

Kansas SENTINEL

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**Kansas City Chiefs
play host at Military
Appreciation Day**

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A joint Kansas and Missouri color guard present the colors at Arrowhead stadium Nov. 6 prior to kickoff as the Kansas City Chiefs organization hosted a military appreciation day at Arrowhead.

Photo by Pfc. Brandon Jacobs

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**FROM THE
COMMADER**



We have just distributed the guidance on conducting a virtual drill. I want you to understand that by offering this option to your commanders, approval is at the battalion and brigade command levels, we are offering options to complete required training that is adaptable to your unit's needs. As we have all seen over the last few years the number and types of training offered online, including some training that must be completed annually, has increased. This is another way of accomplishing that training to benefit both our units and our Soldiers. I have asked commanders to ensure we check on the learning that is going on for this kind of training as it is easy to go through some of these courses and not pick up the key information that may be critical as you execute your mission for either our overseas missions or state disaster response missions. I will be looking for feedback from commanders to see how well this works for learning the material, making sure Soldiers can access the training, as well as administratively managing attendance.

I want to remind each of our leaders out there at all levels of the importance of taking care of all of our Soldiers. We are rapidly approaching the promotion and retention boards so making sure that all of your Soldier's records, including photos, Army Physical Fitness Test information, awards and ratings are all updated and in our electronic files will be critical to making sure the boards can objectively accomplish their tasks. Each individual should also be checking their own records to confirm the information that will be going before the boards. Make sure you understand the board schedules and how the board system works so you know yourself or can explain it to your Soldiers. Reading the current guidance is important as regulatory and policy changes do make a difference on board results.

As we wrap up 2011 with preparations for the winter snow storms that have hit this month and anticipating that we might see a few more in the early months of 2012, I started thinking about all of the great work each of you have done over the last year. We continue to receive notes, letters and emails on all of the support our Soldiers and Airmen are providing to their communities, their families and their fellow Guardsmen. Thank you for all you continue to do for the Kansas Army National Guard.

Very Respectively,

Eric Peck

Brig. Gen. Eric Peck
Assistant Adjutant General-Land Component

Chiefs host Military Appreciation Day

By Pfc. Brandon Jacobs
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Kansas City Chiefs organization claims to have the most loyal fans in the National Football League. While this claim might be open to debate, the loyalty of these fans to the U.S. military is not. Service members from all branches showed up for Military Appreciation Day as the Chiefs hosted the Miami Dolphins at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 6, 2011.

More than 50 motivated volunteers of the Kansas and Missouri National Guard, as well as representatives of the Kansas City Military Entrance Processing Station provided the color guard and assistance in the pregame ceremonies. The service members assisted in unfolding a field sized American flag during the national anthem.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Catlin, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the medical section at the Kansas City Military Entrance Processing Station, was a member of the pregame color guard.

"It means a lot for military pride," he said. "This helps put a face with the National Guard."

As fans leaned over the railings vying for autographs from their favorite players, the service members

lined up inside the tunnel. After both teams left the field the service members were given a hero's welcome as they exited the tunnel, complete with fans leaning over the railings to give high fives and handshakes.

"It makes the Soldiers feel good, things like this make the military more enjoyable," said Spc. Siu-onn Chak, a member of the 778th Transportation Company, and resident of Olathe, Kan.

