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PLAINS GUARDIAN

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184th Intelligence Wing names intel complex for Gates

By 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht
184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

Dr. Robert M. Gates, former U.S. secretary of defense, was the guest of honor at a ceremony May 30 dedicating the Kansas National Guard's 184th Intelligence Wing's Intelligence Complex in his name at McConnell Air Force Base, Wichita, Kan. Gates' 99-year-old mother and other family members joined with friends and Airmen of the 184th IW to honor Gates and witness the dedication ceremony of the new complex.

"We thank you for a career that is a testament to the love of America and a love of Americans that is common among Kansans and you show that to all of us," said Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback.

"The defense of liberty of freedom falls to every generation, it truly does, and our thanks to our former Secretary of Defense Dr. Bob Gates," said Pat Roberts, U.S. senator of Kansas.

Gates, a Wichita native, served as the 22nd secretary of defense from 2006 to 2011. He was selected for this honor because of his dedication to expanding intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance support to military forces during his tenure. Gates also served as deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 1986 to 1989 and as director from 1991 to 1993.

Col. John J. Hernandez, commander of the 184th Intelligence Wing, unveils a plaque naming the wing's Intelligence Complex at McConnell Air Force Base, Wichita, Kan., in honor of Dr. Robert Gates (left), former U.S. secretary of defense, during a May 30 ceremony. (Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

"This occasion and this facility, in many respects, pull together three subjects that are near and dear to me on a personal level and professionally as secretary of defense," said Gates. "The state of Kansas, the National Guard and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance work to the war fighter."

Before the dedication ceremony, Gates had the opportunity to tour and meet the Airman that work daily in the new 184th intelligence complex. After meeting them, he was presented the first minted commemorative Dr. Robert M. Gates Intelligence Complex challenge coin.

The three-building intelligence complex, located at McConnell AFB, encompasses 16 acres and includes more than 68,000 square feet of administrative, training, briefing and operations space. Building 40 was completed in 2006. Modification and renovation projects on Buildings 37 and 49 were completed in January 2012.

"Many people beyond this complex are likely unaware of all the work that is involved," said Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general, "and may not

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Fighting Jayhawks respond quickly to storm damage

By Maj. DeAnn Barr and
Master Sgt. Matt McCoy
184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

Despite an outbreak of tornadoes across the state April 14, the Kansas Air National Guard's 184th Intelligence Wing, located on McConnell Air Force Base, sustained only minor damage to a handful of facilities.

With a plan in place, the organizations on base were ready to respond at a moment's notice.

"We precoordinated with the 22nd Air Refueling Wing's Civil Engineers Squadron [the day prior to the storm] to set up damage assessment and repair teams, and we were on standby from the crisis action team that the base has set up," said Lt. Col. James Culp, commander, 184th Civil Engineer Squadron.

> ***"I was impressed by the wingwide effort put forth to get our side of McConnell cleared up."***
> ***Col. J.J. Hernandez, commander, 184th Intelligence Wing.***

At approximately 10:15 p.m. an EF-3 tornado touched down near the small town of Haysville, just southwest of McConnell AFB. The tornado created a path of destruction, moving in a northeast direction, and at times spanned up to a mile wide, according to local officials. After hitting the west side of the base, which houses the 184th Intelligence Wing, the twister continued on, totaling 15 miles of damage.

The unit's Command Post, along with the Plans and Programs office, worked behind the scenes while running the emergency operations center. They provided the proper warnings of inclement weather and, when the time came, they instructed the personnel on base to seek shelter.

"After I got the call at about 11 p.m., we

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Delegation from Republic of Armenia visits Kansas

By Pfc. Brandon Jacobs
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

A delegation from the Republic of Armenia, including the minister of defense, visited the state of Kansas March 19 through 20. During their visit, Minister of Defense Seyran Ohanyan and several other top officials of the Armenian Ministry of Defense, toured multiple National Guard facilities and the state Capitol.

Ohanyan met with Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, to discuss the growth of the relationship between the two nations.

That relationship started in 2003 when the National Guard Bureau partnered Kansas with Armenia. Even before the state partnership program began, Kansas shared a special connection with Armenia. Former Kansas Senator Bob Dole had his shoulder rebuilt by an Armenian doctor after World War II and, in 1994, became one of the first U.S. Senators to visit the new republic.

Armenia and Kansas were joined due to other similarities, as well. Both are landlocked and have a primarily wheat-based agriculture, said Lt. Col. Brent Salmans, the

(Continued on Page 2)

Armenian Minister of Defense Seyran Ohanyan and First Deputy Minister of Defense Davit Tonoyan meet with Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, over breakfast at the State Defense Building in Topeka, Kan., March 20. Ohanyan and Tafanelli discussed the growing relationship between Kansas and the Republic of Armenia. (Photo by Pfc. Brandon Jacobs, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

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Tornadoes prompt activation of Emergency Operations Center

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

In the aftermath of a massive storm system that plowed across Kansas April 14 and 15, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management began contacting affected counties to gather information on the amount of damages sustained. The State Emergency Operations Center in Topeka was activated at 2:30 p.m. April 14 and remained activated until 5 p.m. Sunday.

Gov. Sam Brownback signed a declaration of a State of Disaster Emergency early on April 15 for 39 counties affected by the storms, which generated an estimated 82 tornadoes in addition to heavy rain, lightning, high winds and large hail. Named in the declaration were Barber, Barton, Butler, Chase, Clay, Comanche, Dickinson, Edwards, Ellsworth, Geary, Greenwood, Harper, Harvey, Hodgeman, Jewell, Kingman, Kiowa, Lincoln, Lyon, Marion, McPherson, Marshall, Mitchell, Morris, Osborne, Ottawa, Pawnee, Pratt, Reno, Rice, Riley, Rush, Russell, Saline, Sedgwick, Stafford, Sumner, Smith and Wabaunsee Counties.

Gov. Sam Brownback (center), tours the aftermath of an EF3 tornado that hit Pinaire Mobile Home Park in Wichita, Kan., with Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli (left), adjutant general, and Carl Brewer (right), mayor of Wichita, April 15. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

The declaration activated the disaster response and recovery portions of the Kansas Response Plan to expedite state assistance to counties based on the amount of damages sustained and the counties' ability to respond with the resources they have available. Brownback later issued an executive order to grant temporary relief from motor carrier rules and regulations for those helping with storm clean-up.

Brownback also requested and received a Small Business Administration disaster declaration for Butler, Cowley, Harvey, Kingman, Reno and Sumner Counties. The declaration makes low-interest, long-term loans of up to $200,000 available to homeowners, renters and businesses to replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters may be eligible for up to $40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property. Businesses of any size and private, nonprofit organizations may borrow up to $2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets.

Despite the large number of tornadoes the storm system spawned, KDEM received no reports of deaths resulting from the storms. According to the Sedgwick County Emergency Operations Center, 17 injuries were reported in Sedgwick County. The governor credited the numbers to early warning and sensible response from Kansans.

"People paid attention to the advance warnings issued by the National Weather Service and our emergency management and took them seriously," said Brownback. "They did everything they could to protect themselves and their families. These actions may have saved many lives."

"These types of storm systems show the importance of heeding warnings," he continued, "having an emergency plan and kit and knowing where to go in a tornado."

Brownback toured several areas April 15. He was accompanied by Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general and director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, and other state and local officials.

"The state will do what it can to help our storm-ravaged communities get back on their feet. The state's emergency management team is working with local leaders to help address immediate needs and to organize the clean-up of the storm debris," said Tafanelli.

184th Intelligence Wing names Intel complex for Gates

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realize just how significant that it is to keeping us all safe."

The complex is home to more than 350 Airmen of the Kansas Air National Guard's 184th Intelligence Wing, who support the U.S. Air Force Distributed Common Ground System. As part of the U.S. Air Force DCGS, Airmen of the Kansas Air National Guard contribute to the production of intelligence information collected by various manned and unmanned aircraft to include the U-2, RQ-4 Global Hawk, MQ-9 Reaper and the MQ-1 Predator. These contributions are an important part of a globally networked weapon system currently engaged in operations including those led by United Nations, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, U.S. Central Command, U.S. European Command, U.S. Forces Korea, U.S. Northern Command, U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Southern Command operations throughout the world.

"If the mission of ISR doesn't end, the mission for this unit won't end," said Col. John Hernandez, wing commander of the 184th Intelligence Wing. "It may change, it may go up and down slightly, but the demand will always be there. The mission set here in the Kansas Air National Guard is enduring."

During his tenure as secretary of defense, Gates stressed the importance of having a Guard and Reserve component that was trained, equipped and ready to be deployed in support of U.S. military actions.

"Since September 11, we have seen the Guard transition from a strategic reserve to a fully operational reserve. The Guard is an integral indeed indispensable part of America's pool of deployable forces," said Gates. "The way ahead for our military, in terms of integrating active and reserve components, as well as integrating new technologies and tactics, is in many respects embodied by 184th Intelligence Wing and the work that will take place in this new complex."

Gen. Craig McKinley, chief of the National Guard, praised Gates for his improvements to the National Guard during his time as the secretary of defense.

"Because of your profound understanding of the unique needs of our National Guard Soldiers and Airman and their family members as well, you implemented mobilization policies that eased the stress of deployment and preserved the unit cohesion of our National Guard and Reserve," said McKinley.

"The take away from all of this for the Fighting Jayhawks is, irrespective of shifting budgets of geopolitical whims, your unique capabilities of a National Guard ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) asset, well integrated with the active component, will keep you in high demand for many years to come and I know that you are up for the challenge," said Gates.

Col. Kreg Anderson, commander of the 184th Intelligence Group, presents Dr. Robert M. Gates, former U.S. secretary of defense, the first minted commemorative Dr. Robert M. Gates Intelligence Complex Challenge coin prior to touring the facility on McConnell Air Force Base May 30. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

Delegation from Republic of Armenia visits Kansas National Guard

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director of the State Partnership Program.

"The program is meant to be a bilateral relationship between Kansas and Armenia," explained Salmans. "We start with the National Guard and Ministry of Defense and branch out to other parts of society."

Earlier in March, officers of the Kansas City, Kan., Police Department visited Armenia to train in international security and narcotics law enforcement. The State Partnership Program is working with Washburn University and the University of Kansas medical schools to assist with medical education and public health programs in Armenia.

The Kansas National Guard is assisting Armenia in several areas. The Guard is assisting in the training of the Armenian peacekeeping brigade, which has participated in both the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.

Medical personal are also assisting the Armenians with their Expeditionary Medical System mobile hospital to enable them to deploy with NATO forces.

During their visit, the Armenian delegation discussed ways to enhance Armenia's ability to respond to disasters, both natural and manmade.

While at the state Capitol, Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback signed a proclamation declaring a state of goodwill and friendship between the people of the state of Kansas and the Republic of Armenia.

The Armenian delegation was also treated to lunch at Cedar Crest, the governor's mansion, where they were presented with several gifts to commemorate their trip. Ohanyan presented Brownback with several items, including a bottle of Armenian brandy and the Armenian coat of arms.

Brownback joked that between Kansas and Armenia, diplomacy might be a better pick than his "March Madness" bracket.

Gov. Sam Brownback presents Armenian Minister of Defense Seyran Ohanyan a proclamation of partnership between the state of Kansas and the Republic of Armenia, at the state Capitol in Topeka, Kan., March 20. Later in the day, Ohanyan joined Brownback at his Cedar Crest mansion for lunch. (Photo by Pfc. Brandon Jacobs, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Fort Riley Engineers conduct vehicle recovery exercise

By Amanda Kim Stairrett
1st Infantry Division Public Affairs

The Soldiers were waist-deep in muddy water, but they didn't mind. It was better than spending hours in a windowless classroom.

Sometimes training can involve tedious slideshows and instruction, but when it comes to vehicle recovery operations, the best way to learn is by getting dirty. It doesn't hurt when the trainers get in the mud, too.

Soldiers with the 1st Engineer Battalion and 101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, recently completed a 10-day vehicle recovery operations course at the Kansas Army National Guard's Regional Training Site, Salina.

The course taught Soldiers how to properly extract vehicles from deep water and mud and how to right equipment overturned in accidents or by explosions. Participants used a variety of winching methods, including under lift, tow and crane operations.

Active duty Soldiers would typically have to travel to Fort Lee, Va., to complete this course, but the Kansas National Guard recently opened its instructors and facilities to active duty units. The 1st HBCT group was the first all-active class to go through, said Master Sgt. John C. Duerr, chief instructor, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 235th Regiment, Kansas National Guard.

Vehicle recovery operations certification is a requirement for higher-level classes like the MRAP Recovery Course, so Soldiers from units across the U.S. are now coming to learn from the 235th, Duerr said.

Sending troops to Salina not only means Fort Riley saves money, but the Soldiers are closer to home and don't have to be apart from their families as much, Duerr said.

The class, part of predeployment training requirements, was a result of close coordination between the division, U.S. Forces Command and the Kansas Army National Guard, said Lt. Col. Thomas Hairgrove, 1st Eng. Bn. commander.

"This is a great example of how the total Army works together to meet mission requirements," he said. "With this training, the 1st Engineer Battalion Soldiers will be fully prepared to meet theater requirements for specialty recovery operations."

Salina is one of the Army's 18 regional training sites for maintenance, Duerr said. Thirteen belong to the Army National Guard and four belong to the U.S. Army Reserve. The only active duty site is at Fort Lee.

The vehicle recovery classes are popular, Duerr said, and instructors will now host courses every two weeks through mid-October. More groups of Fort Riley Soldiers are expected later this year. Others are set to travel to Kansas from Fort Drum, N.Y.

Part of the course's success is because of its hands-on nature and the instructors, Duerr said. Pfc. Patrick Patterson, 1st Engineer Battalion, said he appreciated the instructors' expertise. They all know exactly what they're doing, he said, and they know the information off the top of their heads.

Sgt. Geoffrey Cagle, 77th Mobility Augmentation Company, 1st Engineer Co., had never operated an Army five-ton wrecker, but he was "quite confident" he could after learning how from the instructors.

Although his team had to get in the freezing mud pit to hook tow cables to a stuck truck early one morning, Patterson said he loved it. Cagle did, too.

The course was a lot more than Cagle expected, he said, adding it was nice a lot of time wasn't spent in the classroom putting Soldiers to sleep.

"Out here you're hands-on — getting dirty," Cagle said.

Soldiers from the Special Troops Battalion and 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, attach cables to a heavy expanded mobility tactical truck, April 9, at the Army National Guard's Kansas Regional Training Center in Salina, Kan., as they prepare to tow it out of a mud pit. Soldiers participated in a 10-day wheeled vehicle recovery course, teaching them to recover vehicles overturned by accidents or roadside bomb blasts or stuck in water and mud. Typically, active duty Soldiers would have to travel to Fort Lee, Va., to get the training, but the 235th Regiment recently opened classes for more than just Army National Guard units. (Photo by Amanda Kim Stairrett, 1st Infantry Division Public Affairs)

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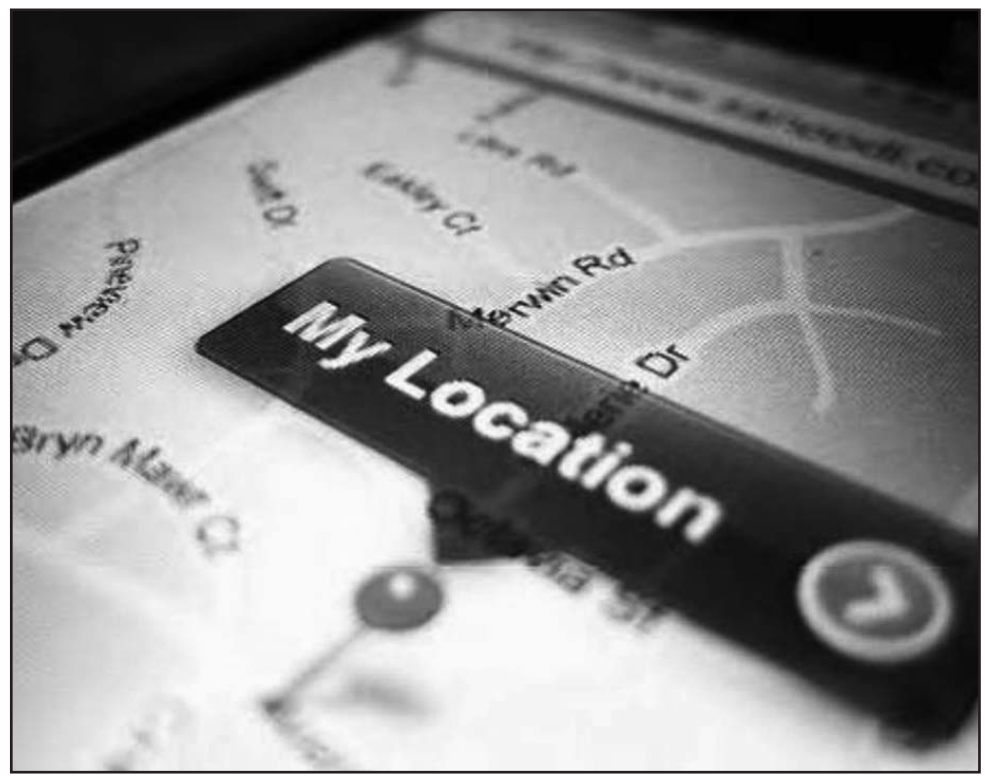
Geotagging poses security risks



The action of automatic geotagging takes place on many smartphones. Some are enabled by default. Users can prevent their information from being posted by disabling the GPS function on their phone. (Courtesy photo)

By Cheryl Rodewig
Army.mil

"Is a badge on Foursquare worth your life?"

The question was posed by Brittany Brown, social media manager of the Online and Social Media Division at the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs. It may sound outlandish, but in the age of social geotagging, it can be a reality.

There are a number of location-based social media applications and platforms, including Foursquare, Gowalla, SCVNGR, Shopkick, Loopt and Whrrl, currently on the market. They use GPS features, typically in the user's phone, to publish the person's location and offer rewards in the form of discounts, badges or points to encourage frequent check-ins.

Security risks for the military

A deployed service member's situational awareness includes the world of social media. If a Soldier uploads a photo taken on his or her smartphone to Facebook, they could broadcast the exact location of their unit, said Steve Warren, deputy intelligence officer, Maneuver Center of Excellence.

"Today, in pretty much every single smartphone, there is built-in GPS," Warren said. "For every picture you take with that phone, it will automatically embed the latitude and longitude within the photograph."

Someone with the right software and the wrong motivation could download the photo and extract the coordinates from the metadata.

Warren cited a real-world example from 2007. When a new fleet of helicopters arrived with an aviation unit at a base in Iraq, some Soldiers took pictures on the flightline, he said. From the photos that were uploaded to the Internet, the enemy was able to determine the exact location of the helicopters inside the compound and conduct a mortar attack, destroying four of the AH-64 Apaches.

Staff Sgt. Dale Sweetnam, Online and Social Media Division, said geotagging is of particular concern for deployed Soldiers and those in transit to a mission.

"Ideally, Soldiers should always be aware of the dangers associated with geotagging, regardless of where they are," he explained.

General hazards for family members

While especially relevant for those in the military, cautions about geotagging extend to anyone who uses that feature.

