occupy that place in our hearts
And fill that Bill-sized space.*

*Bill wasn't much for touchy-feely,
Didn't fly his heart unfurled.
Bill just wanted to do his part,
Bill just wanted to save the world.*

Goodbye, Bill. We already miss you.



CAS mission featured at Smoky Hill Weapons Range open house



A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter takes off after dropping a team of Soldiers during a demonstration at the Smoky Hill Weapons Range open house Aug. 6. (Photo by Maj. DeAnn Barr, Great Plains Joint Training Center)

By Maj. DeAnn Barr
Great Plains Joint Training Center

Despite the on-going triple-digit heat wave, 2,500 aviation enthusiasts enjoyed spectacular aerial gunnery demonstrations over the Smoky Hill Air National Guard Weapons Range in Salina, Kan., on Aug. 6 during the range's biennial open house.

"I've always been into aviation," said Chris Arnold, who grew up in Salina, but drove down from his current home in Kansas City for the event. "This was a lot of fun. I really enjoyed the A-10 simulated combat with the ground troops, that was really cool."

This close air support demonstration provided the assembled crowd with a rare front row view of how Joint Terminal Attack Controllers facilitate combat air and space power. Nearly a dozen JTACs from the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron at Smoky Hill arrived on the simulated battleground at show center in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter and took to the field in a realistic scenario. The ensuing simulation featured a narrated scenario the crowd was able to watch unfold, which included multiple hot and dry passes by four A-10 Warthogs. The A-10s delighted the crowd,

demonstrating their close-air support flexibility and power with inert bomb drops and cannon firings. The scenario concluded with simulated insurgents transiting the forewarned crowd and the JTAC response.

Other highlights from the three-hour event included aerial gunnery demonstrations by two flights of F-16 Fighting Falcons, two B-52 Stratofortress long-range bombers, and one AH-64 Apache attack helicopter.

"We were really pleased the weather cooperated for the open house," said Lt. Col. Jeff Maddex, commander of the Smoky Hill detachment. "The condensed format of the show worked well with the intense heat and the close air support demonstration seemed to be a popular feature."

The 284th ASOS provides Tactical Air Control Parties comprised of Air Liaison Officers, Air Mobility Liaison Officers, Career Battalion Air Liaison Officers and Joint Terminal Attack Controllers for two Army Brigade Combat Teams. The 284th ASOS JTACs also provide combat support to any U.S. or Coalition conventional or unconventional force. To learn more about joining the Viking tradition of the 284th ASOS see www.RadioWorksJobLink.com.

Program will lead to faster decision making process

By Pvt. Anna Rose Laurin
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

A program is being developed to ensure faster and safer decisions when it comes to the funding of the Commanders Emergency Relief Program, said Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, commander, Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas-Land Component, Kansas Army National Guard.

Primarily, this program is designed to intake data required to receive funding from CERP. This program will help our Soldiers gather sufficient information while interacting with the locals and with the development of projects in their environment such as building irrigation canals, schools or wells.

The development for the CERP program began in March 2011, said Kellie S. Keifer, program manager with SRI International.

"When thinking forward in today's military we look at the technology being developed and think about applying what's already produced to the military's practical uses," said Peck, "keeping our military on the cutting edge."

"Using the newest developed technology, rather than to develop something new and specific, is a cost effective move for the military," said Jason Dinger, a software engineer for SRI International. "This program

runs on a system that many use every day on their personal devices, such as cell phones, which means that several of the Soldiers who will be using this will already know how to control the software, which can save time and confusion."

The software is an open system, which allows it to be very flexible, said Peck. The more tools and applications there are, the more likely it will be used out in the field. If the program can't adapt to the Soldier's needs, the next time out, the Soldier is going to leave it behind.

"This program is about gathering and sharing information without the confusion of multiple devices or lost communication," said Keifer. "While in the field, the Soldier can choose to elaborate on how a project is doing or take simple notes, then go back to the Forward Operating Base and describe the situation further. With both solutions the information can be synced and shared all through the software."

"This program is a faster link to communicating to the right people at the right time with as little information lost as possible," Peck said. "This will save time and money, while providing information that will lead to more effective decision-making and projects developed that will better the lives they involve."

Fighting Jayhawks give back to the community in a big way

By Sgt. Matt McCoy
184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

The 184th Intelligence Wing presented a big check to the American Cancer Society on Aug. 10. Col. J.J. Hernandez, 184th commander, handed over \$10,000 on behalf of the Lyle Houghton Cancer Benefit Golf Tournament Committee.

"We've all been touched in some way by cancer," Hernandez said. "This cause is so important."

Stephanie Weiter received the check for the American Cancer Society.

"The amount of this check is just overwhelming," said Weiter.

The committee raises money each year through the Lyle Houghton Cancer Benefit Golf Tournament, now in its 25th year. Staff Sgt. Mat Quinton served as this year's chairman of the committee.

"Twenty-five years ago, Lyle Houghton, a member of the 184th Kansas Air National Guard, was diagnosed with cancer," Quinton explained. "(Retired) Maj. Jim Pittman and Chief Master Sgt. Terry Clain started

the golf tournament to raise money to offset the expenses of cancer treatment. A year after his diagnosis, Lyle Houghton died from cancer."