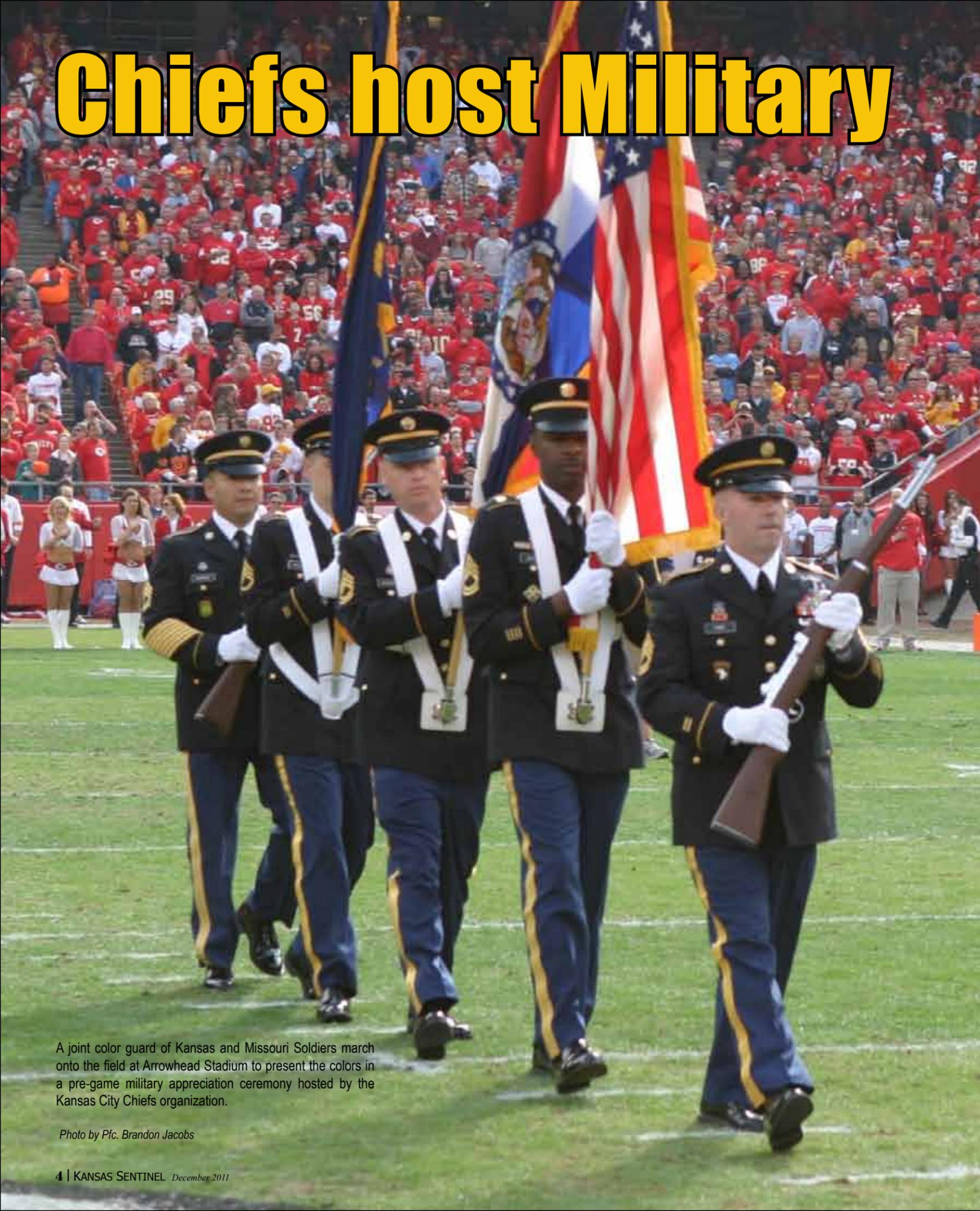
After they lined up along the inside walls, each service member took hold of a piece of Old Glory and began to spread across the field as the national anthem was sung.

"The community asked for something for Veterans Day, and we answered the call. This is important because the Guard is different and more involved in the community," said Master Sgt. Joseph A. Alainz, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Kansas Recruiting and Retention Battalion.

"We really are one of their own, the guy next door," said Alainz.

After the pregame ceremonies all the service members moved into the stands to watch the game.

The Chiefs lost the game 31-3, but service members and fans alike enjoyed a beautiful day for football.



A joint color guard of Kansas and Missouri Soldiers march onto the field at Arrowhead Stadium to present the colors in a pre-game military appreciation ceremony hosted by the Kansas City Chiefs organization.

Photo by Pfc. Brandon Jacobs



Service members were greeted with high fives and handshakes as they came on to the field for the pregame ceremonies. The pregame show was just a small part of the Kansas City Chief's Military Appreciation Day. Photo by Pfc. Brandon Jacobs



During the pregame ceremonies soldiers hold tight to the sides of the American flag. Service members from all over Kansas and Missouri came to participate in both the ceremonies and the Military Appreciation Day. Photo by Pfc. Brandon Jacobs

Kansas National Guardsmen inducted into the Hall of Fame



Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Steven D. Evans expresses his passion for his musical military career by conducting the 35th Division Band during his induction into the Museum of the Kansas National Guard's Hall of Fame. The ceremony was held in Topeka, Kan., on Nov. 6, 2011. Photo by Spc. Stephanie Hodges

By Spc. Stephanie Hodges
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Two former Kansas National Guardsmen were inducted into the Museum of the Kansas National Guard's Hall of Fame Nov. 6, 2011. Every year, nominations are meticulously reviewed and voted upon to select the most deserving and commendable members from the Kansas National Guard for this select honor. An induction ceremony was held at the Ramada Inn in Topeka, Kan., to pay tribute to the newest members, retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Steven D. Evans and retired Command Sgt. Maj. George E. Stevens.

"These two men have devoted their time and their lives to strengthening the Kansas National Guard," said Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general. Their dedication and service has generated a lasting impression on countless other service members."