Facebook is in the process of rolling out Timeline, a new layout that includes a map tab of all the locations a user has tagged.

"Timeline presents some unique security challenges for users who tag location to posts," Sweetnam said.

"Some of those individuals have hundreds of 'friends' they may never have actually met in person," he explained. "By looking at someone's map tab on Facebook, you can see everywhere they've tagged a location. You can see the restaurants they frequent, the gym they go to everyday, even the street they live on if they're tagging photos of their home. Honestly, it's pretty scary how much an acquaintance that becomes a Facebook 'friend' can find out about your routines and habits if you're always tagging location to your posts."

Most of the applications let people limit who can see their check-ins to friends or friends of friends.

"A good rule of thumb when using location-based social networking applications is do not become friends with someone if you haven't met them in person," Sweetnam said. "Make sure you're careful about who you let into your social media circle."

Even if there is nothing classified about an individual's location, a series of locations posted online over the course of a month can create a pattern that criminals can use.

"We live in a different world now," Warren said.

"If someone were going to get a hold of your phone, they could figure out a lot about who you are. It's like a beacon that's always out there communicating with towers and plotting your moves on a computer somewhere. Literally, if you don't turn off that feature on your phone people are going to be able to recreate your whole day."

Ways to stay safe

"In operations security, we talk about the adversary," said Kent Grosshans, MCoE operational security officer. "The adversary could be a hacker, could be terrorists, could be criminals; someone who has an intent to cause harm. The adversary picks up on pieces of information to put the whole puzzle together."

Grosshans suggests disabling the geotagging feature on your phone and checking your security settings to see who you're sharing check-ins with.

"If your husband's deployed and you go ahead and start posting all these pictures that are geotagged, now not only does an individual know your husband's deployed and he's not at home, but they know where your house is," he said.

Ultimately, it's about weighing the risks.

"Do you really want everyone to know the exact location of your home or your children's school?" Sweetnam said. "Before adding a location to a photo, Soldiers really need to step back and ask themselves, 'Who really needs to know this location information?'"

Grosshans said it's as important to Soldiers as to family members.

"Be conscious of what information you're putting out there," he said. "Don't share information with strangers. Once it's out there, it's out there. There's no pulling it back."

Why it's important to tell our department's good news

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

Our department is quite unique in the services we provide to the state of Kansas, but unfortunately not everyone is aware of the many things we do and the impact we have. That is, until we tell them. In recent weeks when the agency deployed a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter and nine crew members from Company G, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion)to fight Colorado wildfires, Kansans quickly learned what we can do in wildfires. But our ability to fight wildfires is just one of the benefits our complex department brings to Kansans.

Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli

We must ensure everyone understands what our nearly 450 state employees and 7,500 federal employees contribute to Kansas, especially in times of shrinking budgets. Our emergency management division is responsible for overseeing the coordination of resources for all state disasters, while our homeland security office is involved in sharing critical information with key partners to protect our state's population and critical infrastructure. And our National Guard members stand trained and ready to defend our state and country whenever the call comes.

Every day within each area of our agency, we are working for Kansans to protect and serve them, but the effects of those efforts may not always be seen directly by the public. A large part of what we do is prevention. Our Guard members are fighting overseas to prevent war being waged on our soil and our emergency management and homeland security entities are continually planning and exercising, and urging preparedness at every level from individuals to businesses and communities to ensure we're ready for the potential hazards we face in Kansas. Sometimes those efforts are done quietly behind the scenes under the guise of just doing our jobs, but we have the power to change that and make the good news known.

While our troops get wonderful community support during deployment and welcome home ceremonies, the sacrifices they make while deployed are often not known to those beyond family. The same can be said for our emergency responders at the state and local levels around the state. When a disaster hits, the efforts to help communities respond and recover is well known, but day-to-day efforts aren't necessarily realized.

We must never forget the importance of communicating what we do, in addition to doing it. Many great programs are underway to assist our families, such as Teen Camp and Youth Camp; to support our troops, such as marriage retreats and employment assistance programs; and to support emergency managers around the state, such as training, exercises and planning sessions. Additionally, communities are working hard to prevent the devastation of future disasters like tornadoes through hazardous mitigation grants. This includes building safe rooms in schools and towns to improve overall preparedness efforts and save lives.

Sadly, our society often focuses on the negative news, such as what is yet to be done by government and what limited funding prevents government from doing, but that's all the more reason we must showcase all of the positive actions we take to make Kansas better and safer.

One way we do this is through this publication, and through our website, www.kansastag.gov, as well as our presence on social media including Facebook and Twitter. Let's take an active role in telling the good news about what we do in Kansas to protect and serve. Let's work together to make our hard work known to those we serve!

Sgt. Sheldon Snodgrass, a flight instructor with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion), observes the High Park wild fire in Larimer County, Colo., approximately 15 miles west of Fort Collins, while out on a Bambi bucket mission to help provided structure protection June 15, 2012. (Photo by Sgt. Ryan Kohlman, Company G, 2nd-135th General Support Aviation Battalion)

Personnel protective equipment

By Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marvin Terhune
Safety Office

One of the most dangerous things that we do around the house is yard work! We are handling gasoline and other petroleum products and operating several things with engines that have blades or string attached and are very noisy.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marvin Terhune

This year, start out on the "right foot," which includes protecting ourselves while we are working. This includes wearing eye protection, hearing protection and hand protection.

Eye protection is easily obtained by the purchase of safety glasses with clear or tinted lenses. A face shield could also be added with safety glasses to afford added protection especially when operating a "weed whacker."

Make sure you are wearing long pants and sturdy shoes that cover your toes. A pebble launched from a mower or weed whacker can be very painful!

Hearing protection is a must for operating anything with an engine. A good rule of thumb is that if you have to raise your voice to speak over the noise then you probably require hearing protection. The foam earplugs are a good choice or, for ease, the "Mickey Mouse" earmuffs are an option.

Remember when using fertilizers, weed killers or other chemicals to read the manufactures warning label that is posted on the product container. Mix products to the manufactures instructions. Enjoy your activities this spring and remember to protect yourself and your family by using personnel protective equipment. Be safe!

Soldier to Soldier

A new chapter of life

By Command Sgt. Maj. John Ryan
Joint Forces Headquarters

As I sit here thinking about what I should say in this, my last article for the Plains Guardian, many things are going through my mind. I have had a great career, and if I had it all to do over I would and I would do it with you. Over the course of the last 39 plus years I have had the privilege of serving for and with the greatest fighting force in the military. The leadership I have served with is among the very best in the Army. I have been blessed to serve with some of the very best officers and noncommissioned officers, bar none.

Command Sgt. Maj. John Ryan

I have seen many changes. I have worn four different duty uniforms, been through at least two drawdowns, trained up to go to war to serve our nation and I have seen a whole host of different equipment. I've seen units come and go and force structure go up and down. Change is good, though it presents challenges. These challenges give us the opportunity to display our ability to adapt and overcome, which we have done time and time again. My attitude has always been I can do that, a can do attitude.

You may think I have been lucky and there was some of that, but I will tell you all that we make our own luck. We are in control and the following is what I have always tried to do:

1. I made sure I was medically ready. We know if we need a periodic health assessment or need dental work. Just get it done.
2. I made sure I met the height and weight requirements and the Army Physical Fitness Test standards.
3. I made sure I went to school, getting the next Noncommissioned Officer Education System course as soon as I could.
4. I did my very best at whatever job I was assigned, no matter what it was.
5. I made sure I belonged to professional organizations that promote

(Continued on Page 13)

Warrant Officer Corps grows

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

Now is the time to prepare for the annual physical fitness test. Don't wait until the last minute to exercise in preparation. That's a good way to tear or pull a muscle, or be too sore to perform well during the test.

Command Chief Warrant Officer 5 Hector Vasquez

I also ask that you don't just meet the minimum standards, but strive to exceed the standards. We are leaders and how you prepare yourself is a sign of how you prepare your Soldiers for success. For those of you who are considering applying for the warrant officer program, you should know that a minimum score looks bad when your packet goes to the Federal Recognition Board, which may cause the Senior Army Advisor to question your motives to become a warrant officer. For current warrant officers who are boarding for promotion, a minimum effort/score makes it difficult to explain to the Senior Army Advisor and president of the Federal Recognition Board why we should promote a Soldier who puts forth minimum effort and barely passes height and weight.

At the Kansas National Guard joint conference, enlisted Soldiers, officers and warrant officers had breakout sessions geared toward professional development. This was the first time in many years that each entity had a separate breakout and I thought the warrant officer portion was fantastic.

Our guest speaker was Chief Warrant Officer 5 Richard Ernest, who is the special assistant to National Guard Bureau Command Chief Warrant Officer. Ernest spoke about maintaining relevancy, which consisted of our current legacy, future legacy and how the Warrant Officer Corps is planning on moving forward. He spoke to the group about the Army Leader Development Strategy, which concerns the future of the warrant officers, and the Warrant Officer Continuum of Learning Study, which focuses on the

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Plains Guardian

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Health and happiness together

By Capt. Amy Blow
Occupational Health Manager

"Cheerfulness is the best promoter of health and is as friendly to the mind as to the body."

– Joseph Addison

I have seen many articles lately linking health and happiness together. It made me wonder what exactly all of those studies were finding and how it could translate into the health and well being of our Soldiers and Airmen in the Kansas National Guard. While exercise has been shown to reduce the human response to stress, the simple act of smiling has even been linked to a person feeling better.

Capt. Amy Blow

The human body responds to stress physically, emotionally and in actions. Physical stress responses can be seen acted out in the form of aches and pains in various areas of your body, such as head, back, neck and stomach. A person could experience tight muscles and clenched jaws, while others may feel their energy and sleep patterns disrupted with feelings of being tired without a good reason.

Feelings of anxiety, anger, depression, helplessness, being out of control and tension are also possible if early stresses are not addressed. Other emotional signs can include being easily irritated, impatient, or forgetful.

It has become mainstream to see commercials for medications claiming to treat all of these ailments. Exercise caution when trying to treat the symptoms instead of the original causes of the stressors in your life. Some medical conditions and drug interactions can actually be the root cause for some of the signs and symptoms listed above. Please see your health care provider if you are unsure if stress may be the cause.

Think about how you react in your own action responses to stress. Engaging in even one of these behaviors may mean that you are not dealing with stress as well as you could. Do any of the following apply to you?

- I eat to calm down.
- I speak and eat very fast.
- I drink alcohol or smoke to calm down.
- I rush around, but do not get much done.
- I work too much.
- I delay doing the things I need to do.
- I sleep too little, too much or both.
- I slow down.
- I try to do too many things at once.

Stress and heart disease have been linked, because stress sets off a chain of events. First, you have a stressful situation that's usually upsetting, but not harmful. The body reacts by releasing a hormone, adrenaline, which causes your breathing and heart rate to speed up and your blood pressure to rise. These physical reactions prepare you to deal with the situation by confronting it or by running away from it — the "fight or flight" response.

When stress is constant (chronic), your body remains in high gear off and on for days or weeks at a time. The link between stress and heart disease is not clear. However, chronic stress that causes an increase in heart rate and blood pressure may damage the artery walls. Chronic stress does not cause high blood pressure. The exact causes of high blood pressure are unknown, but contributing factors include being overweight, eating too much sodium (salt), lack of physical activity and drinking too much alcohol.

> ***"Cheerfulness is the best promoter of health and is as friendly to the mind as to the body."***
> ***– Joseph Addison***

But chronic stress can take a physical toll on you. It can weaken your immune system and cause uncomfortable physical symptoms like headache and stomach problems.

Medicines are helpful for many things, but usually not for stress. Some people take tranquilizers to calm them down, but it's far better to learn to manage your stress through relaxation or stress management techniques. Be careful not to confuse stress with anxiety. If you suffer from severe anxiety, speak with your doctor about whether you need medication.

There are some things you can do to modify your lifestyle to become healthier. Don't smoke; Plan to quit if you currently smoke. Check your blood pressure regularly and improve your eating habits by changing small things gradually. If gradual increases in physical activity are added into your routine, maintaining a healthy weight may be more possible as well. Finally, don't forget to see your doctor often and take your medications as prescribed. Professional resources are available if you need to seek additional help.

Medical Group earns 96 percent in Health Services Inspection

By Tech. Sgt. Angela Brees
190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The test came back positive: The 190th Medical Group earned a 96 percent on their recent Health Services Inspection.

"The results of the inspection represent months of planning, training and hard work by Medical Group personnel," wrote 190th Air Refueling Wing Commander Col. Ron Krueger in a letter to the wing. "Thank you for your professionalism and positive attitudes throughout the inspection process, and congratulations for a job extremely well done."

Four inspectors from the Air Force Inspection Agency spent the March unit training assembly reviewing programs and processes with the mission of providing independent and timely assessments to senior leadership of the Air Force.

Col. Gerald Wiest from Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., led the four-person inspection team. During the in-brief Friday before the drill weekend, Wiest praised the mission of the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve.

"It's awesome to think about what you do. We expect so much from you. The same requirements as active duty, but you accomplish it in a lot shorter time frame," said Wiest.

"Time management is always a challenge," said Col. Janet Hanson, 190th Medical Group commander. "The medical team dedicated a lot of hours here and on their own time – that willingness is one of several keys to our success."

The Medical Group spent the last 18 months preparing for the inspection, reviewing programs and resources and evaluating each section in detail.

"I knew going into the inspection that we had put our best effort forward," Hanson said. "Our team did a wonderful job and it's nice to have the inspection team validate that."

Hanson is also grateful for the support given by the wing, from the wing commander to the plans team.

"It's a Medical Group inspection, but it takes the effort of the whole wing to perform well."

Moberly assumes role of command sergeant major for Kansas Army National Guard

Command Sgt. Maj. James Moberly, Salina, assumed the duties of the senior noncommissioned officer for the Kansas Army National Guard in a transfer of authority ceremony June 3 in Nickell Armory, Topeka.

"It is an honor to be chosen for this position and have the opportunity to lead the Kansas Army National Guard into the challenging future in service to our state and nation," said Moberly.

Command Sgt. Maj. James Moberly

Moberly replaces Command Sgt. Maj. John Ryan, who retired after 39 years of service with the Kansas National Guard. Ryan, of Carbondale, had been the command sergeant major for the Kansas Army National Guard since 2010.

"Over the course of the last 39 plus years, I have had the privilege of serving for and with the greatest fighting force in the military," said Ryan. "I have been blessed to serve with some of the very best officers and noncommissioned officers, bar none."

Command Sgt. Maj. James Moberly

Command Sgt. Maj. James Moberly enlisted in the Kansas Army National Guard in July 1984 as an indirect fire infantryman. He attended basic and advanced individual training at Fort Benning, Ga. He served in every enlisted leadership position including team leader, squad leader, mortar fire direction control chief, section leader, platoon sergeant, first sergeant, battalion command sergeant major and brigade command sergeant major.

Moberly was promoted and assigned as the battalion command sergeant major for the 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry Oct. 1, 2003. He served as the 69th Troop Command Brigade command sergeant major Jan. 1, 2007 through July 31, 2010. He was assigned as the 235th Regiment command sergeant major and Noncommissioned Officer Education System commandant Aug. 1, 2010.

Moberly's served in key leadership positions on two overseas deployments including first sergeant of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry for Operation Enduring Freedom December 2001 to October 2002, and battalion command sergeant major for 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry during Operation Iraqi Freedom August 2005 to November 2006.

Moberly's military education includes Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course – Common Core, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course – Indirect Fire Infantry, Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course – Common Core, Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course – Infantry, United States Army Sergeants Major Academy Sergeant Major Course, Command and General Staff College Pre-Command and Command Sergeants Major Course and Total Army Instructor Trainer Course. He is also currently assigned full-time as the command sergeant major of the Premobilization Training and Evaluation Team at the Great Plains Joint Training Center.

Moberly's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, Iraq Campaign Medal with two campaign stars, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 20-year service and "M" devices with numeral two, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with numeral four, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, Kansas National Guard Emergency Duty Service Ribbon, Kansas National Guard

(Continued on Page 18)

State Chaplain's Corner

"So Help Me God…"

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

We each began our military career by taking an oath. The pledge we made whether as an enlisted servicemember, an officer or a Department of the Army civilian defines the essence of our military service.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) William D. Jenkins

In 1775, in his speech to the New York Legislature, Gen. George Washington said, "When we assumed the Soldier, we did not lay aside the Citizen." As members of the National Guard this is certainly true and yet as citizen servicemembers we are ambassadors of both the state of Kansas and the United States of America.

We live in a time where many talk about the eroding values in our culture. In the Armed Services, we make a commitment not only to "support and defend the Constitution," we also make a commitment to be a certain kind of person—a person of character and integrity. Values matter.

When we raised our right hand, we made a pledge and joined an institution that stands for something and makes a difference. When you see the Colors, you stand a little straighter. When you hear the National Anthem, a lump grows in your throat. When you hear Taps a tear fills your eye. When you raised your right hand something inside you changed forever… "So help me God."

Oath of Enlistment

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."

Oath of Office

(Taken by commissioned officers and Department of the Army civilians)

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

Ceremony brings final Kansas Agribusiness Development Team deployment to a close

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

The noonday sun was high, casting stark shadows across the faces of the assembled Soldiers. In a final formation, held May 8 at Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam, Afghanistan, the fourth Kansas Agribusiness Development Team rotation, led by Lt. Col. Russell Richardson and Sgt. Maj. Ron Brandt, and the Provincial Reconstruction Team, led by Lt. Col. Antonio Castillo and Sgt. Maj. Steven Dryer, ended their respective missions designed to improve the lives of approximately 400,000 Afghans within the Laghman Province of Afghanistan.

The ceremony was bittersweet. On one hand, it marked an end of an era as the two long-standing units encased their colors, officially ending their missions in the province. On the other hand, it marked a new chapter for their local Afghan partners who will continue the work of rebuilding their nation.

"They are ready to take the reins," said Capt. Todd Stuke, the officer-in-charge of the agricultural section of Kansas ADT 4. "They have improved so much in the short year we have been here and so much since the first ADT in 2009. They don't need us anymore, which was our team's goal when we got here in October of 2011. We wanted to get them to a point where they would no longer need us."

Lt. Col. Russell Richardson, commander of the Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4 and Sgt. Maj. Ron Brandt, senior enlisted advisor for Kansas ADT 4, encase the 4-6 Calvary guidon, signifying the end of the Kansas National Guard ADT 4's presence in Laghman Province, Afghanistan. (Photo by 1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza-Pangburn, Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4)

Since the 2009 inception of the Kansas ADT mission in Laghman Province, an Afghan partnered delivery model was implemented, requiring project approval from the District Agricultural Extension Agents who work either directly under the district sub-governors or the provisional director of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock. The final rotation of Kansas ADT came with the focus of pushing the agricultural extension agents out into their districts to provide greater support for the population, preparing them for when coalition forces would eventually leave Laghman Province. Under the model, Kansas ADT also utilized Afghan shura meetings to facilitate communication between local village leaders, district extension agents and other government officials of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

The May 8 ceremony reminded the invited Afghan guests of honor, Governor Iqbal Azizi, the provincial governor and Ismail Dowlatzai, the Director of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, of the progress that had been made in four short years. It also reminded them of the heavy burden of leadership they face in pressing forward in this time of transition.