Since Houghton's death, the committee has given all proceeds to the American Cancer Society in his name. The committee has raised well over \$200,000 throughout the years. Many generous gifts are received from local businesses. Once the tournament is over, work on the next tournament begins.

"The committee spends grueling hours working on logistics, soliciting prizes and countless other responsibilities throughout the year," Quinton said.

Longtime major sponsors of the tournament include House of Schwann, Holiday Inn Select and Crestview Marine. The 184th gave each of these companies a plaque in honor of their continuous support.

After the check presentation, Weiter offered the Guard unit a designer glass egg as a token of appreciation.

"I can't thank you enough for all you do."



Stephanie Weiter presents a decorative glass egg to Col. J.J. Hernandez, commander of the 184th Intelligence Wing, in appreciation of the wing's donation of \$10,000 to the American Cancer Society. (Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Intelligence Wing)

Automated air refueling system

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almost 20 sorties using the equipment.

The flights provided ample opportunity for engineers to improve the automated refueling system. A manned Learjet stood in for an autonomous aircraft, which was embedded with GPS. Representatives from the Air Force Research Lab, Wright-Patterson AFB, Tinker AFB and U.S. Navy testers participated. Refueling was performed by guest boom operators from Edwards AFB.

Once all testing is completed, the avionics equipment can be installed in other bombers, fighters and built into future generations of aircraft. Lt. Col. Lee Grunberger, who helped coordinate the testing,

suggested the new system blurs the distinction between traditionally piloted and autonomous aircraft. Several aircraft could fly in a tight formation, even in turbulence, in what Grunberger calls "station keeping." Pilots can use the avionics system to keep in place while they take a break.

"It's a safety feature," described Grunberger. "The pilot can let go and it relieves fatigue. Planes can be manned or unmanned – it's optional."

Warrender agrees. During longer flights, the ones that may necessitate air refueling, pilots may become exhausted. Automated air refueling will extend not only the range of the plane, but of the pilot, as well.



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Thirteenth annual Kansas National Guard Kid's Camp "a blast"

By Lt. Col. Rex Johnson, PAO
Joint Forces Headquarters

In July, 109 children enjoyed a taste of military life through a five day and four night camp in Salina, Kan. Since 1998, Kid's Camp has been an annual event, allowing children ages 8-12 the opportunity to experience a week of fun at the Kansas Regional Training Institute (KSRTI). During the week, the children enjoyed doing many of the things their uniform wearing family member does such as marching in formation, singing cadences, training on simulators and eating in a military chow hall.

"Kid's Camp is designed to give children a chance to experience everything a service member does while on duty," said Darcy Seitz, state youth coordinator for Kansas and camp director. "The goal of camp is to provide a safe environment where Guard children can bond, create new friendships, and share their experiences about life in a military family."

The children are divided up into different squads based on gender and age group. Each squad wears T-shirts and caps with their squad colors and designs their own flag. The kids participated in several activities throughout the week; which included jumping on giant inflatables, playing games on military simulators, participating in a Camp Idol karaoke contest, and even having the chance to turn their squad leaders into human sundaes.

While the children lived in barracks and participated in activities at the KSRTI, they also had the opportunity to enjoy activities in the local community. Thanks to the sup-

port of Salina businesses, the children were able to go to Kenwood Cove Water Park a couple of times during the week as well as Jumpin' Joes Family Fun Center.

Makayla Turner, age 12, attended the camp for the third year in a row and enjoyed the variety of events offered.

"We got to go swimming two times and we got to go bowling," Makayla said. "We got to go to Jumpin' Joes. We got to do a lot of stuff. We got to create our own flag. It was really cool."

"The best thing about Kid's Camp was bowling and swimming," said first-time camper Raiden Gonzales, age 10. "It might make me want to join the Air Force."

"I mostly like the swimming because you get to go down the lazy river and get flushed down the slide," said Bailey Schulte, age 11, attending her second Kid's Camp. Bailey added that the shirt signing with her fellow squad members and friends at the end of camp was another great experience.

Skyler Camper and Mason Turner, both 8, were part of Alpha (Tan Squad). They explained how much they enjoyed their first Kid's Camp experience.

"It was fun and exciting," Skyler said. Mason agreed, calling it "a blast."

Dan Fox, a retired Air Guard senior master sergeant and technician for the 190th Air Refueling Wing, served for the second year in a row as the camp's first sergeant. He has participated in the Kid's Camp for the past eight years. He served first as an assistant squad leader, a squad leader, and then became the first sergeant as of last year.

"Being first sergeant is awesome," Fox



The final calculations of angle and applied force have been made. Now participants in the 13th annual Kids Camp prepare to launch homemade rockets as part of a team competition that is fun and educational. (Photo by Senior Airman Matt Lucht)

said. "It is an amazing experience being the father figure over the kids. It is really a heartwarming experience."

"I can say there is not a bad thing about Kid's Camp," Fox added. "We have a lot of these kids who say 'Man, when I grow up I want to be in the Army and can I come back and be a counselor at Kid's Camp?'"

Fox is grateful for the support from the Kansas National Guard for Kid's Camp.

"I just appreciate the support from the Adjutant General on down. I hope we can maintain it," Fox said. "The National Guard is the foundation (for the camp) and an incredible organization; we couldn't do it without them."