Inductees were welcomed into the Hall of Fame by being awarded a Minuteman statue, a certificate to recognize their induction into the Hall of Fame and a Hall of Fame membership pin. According to retired Lt. Col. Doug Jacobs, the state his-

torian for the Kansas National Guard, it's a decoration that only a small percentage of Kansas National Guardsmen have been presented with.

"This is a tremendous honor, and I can't think of any other two individuals who are more deserving of it," said Jacobs.

Evans, who during his career was chiefly responsible for rebuilding the 35th Infantry Division Band, was grateful for the award, owing much of what he accomplished to the troops who worked with him and to his wife, Connie. Yet before leaving the stage, Evans wished to make one final comment.

"I am not very much for speech making, I am going to conclude my portion of the remarks by stepping in front of the band and letting them speak for me," said Evans.

Accompanied by the 35th Division Band, Evans conducted "Stars and Stripes Forever" by John Phillip Sousa for the on looking crowd.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. George E. Stevens expressed gratitude for the commitment and support of his mentors, military comrades and most importantly his wife, Karyl. Stevens' final words il-

lustrated the distinction of being Hall of Fame inductee.

"I am deeply honored to be inducted into a very elite group of individuals."

Attendees at this year's ceremony included past Hall of Fame inductees, honored guests, family members and National Guard members. Guests were entertained with music by the 35th Division Band, pomp and circumstance by the Kansas Guard Ceremonial Platoon and video highlights of the lives and accomplishments of each inductee.

Tafanelli concluded with remarks on the importance of nominating potential Hall of Fame inductees.

"This is the one opportunity we have for history to be able to recognize the outstanding service and dedication that is a true part of our Kansas National Guard heritage."

Military members and civilians may nominate a retired Kansas National Guardsman. For further information about Hall of Fame nomination please contact retired Lt. Col. Doug Jacobs at (785) 862-1020 or visit The National Guard Association of Kansas website at www.ngaks.org

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. George E. Stevens

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

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

In 1991, he led in the organization of the 18th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, a unit of the Kansas Militia, a volunteer organization dedicated to preserving this important history of the Kansas military. He served as the regiment's command sergeant major since it was chartered. During the Kansas National Guard's 150th anniversary celebration, he appeared in a replica 18th Cavalry uniform at a community presentation of a framed Heritage Print of the "Battle of Prairie Dog Creek" to the city library in Long Island, Kan.

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

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



Retired Command Sgt. Maj. George E. Stevens accepts the Hall of Fame lapel pin from his wife, Karyl, at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard's Hall of Fame induction ceremony in Topeka, Kan., on Nov. 6, 2011. Photo by Spc. Stephanie Hodges

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Steven D. Evans

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

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

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

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

The band doubled in size in 1984, and by 1987 it was at 100 percent authorized strength. The band was selected for missions in Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Panama and Ecuador.

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



Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general, presents Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Steven D. Evans, the Minuteman statue with his wife, Connie, by his side during his induction into the Museum of the Kansas National Guard's Hall of Fame in Topeka, Kan., on Nov. 6, 2011. Photo by Spc. Stephanie Hodges

Recently retired service members recognized

By Pvt. Anna Laurin
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Kansas National Guard recognized its recent retired members and their spouses for their service during the Adjutant General's Joint Forces Headquarters 2011 Retirement Recognition Dinner, served at the Ramada Inn in Topeka, Kan., Nov. 5, 2011.

Friends, families and colleagues attended the dinner to show their appreciation for the seven individuals honored who have collectively given more than 285 years of military service. Those being honored were retired Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose and husband retired Col. Joe Rose; retired Col. Kathryn Hulse and husband William; retired Col. Michael Slusher and wife Jeanne; retired Lt. Col. Craig Fox and wife Lt. Col. Cheryl Whelan; retired Lt. Col. Noel Grubb and wife Kristin; retired Lt. Col. Lester Gellhaus and wife Vicki; retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Indulis Dambro and wife Jo Ellen.

The retirees were awarded a plaque with all of the State's unit crests and the date of their service. Their spouses received a miniature glass pillar encasing the Minuteman, to recognize the sacrifices they made in order to allow their Soldiers and Airmen to serve.

The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, concluded the dinner thanking the retirees for their effort and leadership that they have put forth over the years making the Kansas National Guard a much better place.

"The future generations will continue to have the National Guard, that we are all so very proud of, because of all the hard effort that you've put forth," said Tafanel-

li. "I can honestly say that knowing each and every one of the honorees here tonight that the Kansas National Guard is a much better place because of their service and sacrifice and will be forever grateful. To the families, let me say thank you to each and every one of you for all of the sacrifices that you've made over the years."



