



Kansas

SENTINEL

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THROUGH THE LENS

KSARNG 1-161st FA trains
with U.S. Air Force's 82nd
Expeditionary Rescue
Squadron in Djibouti

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On the Cover

Spc. Bronson Shipman, Site Security Team, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, provides rear security during a personnel recovery training mission, Aug. 22, in the deserts of Djibouti. SST supported the U.S. Air Force's 82nd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron by providing a perimeter security to enhance security procedures. (Photo by Spc. Michelle Lawrence)

From the Commander



As I was rushing around last week to get some things done before I left for a trip to the Washington DC area I thought once again how much my family was doing for me as I kept my busy schedule. While we tend to think about all the things we have to do at work, for our duties as leaders in the National Guard, for our community organizations and, of course for our families, we sometimes forget that our wife, our children and other close relatives also have busy lives, but they are taking time to do many things for us and the rest of our family.

So, as we rapidly approach the holiday season please take time to enjoy your family and spend some time with them, more time than you normally do with your busy, productive schedule.

One of the things we have to do as a routine is ensure there is balance in our lives. So, as we focus more on one area at certain times, we must shift the focus to other areas at other times. Just as we tend to focus more as we are preparing to deploy or go to annual training on our military duties and responsibilities, now is the time to focus more on your families. Reflect on what you have done over this last year, while thinking about what you want to accomplish, as a family, over the next year.

With my parents and father-in-law in their eighties we are trying to make sure we enjoy them during the holidays as much as possible since we know that we are limited in what they can do and how many more holidays we will have together. This just makes us focus more intently on the many blessings we enjoy as Americans. May each and every one of you enjoy your family and friends over this holiday season.

2-137th Change of Command



Sgt. Maj. Tim Tiemissen, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion Command Sgt. Maj., Lt. Col. Greg Mittman, outgoing commander of the 2nd CAB, 1st Inf. Reg., Col. Anthony Mohatt, 69th Troop Command commander, and Maj. (P) Robert Wood, incoming commander of the 2nd CAB, 1st Inf. Reg., await the passing of the colors, completing the change of command during the change of command ceremony Sept. 17, at the Ramada Convention Center. (Photo by Spc. Jessica Zullig)

By Spc. Jessica Zullig
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Maj. (Promotable) Robert A. Wood took command of the Kansas National Guard's 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment during a change of command ceremony Sept. 17 at 11 a.m. at the Ramada Convention Center, Topeka, Kan.

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

The 2nd CAB, 137th In. Reg. is headquartered in Kansas City with subordinate units located in Emporia, Junc-

tion City, Lawrence, Lenexa, Manhattan, Topeka and Wichita.

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

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

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

"Your new commander, Maj. (P) Robert Wood, is a battle tested leader. He understands

maneuver warfare and the supporting systems necessary for battlefield success. I have no doubt he will continue to improve the work we have undertaken to improve our administrative and logistical readiness. I have no doubt, that if called upon again to serve our nation, Maj. Wood will ensure the Battalion is ready."

After Mittman, Wood gave his speech thanking many people whom had helped to where he is today, including Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, Maj. Ron Boyer, Maj. Robert Stinson and Maj. Steve Denney.

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

KSNG ADT 3 welcomed home



Sgt. 1st Class Rose, Agribusiness Development Team 3, holds his grand-daughter for the first time at Forbes Field, Topeka, Kan., Oct. 23, 2011. (Photo by Sgt. Jessica Barnett)

By Sgt. Jessica Barnett and 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht,
Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs

As the hanger doors in 680 parted at Forbes Field, Topeka, Kan., the Agribusiness Development Team (ADT) 3 marched in proudly as they were greeted by loud heartfelt cheers from family, friends and fellow service members during their home coming ceremony from Afghanistan, Oct. 23, 2011.

Approximately 60 members of the Kansas Army and Air National Guard deployed to Afghanistan under the command of Col. Howard Wheeler, ADT 3 commander, in November 2010.