The camp concluded on July 15 with a graduation ceremony. Each of the children received various awards for their camp participation. The awards included medals for volunteerism, attention-to-detail, most improved, enthusiasm, teamwork, motivation, leadership, initiative, and determination amongst others.

"Each one of you is really important to your mom or dad or maybe both staying in the National Guard," said keynote speaker Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose, director of the Joint Forces Headquarters. "And it is really important that you learn what we in uniform do when we go to drill or when we

are working in our military position so that you understand and you are okay with your parents staying in."

"Retaining our Soldiers and Airmen is all about having our families understand what we are doing and why we are doing it," Rose said.

Kid's Camp was supported by more than 50 volunteers. These consist of service members from the Kansas Army and Air National Guard, JROTC members from local high schools, and Teen Council members.

"Volunteers and the community are crucial pieces to ensuring Kid's Camp is a success year after year," said Seitz. "Without volunteers donating their time or businesses allowing us to bring our campers to their facilities, Kid's Camp would not be possible."

"This speaks volumes about our volunteers and their commitment to the kids in wanting to provide them a first class experience," said Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, Kansas adjutant general.

"Kid's Camp provides a great opportunity for the children of our Guardsmen to come out and enjoy the outdoor activities and make new friendships with other National Guard kids and hopefully leave camp realizing that they are all an important part of our Kansas National Guard family."

Soldiers introduce "Great American Pastime" to Kenyan students

By Sgt. Steven Koehn

The Second Platoon of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery Regiment continues to conduct their force protection mission on Camp Simba, located on a Kenyan naval base in Manda Bay, Kenya.

The platoon has about 30 Soldiers to complete the mission which includes manning the entry control point, landing zone safety officer missions, and personal security detail missions. While not on duty, several members of the platoon, along with members of a civil affairs unit, took time to visit local school children.

Staff Sgt. Ronald Bloodworth led the group to visit the Arid Zone Primary School in Mokowe. The school has children from first through eighth grade. After presenting the children with books and board games, the Soldiers invited the children to play softball. No one at the school, including the teachers, had ever played baseball or softball before.

The Soldiers started the game by explaining the rules to the students of the seventh and eighth grade classes. After a quick

explanation, the students were enjoying the game; batting, running the bases and improving on their defensive skills.

After one inning of play the game was finished since the students were better at offense than defense. The Soldiers organized the students so that they could all run the bases.

Rydon Sakana Stanley, a teacher at the school gathered the students for some final thoughts on the day's activities.

"Thank you our guest for coming and teaching us about the game of softball," said Stanley, "and thank you for your sportsmanship."

"Thank you all for allowing us to visit your school and joining with us as we share with you a part of the American culture," said Bloodworth.

In return, Stanley had the students teach Swahili to the Soldiers. While the service members were departing the children sang, "... welcome to our visitors from America..."

This school visit is part of a long-standing partnership between the Soldiers and the school to help the students learn English.



Staff Sgt. Ronald Bloodworth explains a few rules about the game of softball to the seventh and eighth grade class members of the Arid Zone Primary School, Mokowe, Kenya. (Photo by Sgt. Steven Koehn)

The question is: Who is in control?

Continued from Page 4

and their leadership at all levels.

Yet, we can destroy these values if we fail to take care of them. We should know when they are due a promotion. Just telling them "It will happen when it happens" does little to gain their respect and loyalty when action will reinforce our concern for them. We need to counsel those E-5s and above on what they need to do to get to the next level and help them meet personal objectives. Once we have counseled them, they get to choose and are in control.

When it comes to accomplishing the mission, Soldiers of today want to know the

purpose and receive good guidance. Providing them with the purpose helps them to understand the why and good guidance enables them to perform to the expected standard. These things enable our Soldiers to accomplish the mission without fail.

All of us have some control. Just like my grandson who has control through choice, we all have that control. Effective leaders understand this and build a team where their Soldiers understand the importance and purpose of doing their part to accomplish the mission. We choose to take care of our Soldiers, building trust and respect, or not.

Now, go do the right thing.

Lasting legacy of service and friendship

Continued from Page 7

ferred a fatal heart attack in his hotel room in St. Joseph, Mo.

"Shock and astonishment," was how York characterized his initial reaction to the news or Brubaker's passing, feelings that were universal among those who knew him.

"His death creates a huge hole in our KDEM team and he is terribly missed," said Morgan.

"I received the call from Angee Morgan and couldn't believe it when she told me the sad news," said Radcliff.

"I was told by KDEM staff not long after Bill was discovered," Prine recalled. "My reaction was that of shock and the realization that work at KDEM would never be the same."

"My first reaction was 'No way!'" said Button. "After the call, I sat back and started

to remember the good times working with him and wondering how we were going to keep going without his wit and guidance."

"Sheriff Ken McGovern called me at home to give me the news," said Barr. "Obviously, I was shocked because Bill really did appear healthy, particularly after his scare in January. It certainly was hard to imagine he was gone."

"I was deeply saddened, shocked, hurt, and felt disbelief that I had lost a family member and dear friend," related Colsden. "It's still so hard to believe he's gone. I find myself expecting to see him come walking down the hallway, hear him on the radio or driving up in his man-truck."

"I know he is still watching over us and will be there for us whenever we need him," said Colsden. "That's just the way Bill was."