Family, friends and co-workers attended the TAG's Retiree Recognition Dinner, to show their appreciation and support for the sacrifice and service of those who retired from their leadership positions in the Kansas National Guard. Onlookers and those being recognized watched as a loved one or former colleague was honored with a speech and a plaque recognizing their service to the state. *Photo by Pvt. Anna Laurin*

Guidon passed at 105th MPAD in change of command ceremony

Lt. Col. Tom Barnett, Commander Joint Forces Headquarters Table of Distribution and Allowances Battalion receives the guidon from Maj. Michael Wallace as he relinquishes his command to incoming commander Capt. Matt Keane (left) Dec. 3, 2011. Wallace commanded the 105th MPAD for more than four years. Prior to commanding the 105th MPAD, Wallace served in numerous commands as a public affairs officer.

Incoming commander, Keane takes commanding, having prior command experience with Headquarters and Headquarters Company 2nd Battalion 25th Infantry Division Aviation company as well as serving multiple deployments to the Iraqi theatre in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. *Photo by Capt. Benjamin Gruver*



JAG holds another successful legal conference at Washburn University

By Sgt. 1st Class Bill McGinnis
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

More than 50 past and present members of the Kansas National Guard's Judge Advocate General's Corps and civilians, who practice military law, gathered together at the Washburn University School of Law in Topeka Nov. 5-6, 2011, for the Kansas National Guard 2011 Annual Judge Advocate General's Conference.

The conference provides 12 hours of continuing legal education (CLE) which every attorney in Kansas needs. The conference is primarily focused on the needs of judge advocates and civilians who practice military law, but it is open to all licensed attorneys.

"In 12 hours we give an attorney their entire year's worth of required hours," said Maj. Jared Maag, Staff Judge Advocate, 190th Air Refueling Wing and conference coordinator. "This would cost them a thousand dollars at any other CLE at a tenth of the price."

Maag stated that the conference continues to grow every year. This is due to the JAGs and civilian attorneys who not only come back every year but hear about it through word-of-mouth.

Maag said that it takes a real team effort to put these conferences together and every year his staff tries to bring something new to the table, not only in what is being taught, but also in how it is formatted.

New to the program was a subject matter expert discussion on current issues that are affecting all of the branches. The topics discussed ranged from wills and powers of attorney to deployment issues and other legal matters that come up such as veterans laws.

During this year's conference, specialists in their legal field of expertise also spoke on issues such

as understanding Islamic law, as well as the standard topics of election law, immigration law, law of war and ethics.

With the continued growth, Maag's goal is to grow large enough to move the conference into larger auditoriums.

"We're trying to make this the premier conference not only in the state but for the military JAG community. I don't know of any other state that offers this forum," said Maag. "In years past, we've gotten a lot of participation from National Guard Bureau JAGs ... we're the only CLE, the only JAG conference that really exists beyond the individual conferences that each individual service branch has. But those conferences don't always get into legal issues, those are more just service-oriented issues. This is strictly law and it fulfills all of our legal requirements."

According to Maag, there are other forums available to JAG officers, such as intranet groups, but there is no other forum for them to get together like this in Kansas, and as far as he knows there is nothing else on this level that is offered in the Midwest.

Though the primary focus of the conference is military law issues, civilians come to see what the military does and are interested in knowing more, Maag said, and this conference also tries to draw interest from the law students there at the university who may be interested in the military.

Another added bonus to the civilian attendance is how it also benefits the military members. Maag said there are also several civilian lawyers, who as a result of attending the conference, want to get on a pro bono list to assist military members. "They are committed to helping out there" and he credits the conference with helping build that program. "We want as much civilian participation as we can get."

Retirees gather for annual update briefing

By Sgt. Jessica Barnett
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Kansas National Guard retirees joined together for a retiree briefing at Nickell Armory, Nov. 6, 2011, hosted by Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general.