The long-standing cooperation between the coalition forces and the Afghan government is best embodied in Eric Grant, Ph.D, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Grant split his time between his home country of Ghana and FOB Mehtar Lam over the past four years. His presence in Afghanistan and his relationship with many of the local Afghan government officials earned him the name"Juma'a Khan" or "Friday King" from Azizi.

"They will be just fine," said Grant, with a rueful smile. "They will be okay because they have to be. They have no choice. This is their country and they must do right by it."

The fourth Kansas ADT rotation accomplished much during their nine-month tour. They aided in multiple small business start-ups, including several broiler chicken farms. They implemented a tree-distribution in the Alishang district. They also helped develop several canal programs for greater irrigation of orchard and farm lands. After a four-year presence in Laghman Province, Kansas ADT ends it mission, knowing that they have forever improved the agricultural practices in the area and affected the daily lives of countless Afghans.

"Thanks to the hard work and foundation set by the three previous Kansas ADT rotations and the work and cooperation of Dawlatzai, ... we have been able to complete the campaign plan developed by ADT 1 and refined by ADT 2 and 3," stated Richardson. "We now leave Afghanistan better than when we came. We leave the mission of agriculture development in the capable hands of Dawlatazi and Governor Azizi. I am confident that they will continue to succeed and care for the people of Laghman Province. Prairie Fire!"

Fighting Jayhawks respond to storm damage

Continued from Page 1

mobilized out to the base and worked until about 2:30 in the morning," said Culp.

The day after the storm they ensured accountability and helped direct key personnel.

Although the situation did not warrant a unit activation, Guardsmen assisted in the clean up on base, picking up sheet metal torn from the KSANG's Civil Engineer building, insulation and tree limbs. A 22-foot recruiting trailer was also destroyed in the storm, but it did not damage the B-1 bomber on static display that it blew into.

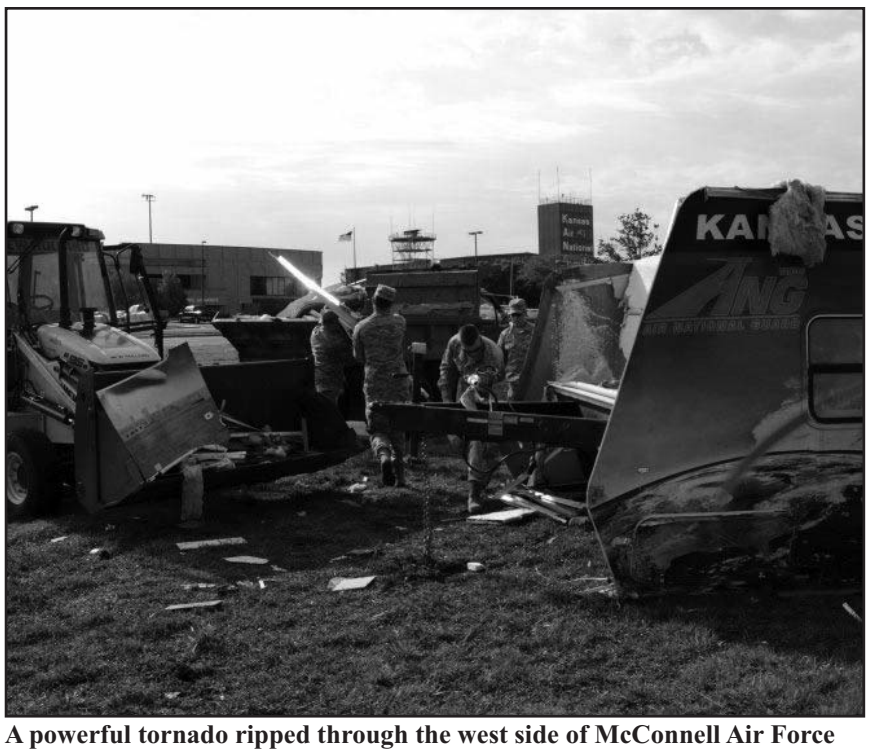
Governor Sam Brownback and Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general of the state of Kansas arrived on base April 15 after completing an aerial tour of the devastated areas.

"I was impressed by the wingwide effort put forth to get our side of McConnell cleared up," said Col. J.J. Hernandez, commander, 184th Intelligence Wing.

"By the time our governor and congressmen arrived at 2 p.m., you could hardly tell we'd been hit."

Even more impressive was the dedication and professionalism of Fighting Jayhawks who were on duty when the storm blew through. While running 24-hour missions, the 299th Network Operations Security Squadron, the 161st Intelligence Squadron and Security Forces personnel assigned to the 127th Command and Control Squadron were forced to momentarily turn away from their assignments and take cover. However, once the storm passed and the go-ahead was given, the Airmen retook their post and continued the mission.

"I don't need to tell you that we were exceptionally fortunate. The tornado that clipped us could have cost us dearly. Instead, we had zero casualties, and although our material damages may hit the $500,000 mark, we are 100 percent operational," said Hernandez.



A powerful tornado ripped through the west side of McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., April 14, at approximately 10:15 p.m. The 184th Intelligence Wing took damage to a number of buildings on the base including a recruiting trailer. Personnel were on hand during the drill weekend to clean up debris left by the storm. (Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

Joint Operations Center trains to keep communications lines open

By Sgt. Michael Mathewson
Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Joint Forces Headquarters UPAR

Should severe weather leave a wake of damage within the state, members of the Joint Operations Center, State Defense Building, Topeka, Kan., could deploy a mobile satellite uplink system.

The link consists of a four-foot satellite dish, laptop computer, cables, mounting equipment and storage/transport containers.

"The Pipeline Field Terminal Hook Up System is an intelligence disseminator," explained Sgt. Nancy D'anna, Scranton, plans and operations assistant with Joint Operations Center. "With it, we can download near real time images directly from satellites belonging to the United States Geological Survey.

The Joint Operations Center operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and monitors the major news and weather reporting sources. It is constantly ready to respond to any emergency that the state may experience.

"The Hook Up would be set up if more timely imagery is needed," said Sgt. 1st Class Richard Peplow, Topeka, a tactical communications noncommissioned officer with the 35th Infantry Division. "The information pulled off the satellites is issued on priority basis."

"If a tornado hit only within Kansas, then we would have a high priority," said Staff Sgt. Bill Willey, technician for the Joint Operations Center, Joint Forces Headquarters, Topeka, "If several states were hit by the same or multiple storms, we would have to share our satellite time with all the states involved. Also, there is the issue of the satellite being in the correct position to provide coverage of location at the time requested."

The preferred image is from directly overhead. That way, the image could be directly overlaid on a map. An oblique or angled view, although still useable, is not as valuable as the overhead view. For the overhead image, the Joint Operations Center may have to wait for another satellite or for another pass of the first satellite.

Hook Up takes two Soldiers about 30 minutes to set up. Once everything is assembled, all the crew has to do is level the base and point the dish toward the southwest. Global positioning devices on the antenna base look for the best satellite signal. The antenna then self-adjusts by raising or lowering to receive the best connection.

If needed for any length of time, Hook Up could be set up outside of the south-facing classroom in Nickell Armory in Topeka. With cables run though the windows into the classroom. From there, operators would be able to provide the decision-makers the information that they need.

Willey explained that Hook Up could serve as a backup for the Joint Operations Center. In addition to receiving satellite images, it will monitor news channels and the Pentagon Channel. It can also send and received classified messages.

Hook Up provides a capability that, hopefully, will never be used, but must be regularly tested for the day that is needed.

Staff Sgt. Bill Willey, Topeka, technician for the Joint Operations Center, Joint Forces Headquarters, adjusts the leveling mounts of the Hook Up's satellite antenna dish outside the State Defense Building in Topeka, Kan., April 27. (Photo by Sgt. Michael Mathewson, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Joint Forces Headquarters UPAR)

Kansas Guardsmen take aim at 2012 Adjutant General's Combat Marksmanship Championship Match

By Spc. Robert Havens
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

"Rotate your selector switch from safe to fire and wait for your targets to appear."

The sights and sounds of basic weapons qualification courses are nearly the same throughout the military. Shooters are allowed to get into a comfortable shooting position, face toward the general area of brightly colored targets and are given relatively lax scoring rules.

While this shooting style allows you to learn the basic fundamentals of marksmanship, it is not really applicable outside of neon orange combatants standing up like "whack-a-moles" behind their shooting position.

Sometimes, however, a better opportunity presents itself.

The annual 2012 Adjutant General's Combat Marksmanship Championship Match was held March 31 through April 1, at the Kansas Regional Training Center in Salina, Kan., to determine the best shooters in the Kansas Guard.

The shooting match was held among teams of Kansas National Guard Soldiers and Airmen to give participants a chance to show their warrior skills amongst some of the best in the Kansas Guard.

"In the last couple of years, the importance of marksmanship has increased with the wars," said Maj. Gleb Gluhovsky, a Kansas National Guard State Marksmanship coordinator. "A Soldier's weapon is only as good as their ability to hit a target with it."

"We teach shooters to fire their rifles, pistols and machine guns the same way they would in combat as opposed to the traditional static targets," Gluhovsky continued. "They learn to shoot at limited exposure targets, camouflaged targets and shooting while tired."

The top 20 shooters in the competition earned a "Governors 20" tab to wear on their uniform.

"It's very prestigious," said Gluhovsky.

The event continues to grow in popularity inside of the Kansas Guard.

"Over the three years I have participated, I have seen a large increase in the people attending this event," said Sgt. Nate Carnahan. "Every year they are adding more matches and different skills, such as the machine gun event."

"The event teaches more precision shooting by forcing shooters into more realistic shooting scenarios," said Staff Sgt. Matt Howard. "With static qualifications, there is not as much emphasis on precision shooting."

"When you knock down a target on a qualification range, you could simply be grazing the target," Howard continued. "Learning to shoot at a precision point will better allow you to utilize your weapon."

Carnahan and Howard were the first two Kansas National Guard Soldiers to graduate from U.S. Army Sniper School.

"Events like this also allow you to meet other members in the Guard. Meeting people outside your unit and feeling like a part of a family is valuable for retention," said Carnahan.

"The most valuable thing people can take away from this event is better shooting," said Gluhovsky. "While the Governor's Twenty is a prestigious award, the real lesson here is better shooting. Better shooting saves lives."

Participants of the 2012 Adjutant General's Combat Marksmanship Championship Match engage their targets during a simulated limited exposure drill. The match was held at the Kansas Regional Training Center in Salina, Kan., March 31. (Photo by Spc. Robert Havens, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Staff Sgt. Eric Cooper (right), a member of Headquarters Company, 235th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), receives his award as top overall shooter in the 2012 Adjutant General's Combat Marksmanship Championship Match from Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli (left), adjutant general, during the awards ceremony following the shooting match. The match was held at the Kansas Regional Training Center in Salina, Kan., March 31. (Photo by Spc. Robert Havens, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

2012 Adjutant General's Combat Marksmanship Championship Match stats

Air Force Individual Novice
1st: 1st Lt. Jarrod Brunkow
2nd: Master Sgt. Don Stucker
3rd: Tech. Sgt. Daniel Snider

Air Force Individual Open
1st: Capt. David Stickelman
2nd: Senior Airman Roger Seward
3rd: Maj. Allen Moore

Combat Pistol Individual Novice
1st: Sgt. Ben Walker
2nd: Senior Airman Dustin Steinhilpert
3rd: Staff Sgt. Steven Parker

Combat Pistol Individual Open
1st: Senior Airman Roger Seward
2nd: Capt. Dave Olds
3rd: Staff Sgt. Lonnie Hermann

Overall TAG Match Individual
1st: Staff Sgt. Eric Cooper
2nd: Sgt. Ben Walker
3rd: 2nd Lt. Jarrod Brunkow

Rifle Falling Plates
1st: Ramrod
2nd: Good to Go (Range Control)
3rd: CACS

Pistol Falling Plates
1st: CACS
2nd: Jayhawk Gold
3rd: Killer Medics

Overall TAG Match Team
1st: Jayhawk Gold
2nd: CACS
3rd: The Individuals

Overall TAG Match Individual Novice
1st: Sgt. Ben Walker
2nd: 2nd Lt. Jarrod Brunkow
3rd: Tech. Sgt. Daniel Snider

Overall TAG Match Individual Open
1st: Staff Sgt. Eric Cooper
2nd: Staff Sgt. Treg White
3rd: Staff Sgt. Roger Seward

Governor's 20
1st: Staff Sgt. Eric Cooper
2nd: Sgt. Ben Walker
3rd: 2nd Lt. Jarrod Brunkow
4th: Staff Sgt. Treg White
5th: Tech. Sgt. Daniel Snider
6th: Senior Airman Roger Seward
7th: Senior Airman Dustin Steinhilpert
8th: Tech. Sgt. Christopher Barth
9th: Capt. Dave Olds
10th: Staff Sgt. Jake Baldwin
11th: Maj. Allen Moore
12th: Master Sgt. Joshua Smith
13th: Staff Sgt. Sheldon Dillinger
14th: Lt. Col. Matt Oleen
15th: Staff Sgt. Josh Bantam
16th: Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Rains
17th: Master Sgt. Don Stucker
18th: Staff Sgt. Joe Debaere
19th: Staff Sgt. Shaun Carter
20th: Staff Sgt. Matthew Howard

Memorial bass tournament honors fallen Kansas veterans

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

Choppy water and cool conditions couldn't keep more than 30 teams from making an early morning launch April 28 at Coffey County Lake near the Wolf Creek Generating Station in Burlington, Kan., for the eighth annual Kansas Veteran's Memorial Bass Tournament.

Following a brief predawn memorial service to commemorate the lives of fallen Kansas National Guard members, anglers took to the water in search of bass to fill their live wells before the noon weigh-in deadline.

Hosted by the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery Family Support Group, this year's tournament saw its largest turnout to date and organizers expect the event to continue to grow.

"This tournament is all about our fallen comrades, the Soldiers and their communities," said Lt. Col. Chris Burr, battalion command. "Ultimately, it is the fishermen who come out to this event from across Kansas to remember them and pay their respects by living a full life that is at the heart of it all. I am proud to be associated with such a tremendous event."

"This is a great way to remember our Soldiers and its fun," said retired Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the former adjutant general, who volunteers at the tournament to make breakfast for the anglers before they launch. "I always tell people the way to honor people is to live your life to the fullest. (Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Rodina) and I have been doing this for a long time now and it's a way we can give back," he said.

Steve Hodges, vice president of Wolf Creek, echoed Buntings comments.

"We have been hosting this event for eight years. It is great to be the home of the Veteran's Memorial tournament and it is one way we here at Wolf Creek can express our gratitude to the armed forces and our fallen comrades. We appreciate the fishermen being here and we appreciate all that our servicemen and women do and have done for us."

As much as the tournament was about honoring those of our organization who gave the highest sacrifice, it is also still about fishing. And fish they did, with the top five teams landing a whopping 37 plus pounds of fish combined.

Top five teams

5th: Team Fish with 4 pounds, 15 ounces

4th: Team Reyes with 5 pounds, 8 ounces

3rd: Team Team with 6 pounds, 7 ounces

2nd:Team Lawson with 6 pounds, 10 ounces

1st: Team McCord with 15 pounds, 1 ounce

(From left to right) Quinton Sterling, Matt McCord and Shawn Hinkle, known as Team McCord, show off their prize-winning fish as they take first place with 15 pounds and 1 ounce at the eighth annual Kansas Veteran's Memorial Bass Tournament at Coffey County Lake April 28. The tournament, sponsored by the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery Family Support Group, celebrates the freedom Americans have and honors the 10 Kansas Guard Soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. (Photo by Mason Witzke)

Kansas Army National Guard partners with drag racer Millican

By Jane Welch
Public Affairs Office

The Kansas Army National Guard partnered with Clay Millican and Heartland Park Topeka, Topeka, Kan., for the Dollar General NHRA Summer Nationals May 18-20.

"I am thrilled and honored to have the opportunity to participate with the Kansas Army National Guard during the weekend in Topeka," said Millican. "The men and women of the Guard are among America's finest Soldiers, some of whom I visited with during my trip to Iraq. I have seen first hand the commitment and level of service devoted to protecting our freedom by members of the Army National Guard. To be able to carry the Kansas Army National Guard colors on our car this weekend is a distinct honor for me and every member of this team."

Soldiers and a variety of equipment from the Kansas National Guard were on hand at Heartland Park during the races. On display was a M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle and High-Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles from 69th Troop Command, Topeka; a M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System from the 635th Regional Support Group, Hutchinson; an analytical lab, decontamination truck and survey vehicle from the 73rd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction), Topeka; and a display from Recruiting and Retention Battalion, Topeka.

Millican's Parts Plus Top Fuel car prominently displayed the KSARNG colors and logo, and the KSARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion was prominently displayed in the team's pit side hospitality throughout the weekend.

Tina Stull also invited all members of the military to stop by her pit area. Stull has been to Kansas many times and during her visits always takes time to show her support to the members of the military. For more information on Stull visit her website at http://tinastullracing.com/

Military members received free admission to the race.

Clay Millican Bio

Clay Millican, from Drummonds, Tenn., has loved drag racing his entire life. He got his first race car at the age of 16 and fueled his passion for racing in the Sportsman drag racing ranks for many years. Clay had raced as a hobby for all his adult life until Peter Lehman came along.

He was working as a forklift driver for Kroger Supermarkets while simultaneously driving an IHRA Modified eliminator entry when Lehman selected Millican to drive his Chicago White Sox-sponsored Top Fuel Dragster entry. Peter provided the opportunity for Clay to fulfill a lifelong dream of driving professionally.

The goal was to learn the game and to establish themselves as the Top Fuel team of the future. Lehman and Millican later acquired sponsorship backing from trucking giant Werner Enterprises and formed one of the most well-known driver-sponsor alliances in IHRA Top Fuel history.

New recruits of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, Topeka Recruit Sustainment Program sit down with National Hot Rod Association racer Clay Millican at his team's pit side hospitality area during the Dollar General NHRA Summer Nationals at Heartland Park Topeka, Topeka, Kan., May 19. (Photo by Staff Sgt. James Hubbard, Recruiting and Retention Battalion)

Above all, we must realize that no arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women. It is a weapon our adversaries in today's world do not have.

– Ronald Reagan

Kansas Airman wins top recruiting award

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

Tech. Sgt. Jason McAndrews, Production Recruiter for the 184th Intelligence Wing, brought national recognition upon himself and the wing for outstanding performance during fiscal year 2011. He competed against four other regions for the title of Air National Guard Production Recruiter of the Year, and was recognized at an award ceremony held in New Orleans in March 2012.

At the beginning of fiscal year 2011, an enlistment goal of 36 was set for the year. In order for Sgt. McAndrews to compete for the award, he had to reach at least 125 percent of that goal.

"I ended up bringing in 69 recruits; that's 192 percent of the set goal," McAndrews said.

McAndrews gives credit to members of his squadron who worked long hours despite scheduling difficulties to ensure his applicants were able to be enlisted. They mentored him while he worked with applicants during the enlistment process.