The Agribusiness team worked with numerous agen-

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

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

ADT 3 arrived on Christmas day of 2010 and hit the ground running. They were able to affect and enhance the lives thousands of Afghan people with low cost projects that will have an enormous impact for many years to come. The team was able to re-utilize thousands of acres back into production and established several new agribusinesses. These expert guardsmen were able to pass agricultural knowledge to students and farmers that spread to 126 villages and over 8000 citizens.

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

The Kansas National Guard, while partnered with Kansas State University continues the ADT missions to build continuity and relationships with local Afghan leaders and citizens. The ADT program is a joint effort of several federal government agencies and the National Guard.

778th Transportation Company Welcomed Home

By Sgt. Jessica Barnett
Public Affairs Office

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

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

Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tapanelli, the adjutant general, and Lt. Gov. of Kansas Dr. Jeffery Colyer, acknowledged the deployed Soldiers, family members and community with

words of appreciation for their service and sacrifice.

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

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

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

"I am ecstatic to be home and with family," shared Staff Sgt. Joseph Duncan, a multichannel transmission systems operator - maintainer with the 778th Tran. Co. (HET).

"I am glad that all the time I have been gone has come to this reward."

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

Soldiers of the 778th Tran. Co. (HET) served as a

forward deployed Heavy Equipment Transportation Company of a Transportation Battalion, providing responsive, tailored, adaptive HET capabilities for staging, onward movement, integration, retrograde,

and sustainment operations in support of Operations New Dawn and Enduring Freedom.

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



Spc. Linna Boller, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 778th Transportation Company (Heavy Equipment Transport), and resident of Natoma, Kan., reunites with her family and friends after her unit's welcome home ceremony at the Bicentennial Center in Salina, Kan., Oct 23, 2011.

Photo by Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

Soldier pulls victim from burning car



The Adjutant General, Major General Lee E. Tafanelli pins Sgt John C. Decker for his quick actions and selfless service.

Story and photos by PV2 Anna R. Laurin
105th MPAD

On January 17, 2011 Sgt John C. Decker of the 1st Battalion, 235th Regiment, Officer Candidate School in Salina, Kansas and a friend were driving in Salina when they noticed a disabled vehicle off to the side of the road. Sgt Decker went to the vehicle and noticed the driver was not moving. He began talking to the driver but the driver was unresponsive.

Without regards for his personal well-being Decker pulled the driver out and away from the vehicle as it started on fire. Once away from the vehicle Decker began administering chest compressions and first aid until the first response unit arrived, said Lt. Col

Judith Martin, commander 1st Battalion (OCS), 235th Regiment.

The Adjutant General, Major General Lee E. Tafanelli awarded The Kansas National Guard Distinguished Service Medal to Decker on October 22, 2011 at the Adjutant General's Commander's Call, at the Kansas Great Plains Joint Training Center, in Salina Kansas.

In his own words, he never hesitated, and didn't realize until later how dangerous the situation. This action reflects character upon himself and the Kansas National Guard, said Martin.

VIPs, Guardsmen honored NASCAR race



The number 88 National Guard car, driven by Dale Earnheart Jr., is displayed in the Chevrolet booth outside of the speedway Oct. 7-9, in Kansas City, Kan. Another replica was located at the National Guard's Recruiting and Retention booth during the weekend. (Photo by Pfc. Brandon Jacobs)

By Pfc. Brandon Jacobs,
105th MPAD

82,000 NASCAR fans descended on the Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kan., Oct. 7-9, for the fourth race of the 2011 Sprint Cup Series. Among those present were members of the Kansas Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion and several dozen of their VIP's and civilians of interest.

"We do events like these to say thank you to members of the community that help out the National Guard in Kansas," said Master Sgt. Joseph A. Alaniz, the noncommissioned officer in charge for Company A, Recruiting and Retention Battalion, Kansas Army National Guard. Alaniz, along with Staff Sgt. James C. Hubbard, the marketing and advertising noncommissioned officer for the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, and Command Sgt. Maj. Manuel R. Rubio Jr., command sergeant major for the recruiting and retention battalion, planned the event.

The VIPs consisted of members of the community such as High School teachers, coaches, and JROTC instructors from Topeka schools as well as Kansas City, Kan., schools. They were treated to seats that overlook the race track and a full spread of good eats, as well as tours of the garage and pit areas. "We wanted to thank the members of the community for everything they've done," said Hubbard. "With-

out them our job would be much more difficult."