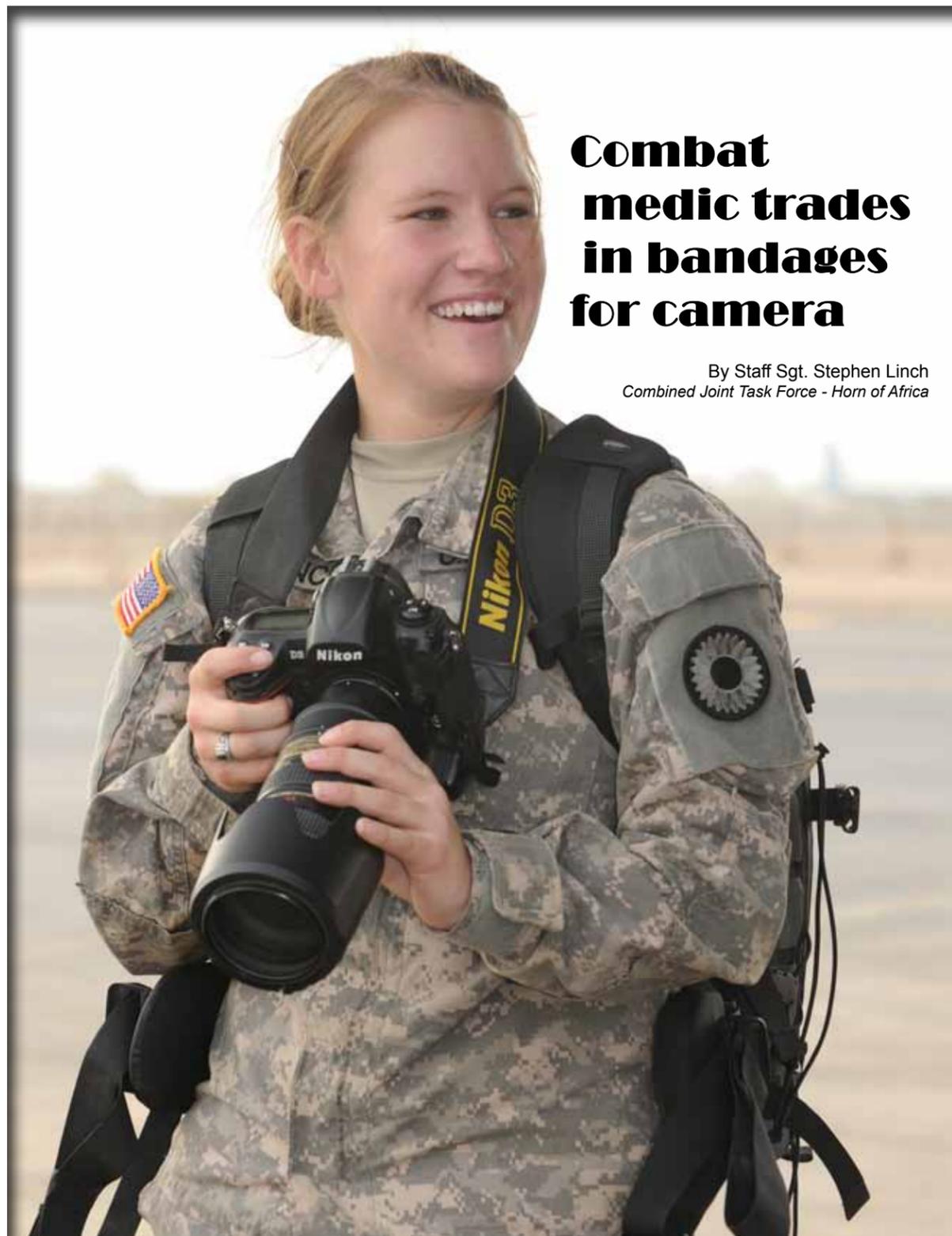
During the event, retirees were briefed on the latest actions and initiatives of the Kansas National Guard. To start the briefing, Tafanelli showed a video encompassing the Kansas Guard from its beginning to today.

The retirees also heard from Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, assistant adjutant general – Army and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, and Brig. Gen. Keith Lang, assistant adjutant general – Air and commander of the Kansas Air National Guard, on events that have happened over the past year from each component.

"As General Bunting used to say about retiree checks, that it's just really a retainer," said Tafanelli. "What I am going to ask each and every one of you to do is be an ambassador and continue to be an ambassador for the Kansas National Guard and, more importantly, tell the National Guard story."

"You run into groups of people frequently who don't even realize what the Kansas National Guard is, how long we have been around, what we have done, who we are and what we do on a daily basis. That is a constant education that we need to do and I can't think of anyone better in our communities to be our ambassadors and tell the Guard stories other than our retirees."

"I have been away for a couple of years, so it was nice to come in and get a short briefing on where the Guard has been over the past year, where it is presently and where they look to be in the next couple of years," said retired Lt. Col. Craig Fox. "This gives us a feeling when we go out and talk to the community with a better understanding of the current mission and where it is going in the future."



Combat medic trades in bandages for camera

By Staff Sgt. Stephen Linch
Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa

Spc. Michelle Lawrence, 35th Military Police Company combat medic currently serving as a unit public affairs representative for the 1st Battalion 161st Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard, adjusts her camera settings at Camp Lemonnier, June 30, 2011. The 1-161 FA BN is currently deployed to the Horn of Africa. Photo by Master Sgt. Dawn Price

“I wanted to make my dad proud.”
The pen struck the parchment leaving her signature – Michelle C. Lawrence – above her father’s, she recalled.