Tech. Sgt. Jason McAndrews (left center), recruiter for the 184th Intelligence Wing, was awarded the Air National Guard Production Recruiter of the Year Award at a ceremony in New Orleans in March 2012. Presenting the award was Brig. Gen. Brian Neal, commander, Air National Guard Readiness Center; Col. Marie Burrus, chief of ANG Recruiting and Retention; and Maj. Stephen Cash, deputy chief of ANG Recruiting and Retention. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Jonathon Alderman, Air National Guard)

Deputy assists with Afghan police training

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

As the percussion of small arms rounds echoed around Staff Sgt. Timothy Hoesli, he calmly stood with his hands on his hips and reflected on the many hours of target practice and training he endured in order to become an expert marksman and skilled law enforcement officer.

Hoesli, from Salina, Kan., currently serves as the operations sergeant of the Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4. He is using his experience as a Saline County sheriff's deputy to help train Afghan special police forces.

Arriving in Afghanistan with ADT 4 in October 2011, Hoesli's primary mission included redeveloping the agricultural infrastructure of Laghman Province in order to reverse the negative effects of the former Soviet occupier's policies. It was by coincidence, however, that Hoesli's law enforcement expertise was called upon by the Special Operations Task Unit to assist in training Afghan police as part of the Provincial Response Companies.

While attending an Afghan National Police Officer's graduation late last year, Hoesli encountered a U.S. Special Operations Forces team sergeant and had a casual conversation.

"I had mentioned to the Task Force 10 team sergeant, just in passing conversation, that I had been in law enforcement for 14 years," Hoesli said.

Afterwards Hoesli was invited by the Special Operations Task Unit, consisting of U.S. Army and Romanian Special Operations Forces, to share his knowledge with the team.

"As Special Operations Forces, we are trained in working with paramilitary and military forces, not necessarily civilian law enforcement," said the U.S. Special Operations Forces team sergeant. "So having someone [like Hoesli] who can bring that civilian expertise has been useful since the Afghan police isn't a military force."

According to the team sergeant, a Provincial Response Company is the high-end police force for an Afghan province. It is comprised of 125 members, three platoons or Special Response Teams and their primary mission is to take on crisis or situations that exceed the capacity of normal Afghan uniformed policemen.

In Laghman Province, the U.S and Romanian Special Operations Forces are responsible for developing, training and mentoring the Provincial Response Companies. Within a matter of weeks after their casual conversation, Hoesli was asked to be the lead military mentor for the Provincial Response Companies's Basic Course. The Basic Provincial Response Company course, taught in six weeks, includes the fundamentals of marksmanship, personnel searches, close quarters combat, compound occupations and first aid as part of the program of instruction. Upon graduation of the Basic course, some of the policemen continue on to the Advanced Provincial Response Company Course.

Hoesli soon found himself lost in translation as he assisted the Romanians and Afghans by sharing his knowledge to soldiers and policemen with different languages.

"I work with the Romanians and I'm teaching Afghans," Hoesli chuckled. "Sometimes we have a double-language barrier and a double-translation problem, but it keeps things interesting."

Despite the initial challenges the language barrier posed, Hoesli saw instant improvement with the Afghans during their training and recalled his first day teaching them.

"The first time we did close quarters combat training it was quite hilarious," Hoesli said. "We told them to practice at home and they did. The next time they came back, there was a very obvious improvement."

Hoesli particularly made his mark teaching marksmanship training as he improved the Afghans ability to better aim at their targets, shoot tighter shot groups and conduct weapons maintenance. He also provided positive encouragement often as he gives a congratulatory pat on the back of the Afghans when they do well on the firing range.

His expertise has proven to be a valuable asset and is greatly appreciated by the Special Operations Task Unit.

"It's great having a police officer help us out," the team sergeant said. "When Tim [Hoesli] mentioned his background and showed interest in the program, we jumped on the opportunity to have him come along. He gives us police-specific training and brings in a whole crop of expertise that we wouldn't necessarily have such as non-lethal methods, civilian police specific dispute resolution techniques and civilian police ethics."

Governor signs ESGR statement of support

Note from editor:
We unintentionally left out the following in our March 2012 issue, page 14:
Gov. Sam Brownback signs an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve statement of support for the state of Kansas in his ceremonial office, March 1. The ESGR Statement of Support shows the dedication employers have towards their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve and will continually recognize and support our country's service members and their families in peace, in crisis and in war.
(Photo by Governor's Public Affairs Office)

United States Army Regimental System - Army National Guard

By retired Lt. Col. Doug Jacobs
Museum of the Kansas National Guard

The regiment was the primary tactical unit in the National Guard from the organization of North, South and East Regiments in 1636 until 1959. The regiment had its roots in a particular community or geographic area within a state. The regiment was not only the repository for history and tradition, it also served as the basic personnel organization.

Prior to 1959, National Guard Soldiers could spend their entire military careers in a particular regiment. In 1959, Army National Guard regiments were replaced by battle groups, which were later replaced by battalions. The Combat Arms Regimental System was created as a framework for battalions to continue their identity and affiliations to their parent regiments without restricting changes in force structure. Under the system, the regiment continued to serve as the repository of lineage, honors, traditions and heraldry.

There are six Army National Guard Regiments authorized for Kansas: 108th Aviation, 127th Field Artillery, 130th Field Artillery, 137th Infantry, 161st Field Artillery and the 635th Armor.

108th Aviation:

The 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment was organized and federally recognized March 8, 1922 in the Kansas Army Nation Guard at Topeka, Kan., as Headquarters Detachment, 1st Squadron, 114th Cavalry, an element of the 24th Cavalry Division. The unit served as part of the 635th Tank Destroyer Battalion in France and Germany during World War II. After the war, the unit would undergo many reorganizations, re-designations, and conversions while continuing to serve both the Nation's and the State of Kansas' call to duty.

On Oct. 1, 1996, the unit was reorganized and redesignated in the Kansas and Oklahoma Army National Guard as the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, a parent regiment under the United States Army Regimental System, with the battalion headquarters at Topeka, Kan. In 2002, the battalion was mobilized and in February 2003 began a six month deployment as the American Aviation Task Force for SFOR 13 in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In October 2005, the regiment was reorganized in the Kansas and Texas National Guard Headquartered in Topeka, Kan., and augmented by Company B, 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation from Boone, Iowa, in preparation for deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08.

The unit has WWII Campaign Credit for participation in Normandy (with arrowhead), Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe. It also participated in the Global War on Terrorism.

The Unit Crest: Ultramarine blue is the primary color traditionally associated with the U.S. Army Aviation units. The winged eagle's claw alludes to the unit's mission and capabilities. The colors white and black represent 24 hour service, flexibility and responsiveness. Above and below the shield and background, on a ribbon of blue is the unit motto in gold letters: "We Defend From Above."

127th Field Artillery:

The 114th Cavalry was converted into and redesignated as the 127th Field Artillery Oct. 1, 1940. The coat of arms for the 114th Regiment Cavalry, Kansas National Guard, approved July 22, 1927, was redesignated as the coat of arms for the 127th Field Artillery, Kansas National Guard. The coat of arms is described: top portion is blue for infantry, embattled line, defensive sector, lower part gold with two Fleurs-de-lis, for the two major engagements. The regimental motto is "VIA VI," "A way by force." By reason of the service of the Headquarters Troop, 35th Division, and the 110th Train Headquarters and Military Police, the 127th Field Artillery is entitled to battle honors as follows: World War I – Alsace, Lorraine, and the Meuse-Argonne.

130th Field Artillery:

The regimental coat of arms and shield were approved by the War Department on Jan. 8, 1929. The shield, which every officer and enlisted man in the regiment is entitled to wear, is red for artillery and has a gold band from the arms of Lorraine, indicating that the regiment served in the province in World War I. The embattling to chief indicates the capture of Vauquois Hill. Three fleurs-de-lis symbolize the regiment's battler honors—Alsace, Lorraine and Meuse-Argonne. A coiled rattle snake-represents service on the Mexican border. The regimental motto is "Semper Parvo Meliores," which means "Always a little better."

161st Field Artillery:

The coat of arms was originally approved for the 161st Field Artillery Regiment, Kansas National Guard May 16, 1928. The shield: Per fess azure and gules, in chief a giant cactus and a fleur-de-lis. The regimental motto is "Faire Sans Dire," "To do without saying." The shield of blue and red denotes that the 161st Field Artillery was originally infantry, the blue being the infantry color and red the artillery. The cactus symbolizes Mexican Border duty and the fleur-de-lis service in France during World War I. The gold charges in chief on the blue field indicate that the service was as infantry.

137th Infantry:

The Secretary of War approved a coat of arms for the 137th Infantry, Kansas National Guard, which is of special interest as it is the regiment commanded by the Kansan Maj. Gen. Frederick Funston in the Philippines following the Spanish American War, where both he and the regiment won undying fame.

The coat of arms is blazoned as follows: The shield is azure, a pale fitchee to honor point vert fimbriated or, in pale a baton and two bolos saltirewise, cutting edges to chief, of the last. The regimental motto is "Valor for Service." The shield is blue for infantry. The crossed bolos represent service in the Philippines; the green pale fitchee, Mexican Border duty; and the baton is from the Arrus of Varrennes in the Argonne. The following battle streamers have been awarded to the regiment: Philippine Insurrection: Manila and Malolos

635th Armor:

Constituted Jan. 15, 1976, in the Kansas Army National Guard as the 635th Armor, a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System. It was organized and federally recognized Feb. 1, 1976, from existing units of the 891st Engineer Battalion to consist of the 1st Battalion, an element of the 69th Infantry Brigade. Campaign credit was derived by its support company of Beloit and entitled to WWII-EAME through participation in Normandy (with arrowhead) Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe.

The Support Company (Beloit) 1st Battalion, 635th Armor, additionally is entitled to the French Croix de Guerre with Palm, World War II, Streamer embroidered NORMANDY and the Belgian Croix de Guerre as cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action in the Ardennes.

The unit crest is yellow and green, which are the colors used for Armor. The increased maneuverability, penetrating force and firepower of the modern tank are symbolized by the fusils charged with pheons or broadarrows alongside the destructive and awesome fury of a cyclone. The latter also refers to the sobriquet of Kansas as the "Cyclone State," home area of the organization. The unit motto is underneath reads: "Will to Win."

Reference: National Guard Regulation (AR) 600-82 dated Oct. 11, 1993. Background: Para 4.

190th Air Refueling Wing building friendship with Armenia

By Tech. Sgt. Emily Alley
190th Public Affairs

During a secretary of defense visit in mid-March, the 190th Air Refueling Wing had an opportunity to demonstrate why it is successful as a wing. The visitor was not U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, however, but his Armenian counterpart, Seyran Ohanyan.

Ohanyan, the Armenian Minister of Defense, was looking for perspective to help better structure his military.

When important people gather to discuss important ideas, they meet in important places. For the minister and his delegation, that location was Forbes Field.

Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general of Kansas, and Col. Ron Krueger, commander of the 190th ARW, hosted Ohanyan, several other Armenian officials and a representative from the Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth.

The minister sought guidance from the CGSC and the Kansas National Guard on how Armenia could model its military to be successful in the future. Ohanyan listened to a presentation, through a translator, by Staff Sgt. Jonathan Henry, who spoke about his recent deployment to Afghanistan with the 190th ARW Security Forces Squadron.

> ***"It was an honor to be able to host the minister of defense and show him how we've been successful as a wing."***
> ***Col. Ron Krueger, commander, 190th ARW***

"It's a really cool privilege to talk to people who can change entire countries," said Henry. "To be in the National Guard and have that potential influence is something I never saw myself having the opportunity to do."

The Armenian delegation took particular interest in Law of Armed Conflict training, which Henry had included on a slide listing pre-deployment training the Security Forces Airmen had completed. The Armenians were impressed that the United States makes a point of protecting cultural and religious landmarks.

Later, Col. Scott Dold, the adjutant general's senior legal advisor, spoke on the role of defense lawyers in protecting the military's court system. The delegation asked about command structure, jurisdiction of security forces and even requested a candid assessment of Armenian officers' performance at CGSC.

Capt. Rob Sanders, a pilot with the 190th Air Refueling Wing, Operations Group, and Seyran Ohanyan, Armenian Minister of Defense, put their arms around each other signifying a new relationship. (Courtesy photo)

The group then toured the wing armory and the Expeditionary Medical Support storage hangar.

"It was an honor to be able to host the minister of defense and show him how we've been successful as a wing," said Krueger.

Kansas National Guard's 73rd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) trains to respond to multiple threats

By Melissa Bower
Fort Leavenworth Lamp

The first real-life incident for the Kansas National Guard's 73rd Civil Support Team, Weapons of Mass Destruction, was in 2004 when it was called to identify and remove World War II relics -- a live grenade and a jar of mustard gas -- found in a Kansas barn.

The Kansas Civil Support Team safely handled the incident, the result of a hazard left behind by a deceased World War II veteran. Since then, it has handled many more threats to the state.

The Kansas CST visited Fort Leavenworth March 27-29 to conduct a training exercise in preparation of an annual evaluation by U.S. Army North.

The Kansas CST is trained to handle chemical and biological threats and also has an independent communications capability vehicle to provide assistance after a natural disaster.

The team is a joint effort by the Kansas Army and Air National Guard, employing 22 full-time experts to respond to chemical and biological threats across the state. They are one of 57 such teams across the nation, with one in most states, two each in California and Florida, and several in U.S. territories.

Master Sgt. George McMahon, noncommissioned officer for the team, said that the CST works only to support local law en-

forcement and first responders. For example, when the local fire department depletes its resources handling a problem, the fire chief could contact the county emergency management officer, who could request the state emergency officer to contact the team, McMahon said. The CST is directly under the Joint Forces Headquarters of Kansas Adjutant General's Department.

"Everything we do is locked in step with our civilian partners," McMahon said. "We act in support of them."

He said the team is always ready, 24-hours-a-day and 365-days-a-year. The team has even responded to calls on holidays.

The team practiced several scenarios at Fort Leavenworth. On March 27, the scenario was a potential chemical or biological dump at a public pool. On March 29, the scenario was a vehicle spraying an unknown chemical along Fourth Street in Leavenworth, Kan., which adjoins Fort Leavenworth.

Sgt. 1st Class Dan Shaughnessy, right, a medical noncommissioned officer with the 73rd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction), Kansas National Guard, gives a safety briefing to 73rd CST members and Army North Civil Support Readiness Group - West personnel before an exercise March 29 at the Leavenworth Plaza. (Photo by Prudence Siebert, Fort Leavenworth Lamp)

Lt. Col. Dirk Christian, commander of the unit, said the team has to comply not only with state regulations, but also various federal agency and military regulations. They also have to be able to communicate with all of these parties.

"Every exercise has been a different scenario," he said. "We really train the whole set of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats."

The Fort Leavenworth Fire Department also provided support to the March exercise. Leavenworth Assistant Fire Chief Mike Lingenfelser said it was helpful for firefighters to work alongside the Kansas CST.

"It gives us a chance to know what their capabilities are so we can know when to contact them," he said. "It's also just good to network before there's an emergency situation."

In Leavenworth, about 20 firefighters are trained to handle hazardous materials as well, Lingenfelser said, so the city does already have some capability to handle chemical hazards. He said the event would have to be significant for the Leavenworth Fire Department to call upon the Kansas CST.

Christian said with the CST's capabilities being statewide, and especially with air capability, they can also respond in rural Kansas areas that might not even have a full-time fire department, let alone personnel trained to handle hazardous materials.

The CST has several state and federally funded tools to protect the population, in addition to software that can tell them how weather patterns and buildings can change the path of an airborne chemical or biological agent. Those tools include:

- An advance vehicle with self-contained satellite communications and radio. Christian said this vehicle could be sent in advance to help Kansas communities after a tornado or natural disaster had wiped out communications capabilities for first responders.
- A unified command vehicle with satellite communications
- An analytical lab to examine samples and provide a presumptive analysis of what a particular chemical might be
- Medical response vehicle
- Survey trailer with monitoring equipment
- A self-contained decontamination vehicle

U.S. Army North evaluators were also present at the March exercise. A team from U.S. Army North evaluates CSTs each year. The Kansas CST is preparing for an evaluation in May.

Maj. Jeff Koranda, an observer/controller for the exercise, said there was a long checklist of guidelines the team has to meet. He also said there were several experts, like a nuclear scientist with a chemical engineering degree, a physician's assistant and an information technology specialist. The team members are required to complete thousands of hours worth of training, including specialized fields.

Staff Sgt. Joseph Duncan, decontamination team member of the 73rd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction), Kansas National Guard, washes a camera used by a hazardous materials team to photograph the scene during an exercise March 27 at Wollman Park in Leavenworth, Kan. (Photo by Prudence Siebert, Fort Leavenworth Lamp)

Sgt. 1st Class Herbert Wischnack (left) and Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Shaughnessy (right), medics with the 73rd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction), treat Officer Candidate Jacob Durkes, a member of the survey team, for a fake leg wound sustained while surveying inside the old Sears building in Leavenworth, Kan., for possible hazardous material as part of a training exercise March 29. (Photo by Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

Dave Yandon (left) and Steven Wiseniewski (center), members of the Army North Civil Support Readiness Group - West, help Sgt. John Tejada, a survey member of the 73rd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction), test a Drager-Tube to identify what type of gas is inside the old Sears building in Leavenworth, Kan., as part of a training exercise March 29. (Photo by Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

Agribusiness Development Team passes baton to Afghan partners

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

The Laghman Research and Development Farm is a small plot of greenery amid a desert of pebbles and rocks. Established in location just beyond the HESCO barriers and concertina wire of Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam, Afghanistan, the farm was one of the first projects undertaken by the first Kansas Agribusiness Development Team some four years prior. The once-barren space now features hanging purple and white blossoms from the eaves of the new buildings, lush green crops in its greenhouse and rose bushes along its cement paths.

Ismail Dawlatzai, the Laghman Province director of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Governor Mohammad Iqbal Azizi and other distinguished guests ushered in a new chapter for the farm. Lt. Col. Russell Richardson, the commander of the fourth and final Kansas ADT mission, transferred responsibility for the facility to Dawlatzai.

"They have the tools necessary to carry on in our absence here in Laghman Province," said Richardson, "While they may be a little apprehensive of our leaving, every project that we have helped them complete - all the chicken farms, agricultural businesses, the flour mills, bakeries and butcher shops - are all examples of the Afghans in Laghman Province ready to carry on. There are many challenges that exist for the Afghan people, but just as in any society, they will develop."

In the pole barn that was erected by Kansas ADT 1 in 2009, representatives of the Provincial Reconstruction Team, Special Forces, U.S. Agency for International Development and key local Afghan leaders gathered to witness the official signing of the responsibility documents. Eric Grant, Ph.D., U.S. Department of Agriculture, who has lived and worked with the Kansas ADT since the very first rotation, gave a stirring speech to familiar friends, addressing each member by name and waving or shaking the hand of each person he has worked with over the last four rotations.

Lt. Col. Russell Richardson (right), the commander of the fourth and final Kansas Agribusiness Development Team mission, officially passes the responsibility for the Research and Development Farm to Ismail Dawlatzai (left), Laghman director of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, while Gov. Mohammad Iqbal Azizi (center) witnesses the transfer. (Photo by 1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza, Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4)

"We have done great things together," said Grant, "and now, I am going to Helmand Province, where a new ADT will help those Afghans be as successful as the Laghman people."