Alaniz also emphasized the importance of these events to the guardsmen in attendance. "Events like these not only entertain Kansas guardsmen but give them a chance to share their with community members," he said.

Alaniz continued, saying the Kansas National Guard has been inviting general community members as VIPs to the Kansas Speedway since its opening in 2001. Not only was everyone there to enjoy the event, but some went and extra mile and helped put up two displays in the midway and at the nearby Cabela's sporting goods store parking lot.

"In the midway we have a fitness challenge for NASCAR fans that features the number 88 Dale Earnheart Jr. car that Soldiers help us display," said Alaniz.

Since the first race in 2001, Cabela's has made a handshake agreement with the Guard allowing for a static display of military vehicles. This year included a Bell UH-1 Iroquois helicopter, more commonly known as a Huey, dating back to the Vietnam War.

"Cabela's has been very generous to allow the guard to use their parking lot," said Alaniz.

With 82,000 people at the races, the Kansas National Guard can't provide the funds necessary to make the event possible.

"The Kansas Guard can't put on this event on our own," said Rubio. Every year the recruiting and retention battalion gets a little help from the National Guard Bureau. "Without the National Guard Bureau we wouldn't have the tools to bring our civilians of interest out here," Rubio continued. "These VIPs play a big part in the success of the Kansas Guard because they guide students to us, they support us because of what we can offer their students."

At the end of the weekend Jimmie Johnson, number 48, won the main race, but he wasn't the only winner – everyone in attendance and who helped put on the event had a meaningful experience.

Commander's Conference Focuses on Leadership, Training

The Adjutant General Lee E. Tafanelli, Kansas National Guard, welcomed officers and senior enlistment leadership of the Kansas National Guard, October 22 to the Adjutant General's Commander's Call, held at the Great Plains Joint Training Center, in Salina Kansas.

Before the conference began The Kansas National Guard Distinguished Service Medal was awarded to Sgt John C. Decker from the 1st Battalion, 235th Regiment, Officer Candidate School of Salina, Kansas, for responding to an automobile accident without regard for his personal well-being. The Adjutant General awarded and pinned the sergeant.

Tafanelli began the conference by talking about his guidance on leadership and how the economy was affecting our Army and Soldiers.

"Fifty two percent of our formations are new enlistments since 9/11," said Tafanelli, "and we owe it to our Soldiers the leadership and information so they can be successful."

The conference then followed with briefings from Brig Gen Eric Peck, the Assistant Adjutant General; Col. Mike Erwin, Director of Military Personnel; Col. Roger D. Murdock, Director of Operations for the Kansas National Guard J-3 staff; CW5 Hector Vasquez, Command Chief Warrant Officer; and CSM Scott Haworth, State Command Sergeant Major. The discussions included soldier readiness, focusing the force structure, warrant officer update, transforming leadership and suicide awareness training.

"The conference was an opportunity for senior leadership and Non Commissioned Officers to speak with the units about the training and guidance for the next two years," said Murdock.

Command Sgt. Maj. John Ryan, the command sergeant major for Kansas Joint Forces Head Quarters, Land Component and Sgt. Major James Crosby, Kansas National Guard, conducted a Senior NCO call over lunch discussing the requirement for soldiers to do Structure Self-Development courses, and NCO leadership courses.

A main issue found was that NCOs would not con-

firm with their chain of command if they could not attend the leadership course and therefore end up as a no show, said Crosby. The number of no shows affects the budget we are given to do these courses.

The afternoon was filled with further annual training, and was followed by the Commander's Social that evening.



The Adjutant General Tafanelli briefs his senior leadership on the importance of refocusing the force structure of the Kansas National Guard, at the Commander's Call, Oct 22 2011 Salina, Kan.



Soldiers from the Site Security Team, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, pull security as litter bearers evacuate a simulated casualty to a nearby helicopter, Aug. 22, in the deserts of Djibouti. SST soldiers partnered with the U.S. Air Force's 82nd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron as a security detail to enhance security and evacuation skills during a personnel recovery training mission.