Weeks later on her 17th birthday, she became the third generation of her family to raise her right hand and recite the Oath of Enlistment, according to Spc. Michelle Lawrence, 35th Military Police Company combat medic currently serving as a unit public affairs representative for the 1st Battalion 161st Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard.

“That was her goal [to join the Army National Guard]. That’s what she wanted to do, and I wasn’t going to stop her,” said John Lawrence, Lawrence’s father, a resident of Dighton, Kan., and a U.S. Army veteran.

A little more than three years after joining the Kansas Army National Guard as a combat medic, Lawrence is covering the efforts of soldiers deployed to Africa thanks to a vacancy within the unit and leadership who realized her potential.

“Specialist Lawrence is one of a select few very influential public affairs representatives in my battalion achieving my communication plan,” said Lt. Col. Thomas Burke, 1-161 FA battalion commander. “I knew coming into this mobilization that communication with our military supporters, the general public in the state of Kansas and employers was vital to maintaining both public support for the mission and employer support for the soldiers.”

Lawrence wrote stories highlighting what U.S. soldiers did in countries such as Tanzania, Rwanda, Mozambique, Burundi and Kenya.

“They tell the story of how relationships with our counterparts are going beyond the skills of building partner nation capacity. Soldiers from both countries are learning that both countries want peace, stability and better futures for ourselves and our children.” Burke said. “Specialist Lawrence tells how working together, we can strive to meet that goal.”

“Lawrence does a great job of telling the story from the Soldier’s perspective,” he added.

Although she receives praise for her stories and photos, Lawrence never

thought she would be serving her country as a journalist or a photographer.

As a high school junior, Lawrence looked forward to becoming a combat medic and serving her country.

Although she was inspired by her father to become a Soldier, it was her mother, a nurse, who led her to become a combat medic.

“My mom is a nurse. I have always wanted to help people like she does,” Lawrence said.

It was while attending advanced individual training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, to become a combat medic, Pvt. Lawrence called back to her unit and received the unexpected news that she would be deploying.

“I happened to call my unit ... out of nowhere they said ‘by the way, we are going to Africa next year and you are going with us,’” Lawrence said.

After the initial shock, Lawrence said she was excited to deploy to Africa.

“I was pretty much pumped,” Lawrence said. “I had never been outside the U.S.”

“Lawrence does a great job of telling the story from the Soldier’s perspective.”

*Lt. Col. Thomas Burke,
1st Battalion 161st Field Artillery
commander*

A year after the phone call, 20-year-old Spc. Lawrence arrived at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, and once again received unexpected news.

The mission she was assigned to had one too many people. Although she was a combat medic, she was being reassigned to meet the needs of the battalion and would be working as a unit public affairs representative.

“I didn’t know anything about public affairs. I didn’t know how to write a story. I didn’t know how to take a good photo. I didn’t even know how to use one of these cameras,” Lawrence said.

Upon being assigned to the 1-161 FA public affairs office, Lawrence was placed in the Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa public affairs office as the battalion’s public affairs liaison with the task force.

It was there that a U.S. Air Force staff sergeant, skilled in public affairs, helped her tell the story of the Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers serving at Camp Lemonnier and throughout the African continent, she said.

“I don’t think I would be where I am now if he had not taken me under his wing like he did. He took time out of his day off and out of his work schedule to teach me photography and how to write,” Lawrence said.

Ever since learning the tricks of the trade, Lawrence has been highlighting what Soldiers deployed to Africa are doing, said Staff Sgt. Daryl Davis, 1-161 FA BN public affairs office, non-commissioned officer in charge.

“Within a short period of time she began to churn out remarkable articles and photos,” Davis said. “She is always willing and very capable of handling all assignments. She even volunteered for several others, and continues to impress.”

According to her father, it is no surprise Lawrence has proved capable of serving her country outside of her skill set as a combat medic.

“That is the way Michelle is,” John Lawrence said. “She will go after any task with the best of her ability and not complain.”

Her beliefs probably have a lot to do with her diligence and work ethic, he said.

“President John F. Kennedy made a statement ... ‘Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country,’” John Lawrence said, quoting U.S. President John F. Kennedy. “I believe in that whole heartedly. I think Michelle does too.”

“I’m really proud of her - her mother is too,” he added.

Soldier Spotlight Nominations

Do you know of a Kansas Soldier who should have their story told? Tell us about them.
Telephone: 785-274-1896, or by e-mail at:
phillip.witzke@ng.army.mil

Just off the busy Afghan Highway 7, near the village of Gerdy Katz, a little market has emerged out of the dust and debris. Although small in stature, the shop is bursting with promise and hope for the villagers.

The market is only the most recent, albeit essential, addition to a list of achievements the Kansas National Guard's Agribusiness Development Teams and their Afghan counterparts have struggled to reach together.