Azizi fondly referred to Grant as "Jumaa Khan" or "Friday King."

The ceremony concluded with Azizi, Richardson and Dawlatzai assembled at a front desk, surrounded by both local and coalition forces media and journalists. They signed three documents that officially gave the responsibility for the last ADT project over to the Afghan government.

While chai and cake was served, several members of ADT 4 explored the premises one last time.

"It's hard to think that we had a meeting on the R and D farm at least once a week," said Capt. Todd Stuke, the officer-in-charge of the agricultural section for Kansas ADT 4, "and that this will be the last one."

Sgt. Bethany Owens, the only female medic of FOB Mehtar Lam, sat on one side of the fence, where a crowd of children gathered, their hands reaching out as they use their sparse English and gestures to communicate with the coalition forces on the other side. "Mister! Missus!" they beckoned, waving for the Soldiers to come closer, "Pen? Chocolate?" they asked, "You know McMullen? Peck? You know Sabrina?" asked the children, naming off previous ADT members.

As Kansas National Guard presence in the Laghman Province comes to an end, there is a cautious optimism in the air. As the fourth rotation of Kansas ADT leaves, the members can look back at the culmination of successes that began with the vision of Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, who saw within the ADT mission the potential to create greater economic stability by stimulating better agricultural practices and increases the knowledge base of the Laghman people.

Handing over the reins, giving over the last piece of property to the Afghan people is a bittersweet moment, as it marks a successful step in the final transition of authority between coalition forces and the government of Afghanistan.

"These guys will do great," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark Baxa, a Kansas farmer and National Guard Soldier who has been at the forefront of many of ADT 4's projects. "I really believe that. These guys will do well on their own."

Sgt. Bethany Owens, a medic with the Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4, takes one last time to visit with the local children outside the Research and Development Farm compound in Laghman Province, Afghanistan. As their final mission, Kansas ADT 4 turned over the farm to Ismail Dawlatzai, the Laghman Province director of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock. (Photo by 1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza, Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4)

A view of crops currently growing in one of the greenhouses of the Research and Development Farm built by Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 1. The farm is now run by the Laghman Province Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock staff. The Research and Development Farm provides a source of education and training for local farmers of Laghman Province, Afghanistan. (Photo by 1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza, Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4)

Following the ceremony transferring responsibility for the Research and Development Farm from the Kansas Agribusiness Team 4 to Ismail Dawlatzai, Laghman director of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, the agricultural section of the Kansas ADT 4 and the Laghman Province Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock staff take a group photo in remembrance of the event. (Photo by 1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza, Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4)

Martin says "Goodbye" to Officer and Warrant Officer Candidate School

By Sgt. Dustin L. Furrey
Headquarters, 235th Regiment

The 1st Battalion, 235th Regiment (Officer and Warrant Officer Candidate School) received a new commander, Lt. Col. John Clark, as Lt. Col. Judith Martin takes a new position as the military surface maintenance manager with Joint Forces Headquarters.

Four years ago, Martin was entrusted with the regiment's "crown jewel" when she assumed command of the battalion. Before Martin's influence, the program was considered to be "one of the best in the nation," according to Col. Robert Windham, commander of the 235th Regiment. In his remarks during a change of command ceremony March 17, Windham explained how Martin took a great battalion and transformed it into excellent.

"It did not take long to see that Lieutenant Colonel Martin was absolutely the right person at the right time," said Windham.

In the four years that Martin commanded the battalion, she accomplished a lot in a time of diminishing resources. Under Martin, the OCS program has trained close to 500 candidates from nine different states. To date, that program has produced nearly 40 warrant officers for Kansas and provides oversight and guidance to a seven-state region.

Windham is not alone in his praise of Martin. Her accomplishments have been noticed by the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command and the Army Infantry Center at Fort Benning, Ga. They have awarded her unit their highest recognition possible, the title of "Institution of Excellence" – the first time in 55 years that such recognition has been earned.

Windham added, "Her Warrant Officer Candidate School [program] is the only one in the National Guard fully accredited with an overall score of 100 percent and multiple best practices recognized by the Army Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker, Ala."

Windham concluded by stating, "After her four years in command, the program is not one of the best in the nation, it is the best in the nation," concluded Windham.

Lt. Col. John D. Clark

Lt. Col. John D. Clark was commissioned June 1995 from the United States Military Academy as an armor officer and has served in the Kansas Army National Guard for more than 11 years. His most recent assignment was as the liaison officer at 35th Infantry Division.

Lt. Col. John Clark

Clark's past assignments include tank platoon leader, scout platoon leader, cavalry troop executive officer and assistant squadron operations officer with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment; company commander of Company C, 1st Battalion, 635th Armor Regiment; battalion personnel officer, operations officer, and executive officer of 1st Battalion, 635th Armor Regiment; assistant operations officer, 69th Troop Command; plans officer for the Joint Forces Headquarters-Kansas Joint Staff; operations and plans mentor with the 205th Coalition Mentor Team and liaison officer for 35th Infantry Division. He has deployed as part of the NATO peacekeeping mission in Kosovo with the 1st Battalion, 635th Armor Regiment and as part of a Kansas Embedded Training Team mission to Afghanistan with the 205th Coalition Mentor Team.

Clark earned a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering physics from the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., and a Master of Science degree in physics from the University of Kansas at Lawrence, Kan. His military training includes Intermediate Level Education, Combined Arms Exercise, Armor Captains Career Course, Armor Officer Basic Course, Military Transition Team Course, Master Fitness Course and Airborne School.

Among his many military awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, Kansas National Guard Meritorious Service Ribbon, Kansas National Guard Commendation Ribbon, Parachutist Badge and Combat Action Badge.

Clark will continue to serve the Adjutant General's Department as an assistant professor of Military Science at the University of Kansas Army Reserve Officers Training Corps.

Clark is married to the former Jennifer Powers, an employee of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. They have a four-year-old son, Benjamin.

Lt. Col. Judith Martin

Lt. Col. Judith D. Martin was commissioned in the Kansas Army National Guard in July 1992. She began her military career by enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1980 serving four years on active duty and more than eight years in the Texas and Kansas Army National Guard where she was promoted to the senior noncommissioned officer ranks. Her past officer assignments include aide-de-camp at the Joint Forces Headquarters, platoon leader and maintenance control/executive officer, Drug Demand Reduction administrator and executive officer, military personnel officer, battalion maintenance officer, company commander, officer recruiter, brigade logistics officer and deputy J5 – Joint Office for Strategic Plans and Policies. She has also deployed as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and served as the theater logistics officer for the 377th Sustainment Command.

Lt. Col. Judith Martin

Martin served as the Kansas Officer Candidate School/ Warrant Officer Candidate School battalion commander for more than four years.

She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from the University of Texas and a Master of Science degree in public administration from the University of Kansas. Her military education includes Command and General Staff Officer and Advanced Operations Warfighting School, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Ordnance Advanced Course, Adjutant General's Officer Basic Course and numerous other courses.

Her military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Army Good Conduct Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, National Defense Service Ribbon with bronze star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Army Overseas Ribbon (second award), Kansas Meritorious Service Medal, Counterdrug Operations Ribbon, Kansas Emergency Duty Ribbon (second award), Kansas Overseas Ribbon (third award), Texas Meritorious Service Medal, Texas Adjutant General's Individual Award, Texas Faithful Service Award, Louisiana Emergency Service Medal and the Master Recruiting Badge.

Martin is the full-time deputy surface maintenance manager for the Kansas Army National Guard and will now be assigned as the military surface maintenance manager.

She is married to retired Col. Henry Martin, Ph.D. They have five adult children - Alycia, Anastasia, Marion, Kristina and Klint. Staff Sgt. Marion Martin, Staff Sgt. Kristina Williams and Spc. Klint Williams are all members of the Kansas Army National Guard.

Salina Police Department conducts rifle training at GPJTC

By Capt. Dana Graf
Kansas Regional Training Center

When the Great Plains Joint Training Center was initially envisioned, a primary goal was to provide a national training resource that could meet the current and future needs of both Kansas National Guard Soldiers and federal and state agencies. Located seven miles outside of Salina and consisting of 3,565 acres in the heart of Kansas, the training center is perfectly situated to meet both aspects of that mission.

One of the agencies that has regularly trained at the Training Center is the Salina Police Department. The agency conducts monthly rifle training on the M4/M16 Qualification Range in order to maintain their proficiency. The training, lead by Carson Mansfield, deputy chief of the Salina PD, provides an opportunity that is impossible to pass up.

"We are really fortunate to have the training center available for our department," said Mansfield. "Its state of the art facilities give us the opportunity to provide our personnel with excellent training on a regular basis. We use the M16 range and other Training Center sites at least monthly and greatly appreciate its unmatched facilities and dedicated staff. We find the service the Great Plains Joint Training Center provides unique and unexcelled."

In addition to the Salina PD, the GPJTC regularly supports the training of the Kansas Counterdrug Task Force, Kansas Department of Emergency Management, various sheriffs' departments and the Department of Homeland Security among others.

Officer Danielle Lemon of the Salina Police Department conducts her monthly rifle training at the Great Plains Joint Training Center. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class John Taylor, Kansas Regional Training Center)

Kansas Army Guardsman Worden receives donated car

By Spc. Robert Havens
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Picture yourself in a situation where you are trying to raise two children, have no vehicle and you have to find a way to drive 23 miles to the nearest Wal-Mart. Now imagine, as a veteran, you received a phone call offering help in getting a vehicle.

At the 2012 National Guard Association of Kansas convention, Cars 4 Heroes gave a vehicle to a veteran who had found himself in just this situation.

Sgt. Norman Worden, a Soldier with Headquarters, 235th Regiment at the Kansas Regional Training Institute at Salina, Kan., received a phone call and turned them down several times, knowing there had to be someone who needed the car more than him.

"I got a phone call out of the blue and I turned it down. It took several phone calls to convince me that I needed the vehicle," said Worden, an 11 year veteran. "I didn't know who had submitted me."

Worden has deployed in the past with the 778th Transportation Company, 714th Maintenance Company and a second time with the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment.

"Most of the times, when these service members receive a phone call for help, they turn it down," said Terry Franz, co-founder of Cars4Heroes.

Cars 4 Heroes focuses on taking older, donated vehicles and making them safe and reliable. Without getting caught up in who needs a vehicle more, they simply provide vehicles to service members in need of basic transportation.

"They are not winning the lottery," said Chris Shell, Cars4Heroes co-founder. "We are getting them a vehicle to get around in and take care of their basic necessities."

Worden said the first thing he planned on doing was taking his two boys, William and Andrew, out for ice cream.

With a smile, Worden gave his thanks to everyone involved.

"Thank you for the car," said Worden.

Cars 4 Heroes Founder Terry Franz (left), known as "Car Santa" to many, and Chris Shell (right) present a car to Sgt. Noerman Worden courtesy of Cars 4 Heroes April 20 during the 58th annual conference of the National Guard Association of Kansas. (Photo by Spc. Robert Havens, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Recruiting and Retention Battalion receives new commander

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

Lt. Col. Barry Thomas relinquished command of the Kansas Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion to Maj. Kenneth Weishaar during a ceremony April 16. The ceremony took place at the Unit Training Equipment Site, Salina, Kan., and was the first since Recruiting and Retention Command reorganized into a battalion.

"This is a bittersweet moment for my family and me after 32 months of command," said Thomas. "Recruiting is the tip of the spear for the Kansas Army National Guard as citizens are brought in and transformed into Soldiers who will lead the National Guard and the U.S. Army into the next decade. It has been a privilege for me to learn from and lead such outstanding noncommissioned officers."

"Gen. George S. Patton Jr. once said 'Do everything you ask of those you command,'" said Weishaar. "I hope to leverage my prior experience in the Recruiting and Retention Battalion ... to successfully increase the membership of the Kansas Army National Guard. I look forward to the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead as we recruit and retain Kansans to sustain our freedom for this and future generations."

Command Sgt. Maj. Manuel Rubio, command sergeant major of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, headquartered in Topeka, Kan., presents the battalion flag to Lt. Col. Barry Thomas, outgoing commander, during the battalion's change of command ceremony at the Unit Training Equipment Site armory in Salina, Kan., April 16. This was the first change of command since the unit was reorganized into a battalion in 2010. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Maj. Kenneth J. Weishaar

Maj. Kenneth J. Weishaar has more than 27 years of military service and more than 12 years of commissioned service with the Kansas Army National Guard, receiving his commission as a second lieutenant in August 1999. This new command brings his career full circle as his first assignment was as a recruiting and retention specialist with Recruiting and Retention. Other assignments include platoon leader and company commander with the 891st Engineer Battalion; executive officer, Recruiting and Retention; chief, Facility Design and Project Management Branch, Directorate of Facilities Engineering; brigade engineer officer, 287th Sustainment Brigade; and battalion executive officer, Headquarters, 891st Engineer Battalion.

His military education includes Primary Leadership Development Course; ARNG Retention Noncommissioned Officer Course (Career Counselor); Primary Leadership Development Course; Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course; Training, Advising and Counseling Officer Training and Orientation Course; Battle Focus Instructor Trainer Course; Adjutant General School; Officer Basic Course (Honor Graduate); Company Level Pre-Command Course; Officer Advance Course; Combined Arms and Services Staff School; Recruiting and Retention Leadership Course and Transportation School Senior Transportation Officer Qualification Course. He is currently enrolled in Advanced Operations Course.

Weishaar received a Bachelor of Arts degree in management from Upper Iowa University, graduating with honors. He is currently enrolled in the master's program in business administration at Webster University.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Good Conduct Medal third award, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star Device, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Silver Hourglass Device, Noncommissioned Officers Development Ribbon with "three" device, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Kansas Army National Guard Meritorious Service Ribbon, Kansas Army National Guard Commendation Ribbon, Kansas Army National Guard Service Ribbon with second sunflower device, Army National Guard Chiefs 50 Recruiting and Retention Badge, Kansas Army National Guard Outstanding Company Grade Officer for 2003, and the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal – Army Engineer Association.

Weishaar and his wife, Sherry, live in Topeka and have three children, Ashley (21), Kyle (18) and Tyler (16).

Lt. Col. Barry Thomas

Thomas was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1989 from Tennessee Technological University. He graduated in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial engineering. After his Officer Basic Course at Fort Sill, Okla., his first duty station was Fort Ord, Calif., where he served as a fire support officer and fire direction officer with the 7th Battalion, 15th Field Artillery. From there he moved to Fort Riley, Kan., where he served as a counterfire officer for Battery D, 25th Field Artillery and platoon leader for Battery A, 4th Battalion, 5th Field Artillery.

After attending the Officer Advanced Course at Fort Sill, he served in Schweinfurt, Germany, and Bamberg, Germany, from 1995 to 2000, where he held numerous jobs, culminating as commander for Battery C, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery and commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery.

After returning from Germany in March 2000, Thomas served as an operations research/systems analyst for the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Analysis Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. In 2002, he converted to Active/Guard Reserve status with the Kansas Army National Guard, where he has held numerous positions, including the operations officer for the 1st Battalion, 127th Field Artillery; deputy inspector general and as the Recruiting and Retention Battalion commander.

As well as being a graduate from the Field Artillery Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, he has also graduated from the Operations Research/Systems Analysis – Military Applications Course at Fort Lee, Va.; Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; Air Force and U.S. Army Inspector General Schools and has a Master of Business degree in leadership and management from Webster University.

Thomas' awards include the Army Superior Unit Award, Air Assault Badge, Parachutist Badge, NATO Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal and Meritorious Service Medal

Thomas served one tour in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1996 to 1997 with the 1st Infantry Division as part of the Implementation Force for the Dayton Peace Accord and one tour in Afghanistan from 2008 to 2009 as the deputy inspector general for the 101st Airborne Division.

Thomas assumed duties as the deputy personnel officer for the Kansas Army National Guard, April 16.

Thomas and his wife, Terri, live in Topeka and have two boys, Zach (18) and Gabe (15).

A new chapter of life

Continued from Page 4

and fight for things that make us and the Kansas Army National Guard better, such as the Enlisted Association of the National Guard and the state conference. These types of organizations and attendance at their events provides networking opportunities.

6. I included my family in as many activities as I could so they would know and understand what I did and were a part of my units.
7. I was never afraid to change units. I viewed this as an opportunity to learn how others do things.
8. I was always mindful that at all times, in and out of uniform, I represented myself, my family and the Kansas Army National Guard.
9. Be patient. I can't stress this enough. Most of the time we want what we want and we want it now. This may be the way we feel, but life doesn't work that way, at least not for me. This is the one thing I have struggled with throughout my career. I tell you again, be patient! Good things will happen.
10. Learn something from everyone, even if it is what not to do.

I believe these things are not luck. They require us to have self-discipline. Being disciplined created opportunities throughout my career. There is a saying that goes, "When a window of opportunity opens up, don't pull down the shade."

I have always tried to live out the Army Values in my thoughts and my actions. These are the things I have done throughout my career. These are the things that have helped me get where I am today.

We need luck to win the lottery, not to have a successful career. When we work hard and position ourselves by doing what is right, living the Army values and let them show in our thoughts and actions, good things will happen and you will be successful in your family life, civilian and military career.

The time has come for me to start a new chapter in my book of life, one with my lovely wife, Wanda. I can't say enough about my wife's roll in my career. She has always been my biggest supporter and yours, because she knows how much you all mean to me and all of you are special to her. My hope is that we have served you well. We are proud to call you and your families our friends and co-workers.

I do not like to say goodbye because it seems like I am leaving for good, when in fact Wanda and I will see you along life's road and you will remain in our thoughts and prayers until we meet again.

Now remain relevant, ready and reliable and go do the right thing.

Ryan's influence was far-reaching

By Sgt. Dustin Furrey
Headquarters, 235th Regiment UPAR

Celebrating the accomplishments of a leader can be bittersweet. In the military, the focus on the highlights of a career usually come at its end and are, therefore, both an "attaboy" and a "goodbye" rolled into one. Command Sgt. Maj. John J. Ryan's influence will be felt long after his retirement.

Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, remembered a time when he and Ryan wore the same rank as part of a flight crew. During Ryan's retirement ceremony, Peck told the standing-room-only audience that he called on Ryan constantly throughout his own career for advice and an honest opinion. Peck was not alone in his account of Ryan's exemplary leadership. Several other key leaders recalled stories of Ryan's advice and guidance, including Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general.

In his nearly 40 years of service, Ryan accomplished much, often during times of decreasing resources. He spearheaded the KSARNG Noncommissioned Officer Hall of Fame, which honors those leaders who gave their lives to the development of Soldiers, as well as those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Many other initiatives were borne of Ryan's passion to take care of Soldiers.

During his own remarks, Ryan said he was ready to start dating his wife, Wanda, all over again. But it was hard not to notice that Ryan's emotional goodbye pleaded that he had so much more to give. That maybe 40 years weren't quite enough. Maybe his star wasn't finished dazzling those he encountered. Actually, he will continue to influence those around him. His star hasn't faded. It has merely changed direction.