Spc. Travis Grogan, Site Security Team, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, reacts to simulated incoming fire while performing front security, Aug. 22, in the deserts of Djibouti. SST provided a secured perimeter while the U.S. Air Force's 82nd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron conducted a personnel recovery training mission to better medical, evacuation and security skills.

Through the Lens

Background photo: Sgt. Kevin Fischer, Site Security Team, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, signals his security team to fill in the security perimeter, Aug. 22, in the deserts of Djibouti. Soldiers from the SST formed a secure perimeter in support of a personnel recovery training mission for the U.S. Air Force's 82nd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron to enhance medical and security skills

This month's Through the Lens features photos taken by Spc. Michelle Lawrence, deployed with Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa in Djibouti.



U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Canfield (left) watches as U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Ian Gross, Tech. Sgt. Ian Jamieson, Senior Airman Todd Plocher and Staff Sgt. Thomas Meacham, 82nd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, work on a simulated casualty during a personnel recovery training mission, Aug. 22, in the deserts of Djibouti. The 82nd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron conducts training missions to better their medical and evacuation skills.

APFT Challenge Continues to Grow

Story and photos by PV2 Anna R. Laurin
105th MPAD

The Adjutant General's Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) Fitness Challenge was held on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2011, at the 235th Kansas Regional Training Institute (KSRTI) in Salina, Kan. Over three hundred civilians and Soldiers participated in the two minutes of pushups, two minutes of sit-ups, and a two-mile race against the clock, which began at 9 a.m., said Lt. Col. Douglas Hinkley, Commander of the 2nd Modular Training Battalion, 135th Regiment. This is the 16th year the Fitness Challenge has been hosted and is continuing to grow, said Hinkley. This event started off as a military participation only, but has grown to now involve the community, with competitors and sponsors. Civilians across the state compete alongside service members including local schools, like Wichita South's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps which brought 12 students.

"The Fitness Challenge will be a premier event and opportunity for physically fit high school athletes to become engaged with the National Guard," Col. Robert E. Windham, Commander of the 235th Regiment said. This event is a win, win situation for the youth, the Nation Guard, and the community. This event was not meant to be a recruiting event, said Hinkley, but it is a reward from the effort.

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

An award ceremony was held after the competition to celebrate those who met the challenge. Awards were handed out by Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the Adjutant General of Kansas, said Hinkley. Awards were given out for 1st, 2nd and 3rd for each age category for the military and the civilian side; then for the highest repetition of sit-ups, pushups, and the best time in the run. Also, awards were given out for the teams who scored the highest overall, with the 1st place team having their name put on the TAG Fitness



Tanner Haycock, a student from the St. John's Military School, Salina, Kan., strives to put out as many sit-ups as he can within the 2 minutes, while a member from the 235th Regiment kept track as well gave out personal encouragement. At the end of the Fitness Challenge, Haycock scored an overall 199 points.

Challenge award, with the previous years' team winners names also engraved onto the award.

Other than the fitness competition, there were static displays from different units across Kansas. A life-flight display, local police and fire fighters, and some of the civilian sponsors including the University of Phoenix, Sea Port Airlines, and the Enlisted

See APFT Challenge page 13



Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, The Adjutant General of Kansas awards the youngest competitor Mark Butcher, age 8. Butcher completed the Fitness Challenge with 117 pushups, 110 sit-ups, and a 2 mile time of 12:42. This is the second year that Butcher has competed. Both years he competed along with other top athletes and Soldiers, to finish among the highest scoring competitors. He scored a 383 on the extended scale for Soldiers 10 years his senior.

From APFT Challenge page 12

Association of the National Guard of Kansas were set up around the area of the event, said Hinkley.

Along with the sponsors' booths set up around the challenge, there were other sponsors who were involved in helping run the event Saturday. The Salina Running Company collected and produced the times for the two-mile event. The civilian and community sponsors are appreciated for their help and involvement throughout the years, said Hinkley. This year's Fitness Challenge also gave out plaques to the community sponsors who helped this event run smoothly.

**HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR NG
FORM 4100?
UPDATES ARE DUE IN SOON.
CHECK WITH YOUR
UNIT ADMINISTRATOR
TO FIND OUT WHEN.**

1-161 Soldiers gain desert skill sets



Spc. Jameka Garman and Sgt. Sean Cody evaluate a French soldier on 15 September, as part of the Desert Survival Course. The course was held in the Grand Bara desert under the instruction of the 5th regiment of the French Army. (Photo by Spc. Donna Schilds)

By Sgt. Leon Prather
1st Battalion, 161 Field Artillery

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

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, acquired the knowledge, confidence and experience of what it takes to survive and operate in the desert without the comfort of pre-cooked rations and canteens of water during a desert survival course Sept. 13- 22, 2011. Fourteen members of the 1-161 took the opportunity to learn desert survival skills and train with their 5th Regiment French comrades who conduct the survival course for all French forces in Djibouti.

The course covered techniques such as capturing, preparing and cooking wildlife.

"Having to kill, clean and cook a goat was a unique experience," Spc. Jameka Garman, a 1-161 Soldier, said.

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

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

"I would encourage anyone to do the course. It is a very physically demanding, but with a strong positive mental attitude it can be done," Spc. Donna Schilds, a 1-161 Soldier, said.

While the course was both physically and mentally demanding, there was a language barrier as the course was taught entirely in French.

"Communication was hard, but we quickly learned that playing charades works to get the message across," said Spc. Aaron Stoesz, a 1-161 Soldier. "Using hand gestures and visually communicating helped us build friendships as well as get a better understanding of the task at hand."

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

"The classes were informative and using sand tables was helpful when it came to the hands on training. I learned that we do a lot of the same training, but the difference is in the method used to achieve the task," said

Spc. Isaac Leihy, a 1-161 Soldier.

"I better understand how to communicate and coexist with foreign military personnel. This will be useful in light of the number of joint deployments that the U.S. is involved with," Spc. Andrew Wieland, a 1-161 Soldier, said. "The French use different tactics to engage and disengage the enemy, but we share the same soldier issues."

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

"Desert survival is made easier when you have a team to encourage you and help share the workload. All the soldiers learned the importance of team building," said Sgt. Robert Davis, a 1-161 Soldier.

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

"The newly acquired skill sets will serve us well as we continue our current mission working with partner nations," Sgt. 1st Class Shannon Bronson, a 1-161 Soldier, said.

BURUNDI, U.S. SOLDIERS SHARE TACTICS, LINGUISTICS



Burundi National Defense Force (BNDF) soldiers conduct perimeter security training during a base defense exercise recently in Mudubagu, Burundi. Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery traveled to Mudubagu to share best military practices with the BNDF during a three-week training mission. (Photo by SFC Shannon Bronson)

By Spc. Michelle C. Lawrence
CJTF – HOA Public Affairs

Members of the Burundi National Defense Force (BNDF) and Soldiers from the Kansas Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery recently completed a three-week exchange of the best practices on Oct. 12, 2011, for mounted combat patrols, military operations in urban terrain, base defense and cordon and search in an effort to strengthen defense capabilities and build partner nation relations.

The BNDF's paramount mission is protecting their nation's borders from intrusion. Skills such as mounted combat patrols and military operations in urban terrain are used during combat only while base defense, and cordon and search are every day skills to know to protect a country's borders.

"We were on a three-day training cycle," said Sgt. 1st Class Shannon Bronson, mission commander from 1-161. "By the end of the third day, the BNDF soldiers could complete all tasks and sub-tasks to standard, with or without a translator."

BNDF soldiers spoke mostly Kirundi, also known as Rundi, which is the national language for Burundi, or French, with very little English. Conversely, the U.S. Soldiers spoke very little Kirundi and French. However, both sides took on the challenge of learning each other's language.

"Talking with the Burundi soldiers was difficult at times," said Staff Sgt. Donald Dickey, 1-161. Although Dickey had struggled, he eventually learned movement commands and how to carry on a basic conversation in Kirundi. At the end of the mission, the BNDF and U.S. Soldiers were able to effectively communicate with each other through speaking, hand signals and visual aids, said Dickey.