Two years ago the ADT cleared 10 Jaribs - roughly 50 acres - of land adjacent to Combat Outpost Xio Haq.

That initiative resulted in a boom of farming and agriculture to include greenhouses erected on-site, a well-supplied irrigation system and a citrus fruit tree and nut tree orchard.

Roughly 120 farmers were trained in greenhouse technology, soil analysis, drip irrigation, pest management and animal husbandry.

The culmination of all these projects was the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the market, owned and operated by Wasir Kahn, a local Malik. Kahn and his team of laborers worked hard to see the fruits of their labor evolve to a business that would help bring hope to their district.

"Because it's close to the highway, the people of Kabul and Jalalabad, they want to buy something from here, so we have market here," Kahn said.

The closeness to the highway, combined with a lack of anything else like it in the area may spell success for this long awaited market.

"One of the keys to this marketplace is that there really is not much in the way of commercial, particularly commercial agriculture, products in this part of the district," said Phil Blake, U.S. Department of Agriculture agricultural advisor. "This is really the perfect place in this western part of the district to have a facility where we can have a diversity of products."

At the moment the humble market can only boast having poultry selling services, tailoring services and fresh locally grown produce. It holds the potential for growth to other areas.

"We were recently funded to set up a micro dairy here," Blake said. "This will be the only place in this part of district where people can stop and pick up fresh cheese and yogurt-milk products."

All of the perishable products for the local villages were brought in by trucks in the past. Before the market, getting fresh products were not cost effective.

"We go to Jalalabad or Methar Lam city so we spend more money as a transportation cost," said Kahn, referring to the way they used to conduct business.

"For example, one kilogram of sugar you buy [at] 100 Afghani, but we spend 300 Afghani here for transportation cost, so one kilogram was almost 400 [Afghani]. Now [that] you [can] buy the sugar here, the transportation cost will drop."

The market has already been a success story just by being there. Locals can enjoy the benefits of fresh products, but not have to dig as deeply into their pockets.

The Gerdy Katz villagers are expected to take this development on their own to grow and expand it as their village expands and grows. The future is in their hands.

"The most important thing here is this district has now been declared transitioned," Blake said.

"We are seeing more and more of a pull-back of advisors and U.S. forces here, so in the coming months the Afghans are pretty much going to be on their own," he said. "We see this as a perfect opportunity for them to stand up for themselves and stand up the business here that is already proving to be successful."

NEW MARKET SELLS HOPE TO DESPERATE LOCALS

By Staff Sgt. Luke Graziani
Combined Joint Task Force 1 - Afghanistan



Members of the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the USDA inspect a greenhouse that the USDA and the Kansas Agriculture Development Teams built to train Afghan farmers near Gerdy Katz, Dec. 3, 2011. Photo by Sgt. Staff Sgt. Luke



Wasir Kahn, an Afghan Malik and village elder, cuts the ceremonial ribbon during the opening of a new marketplace near Gerdy Katz, Dec. 3, 2011. The market is only the most recent, albeit essential, addition to a list of achievements the Kansas National Guard's Agribusiness Development Teams and their Afghan counterparts have struggled to reach together. Photo by Sgt. Staff Sgt. Luke Graziani



Members of the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the USDA take a moment to speak with Wasir Kahn, the proprietor of a new marketplace just before the ribbon cutting ceremony near Gerdy Katz, Dec. 3, 2011. Photo by Sgt. Staff Sgt. Luke Graziani

SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE ARMY VISITS SOLDIERS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA



Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler speaks to soldiers during a visit to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Dec. 16. Chandler spoke to soldiers about maintaining professionalism and upcoming changes for the Army. Photo by Spc. Michelle Lawrence

By Spc. Michelle Lawrence
Combined Joint Task Force 1 - Horn of Africa

The 14th sergeant major of the Army made his first trip to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, visiting Soldiers with Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa on Dec. 16, 2011.

His visit afforded him the opportunity to discuss various important topics with Soldiers stationed here.

“I want to talk to you about what’s going on in the Army and where it’s going in the future,” said Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III. “We’ve been working an idea - relearning what it means to be a professional.”

Chandler explained how in some aspects, Soldiers are the same as any professional in the world and the devotion to professionalism engenders trust among Americans.

“The American people implicitly trust you because you wear this uniform to support the [U.S.] Constitution and defend the American people in our nation’s wars,” he said. “They believe you’re going to do what’s right.”

Maintaining the trust of the American people is what defines a soldier as a professional Chandler said. A Soldier must have character. They do what they are supposed to do all the time. It’s a constant challenge for a soldier to be true to themselves and the uniform they wear he added.