Awards and Decorations

KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Meritorious Service Medal



Col. Gordon Kuntz, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City Lt. Col. Gregory Mittman, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Maj. Kevin Braun, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City Maj. Richard Eaton, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City Capt. Scott Allen, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita Capt. Brent Buckley, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City Capt. Camden Campbell, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Capt. Brian Flint, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita Capt. Michael Gast, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita Capt. Ian V. Hiscock, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka Capt. Zachary Rolf, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence Capt. Kimberly Young, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 1st Lt. Adam Berry, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City 1st Lt. Michael Hayes, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence 1st Lt. Robert Lynn, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City 1st Lt. Joseph Nichols, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 1st Lt. Tyler Wamsley, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita 1st Lt. Timothy Wilkins, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita 1st Lt. Scott Williams, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence Chief Warrant Officer 3 Phillip Robinson, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
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 1st Sgt. Marc Miller, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita 1st Sgt. Kit Portz, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 1st Sgt. Paul Purdham, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence 1st Sgt. Barry Vogelbacher, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita Sgt. 1st Class Michael Brand, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Davids, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Goheen, Co A, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka
 Sgt. 1st Class Frank Gregg, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Sgt. 1st Class Jason Jones, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. 1st Class Clayton Lavine, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Littlefield, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. 1st Class Tamara Lutze, 1st Bn, 235th Rgmt, Salina, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Reling, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Sgt. 1st Class Michael L. Schmidt, Btry E (TA), 161st FA, Great Bend
 Sgt. 1st Class Terry Townsend, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Staff Sgt. Melvin Garciarivera, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Cresencio Hernandez, HHD, 635th RSG, Hutchinson, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. Brewster Sherraden, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Staff Sgt. Tam Tram, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Sgt. Robert James, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City

Army Commendation Medal



Lt. Col. Shelly Bausch, JFHQ-KS AC, Topeka Lt. Col. Walter Ehlers, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City Maj. Julie Burns, JFHQ-KS AC, Topeka
 Capt. Jason Dickey, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City Capt. Kade Garst, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City Capt. Bryan Gregory, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City Capt. David Merrill, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City Capt. Patrick Morris, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City Capt. John Potter, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
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 Lt. Col. Chet Wilson, 184th IW, Wichita
 Lt. Col. Richard Yule, 184th IW, Wichita
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 Chief Master Sgt. Richard Meador, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Senior Master Sgt. Melody Frazier, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Master Sgt. Robert Skoumal, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Mary Casey, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Kassi Malcolm-Frederick, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Michael Molter, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Donald Sawyer, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Gary Shepard, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Kent Shore, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Tech. Sgt. William Fishman 190th ARW, Topeka
 Tech. Sgt. Brian Kollar, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Robert Miller, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Jack Wait, 184th IW, Wichita
 Airman 1st Class Aron Goode, 184th IW, Wichita

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 Sgt. Antonio Parsons, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Sgt. Gino Pipkins, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. Gary Poff, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Sgt. Derek Repp, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Sgt. Johnnie Ross, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Sgt. Cameron Schwarz, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Sgt. John Shanks, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. Laramie Siebert, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Sgt. Jerry Simons, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. Nathan Sparks, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Sgt. Aaron Stevens, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Sgt. Justin Tatro, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Sgt. Ralph Tebbetts, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Sgt. David Trejo, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. Christopher Vandal, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. Nathan Vanderslice, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Sgt. Timothy Vandruff, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Sgt. Michael Vickers, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. Clinton Walter, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Sgt. Jeremy Watson, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Sgt. Christopher Weisel, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Sgt. Matthew Wilson, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Sgt. Christopher Zavala, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City

Cpl. Eric Baggett, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Amando Aguayo, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Joseph Allen, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Joshua Archambault, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Domingo Arriaga, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Montezuma Arzate, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Joseph Bailey, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Matthew Barker, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Chad Barnes, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Sean Beafort, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Erik Berg, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Michael Berry, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Quantrell Blake, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Jessie Boyd, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Matthew Brinkman, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Austin Bruening, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Darren Burton, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Carlos Canizales, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Anthony Carter, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Lyle Chandler, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Joseph Clark, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Kevin Colglazier, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Skyler Cooper, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Matthew Copeland, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Blaine Cornelius, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Forrest Cripe, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Yolaandra Crochran, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Wesley Crouch, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Donald Cunningham, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Adam Curtis, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Alexandro Deleon, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Christopher Dennis, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Brandon Dighero, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. James Dones, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Clinton Donkers, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Edward Donovan, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Bruce Dove, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Austin Drake, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. John Drimmel, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Logan Dyke, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Harold Edie, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Bethany Edwards, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Andrew Eicholtzpickering, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Eric Enzbrenner, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Lucas Fletcher, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Haskel Folks, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Joseph Fox, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Adam Fullerton, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Brian Gartland, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Carl George, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Kyle Gibson, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Todd Gibson, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. William Gilliam, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Jesse Gilpin, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Leon Golden, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Scott Goodson, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Eric Gordon, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Stafford Gosser, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Edward Griffin, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Craig Haley, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. John Halley, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Lee Harmon, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Berry Harvey, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Andrew Heimann, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Michael Henry, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Robert Hernandez, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Lathan Hicks, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Jeremiah Horn, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Maurice Hornbuckle, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Michael Howell, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. David Hummel, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Robert Hunt, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. John Hurst, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Charles Jackson, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Christopher Jackson, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Johnathan Jarrett, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. David Jennings, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Jeffrey Karraker, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Royce Kilgore, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Thomas King, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Steven Klingler, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Aaron Koerth, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Jeremy Kracht, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Ryan Lane, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Jon Leonard, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Joshua Littlejohn, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Riley Livingston, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Donald Lobmeyer, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Cooper Logback, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence

Spc. Margarita Lopez, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Jason Lowry, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Matthew Manskor, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Norvin Martinez, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Randall Matlock, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Justin McAlpin, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Trevor McCullah, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Michael McGarity, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Gary McGoyno, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Christopher McKee, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Ryan Medlin, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Travis Menuey, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Victor Mercado, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Gregory Michel, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Shawn Minerel, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Clarke Mitchell, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. John Moncayo, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Travin Moore, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Benjamin Morgan, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Brandon Morris, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Jason Mosqueda, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Jonathan Moyer, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Clinton Mumbower, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Roy Nalley, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Charles Nasternak, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Miguel Negrete, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Triuong Nguyen, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Jordan O'Grady, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Kyle Owens, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Timothy Parker, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Christopher Parrish, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. James Patton, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Matthew Paul, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Zachary Payton, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Raymond Post, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Alex Prothro, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Scott Rainey, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Daniel Recio, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Elias Relford, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Aaron Reynolds, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Matthew Richards, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. John Robinson, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Joshua Robinson, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Brady Rodecap, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Kurth Roland, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Christopher Root, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Donald Rowley, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Vincent Saiz, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Brian Savage, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Nicholas Sheridan, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Kyle Simmons, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Charles Smith, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Fredric Smith, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Raymond Smith, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Micheal Stamps, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Mark Stancil, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Charles Stanturf, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Colton Staus, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Michael Steed, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Dustin Steinhilpert, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Andrew Stewart, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Timothy Strandquist, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Austin Swanson, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Joshua Thompson, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Benjamin Thursby, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Kenneth Troyer, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Manuel Turk, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Vickie Vandenburg, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Matthew Vandruff, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Michael Villalobos, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Lee Wagner, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Ronnie Wagner, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Austin Wagoner, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. James Walter, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. John Warnock, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Brian Weber, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Christopher Wetherington, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence

Spc. Aaron Williams, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence

Spc. Anthony Williams, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Westley Wilson, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Alandres Winburn, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City

Spc. Nicholas Winslow, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Brent Wright, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Christopher Young, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Senior Airman Justin Burget, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Pfc. Jason Burrell, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Pfc. Tyrel Blount, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Pfc. Marshall Cline, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Pfc. Scott Cody, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Pfc. Ira Garringer, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Pfc. Garrett Hardon, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Pfc. Eric Harris, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Pfc. Ernest Leonard, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Pfc. Alfredo Ramirez, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Pfc. Charles Riley, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Pfc. Joseph Romans, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Pfc. Joshua Shields, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Pfc. Timothy Sims, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Pfc. Byron Snowton, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Pvt. 2 Charles Carter, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Pvt. 2 Troy Conrad, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Pvt. 1 Daniel Millan, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City

Army Achievement Medal



Capt. Sadao Fields, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 1st Lt. Angelia Phillips-Seal, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Sgt. 1st Class David Acostaluciano, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Struce, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. 1st Class Michael Swisher, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Sgt. 1st Class Leonard Young, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Akbar Abdullah, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Staff Sgt. Cesar Blanco, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Staff Sgt. Nelson Perkins, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Wade, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. Brian Bailey, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Sgt. Robert Barajas, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. Daniel Bartell, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. James Brown, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. Daniel Chambers, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. Luke Denker, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. Daniel Derichs, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. David Dudley, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. Gale Friend, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. Moises Garcia, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. Christopher Goldhart, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. Daniel Gorman Co C,

Conference goal is to make schools safe and prepared

Educators, administrators, emergency management, first responders and all others interested in fostering a safe learning environment for Kansas students took part in the 2011 Safe and Prepared Schools Conference Sept. 26 and 27 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, Topeka. The conference was 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.

"We are excited about the continuing efforts emphasizing the importance of safe and prepared schools in Kansas," said Dr. Bob Hull, director of the Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools. "We realize that all educational institutions are vulnerable to threats, disasters and hazards that have the potential to disrupt normal school operations. The collaborative approach by the sponsoring agencies is a positive example of various agencies working together for the good of schools, its students and staff."

"We know that a safe school climate, culture and preparedness actions work together to improve academic success for

students," said Hull.

Keynote speakers for the conference 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.

Breakout sessions included Bullying Prevention and Bullicide: Understanding the Violent Nature of Bullying and the Implications for School Safety; Working Together How School Leadership and Emergency Managers are making a Difference in Their Schools and Communities; Navigating the Road to Safe Routes: Exploring the Healthy Communities Safe Routes toolkit; Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center; Emergency Preparedness: The Role of the School Nurse; Coaching Boys Into Men: Reaching Young Men and Boys through Athletics to Prevent Violence; Evaluating School Climate for Equity; Relational Aggression: Dealing With "Mean Girls"; Bullying Prevention and other topics of interest.