"Most hand signals were basic like pointing directions, looking for something or holding a weapon at low ready," said Bronson. "For visual aids, we made a makeshift helicopter by making an outline from rocks and using water bottles to mark doors."

According to Dickey, it was an overall enlightening experience for the U.S. Soldiers. They were able to learn about a whole new culture, new communication techniques and improved on their linguistic skills by learning first hand from the BNDF.



Soldiers of the Burundi National Defense Force stack in preparation to transverse open ground between buildings during urban terrain training recently held in Mudubagu, Burundi. (Photo by SFC Shannon Bronson)

WOMP aims for success with new warrant officers

Story by Spc. Jessica Zullig,
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

For many new recruits and junior Soldiers, it's always nice to have a clear picture of what the future may bring them in their military careers. On Sept. 23, 2011, the Adjutant General directed just that. The Kansas Army National Guard Warrant Officer Mentor Program (WOMP) has expanded and formalize to prepare candidates for successful completion of Warrant Officer Candidate School.

The program guides newly appointed warrant officer toward achieving both mission oriented and personal excellence, while also helping build relationships between junior and senior warrant officers, and their commanders.

The WOMP is designed to reflect the Year of Leadership of 1985, and develop leaders who will know how to fight and win on the battlefields of the future. It will renew the Army's focus and attention to the men and women who remain a great asset to all operations.

Mentorship contributes to the development of those future leaders and fills the void that formal schools, limited experience, and on-the-job training cannot provide instruction on.

The benefit of formalizing the mentor program is to direct command emphasis and sanction effective mentoring guidelines toward helping fellow Soldiers on their paths, benefiting both junior and senior warrant officers in sharing experiences and new advancements for policy.

Successful leadership helps the person with raw talent to succeed and the good performers to excel further. The WOMP program is there to ensure that every warrant officer is provided the opportunity to receive the necessary tools for success throughout their careers.

Mentors, played as senior warrant officers, will clarify career goals and help develop short- and long-term career strategies to help new warrant officers work toward advancement. Senior warrant officers must share their knowledge and instruct newer members of the corps in technical, leadership and management skills in order for the program to be a success.

With constant change, expanding technologies, shifting demographics and budget cuts, a sound mentorship program ensures that every Soldier in the Warrant Officer Corps, from the candidate through CW4, is provided the opportunity to receive necessary tools for success throughout their missions and careers.

What is a Warrant Officer?

Warrant Officers are highly specialized experts and trainers in their career fields. By gaining progressive levels of expertise and leadership, these leaders provide valuable guidance to commanders and organizations in their specialty.

Warrant Officers remain single-specialty Officers with career tracks that progress within their field, unlike their Commissioned Officer counterparts who focus on increased levels of command and staff duty positions.

Could this be you?



Join Our Team

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October 27, 2011

Photocopying of Military Identification Cards



Recent incidents regarding the photocopying of military identification cards and common access cards (CAC), by commercial establishments to verify military affiliation or provide government rates for service, have been reported.

Personnel are reminded that the photocopying of US Government Identification is a violation of **Title 18, US Code Part I, Chapter 33, Section 701** and punishable by both fine and/or imprisonment.



Many military members, family members and DoD employees are unaware of this law. Please pass to the lowest level and include in training for force protection, information security and OPSEC.

FPO COMMENTS: Criminal elements and terrorist organizations place U.S. government identifications as a high value logistical element when planning acts against the U.S. military.

Although commercial establishments are not prohibited from asking for military/government identification, many government personnel and commercial establishments are unaware of the prohibition on duplication of government identification. Unfortunately, there are no safeguards in place to ensure a government identification card won't be counterfeited or "cloned" based on a photocopy by a commercial establishment.

It is recommended that military/DoD personnel provide a state drivers license or other form of photo identification to be photocopied if an establishment insists on a photocopy of the traveler's identification.

***NOTE:** This does not apply to medical establishments (i.e. doctor's office, hospitals, etc...) who are allowed take a copy for the purpose of filing insurance claims; and other government agencies in the performance of official government business.

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REMEMBER

Should you witness activity that may be criminal or terrorist in nature, contact the Pentagon Force Protection Agency **IMMEDIATELY** at 703-692-2729