One thing Chandler passed on throughout the visit was the impor-

tance of professional pride and how it’s everyone’s responsibility to maintain high standards. He said he tries leading by example, not direction. As the senior enlisted member of the Army, Chandler wants to be remembered for taking care of the soldiers who come after him. The future of the Army rests with them.



Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler discusses what his post duties entail with Spc. Charlie Beuttel, 1st Battalion 161st Field Artillery, as they look out from the tower overlooking an entry control point on Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Dec. 16, 2011. Photo by Spc. Michelle Lawrence

“I try to do what is right and take care of soldiers and their families,” Chandler said. “You’ll decide my legacy, not me.”

Chandler also noted part of being professional was maintaining a professional appearance and physical fitness. He encouraged soldiers to break the mold of physical fitness and push themselves to new heights.

An ongoing challenge the Army

faces is developing and improving the fitness level of all its Soldiers, said Chandler. He would like to move away from a physical fitness test to a physical readiness test.

A physical fitness test measures specific areas of a Soldier’s body, while the physical readiness test would measure muscle strength and endurance of the entire body. The battlefield today requires soldiers to be dynamic, focusing on challenges presented to the entire body and mind he said, and emphasized appearance and fitness have everything to do with professionalism. His goal is to develop a fighting force capable of handling any possible situation that could arise at any time.

“This is the standard,” he said. “And this is all about meeting a standard that’s even more difficult.”

While meeting the Army standards is a cornerstone of professionalism, there are still other aspects to consider when developing a Soldier.

Soldiers’ development is about commitment, selfless service and confidence he said. Chandler added that he wants every Soldier to fulfill the obligation they signed up for – to realize they personally come last and to gain the confidence to do their job right.

“I hope the younger generation of Soldiers took away the intent of his part on professionalism,” said Sgt. Steven Sprawka, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery. “We need to get back to the basics and be professional Soldiers.”

Tanzania, U.S. contribute medical skills

A team of Soldiers from the 1st Battalion 161st Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard recently returned from a 20-day mission to Msata, Tanzania, where they shared medical best practices with the Tanzania People’s Defense Force.

The five-day Combat Lifesaver course covered basic life saving measures, including evaluating a casualty, airway management, bleeding control, chest, abdominal and head injuries.

“The soldiers demonstrated their skills well,” said Staff Sgt. Brian McKinney, 1-161 FA medic. “They were excited to return to their unit to share their training.”

A follow-on two week field medical training course exchanged basic medical tasks, such as intravenous therapy and HIV/AIDS awareness and protective measures. The Tanzanian medics were also tasked to give their fellow medics a first-aid class which prepared them to teach classes to the remainder of their battalion.

The field medical training concluded with a two-day field exercise where the



Staff Sgt. Brian McKinney, 1st Battalion 161st Field Artillery Kansas Army National Guard medic, watches as the Tanzania Peoples Defense Force medical noncommissioned officer in charge of a training mission conducts an after-action review at the end of an exercise in Msata, Tanzania, Nov. 4, 2011. McKinney and his team conducted a medical training exchange mission in Tanzania in support of the Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa mission. Photo by Spc. Bradley Youngers

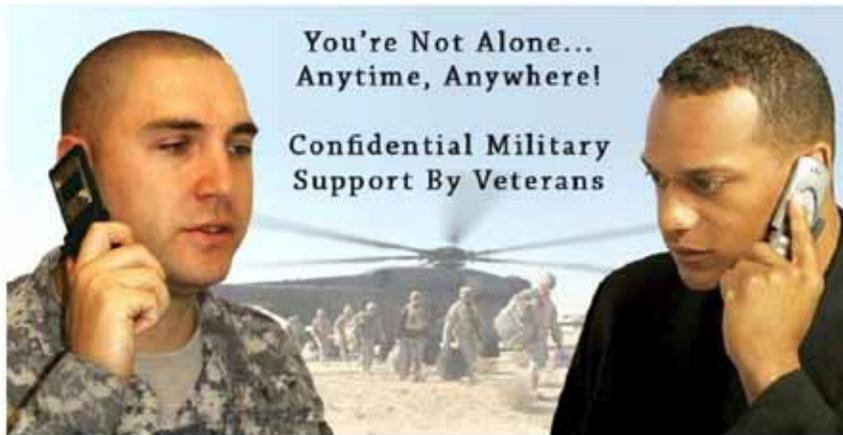
medics performed their skills on a mock battlefield.

“In a simulated combat situation, the medics treated multiple injuries such as fractures, burns and airway issues,” McKinney. “They worked with the squad

leader to evacuate casualties to the medical evacuation site.”

According to Spc. Bradley Youngers, 1-161 FA medic, the exercises were challenging and a great learning experience for all involved.

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