"Emergency Preparedness Day" reminds Kansans to be safe

Disasters and emergencies come in many forms—storms, tornadoes, blizzards, flooding, fire. The key to surviving them is being prepared.

The Kansas Division of Emergency Management and local first responder agencies across the state were at Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson on "Emergency Preparedness Day," Sept. 12, to share information that will help Kansans be prepared to face a variety of emergencies.

"We do this annually to remind Kansans to prepare themselves for severe weather emergencies and other disasters," said Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general and director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. "Preparedness begins with something as simple as making a basic emergency plan and assembling a home emergency kit that will allow you and your family to get along for a minimum of three days after a disaster until help can arrive."

"Preparedness Day" featured information booths and static displays of emergency equipment near the Administration Building at the south end of the fairgrounds. Participants included Adjutant General's Department/Kansas Division of Emergency Management/Kansas National Guard, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Citizen Corps, Kansas Highway Patrol, Hutchinson Community College, Hutchinson Fire Department, Hutchinson Police Department, Community Emergency Response Team, Reno County Emergency Management, Reno County Sheriff's Department, Kansas Department of Transportation, National Weather Service and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Demonstrations included the Kansas Highway Patrol's Seat Belt "Convincer," the fire safety house from the Hutchinson Community College and search and rescue dogs from the Kansas Search and Rescue Dog Association.

Awards and Decorations - cont.

Sgt. Jeffery Smith, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. Matthew Sullivan, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Sgt. Kevin Tobisch, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. Brian Unzicker, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Sgt. Chad Wilson, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Michael Arendt, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Joseph Baker, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Frederick Beverly, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Joseph Bisogno, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Craig Brown, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Jason Brumbaugh, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Matthew Campbell, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Gabriel Castel, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Aaron Cook, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Jeffery Crain, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Nathan Decker, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Austin Dodd, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Joseph Eley, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Austin Evans, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Daniel Felix, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Scott Firestone, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Zachary Fish, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Kristopher Flory, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Jesse Gillam, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Travis Golden, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Andrew Gordon, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Orion Grove, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Jon Hale, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. John Houston, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Arlander Johnson, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Conner Kendrick, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Anthony King, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Spc. Michael Marshall, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Robert Martins, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Harold McBride, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Wade McCoy, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Timothy McFadden, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Andrew Mills, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Daniel Mitchell, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Christopher Munson, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Adam Patterson, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Jadd Pisoni, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Tushar Poojara, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Timothy Potter, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. James Regier, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Patrick Reif, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Michael Roberson, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Daniel Sanchez, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Tucker Steele, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Nicholas Suhler, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Dusty Taul, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Blake Vancovern, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Tuzong Vang, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. John Watkins, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Joshua West, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Andrew White, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. William Wilson, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Spc. Thomas Wolfe, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Karl Zang, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Pfc. Kristopher Anderson, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Pfc. Zachary Burson, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Pfc. John Ellington, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Pfc. Wade Harp, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Pfc. Cameron Hedges, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Pfc. Keaton Johnson, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Pfc. Jeremy Redmond, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Pfc. Kevin Stuart, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Pfc. Adam Trabert, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Pvt. 2 Steven Griffing, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Pvt. 1 Timothy Howell, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City

Lt. Col. Richard Yule, 184th IW, Wichita, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Capt. Eric Webb, 190th ARW, Topeka
 1st Lt. Meghan Stockman, 190th ARW, Topeka
 1st Lt. Roger Stockman, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Chief Master Sgt. Russell Brotsky, 184th IW, Wichita, with 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
 Chief Master Sgt. David Rodriguez, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Senior Master Sgt. Perry Crabtree, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Senior Master Sgt. Wendy Davis, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Doviak, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Senior Master Sgt. Brian Martin, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Meissner, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Senior Master Sgt. Christiana Wickline, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Robert Crain, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Eldon Jackson, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Ronda Klein, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Anthony Snyder, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Tech. Sgt. Thomas Hopper, 190th ARW, Topeka

Air Force Achievement Medal



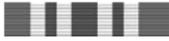
2nd Lt. Jack Brooks, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Jameson Dunbar, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Ralph Lilley, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Master Sgt. Cindy Locey, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Master Sgt. Kristina Perkins, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Master Sgt. Michael Sinkhorn, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Tammy Wellsswitzer, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Tech. Sgt. William Haug, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Tech. Sgt. Mandy Johnson, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Tech. Sgt. Sarah Mendez, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Tech. Sgt. Joel Pascua, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Tech. Sgt. Justina Saucedo, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Tech. Sgt. Dale Wright, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. Steven Blowers, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. William Bryant, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Kevin Byers, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Eric Demeritt, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. David Goodwin, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Christopher Kieffer, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. David Mabery, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Heather O'Neal, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Joseph Palmer, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Brian Peterson, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Jason Williams, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Senior Airman Tiffany Kubic, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Airman 1st Class Kelsey Barnes, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Airman 1st Class Angela Jepsen, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Airman 1st Class Brandon Leander, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Airman 1st Class Ryan Lu, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Airman 1st Class Megan Touchton, 190th ARW, Topeka