Command Sgt. Maj. John Ryan makes his parting remarks during his retirement ceremony June 3, capping off a career of military service spanning nearly 40 years. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)

ESGR presents Seven Seals Award to Salina Area Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council

By Chuck Bredahl
Kansas ESGR Program Support Technician

The Kansas Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, an agency of the Department of Defense, honored the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce Veterans Affairs Council with a Seven Seals Award in recognition of their support of the ESGR mission during their council meeting May 29.

According to Mick Allen, ESGR Kansas chair, "The Seven Seals Award is the only Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve award that bridges both the employer and ESGR volunteer recognition awards program. It was created by ESGR to publicly recognize individuals who provide significant achievement, initiative or support that promotes and supports the ESGR mission."

The Salina Area Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council and Rachel Hinde were nominated for being highly supportive of the ESGR mission by providing help for Guard families, such as emergency funding for gas, rent and general expenses. Also, family outings and support of troops at Fort Riley are financed by yearly fundraisers – golf tournaments, poker runs, Zumbathons and donations.

The Salina Military Affairs Council was established in 2009 to provide a community-wide coordinating council between several military organizations and the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce. Working together, the organizations focus on building a healthy economy and improving the quality of life for both the military and community.

As the 1.3 million members of the National Guard and Reserve continue to perform an increasing number of unique missions with America's borders and beyond, ESGR will continue to be the resource for the employers of citizen warriors. ESGR recognizes outstanding support, increases awareness of the law and resolves conflict through mediation. More information about ESGR Employer Outreach Programs and volunteer opportunities is available at www.esgr.mil or by calling Chuck Bredahl at 785-217-4828.

Salina Area Chamber of Commerce Veterans Affairs Council liaison Rachel Hinde accepts a Seven Seals Award from Mick Allen, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Kansas chair, on behalf of the council members in recognition of support of the ESGR mission during their council meeting May 29. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

Give an Hour™
Give help | Give hope

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

Kansas leaders recognize military children in Kansas

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett
Public Affairs Office

The Kansas House of Representatives and the Kansas Senate read resolutions recognizing April as the "Month of the Military Child in Kansas" during their recent legislative session. Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, and Command Sgt. Major Scott Haworth, senior enlisted advisor of the Kansas National Guard, were in attendance.

Military children of the Teen Council, representing all Kansas National Guard youth, joined Governor Sam Brownback for a photo opportunity as he signed the official proclamation declaring April as the "Month of the Military Child" in the state of Kansas, prior to the legislative sessions.

"As much as we owe a debt of gratitude to the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces," said Brownback, "we also owe our gratitude to their families and especially their children. Because of their service, these military parents and their children often must miss sharing birthdays, graduations, those nightly hugs and kisses and other special moments. It's up to us, the people that they serve, to see that their families receive the support and honor they are due because of the sacrifices they make."

Following the photo in the governor's ceremonial office, the council went to the Senate chambers for the resolution reading, and then to the House chambers.

April was recognized as a time for Kansans to applaud the strength, sacrifice, heroism and continued resilience that children of service men and women make to the state and nation. During that time, Kansans were encouraged to celebrate and stand by military children, just as they and their families stand by the people of Kansas.

During the height of Operations Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, more than 33,000 Kansas children have at least one parent serving in the military.

"It is not uncommon for one generation to follow another into the Kansas National Guard," said Tafanelli, "often joining the same unit as their parents. Children know the hardships of separation when a parent is deployed. They know what it means to sacrifice so we can enjoy our freedoms and yet they join willingly and eagerly. They are our future."

The resolutions were the culmination of a month-long salute to military children honoring their contributions to Kansas and celebrating that, just as parents are today's strength to our nation, military children are the strength of the future.

"It means a lot to get military children recognized for their hard work and sacrifices. As the council, we got the chance to represent the 33,000 military youths in the state, which is a great honor," said John Shafer, president of the Kansas National Guard Teen Council. "The proclamation also helps us make way for the recognition our peers deserve."

The Kansas National Guard Teen Council attends a session in the House chambers at the Kansas Capitol April 27 as a resolution is read recognizing military children of the Kansas Reserve and Guard units. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

Warrant Officer Corps grows

Continued from Page 4

professional education of warrant officers. A question and answer session prompted valuable discussion throughout the group and brought us all on the same page concerning many issues relevant to the Warrant Officer Corps.

Our senior warrant officers from the Quartermaster, Ordnance and Adjutant General branches updated the group on changes within their respective branches, bringing us all on-line with current happenings, changes and issues. I also spoke to the group, updating them on changes specific to our state, such as the recently published Mentorship Program, Strength Maintenance Program, Warrant Officer Advisory Council and concluded with some professional development highlighting areas to focus and improve upon during the remainder of this fiscal year.

I congratulate Chief Warrant Officer 3 Stuart Stupka from Det. 1, 170th Maintenance Company for being nominated as the Warrant Officer of the Year. Stupka is the shop foreman chief for Field Maintenance Shop 1 in Hays, Kan., and has served in this billet since 1998. His efforts definitely merit his nomination for this award.

Within the past couple of months, the Kansas Army National Guard Warrant Officer Corps said farewell to two great warrant officers as they retired. These were Chief Warrant Officer 5 Rosanna Morrow and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Wayne Spry. Both of these Soldiers worked hard for many years with a tireless determination to leave a positive, lasting impact on Soldiers, to improve their branch and the Warrant Officer Corps, and to ensure the success of the Kansas National Guard. Morrow and Spry were huge Guard supporters and focused their efforts with a "Soldier first" mentality.

Finally, now that deployments are slowing down and we begin the transition to a peacetime training environment, we need to dust off the manuals and shift our focus back to becoming the "subject matter experts" that we've always claimed.

It's time to start training, mentoring and supervising our sections and Soldiers in an effort to prepare everyone to train correctly, smart and safe. Don't forget the leadership skills you've learned through this war. Use them, along with those technical skills that you've developed, and I promise that you will be well armed to help take our Army into the future.

Two inducted into Kansas National Guard's NCO Hall of Fame

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett
Public Affairs Office

The Kansas National Guard added two new names to the ranks of honored noncommissioned officers April 29 during an induction ceremony for the Noncommissioned Officer Hall of Fame at the Kansas Regional Training Institute, Salina, Kan.

This year's inductees were retired 1st Sgt. Harvey Rogers, of Iola, Kan., and retired Sgt. 1st Class Edna Mae Cogswell, of Vermillion, Kan.

"I couldn't believe it. No, it's not possible. I have been out and about for too long. But sergeant major kept assuring me," said Cogswell. "I would shake just talking about it."

Cogswell and Rogers both were surprised at their recognition.

"My first thought – it just floored me. I was just overly surprised and kind of in shock that after all these years that someone was still around that remembered when I was in," shared Rogers. "But I know that a lot of the people here today, I had them in my unit at Iola or southeastern Kansas as privates and private first classes and now they are up and doing well. That makes you feel good, when you contributed something and you look back and you see the people you worked with excelled and got to where they are today."

Before starting the official induction, Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general, addressed the crowd.

"It is a great honor and privilege for me to stand here today and welcome each and everybody to this wonderful ceremony highlighting the careers of two outstanding noncommissioned officers," said Tafanelli. "And certainly the Kansas National Guard enjoys many great achievements today in large part because of their service, sacrifice and attention they have given to the Kansas National Guard and the troops they have lead. That impact is alive and well today."

This was the third year of the Noncommissioned Officer Hall of Fame. The new inductees share this honor with Soldiers who gave the greatest sacrifice in the line of duty while deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan.

During 2009, the Year of the NCO, Command Sgt. Maj. John Ryan, senior enlisted leader of the Kansas Army National Guard, identified the need to recognize the fine noncommissioned officers of Kansas.

"Often times we do things that are momentary recognition, and I thought what kind of a way is there that we can continue to recognize the accomplishments and achievements of the good NCOs," said Ryan.

Retired 1st Sgt. Harvey Rogers

Retired 1st Sgt. Harvey Rogers's military career started Dec. 18, 1953, when he enlisted in the U. S. Army as a private. After completing basic training, he was assigned as a cook with the Seoul Military Police 8096th in Korea and was promoted to the rank of private first class.

He returned to the United States and was assigned to the 6023rd Service Unit Company at Fort Ord, Calif. He was honorably discharged from the active Army Oct. 26, 1955, and assigned to the Army Reserve Kansas Military District. He was a member of the Army Reserve until he enlisted in the Kansas Army National Guard Sept. 24, 1956, and was assigned to the mess section of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 195th Field Artillery Group in Iola, Kan.

He was a member of the Iola unit until Sept. 23, 1965, achieving the rank of staff sergeant and the position of mess sergeant for the Iola unit. He re-enlisted in the Kansas National Guard on Sept. 16, 1972, in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 137th Infantry and was promoted to the rank of first sergeant, where he remained until his retirement on Sept. 15, 1985.

Rogers is believed to be the first African American to be promoted to the rank of first sergeant in an integrated unit in the Kansas Army National Guard.

Rogers achieved all of his military duties on a part-time status. While he was a member of the Guard he was also very active in his civilian jobs. He worked for the Missouri Pacific Railroad for eight years, and for the U.S. Postal Service, retiring after more than 32 years. He was also owner of Rogers Electric Heating and Air, where he achieved the rating of master electrician.

Retired 1st Sgt. Harvey Rogers and retired Sgt. 1st Class Edna Cogswell, are the latest inductees into the Kansas Army National Guard's Noncommissioned Officer Hall of Fame held at the Kansas Regional Training Institute, Salina, Kan., April 29. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office.)

Retired Sgt. 1st Class Edna Mae Cogswell

Retired Sgt. 1st Class Edna Mae Cogswell enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at the age of 18 Sept. 9, 1955. During her service, she completed the USMC Recruiter Course and was promoted to sergeant on May 1, 1958.

Cogswell re-enlisted on Sept. 9, 1958, and was assigned to Recruiter Station in Omaha, Neb. While stationed in Nebraska she completed the Women's Noncommissioned Officer Leadership School.

On Sept. 9, 1962, she re-enlisted and was assigned to Woman Marine Company at Camp LeJeune, N.C. She completed the two-month Personnel Administration School. She was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps Jan. 11, 1964, with more than eight years of service.

In September 1967, Cogswell went to work for the Social Security Administration. She went from clerk typist to assistant processing module manager.

Cogswell enlisted in the 169th Support Battalion, Kansas Army National Guard, July 23, 1973. She was assigned to Company C, 169th Support Battalion, where her duties consisted of ration breakdown, issuing supplies and doing the appropriate paper work. She was also put in charge of the female barracks.

Cogswell was transferred to Headquarters Company, 169th Support Battalion. She was sent to Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind., to attend the Personnel Senior Sergeant Course. During this period, she also attended the Noncommissioned Officer Leadership School at Fort Riley, Kan.

In July 1976, she was promoted to sergeant first class. In August 1976, she was transferred to Company B (Medical), 169th Support Battalion to fill the position of first sergeant. The unit was 20 percent female. Cogswell continued to be responsible for the women's barracks at annual training from 1974 to 1985.

Cogswell left the Social Security Administration in July 1982. Upon leaving the SSA and while still serving in the Kansas Army National Guard, she entered the Ursuline Sisters Convent at Paola, Kan. While a Ursuline nun, she was assigned to St. John's Catholic Church in Bartlesville, Okla. Here she managed the finance department to assist the poor and did some religious teaching. She also was a volunteer for Elder Care, where she performed various chores to keep the elderly in their homes.

Cogswell served in the Army National Guard until July 22, 1985, after completing more than 20 years of military service. She was the first non-nurse female to retire from the Kansas Army National Guard.

In 1997, she resigned from the convent, but continued to work for the Catholic church, helping the poor in Oklahoma. For most of this time, Cogswell was a single mother, helping her daughter, Joy, complete her LPN courses. While Joy was in nursing school, Cogswell cared for her grandson, Michael. With her mentoring, Michael earned his Eagle Scout Award. Cogswell and her family returned to their home in Vermillion, Kan., and Michael enrolled at Centralia High School.

Cogswell's military awards include the U.S. Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, second award with a star, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Achievement Commendation, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Army Noncommissioned Officer ribbon, fourth award and Kansas Army National Guard Service Medal.

Cogswell is a lifetime member of the American Legion Post 257, Woman Marine Association, Marine Corps League and Women's Military Service Memorial.

190th Air Refueling Wing Coyote receives free car from Cars 4 Heroes

By Tech. Sgt. Emily Alley
190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Dorothy Westergren, the Active Guard and Reserve and civilian pay technician with the 190th Comptroller Flight, who recently returned home from a six-month deployment to Afghanistan, received a free car from Cars4Heroes/Cars4Christmas May 5 at Forbes Field, Topeka, Kan.

Westergren, who has served 31 years in the military, returned home from deployment to find that her car was inoperable. Reliable transportation is critical to Westergren, who drives more than 80 miles roundtrip each workday.

Fortunately, a not-for-profit organization, Cars4Heroes/Cars4Christmas, donated a car to assist Westergren.

"I am very grateful for the generosity of this amazing organization," she said. "Returning home and not having a car to get me back and forth to work was quite overwhelming. Their generosity removes that worry and allows me to focus on reintegrating with my family and community."

Cars4Heroes/Cars4Christmas is a nonprofit organization provides free basic transportation to disadvantaged individuals and veterans who are not able to obtain it on their own.. Founded as Cars 4 Christmas in 1996, the organization gives away more than 350 cars each year.

"I will be glad she will be able to get to work, but I am sincerely appreciative that she will have this burden taken away," said Westergren's commander, Maj. James Wehrli. "She has always given so much to our office, wing and community. It's extremely meaningful to know that outside organizations want to know our Airmen are taken care of and they couldn't have chosen a better person."

Westergren was the second member of the 190th Air Refueling Wing to receive a vehicle from the organization. Master Sgt. Jeff Norling also received a car from the organization after his home and vehicles were destroyed by an EF-3 tornado that hit Reading, Kan., last summer.

Cars4Heroes/Cars4Christmas has also provided automobiles for two Army Guardsmen over the last year.

If you would like to donate to Cars 4 Heroes please go to www.cars4christmas.org /donate-form for more information.

Cars, boats, trucks, motorcycles, or RV are appreciated along with monetary contributions. Free towing anywhere in the nation is included if necessary. Your vehicle donation truly can make an amazing difference to a person in need. Vehicle donations are eligible for a tax deduction once the vehicle has been given away.

Tech. Sgt. Dorothy Westergren, the Active Guard and Reserve and civilian pay technician with the 190th Air Refueling Wing's Comptroller Flight, starts up her newly donated car from Cars4Heroes/Cars4Christmas, a not-for-profit organization, in a hangar at Forbes Field, Topeka, Kan., May 5. Westergren came home from a six-month deployment to Afghanistan to find that her car was inoperable. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mandy Johnson, 190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs)

Kansas public officials focus on children from military families

By Bryan Richardson
The Manhattan Mercury

Eighty-five state public officials, including members of the Kansas National Guard Family Programs along with Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general, and his command team, met at Kansas State University in Manhattan May 1-2 to develop means to better address children of military parents in Kansas.

The Military Child Education Coalition, a non-profit group that develops resources and conducts conferences and training related to educating military children, helped facilitate the discussion about "Living in the New Normal."

"We will synchronize services to build and sustain support for Kansas' children and youth whose families serve our nation now, have served in the past and will serve in the future," the Kansas vision statement said.

K-State first lady Noel Schulz said Art DeGroat, director of military affairs at K-State, and Briana Nelson Goff, director of the K-State Institute for the Health and Security of Military Families, served as the university's contact to bring MCEC onto campus.

"K-State is a leader in being involved nationally with military-related activities," Schulz said. "So we wanted to continue that leadership in terms of supporting the military."

At the conference, groups representing education, service providers, community and civic leaders, and service clubs and organizations discussed how to sustain current efforts and responses that could be implemented immediately and in six months.

Goff said a state steering committee will review all of the action plans to create a singular plan. "MCEC provides us the guidance, but they don't come in and say this is how you're going to do this," she said.

Goff said K-State will take this on as a primary program that it will continue to work on.

Tafanelli and Brig. Gen. Don MacWillie, Fort Riley, spoke during the conference about the struggles that military children face.

Tafanelli said the military children don't have a sign on them indicating their status and don't have "a light that blinks when they have an issue."

"They look just like every other child in our communities and schools," he said. "The challenge really becomes how do we identify those children, how do we identify particular issues they're having and how do we match those up to our resources."

MacWillie said issues for children in the past include honor courses not being accepted and keeping them off athletic teams since they are likely to leave, something that happened to his son. He said the MCEC has helped smooth the issue of moving from state to state.

"I hoped all of the key stakeholders in the state of Kansas would know the challenges and get some promises," he said about his expectations for the conference.

Members of the Kansas National Guard Family Programs, along with Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general, and his command team join public officials from across Kansas in a breakout session during a Military Child Education Coalition meeting at Kansas State May 1-2. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

Hutchinson company donates oxygen mask kit for search and rescue dogs

By Jane Welch
Public Affairs Office

Invisible Fence of Central Kansas presented a canine oxygen mask kit to K-9 Search and Rescue of Kansas, Inc. in a brief ceremony, March 24. The event took place at the second annual Disaster Preparedness Day and Open House at Crisis City in Salina, Kan. This donation was given as part of the Invisible Fence® Brand oxygen mask donation program, Project Breathe™.

In the event of a disaster requiring deployment of the Emergency Support Trailer housed at Crisis City, the K-9 mask kit will deploy as part of the support package contained within the trailer. Among other capabilities, the trailer has a robust emergency medical cache for human and K-9 responders.

The donated kit contains three oxygen masks, one each for small, medium and large dogs. The masks will also be used at Crisis City in the event of an injury to any dog engaged in search and rescue, guard dog, attack dog, drug or bomb sniffing or any other type of canine-related training.

Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, director of Kansas Division of Emergency Management and the adjutant general, accepts a canine oxygen mask kit from Beth Ericson of Invisible Fence of Central Kansas on behalf of K9 Search and Rescue of Kansas, Inc. and Crisis City May 24. (Photo by Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

Kansas has three formal search and rescue dog K-9 organizations; two of them regularly train at Crisis City. K-9 Search and Rescue of Kansas, Inc., coordinated this donation for Crisis City. Invisible Fence previously donated K-9 mask kits to the Wichita Fire Department and Ford County Fire Department.

The open house was the culmination of a three-day training event at Crisis City involving several hazmat and search and rescue teams from Hays, Garden City, Manhattan, Salina, Wichita and the Kansas City metro area. As part of the training, unmanned aerial vehicles will provide aerial search and rescue and situational awareness for the teams working on the ground.

Crisis City, located eight miles southwest of Salina, provides state of the art training facilities to all emergency response and support agencies, whether in one of its classrooms or on any of the training venues. It is a multiuse training complex for local, state and federal responders, law enforcement officers, emergency management professionals, public and private industry safety professionals, and military operations in support of civil authorities.

In addition to classroom space, training areas at Crisis City include railway accident response, an urban village, agriculture and farm safety, collapsed structure rescue, a technical rescue tower, aircraft venue and a pipeline venue. Other training venues are in the planning stages.