Air Force Commendation Medal



Maj. Michael Robinson, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
 Capt. Penny Jamvold, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 1st Lt. Eric Tinchler, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Chief Master Sgt. Jill Jantz, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Senior Master Sgt. Wade Durkes, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Senior Master Sgt. Russell Mercer, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Master Sgt. Clark Cook, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Michael Gellings, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Master Sgt. Shawanna Hartford, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Jeffrey Johansen, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Master Sgt. Judy Reynolds, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Master Sgt. Stephen Wodtke, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Tech. Sgt. Charity Gillam, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Tech. Sgt. Andrew Piper, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Gabriel Ramirez, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Tod Scott, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Wendy Taylor, 190th ARW, Topeka

Joint Service Commendation Medal



1st Lt. Michael Ogle, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita

Joint Service Achievement Medal



Staff Sgt. Darrell Anthony, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Avery Frantzen, 2137th FSC, Manhattan

KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Meritorious Service Medal



Lt. Col. Nina Draffen, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Lt. Col. William Hefner, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Lt. Col. Thomas Turner, 190th ARW, Topeka



Devan Tucking-Strickler, Human Services officer with the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, passes out emergency preparedness information, including information on October's "Zombie Preparedness Month," at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)

4-H project earns international award

Continued from Page 5

in the Kansas Adjutant General's Department, and Sandy Johnson, Kansas Department of Agriculture.

Involving the teens as volunteers for local government also involved preparation and training, said Magaha, who, after getting the idea approved, went to work in initiating the teens into what he calls a "true volunteer project."

Students participating in the project were issued county photo IDs. Magaha then worked with the county counselor to draft a letter about the project, which, when approved, was duplicated and laminated for the teen volunteers to use to introduce themselves to producers while surveying the livestock herds in the county.

Teen volunteers met for training at a fire station in Tonganoxie.

"We called to make appointments," said Victoria Thompson, a 4-H team member from Leavenworth. "Once we explained the reasons for the survey – to reduce the risk or spread of disease, economic losses and related losses to the community – producers were interested and cooperative."

The project was particularly intriguing to Thompson, whose career goal is veterinary medicine. Carl Hecht, 4-H teen from McLouth, who volunteered to transfer the data into spreadsheets for the map-making project, said he is intrigued by the technologies and potential applications in future career opportunities.

In addition to Thompson and Hecht, Leavenworth County 4-H Tech Team participants include Katie Eberth, Basehor;

Garrett French, Tonganoxie; Nicholas French, Tonganoxie; Laina Griffith, Basehor; Ashley Hicklin, Basehor; Clayton Kaminski, Bonner Springs; Cody Koch, McLouth; Levi Koch, McLouth; Samantha Koch, McLouth; Justin Patrick, Tonganoxie; Maylyn Solowiej, Basehor; Katie Tindell, Basehor; Rachel Tindell, Basehor; and Brooke Wilson, Basehor. Austin Wiley also participated in the initial part of the project.

"The youth know their communities, understand the technologies and are mastering the layering of data needed to verify locations and physical addresses needed for timely emergency management," said Frye, speaking for the benefits of the 4-H project to Homeland Security.

"I wish we could get the same information for all of Kansas' 105 counties," said Frye, who noted that similar mapping projects for emergency management sites, fire stations, healthcare facilities, and nursing homes could save critical time in emergency management.

While interest in geospatial technologies is growing in 4-H nationally and in Kansas, Magaha said he has already approached the Leavenworth County 4-H tech team about mapping the mile markers on the Missouri River.

The teens are enthusiastic about the project, but will wait until this season's floods have abated.

The 4-H members' work to date will be incorporated into the Leavenworth County Emergency Operations Plan to use for future responder exercises and response to a disease outbreak.

In memoriam of the fallen...



Soldiers of the Detachment 2, 170th Maintenance Company, Colby, Kan., salute as the flag is brought to half staff on Sept. 11 during a ceremony in remembrance of those who died in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 (Photo by Mary Crabb, 170th Family Readiness Group)

Interested in becoming a full-time technician? Here's how

As a traditional guardsman, it can be a challenge trying to keep up with technician vacancies when you're not at your unit or wing. This is a common obstacle for many of the traditional members of the Kansas National Guard.

The Kansas National Guard Human Resources Office has a convenient website which maintains a listing of all technician and Active Guard and Reserve vacancies available throughout the state. The process is simple. Go to http://kansastag.ks.gov/FED_jobs_tech.asp and scroll down the page until you see a position you feel you're qualified for and interested in. Click on the announcement number located on the left edge of the screen.

This will bring up the actual announcement. It describes the position, the type of work to be performed, the location, salary, selecting supervisor and what experience is needed to qualify for the position. You will find both general and specialized experience. If you can show, in your own words, you have the proper experience, then you will qualify for an interview.

To apply, all you need to do is fill out two forms, the Optional Form (OF) 612 and the OF 306. To obtain either of the forms, email [\[tions@ng.army.mil\]\(mailto:tions@ng.army.mil\) requesting the forms or go to <http://www.opm.gov/forms>. Here, you can access the OF 306. Due to recent changes at the Office of Personnel Management, the OF 612 is no longer available at this link. Since the OF 612 has limited space on which you can record your prior work history, continuation sheets and/or resumes are highly encouraged. The more information you can provide the better. Make sure you are using your own words to describe your prior work history; copying and pasting or plagiarizing may get an applicant disqualified.](mailto:HROTechnician.applica-</p>
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Once you've completed the two forms and made sure they're both signed (electronic signatures are not accepted), send in the completed application. You may fax it to (785) 274-1604; email HROTechnician.applications@ng.army.mil; mail it to the Adjutant Generals Dept-HRO, 2722 SW Topeka Blvd, Rm. 136, Topeka, KS 66611-1287 or hand carry it. The key is to ensure it is received prior to the cutoff date and time.

If you have any questions or need any assistance please contact Master Sgt. Terry Spangler at (785) 274-1160; terry.spangler2@us.army.mil or Senior Airman Diane Collins, (785) 274-1184; diane.m.collins2@us.army.mil.

Kansas Army National Guard 2011 Officer and Warrant Officer Career Day Symposium

Saturday, Nov. 19, 2011
9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Kansas Wesleyan University
Peters Science Hall
100 East Claflin
Salina, Kan. 67401

This event is designed to educate Soldiers on current Officer and Warrant Officer Programs in the state and to assist Soldiers who want to explore leadership opportunities within the Kansas Army National Guard.

Subject matter experts will present information on their specific area of expertise and answer questions about commissioning programs such as Officer Candidate School, Warrant Officer Candidate School and Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Interested Soldiers must notify their commands prior to attending if they desire to receive credit for drill. Your unit will prepare the appropriate documents for attendance and pay if you have permission to attend in lieu of one day of drill. Lunch will be provided.

For more information about this event, contact:
Maj. Adam Krein (620)202-0456
Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Smith (785) 822-6688
Sgt. 1st Class Roy Wellman (785) 822-6621

Professional racers speak about motorcycle safety

By Pfc. Robert I. Havens
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

On the top of a professional drag-racing car is an American flag that is proudly displaying signatures of America's wounded warriors and servicemembers. This subtle symbol speaks to the dedication its driver has to his mission.

Cale Aronson, a Pro Stock driver who raced during the Kansas National Guard Independence Drags V, represents the Kansas National Guard, said the flag is his way to give recognition to servicemembers.

"I knew by the sponsorship we would be getting a lot of time to go and meet the troops and it gives them a way to be part of the experience," Aronson said. "This gives me a chance to go out and talk to the troops."

Aronson and Staff Sgt. James "Jimmy" Hubbard, who is a professional motorcycle racer, have been working for the last two years together to raise awareness of the mission of the National Guard by getting the word out about it.

"Cale spent thousands of dollars putting the Kansas National Guard on his car to represent them. When that kind of guy has the drive like that, he is the best candidate in the world you have to represent the fine men and women of the armed forces," said Hubbard, also the marketing and advertising non-commissioned officer for the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, Kansas National Guard.

Hubbard and Cale not only want to represent the Kansas National Guard, but to also bring the awareness of safety to ser-

vicemembers.

"If you look at today's statistics about the Soldiers coming home, a lot of them have a lot of money in their hands and they want to go buy a sport bike or something that is cool. This gives me a way to promote motorcycle safety and to try to prevent motorcycle accidents," Hubbard said.

"We can teach people to go out, spend the \$25 so you can get into the racetrack to race, not get hurt, and if something does happen to you, there is emergency personnel five seconds away. You also won't get a ticket," Hubbard said. "There are tools out there to make sure you are safe. Take a motorcycle safety course and wear your helmet."

Hubbard continued on the importance of safety equipment while riding a motorcycle.

"The track temperatures are about 140 degrees and we are sweating out there, but I would rather sweat a little bit and walk away alive, than look cool and die," Hubbard said. "Cale and I are always out there trying to raise awareness. He drives the car - I ride a bike."

As an example of racing safety, during the races at Heartland Park Topeka, June 17 and 18, a racecar caught on fire shortly after leaving the starting line. The vehicle, engulfed in flames, slammed into the wall while approaching speeds of up to 180 mph. The safety measures on the vehicle allowed the driver to simply walk away from the accident.

"Without his safety gear, he absolutely would have been severely injured, if not killed," Hubbard said.



Professional motorcycle racer and Kansas National Guardsman Staff Sgt. James "Jimmy" Hubbard always stresses the importance of wearing safety gear and taking a motorcycle safety course when he talks to fellow Guard riders. (Photo by Pfc. Robert I. Havens, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

School time is no time for driving distractions

By Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marvin Terhune
Safety Office

School is back in session! The kids are excited to be back and enjoy catching up with their friends about summer activities.

As drivers we need to be extra vigilant around school zones, crossings and bus stops. The excitement of the school day is still fresh on the kid's mind as they run down the bus steps and dart



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marvin Terhune

from the bus. Obey the law by coming to a complete stop when the school bus lights are flashing and the "Stop" sign is displayed. Remind your children to stop and look before crossing the street.

As you drive, you may have noticed the increase in people around you not engaged in driving "their" vehicle. Avoid talking on cell phones, texting, eating, reading, putting on makeup or doing anything else that keeps your attention from controlling your vehicle. The one second that you look down to read the text someone sent could be the second that a child runs into the street chasing a ball.

When you're behind the wheel and driving, "Just Drive!" Of course, always have everyone in the vehicle buckle up! This one act could save a life.