Invisible Fence of Central Kansas, Inc. is an authorized, full service Invisible Fence® Brand dealership serving Wichita, Salina, Hutchinson and surrounding areas.

Kansas employers take part in "Hiring Our Heroes" boss lift

By Andrew R. Waldman
National Guard Magazine

**Originally printed in the July 2012 edition of National Guard Magazine and is used with permission.*

Presidents, CEO's and owners of prominent companies from Kansas were treated to a "Boss Lift" in a KC-135 flight to Indianapolis, Ind., as a 'Thank you' for hiring Guardsmen.

The headquarters of Panther Racing in Indianapolis is a showcase for a successful IndyCar racing team that has plenty of checkered flags and two league championships.

Plaques, banners and championship cars fill the walls and hallways. Countless awards fight for attention in managing partner John Barnes' office. But he brushes by them to show off the item of which he is most proud: an Army combat uniform given to Barnes by Staff Sgt. Patrick Shannon. The Indiana Guardsman was named "Hometown Hero" in 2008 at one of Panther's first events as the National Guard-sponsored IndyCar team. The gift was the first of many given since by Guardsmen and they only further fuel Barnes' passion for his team's main sponsor—the National Guard.

When the deal was signed in 2008 for National Guard to be their sponsor, the focus was simply recruiting and retention. Today, the relationship is closer, broader and deeper. This season, Panther is focused on the high rate of unemployment among Guardsmen, which is upwards of 20 percent in some states.

Panther has partnered with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Hiring Our Heroes and the White House's Joining Forces programs, both of which help service members find employment. In conjunction with Hiring Our Heroes, Panther has expanded the effort this year by hosting business leaders at each IndyCar Series event and supporting hiring fairs. The first of those events was held at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in early May. More than 25 employers from Kansas flew to Indianapolis on a military transport and spent the day learning about the Guard from Panther and Indiana Guardsmen at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center in Edinburgh, Ind.

But the first event was a ride in an IndyCar two-seater car around the famous 2½-mile oval that is home of the Indianapolis 500. Like other Panther efforts, the rapid rides are a great way to expose employers to IndyCar and the Guard on the same day.

"It was a once in a lifetime experience, I feel like a little kid," said John Ferrell from Sprint. "These are the things we dream about doing when we're small kids, and I was lucky enough to do it today. It was wonderful!"

After their rides, the Kansas employers were told about the job skills and strengths of Guardsmen.

The team has about $51 million in advertising exposure, giving it great power to tell the Guard story and address specific concerns that affect the individual Soldier or Airman.

Employers from across Kansas, flown to Indianapolis, Ind., on a KC135 tanker from the 190th Air Refueling Wing, enjoy at day at the Indianapolis 500 racetrack as part of a "Boss Lift" event. These events help employers understand the importance of the National Guard to their communities and the dual role Kansas Guardsmen play as Citizen-Soldiers. (Photo courtesy of Panter Racing media)

"What we do in the Guard each and every day is we train and grow leaders," said Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general.

"And it's those skills and that training that we provide that we can then take back to the businesses in our communities that our Soldiers and Airmen serve in."

"An event like this is absolutely a home

(Continued on Page 19)

Coordinators receive training on record management system

9By Sgt. Michael Mathewson
Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment,
Joint Forces Headquarters UPAR

The director of Information Technology's Administrative Service Section conducted training on the Army Record Information Management System May 8 through 10. They conducted three, one day classes, one in Salina and two in Topeka. The purpose of the training was to introduce ARIMS to the state's record coordinators.

ARIMS is the Army's standardized system for creating files and storing hard copy and electronic documents. ARIMS provides for document retrieval and sets up guidance for document disposition. ARIMS is a statutory requirement under the Federal Records Act of 1950, making ARIMS the law.

Record coordinators normally train and oversee between two and four action officers, who are the day-to-day users of ARIMS. They create the Office Record Lists and organize their documents into files and then arrange for the documents' ultimate disposition. Once set up, working with ARIMS will become part of the action officers' normal duties. In a company/battery sized unit, an action officer may support several sections within the unit.

The course was presented by Tyrone McGregor of the U.S. Army Records Management and Declassification Agency, Records Management Division. Based at Fort Belvoir, Va., his office falls under Headquarters Department of the Army.

McGregor's first class was in the Distance Learning Classroom in Eckert Hall, Salina. It started with a slide presentation and moved to hands-on work using the ARIMS online training site.

"I normally take two to three days to present information," said McGregor. "However, these National Guard Soldiers came ready to learn. Their insightful questions told me that they were getting what I was putting out."

"Good class," said Staff Sgt. Ralph Caples, the logistic noncommissioned officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery. "I will be able to put what I learned today to use as soon as I make it back to my office."

"Mr. McGregor is very professional and highly educated in ARIMS," said Sgt. Rachel Strauss, administrative support specialist, Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site at Fort Riley, Kan. "He is very entertaining and he asks a lot of questions to keep the class alert."

On May 9, the class was in the Distance Learning Classroom in the State Defense Building, Topeka.

"I really had no idea about how ARIMS worked," said Sgt. Nancy D'Anna, Scranton, plans and operations assistant with Joint Operations Center. "I will be putting this to good use."

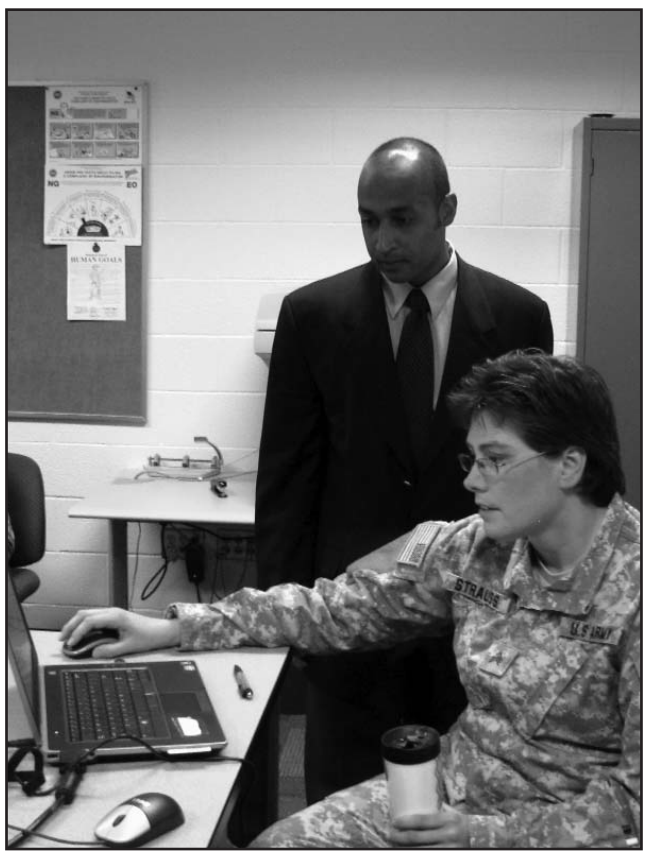
The May 10 class was conducted in the Nickell Memorial Armory. It was the perfect excuse to use the Director of Information Technology mobile classroom. Contained in two shipping containers, the classroom contained 30 laptop computers connected to their own wireless server.

"This is a wonderful class," explained Sgt. Kristin Rucard, of Junction City, a human resource specialist in enlisted personnel of Joint Forces Headquarters. "I will now need to look at my files and see how I need to organize then for ARIMS."

During class on the last day, Maj. Tony Best, of Topeka, director of Information Technology of Plans, Policies and Budget Branch, presented McGregor a plaque for his service to the Kansas Army National Guard.

"I really enjoy working with the National Guard," said McGregor. "The Guard always arrives ready to learn. It makes teaching so much more enjoyable."

For a copy of McGregor's briefing slides, go to https://www.mda.army.mil/programs/rmd.shtml. Scroll down to training and click on Introduction to ARIMS.



Army Record Information Management System course instructor Tyrone McGregor of the U.S. Army Records Management and Declassification Agency helps Sgt. Rachel Strauss, an administrative assistant for the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, during class at the Distance Learning Classroom in Eckert Hall, Salina, Kan., May 8. (Photo by Sgt. Michael Mathewson, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Joint Forces Headquarters UPAR)

Guard Hall of Fame seeks nominations

By Retired Sgt. Maj. Lynn Holt
Member, Board of Governors
Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame

The Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame is asking for nominations for the 2013 Hall of Fame.

The organization was established to recognize individuals who served in the Kansas National Guard or its predecessor, "Kansas State Militia."

Nominees must meet the following requirements to be selected for the Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame as prescribed in the bylaws. Nominees must:

a. Have served in the Kansas National Guard or its predecessor, the Kansas State Militia during the period Jan. 29, 1861 through March 31, 1885;
b. Have made significant contribution to the achievement, history or tradition of the organizations listed in paragraph a. above;
c. Have retired or departed from the Kansas National Guard or died three years prior to being selected for membership, whichever date occurs first. "Retire" shall mean upon transfer to the reserve forces of the United States with 20 years certified for retirement; and
d. Not be a member of the four Hall of Fame Board of Governors, Nominating Committee or Selection Committee hereof.

If you are considering nominating someone and need assistance, please contact Hall of Fame Board president, retired Lt. Col. Doug Jacobs at 785-862-1020. There are several who have submitted nominations packets in the past who are willing to offer their assistance to you. Submission deadline for a nomination packet is Dec. 1 of each year.

For more information please go to www.NGAKS.org. Click the "About Us" tab and then the Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame link.

CAP cadets tour Combat Air Museum

By Capt. Michael H. Mathewson
Topeka Eagle Squadron, Civil Air Patrol

Aerospace education, Search and Rescue, and the Cadet programs are the three pillars of the Civil Air Patrol. Senior members and cadets from the Civil Air Patrol's Topeka Eagle Squadron attended the Combat Air Museum's annual pancake breakfast fundraiser at Forbes Field, Topeka, Kan., April 28.

The Civil Air Patrol involvement was threefold. First, they toured the aircraft and aviation exhibits. Second, they set up a Civil Air Patrol informational and recruiting booth at the event. Lastly, they enjoyed an "all you can eat" pancake and sausage breakfast.

The museum has more than 30 aircraft on display and numerous aviation exhibits housed in two hangars and outside parking area. For the day, the 190th Air Refueling Wing opened one of their KC-135 tankers for touring. The KC-135 Stratotanker, along with the B-52 Stratofortress, the C-130 Hercules and the Lockheed U-2, have been in service for more than 50 years, flying with the United States Air Force, United States Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard.

"I have never seen so many airplanes in one place," said Cadet/Airman Basic Aidan Dollahon, of Topeka.

The KC-135 was a very popular exhibit with both the seniors and cadets. Sitting in the pilot's seat, the cadets marveled over the display of instruments and gauges. They also measured their young hands against the throttle handles that control the KC-135's four turbojet engines.

The cadets then moved to the back of the aircraft where they climbed down into the boom operator's position. This is where the boom operator "flies the fueling boom" down to the waiting aircraft.

"This was a great morning," said Cadet/Airman 1st Class Adrian Appelhanz, of Topeka. "I enjoyed seeing all the airplanes."

"Today has been a good introduction into aviation history for the cadets," said Maj. Henry Hickey, CAP squadron historian, Topeka. "We will use this tour as a base line for our future aviation history classes. Knowledge of aviation history is a requirement for advancement within the Civil Air Patrol."

635th Regional Support Group has new coin

By Sgt. Iris Marston
Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment,
635th Regional Support Group UPAR

The military has a long-standing tradition of recognizing its service personnel by "coining" them. Many Soldiers receive coins throughout their military service.

Recently the 635th Regional Support Group's command team, Col. John Campbell, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Boring, senior enlisted advisor, designed a new coin for the regiment.

The coin is shaped like the regimental crest with the coin's front side displaying the regimental crest with the Latin words "Sustaining Victory." The back side displays the global imprint and includes the United States flag.

The global imprint signifies the commitment of a Regional Support Group to serve around the world under any circumstance, even beyond a wartime mission. A good example of this is during Japan's emergency last year. Following the tsunami, an RSG was among the first "boots on the ground" to provide assistance and organize relief.

The U.S. flag is a reminder that the Kansas National Guard serves the citizens of the United States of America.

Campbell said that he and Boring collaborated with many past and present members of the 635th RSG to finalize the appearance of the new coin.

During a recent visit to South Dakota in preparation for Golden Coyote 2012, an annual training exercise, Campbell presented the first coin to Lt. Col. Tony Divish, brigade operations officer for the 635th Regional Support Group. Campbell selected Divish for the first coin because for the past year he has worked with great effort as both the operations officer and deputy commanding officer, two exceptionally demanding jobs.

Associate with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for it is better to be alone than in bad company.
– George Washington

Awards and Decorations

KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Legion of Merit

Chaplain (Col.) Donald F. Davidson, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Chief Warrant Officer 5 Rosanna L. Morrow, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Chief Warrant Officer 5 Gary D. Shafer, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Chief Warrant Officer 5 Wayne E. Spry, Det 37, OSA (CMD), Topeka
Sgt. Maj. Timothy W. Boller, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth
Sgt. Maj. Avoyd R. Colvin Jr., 635th RSG, Hutchinson
Sgt. Maj. Steven E. Scott, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. Judith D. Martin, 1st Bn (OCS), 235th Regt, Salina, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Lt. Col. Barry W. Thomas, Recruiting and Retention Bn, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Maj. Shy M. Warner, HHD, 69th TC, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Maj. Kenneth J. Weishaar, HQ, 891st Eng Co, Iola, with 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
Capt. Robert D. Melton, ADT #3, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Capt. Elizabeth H. Tipton, KSARNG Med Det, Lenexa, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick W. Cullen, 287th SB, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
1st Sgt. Alexander T. Parker, Co B, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
Sgt. 1st Class Marc A. Toomey, Co B (OCS), 1st Bn, 235th Regt, Salina
Sgt. 1st Class Tate A. West, HQ, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Bowman, HQ, 235th Regt, Salina, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. Dawn M. Michael, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Army Commendation Medal

Capt. Angee M. Gray, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Chief Warrant Officer 4 Armon Pollack, Det 37, OSA (CMD), Topeka, with 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brent W. Campbell, Co C, 2nd Bn, 235th Regt, Salina, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Master Sgt. John C. Duerr, Co C, 2nd Bn, 235th Regt, Salina, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Beverly J. Claycamp, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Jeffery G. Fagan, Recruiting and Retention Bn, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. James C. Hubbard Jr., Recruiting and Retention Bn, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. Chris Hawkins, KSARNG Med Det, Lenexa
Sgt. Wayne A. Ouimette, 137th Trans Co, Olathe

Army Achievement Medal

Staff Sgt. Michael L. Mader, 35th ID Band, Olathe, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Combat Action Badge

Capt. Jessica Walker, ADT #4, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Tom Heiter, ADT #4, Topeka
Sgt. Steven Cope, ADT #4, Topeka
Sgt. Joshua Karhoff, ADT #4, Topeka
Spc. James Ashbaugh, ADT #4, Topeka
Spc. Patrick Fox, ADT #4, Topeka
Spc. Jared Harlan, ADT #4, Topeka
Spc. James McCoy, ADT #4, Topeka
Spc. Matthew Menser-Roberts, ADT #4, Topeka
Spc. Elliot Reece, Jr., ADT #4, Topeka
Spc. Nicholas Renfro, ADT #4, Topeka
Spc. Richard Sanchez, ADT #4, Topeka
Pfc. Joshua Fletcher, ADT #4, Topeka

Kansas National Guard Achievement Ribbon

Spc. Michelle C. Lawrence, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita

Army Meritorious Unit Commendation

Agribusiness Development Team #3, Topeka

KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Meritorious Service Medal

Col. Kyle Garrison, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Lt. Col. Jarrod Frantz, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Maj. Christopher Hill, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Senior Master Sgt. Clifford Archer, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Senior Master Sgt. Everett Gruver, 190th ARW, Topeka
Senior Master Sgt. Gary Holliday, 190th ARW, Topeka
Senior Master Sgt. Richard Smith, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Master Sgt. Anthony Harbour, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Anthony Snyder, 190th ARW, Topeka

Air Force Commendation Medal

Maj. Toby Foster, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Maj. Daniel Skoda, 190th ARW, Topeka
Capt. Summer Schwindt, 190th ARW, Topeka
Senior Master Sgt. Robert Bolin, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Tech. Sgt. Ryan Marsh, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Tech. Sgt. Erin Massey, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Melanie Nelson, 190th ARW, Topeka

Air Force Achievement Medal

Chief Master Sgt. Danny Walker, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka
Master Sgt. Sean Hall, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Drew Egnoske, 190th ARW, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Darrin Jones, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Jonathan Mathews, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Adam Rees, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Tod Scott, 190th ARW, Topeka
Staff Sgt. David Voss, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Gary Williams, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Annual conference changes focus on career development

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

The National Guard Association of Kansas held their 58th annual Joint State Conference April 20-22. The event, held in Kansas City, Kan., was similar in many respects to past conferences, yet took on a new concept in career development and training.

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

While the conference traditionally deals with professional development training, the emphasis was a little different this year, said Col. Mike Erwin, association president.

"This convention is different because we have geared our professional development toward the rank structure of the officer and how to deal with our elected officials in an era of reduced military budgets" Erwin said. "In the past, we would have all of the officers in one room. This year, we have field grade officers, company grade officers and warrant officers in sessions specifically geared for what they should be doing for the association at their level in the career."

"At my unit level, we have transitioned away from wartime training and have put the focus on the larger picture," said Lt. Col. Eric Bishop, former vice president of the National Guard Association of Kansas and current member of the board of directors. "In the long run, it broadens us as Soldiers in our leadership. The mindset of the Army as a whole is beginning to focus on this kind of broad training."

One thing that remains a constant is that you have to have good leadership," said Bishop. "As an association, we are still focused on building noncommissioned officers and officers in leadership. Without the resources we get through the association, it isn't the Guard we know today."

Moberly assumes new role in Kansas Army National Guard

Continued from Page 5

Homeland Defense Service Ribbon with "M" device, Kansas National Guard Service Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Driver and Mechanic Badge with Driver-Tracked Vehicle and Driver-Wheeled Vehicle Clasps, Expert Qualification Badge with numerous clasps authorized including mortar, rifle, pistol, and machine gun, and the Order of Saint Maurice–Centurion Level.

Moberly and his wife, Marcie, reside in Salina, Kan., and have two children, Kaycie, 25 and Brandon, 23. He has an associate degree in chemical engineering technology from Kansas Technical Institute and is a licensed professional engineer in Colorado.

Education benefits available

By Capt. Matt Hapke
State Education Officer

The education benefits and opportunities that are available to the Soldiers and Airmen of the Kansas National Guard contribute greatly to the overall readiness and effectiveness of our organization.

Currently, the main programs that are available to the members of both the Air and Army National Guard are the GI Bill programs. These include the Montgomery GI Bill (Selected Reserve), The Montgomery GI Bill (Active Duty), the Reserve Educational Assistance Program and the Post-9/11 GI Bill. These benefits are administered by the Department of Veteran's Affairs. However, the Education Services Office can assist servicemembers in the application and use of these programs. Here are some of the details of each program (specific payment rates and other information can be found at gibill.va.gov) :

Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve

This is the basic GI Bill that is available to most guardsmen when they have an initial enlistment of at least six years in a drilling status. It is paid directly to servicemembers while they are in school. For a full-time student, it typically pays out between $300 and $350 a month.

Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty

This is the basic GI Bill that is offered to active duty members of the military. It is offered to guardsmen if they become Active Guard and Reserve and requires servicemembers to contribute money up front. It is paid directly to the servicemember when in school and typically pays around $1,400 a month for a full-time student.

Reserve Educational Assistance Program

This program is available to reserve component servicemembers who have deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism. This program pays out in a "tier system" based on the length of the servicemember's single longest deployment. Most members of the National Guard deploy for approximately one year at a time, which would equate to the 60 percent tier. This usually pays out to approximately $880 per month for a full-time student. There is also a buy-up program which allows the servicemember to pay an up-front amount that will increase the monthly pay-out total for the duration of the program.

Post-9/11 GI Bill

This is the most widely publicized and complicated program out of all of the current GI Bill programs. The Post-9/11 program is also based on service during the Global War on Terror and uses the tier system to determine the benefit amounts received by the individual. Unlike the Reserve Educational Assistance Program, the Post-9/11 GI Bill tier is determined by the total time of qualifying service that has been performed since Sept. 11, 2001.

There are many types of qualifying service. The most common types are deployments in support of the Global War on Terrorism and active duty service. Currently, Active Duty for Special Work or Active Duty for Operational Support is usually not considered. Also, any active duty time spent while performing the required service connected with an Active Duty Service Obligation is also not considered. It is important to talk with the Education Services staff to find out what you qualify for.

Post-9/11 is currently the only GI Bill program that a servicemember can transfer to their spouse or children. This can be done if the servicemember has at least six years of service with an active and/or reserve component and agrees to serve an additional four years or if the servicemember has 10 years of service. If they become retirement eligible between Aug. 1, 2009, and July 31, 2012, they will have to serve a certain amount of time based on their retirement eligibility date. This time information is different for most servicemembers and can be found at the GI Bill website (gibill.va.gov) or by calling the Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-888-GIBILL-1. After Aug. 1, 2012, anyone who has not transferred this benefit, regardless of retirement eligibility date, will have to serve four years following their transfer of benefits to their family members. Contact the Education Services Office if you have additional questions.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill can be transferred to a spouse or children who are in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System as a dependent. To add someone on the transferee list, the servicemember must be an active participant in a Reserve or Active Duty component. Once transferability has been established, modifications or removals can be completed whether the servicemember is in uniform or not.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill pays out in three separate ways. All amounts are given for beneficiaries at the 100 percent tier who attend school full-time.

First is a tuition and fees payment that will pay full tuition and fees directly to the school for all public school, in-state students. The second payment is a monthly housing allowance which is based on the Basic Allowance for Housing at the sergeant with dependents level for the ZIP code of the school. For those students who are attending school in only an on-line capacity, the allowance is equal to ½ of the national average Basic Allowance for Housing for a sergeant with dependents. This year, that amount is $684. The last payment is an annual books and supplies stipend of $1,000 that is paid proportionally based on credits enrolled in.

Also available is the GI Bill website at gibill.va.gov. This has a great listing of basic information to include payment rates for different programs and tiers. It also shows eligibility information.

Remember, these programs are all administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Each school has a VA Certifying Official that can assist students.

For more information or to request a unit brief, contact Capt. Matt Hapke at 785-274-1081 (matt.hapke@us.army.mil) or Master Sgt. Jodi Melby at 785-274-1068 (Jodi.melby@us.army.mil).

Retirements

Kansas Army National Guard

Col. Jose Davis, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Lt. Col. Kevin Schenker, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Maj. Paul Gonzales, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth
Maj. Mark Herron, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth
Maj. James Reis, HHC, 287th SB, Wichita
Capt. Ronald Bailey, HHC, 169th CSSB, Olathe
Capt. Robert Melton, Co D, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Emporia
Chief Warrant Officer 5 Rosanna Morrow, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Chief Warrant Officer 5 Gary Shafer, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Chief Warrant Officer 5 Wayne Spry, Det 37, OSA (CMD), Topeka
Sgt. Maj. Timothy Boller, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth
1st Sgt. Alexander Parker, Co B, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
Master Sgt. Steven Scott, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth
Sgt. 1st Class John Ayer, HHC, 287th SB, Wichita
Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Elliott, Det 2, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Junction City
Sgt. 1st Class Donald Gray Jr., Det 2, 778th Trans Co, Wichita
Sgt. 1st Class Darrin Sack, 995th Maint Co (-), Smith Center
Sgt. 1st Class James Stowe, Det 1, HHD, JFHQ-KS (GPJTC), Salina
Staff Sgt. Torrey Kassabaum, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
Staff Sgt. James Meyers, KSARNG Med Det, Lenexa
Staff Sgt. Garry Orear, Det 2, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Junction City
Staff Sgt. Michael Waggoner, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
Sgt. Kimberly Allen, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth
Sgt. Patrick Brodersen, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
Sgt. Stewart Buttel, Co D, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Emporia
Sgt. James Hintz, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City
Sgt. Dale Ouderkirk, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg
Sgt. Wayne Ouimette, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe
Sgt. Jeremy Thompson, HHC(-), 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
Spc. Calandra Collins, 778th Trans Co (-), Kansas City
Spc. Jimmy Coonce, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton

Kansas Air National Guard

Col. Kyle Garrison, 190th ARW, Topeka
Maj. DeAnn Barr, 184th IW, Wichita
Chief Master Sgt. Danny Roush, 190th ARW, Topeka
Chief Master Sgt. Danny Walker, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka
Senior Master Sgt. Everett Gruver, 190th ARW, Topeka
Senior Master Sgt. Rich Smith, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Selina Touhey, 184th IW, Wichita
Tech. Sgt. Troy Kaufman, 184th IW, Wichita
Tech. Sgt. Richard Rust, 190th ARW, Topeka

Kansas school donates materials to English Afghan school

Several teachers of Smith Center Elementary School generously donated early literacy materials to support the English School at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan.

On April 17, Capt. Wes Topel and Capt. Mario Polite, members of the Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4, visited the school and delivered the materials.

The English School is a special project staffed with volunteer military and Department of Defense civilians who teach as additional duties. The school is in session twice a week and has separate sessions for boys and girls.

The school was developed as a way of providing local Afghan students with early English language instruction. Many of the students are also enrolled in public school with the English school supplementing their education. However, some students are not old enough for public school and the English School provides them a "head start" opportunity for English instruction.

Smith Center Elementary has adopted Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4 and the students and staff have sent numerous care packages and cards to the team during their deployment. (Courtesy photo and story)

Guardsman blazing the trails

By Staff Sgt. Jon Jackson, UPAR
Recruiting and Retention Battalion;
Sgt. Jennifer Cornelius, UPAR
1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment;
Spc. Josef Nichols, UPAR
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 35th Infantry Division;
Spc. Kevin Stuart, UPAR
242nd Engineer Company

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brent Campbell, an instructor at the Regional Training Site - Maintenance, located in Salina, Kan., enjoys blazing trails and passing down the timeless skill of trail riding down to his 14-year-old Casey Campbell. The tradition was first passed on to him when he was five years old at his grandfather, Roy Nordquist's farm.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brent Campbell

"It didn't matter what was going on, he [my grandfather] could be in the middle of harvesting wheat, and he would stop and fix the dirt bike if it was broken. It was really important to him that us kids had something fun to do on the farm."

Through the years he was riding, Campbell progressed from a mini bike up to all-terrain vehicles.

Campbell currently enjoys riding in the Randolph area, but has been unable to ride due to a move to Salina, July 2011. He anticipates riding at Lake Kanopolis, which is about 40 miles southwest of Salina. Most of his rides were done in Randolph, where he says that some of the dangers include a rough terrain, surrounded by Tuttle Creek Lake, where water levels change constantly throughout the year, due to Kansas' changing weather. The things Campbell does to protect himself and his family from these dangers, include the emphasis of the importance of safety equipment such as helmets and other safety gear.

To pass on this tradition and importance of spending time with family, Campbell started including his son, Casey, at the age of seven. His first ride was done on a 1981 Honda CR80.

When asked about a more memorable event while first teaching his son, he couldn't help but laugh and say, "He had quite a few spills and it was difficult teaching him how to use the clutch."

After Casey's spills, he was hesitant about getting back on and riding. Campbell encouraged him to get back on and to keep trying.

"If you want to learn how to ride, get back on and try again," he says. Due to this don't give up attitude, Casey enjoys riding with his dad every chance they get.

Campbell has been serving his country for the past 21 years starting first on active duty as a Bradley mechanic, serving in Germany, then Fort Riley and continuing in the Kansas National Guard.

When asked by people about serving his country he says, "I tell them I'm just a regular Kansan, like you."

Mobile Integrated Remains Collection System training at Regional Training Site - Maint.

By Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brent Campbell, UPAR
Regional Training Site - Maintenance, senior instructor

The Regional Training Site-Maintenance recently received some cutting edge training aids from Guild Associates, Inc. The Mobile Integrated Remains Collection System is used to store and transport human remains and to provide personnel with work areas to conduct operations associated with Mortuary Affairs. The training device provides multiple training opportunities for Soldiers in the 91C and 91J Military Occupational Skills. The purpose behind 91C and 91J MIRCS training is to ensure Soldiers in these MOS know how to operate, troubleshoot and repair the MIRCS system in order to maintain mortuary affairs operations.

The MIRCS trainer is separated into two areas, the environmental control unit and the refrigeration control unit. Soldiers are provided blocks of instruction on operation and set-up, diagnosing faults and proper maintenance procedures. The environmental control unit is a commercial off-the-shelf environmental control unit that allows Soldiers to experience a real world application. This unit keeps a constant temperature of 34 degrees Fahrenheit. The environmental control unit can be engine or electrically-driven, which allows Soldiers to see multiple functions of how to cool the remains area. The refrigeration control unit is built by Guild Associates, Inc.

This unit cools the administrative area for Mortuary Affairs Soldiers who are completing the administrative duties of processing human remains.

There are approximately 10 MIRCS in the Army's inventory with an expectation of 200 being issued to various Mortuary Affairs units. These pieces of equipment are just one step in the evolving technologies that Soldiers learn in the 91C and 91J fields. One of the RTS-M goals is to provide realistic and challenging training for Soldiers to utilize in their MOS. These trainers provide another opportunity for the RTS-M to expand realistic training avenues for Soldiers in the United States Army.

Army Reservists Sgt. Levon Wilson (seated), a utilities equipment repairer with Company A (Combat Support Hospital), 48th Mobile Combat Hospital, out of Fort Story, Va., and Staff Sgt. Daniel Fallecker, a utilities equipment repairer with the 347th Quarter Master Company out of Farrell, Pa., complete some electric trouble shooting of the Mobile Integrated Remains Collections System during training at the Regional Training Site - Maintenance in Salina, Kan. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Gray, Regional Training Site - Maintenance)

Kansas employers take part in "Hiring Our Heroes" boss lift

Continued from Page 16

run," said Paul Weida, the vice president of government affairs at Black & Veatch, a global engineering firm. "There is a lot more that we can do. There is a lot more that needs to be done to thank our men and women by giving them jobs."

Black & Veatch, which has its headquarters in Overland Park, Kan., has offices around the nation and the world. It already hires many veterans. Weida says that the event opened his eyes to the job market for Guardsmen.

After zooming around the track, the employers toured Camp Atterbury's advanced training simulators.

There they had the opportunity to tour the 38,000-acre facility and interact with soldiers currently serving in the National Guard. Their tour included a inside look at how the National Guard and other branches of the military train for search and rescue, survival situations, and how they make use of simulated combat for training purposes.

"It's very important what I learned here today," explained Ferrell. "I'm going to take it back and we're going to institutionalize not just the hiring of current vets, but maybe the retraining and hiring down the road."

Pat George, the Kansas secretary of commerce, said the trip fit in well with the hiring initiatives already in place in his state.

"They are all thinking of different ways that they can go back home and actually put what they've learned today into practice," George said of the Boss Lift participants. "It's a nice day away from their grind, but there is a mission and they will implement that when they get home."

For more information about the Hiring Our Heroes initiative and to find out how you can help, visit http://www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes.

Guardsmen lend a hand at Governor's Easter Egg Hunt

By Sgt. Michael Mathewson
Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Joint Forces Headquarters UPAR

Kansas National Guard Soldiers were standing in the lower level of Cedar Crest, the governor's official residence in Topeka. In the middle of the room was a pool table covered with wicker baskets and mountains of plastic Easter eggs. However, all eyes were on the computer screen where the latest radar images of the storm outside were shown. As far as weather was concerned, April 7 was proving to be a very unpredictable day.

The question was whether the storm would pass in time for the annual Easter Egg Hunt to be held or would it continue, forcing the hunt to be canceled. At 8:30 a.m. the radar showed the storm would pass. The staff decided the hunt was a go, but delayed the starting time by one hour.

Capt. Wallace Miller, a member of the 995th Maintenance Company and officer-in-charge of the event, started the wheels in motion. 1st Lt. Benjamin Moore, and Sgt. 1st Class Ray Jowers, Topeka, members of the 35th Military Police Company stationed in Topeka, Kan., posted their Soldiers around the grounds. The military police were placed both on foot and in Humvees.

"We are here as a force multiplier," explained Jowers, an old hand at working the Easter egg hunts. "We are here to assist the Capitol Police."

"I have done this for seventeen years," said Jowers, "not counting my four deployments."

Rain or shine, other elements had already been set in place. Spc. Levi Turner and Pfc. Simon Halvey, members of the 731st Transportation Company of Wichita, Kan., provided a flat bed trailer that served as the stage for the event.

"We drove up the night before and spent the night in a local motel," said Turner. "If the weather holds, we will be home tonight."

"I am four months out of my Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training, so this is my first real mission for the unit," explained Halvey.

Looking south from Cedar Crest there is a quarter-mile-long, tree-lined gravel road leading to a parking lot. There, Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Cline, Staff Sgt. Hendrik Rifkogel, Staff Sgt. John Lofing and Sgt. Michael Rumford, members of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery Regiment in Paola, Kan., provided the crew and a World War II vintage howitzer that would signal the start of the egg hunt.

"The 75mm howitzer is stored in Topeka," explained Cline. "Earlier this week we drove the M-1074 Pallet Loading System vehicle to Topeka. There, we picked up the howitzer and returned to Paola. This morning we drove back and set-up the howitzer for the event."

By 9:30 a.m. the shuttle buses were running. Visitors were greeted by Pfc. Allen Scott of the 35th Military Police Company.

"I am enjoying the day," said Scott. "It is fun seeing everyone coming off the buses."

Although, cool and wet, it was still unseasonably warm for the first weekend in April.

It was beginning to mist as First Lady Mary Brownback started her count down. The cannon went off as she said "Go" and the hunt was on.

What took weeks of work and planning was over in about 15 minutes. As there was more than 11,000 plastic eggs and 30,000 wrapped eggs, every child was ensured enough candy to keep their parents awake for many hours.

However, the Soldiers were still not finished. They still had to return their equipment back to their armories and followed by prepping it for the next time it is needed. Only then would they be off to enjoy their Easter weekend.

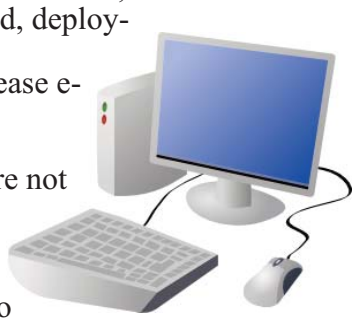
Pfc. Ynacio Bautista, a member of the 35th Military Police Company in Topeka, Kan., hands out pencils to young visitors of the Governor's Annual Easter Egg Hunt, at the governor's mansion, April 7. (Photo by Sgt. Mike Mathewson, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Joint Forces Headquarters UPAR)

Retired? Keep up with us by email

In an effort to keep our retirees better informed on what is happening in the Adjutant General's Department, the Public Affairs Office has put together an e-mail distribution list. Individuals on this distribution list will receive agency news releases, death notifications, Guard member retirements, invitations to changes of command, deployment and welcome home ceremonies, etc.

If you would like to be added to the list please e-mail your request to Jane Welch at jane.e.welch1@us.army.mil.

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



Teen Council members recognized

Kansas National Guard Teen Council members Sawyer Green, vice president, and Kassidy Seaba, communications chair, were recognized during the 58th Annual National Guard Association of Kansas Joint State Conference banquet held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Kansas City, Kan.

Green, son of Lt. Col. Mark and Linda Green of the 190th Air Refueling Wing's Maintenance Support Group, was awarded Youth of the Year—Air and Seaba, daughter of Capt. Rodney and Jamey Seaba of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, was awarded Youth of the Year– Army. (Photo by Jamey Seaba)

Disaster averted at Unit Public Affairs Representative course

By Spc. Kevin Stuart
242nd Engineer Company UPAR

Sirens sounded as the sky darkened over Nickell Barracks in Salina, Kan. The temperature dropped a little bit as pea size hail came down.

Members of the Kansas Army National Guard were in Salina for a class on becoming Unit Public Affairs Representatives April 14 to 15. UPARs report on events throughout the year that involve the Kansas National Guard. The course was taught by employees of the Kansas Adjutant General's Public Affairs Department.

"In the 10 years that I have been coming to the UPAR course, this has never happened," said Jane Welch, public information writer for the Kansas Adjutant General's Public Affairs Department, about the storm. "Throughout the class, we were watching the radar to be prepared for the possibility of storms."

The first storm cell arrived around 6:15 p.m. The sky turned dark and the wind ceased, the calm before the storm. As the wind picked back up and the tornado sirens blared, warning the community of the quickly approaching storm, tiny debris was thrown around while hail was pelting the ground. A few curious people were taking pictures trying to capture the fury of the storm. The first storm caused only minimal damage.

"Emergency personnel and hotel management did a great job during the storms," said Spc. Amber Stuckert, a student at the UPAR course from the 35th Infantry Division. "Not only did they keep us informed of the conditions outside, they had accountability of the temporary residents of Nickell Barracks. They even allowed those of us who were curious to watch the storm outside until conditions became too dangerous and corralled us inside. The emphasis of safety really helped individuals to stay calm."

It was too dark to see the second storm approach. In addition to the sound of pounding rain and wind rattling the windows, laughter could be heard from the interior hallways as people gathered together.

"This is camaraderie at its finest," chuckled Stuckert. Friendly bonds were forming as the National Guardsmen discussed the weather, which led to conversations about home and family.

The annual UPAR class teaches National Guardsmen and Civil Air Patrol personnel the role of the UPAR, photo and video composition, the effects of social media, how to prepare news releases and other aspects of being a UPAR.

"I think it was a good lesson for our class attendants that you don't always have to look for a story to write about," Welch said. "Sometimes it comes to you."

Kansas National Guard and Civil Air Patrol members attending the Unit Public Affairs Representative course in Salina, Kan., spent a majority of the night, April 14, in the hallways of Nickell Barracks due to a major storm cell. In all, three tornado warnings were issued for the Salina area. (Photo by Spc. Kevin Stuart, 242nd Engineer Company UPAR)