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PLAINS GUARDIAN

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National Guard, State renders aid to winter storm victims

By Sharon Watson

The snow and ice that began covering portions of western Kansas Dec. 28 changed the New Year's Eve plans of several Kansas National Guardsmen. Instead of celebrating the approaching midnight hour with family and friends, they responded to the call to help, and welcomed in 2007 with fellow Guard members transporting generators to critical locations needing power.

But they weren't alone. Back in Topeka, more Guardsmen were joined by staff from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, a division of the Adjutant General's Department, who together welcomed in the New Year at the State Emergency Operations Center. Kansas Highway Patrol troopers monitored travel while Kansas Department of Transportation staff worked around the clock to quickly close dangerous, impassable highways in an effort to clear them as fast as conditions would allow.

It would be weeks before the Guard and State EOC would see the needs of their

fellow Kansans diminish. Icy conditions and snowfall up to nearly three feet, with drifting as high as 15 to 16 feet, hampered the recovery efforts.

Governor Kathleen Sebelius declared a State of Disaster Emergency for 44 western Kansas counties impacted by the storm. The counties affected were those primarily west of Highway I-83. The declaration ensured state resources were available to areas severely impacted by the heavy snow and ice.

More than 60,000 people in western Kansas were without power in the height of the storm. Thousands of power poles and miles of power lines went down which took weeks to restore. More than 25 shelters were opened to assist residents without power including two housed in Guard armories (Colby and Norton).

To assist communities with power restoration, the Kansas National Guard transported generators to 11 critical locations to restore power to two shelters and nine water and sewer systems. The Guard also secured and provided fuel for some response vehicles in



Steel electrical transmission towers lie in twisted ruins in Grant County, the victims of a powerful winter storm that swept into the state in late December 2006. The storm covered the western half of the state with ice and snow, knocked out power to more than 60,000 customers and left cattle stranded in the fields. (Photo by xxxx)

Southwest Kansas.

Haskell County was the area hardest hit in western Kansas, primarily due to the significant icing. Guard members used four humvees to assist with checking the welfare of residents where power had been out for days in rural areas with impassable roadways. Local law enforcement crews worked with the Guard checking approximately 400 residences throughout the county for storm victims who may need assistance, but may not have been able to travel or contact anyone.

The Civil Air Patrol and Kansas Highway Patrol coordinated search and

rescue flights for the first several days of the storm. During the first day of flight the Kansas Highway Patrol airplane crew found two stranded vehicles with people inside. The individuals were rescued by sheriff's deputies called to the scene. Flight crews observed numerous abandoned vehicles and many downed power lines and poles as well as cattle away from water and feed.

The Guard was on standby with a Black Hawk helicopter for a rescue mission in Wallace County involving a family of nine including an infant; however, local author-

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Roads disappeared and farms became isolated islands adrift in an ocean of snow dumped by a severe winter storm that blanketed half the state Dec. 30-31, 2006. (Photo provided by the Kansas Highway Patrol)

Deployments may be extended

President George Bush's announcement regarding the need for additional troops in Iraq will impact Kansas National Guard soldiers. The U.S. Army's 1st Brigade, 34th Division may be needed to continue its missions in Iraq for an additional time of up to 125 days to help carry out the president's plan. The 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, headquartered in Wichita, is attached to the 1st Brigade, 34th Division. The battalion was scheduled to return to Kansas in the spring of 2007. However, the change means a return in the summer.

"Our Guardsmen know there is always a possibility that they will be needed for additional missions or an extended time-frame and we appreciate the service they provide in protecting our nation," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general. "We know this means additional time away from their families and greater sacrifices for everyone involved. We will continue to support the families of the deployed soldiers and work to ensure the soldiers are

brought home as soon as possible."

At this time, the announcement has not impacted other Kansas Guard units, however, additional information is expected in the coming weeks regarding other possible impacts.

The change for the 1st Brigade, 34th Division came about as a result of the Department of Defense implementing policy changes Thursday, Jan. 11, to better allow the military to succeed in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The policy change will also affect the maximum mobilization time for members of the reserve forces. Currently, the policy is for a maximum mobilization time of 18 months. However, for soldiers being deployed in the future, this change will reduce the maximum mobilization time-frame to one year.

According to Department of Defense, the policy objective for involuntary mobilization of Guard/ Reserve units will

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Kansas Guardsman honored for ultimate sacrifice in Iraq

Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, announced that Spc. John Edward Wood, a member of Detachment 1, Headquarters Support Company, 891st Engineer Battalion, Kansas National Guard, Garnett, was killed in action in Iraq on Saturday, Oct. 7, 2006. Wood was attached to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 110th Engineer Battalion, Missouri National Guard, Kansas City, Mo.



Spc. John Edward Wood

Wood, 37, a resident of Humboldt, Kan., died as a result of an improvised explosive device (IED) which struck the convoy in which he was traveling. Also killed in the same attack was Sgt. Lawrence Lee Roy Parrish, Lebanon, Mo., a Missouri Army National Guard Soldier who was also a member of the 110th Engineer Battalion.

"My heart goes out to the family and friends of these brave Guardsmen," said Governor Kathleen Sebelius. "They have

each made the ultimate sacrifice serving our country and will not be forgotten."

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of these two fine Soldiers. Their service to their states and the nation will always be remembered and honored," said Bunting.

A visitation was held Wednesday, Oct. 18, in Iola. Later that evening, Wood's fellow Guardsmen attended a special gathering at the Iola armory to remember their fallen Guard brother.

A graveside service was held on Thursday, Oct. 19, at Dayton Cemetery, in Bourbon County. In addition to hundreds of mourners, members of the Patriot Guard honored Wood's memory with dozens of flags lining the road to the cemetery.

Wood is survived by his wife, Lannette, and four children; Kimberly, Wayne, Dannielle and Lila.

Wood enlisted into the Kansas Army National Guard in October 1988 with Company D, 891st Engineer Combat Battalion, at Fort Scott, Kan., as a Construction Equipment Repairer (62B10). He completed Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort

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Soldiers honored guests at Kansas City Chiefs game

By Maj. Toni Truelove

Field parking pass at Arrowhead Stadium? Free.

Sharing the field with the Chiefs' cheerleaders during halftime? Pretty amazing.

Seats on the field during the Kansas City Chiefs 17-13 win over the Oakland Raiders? Priceless.

About 60 Soldiers, most of them recently returned from a deployment to Iraq, were treated to field seats at Arrowhead Stadium on Sunday, Nov. 19 as the Chiefs, after being behind most of the game, blew the Raiders away to win the game with a touchdown in the last two minutes. The Soldiers were instructed to stay in or near their seats during the first half of the game, but by the second half were allowed to stand on the sidelines and be right next to the action.

The Soldiers participated in a halftime show with the Chiefs' cheerleaders in a tribute to the military. After meeting with the cheerleaders and practicing with them at the Chiefs' practice facility, the Soldiers walked across the streets and through the

parking lots to get to the stadium. As they made their way through the tailgaters, numerous groups stood up, applauded and thanked them as they walked by. Many people stopped, shook hands with Soldiers and thanked them for their service. As they reached the stadium they were able to walk around the field. Some Soldiers were lucky enough to get a picture with their favorite player, some were given footballs and most were just generally enjoying the feeling and the excitement of being on the field.

As the halftime show started, the Chiefs fans, as well as the Raiders fans, cheered and clapped wildly as the Soldiers took the field from both end zones as well as the color guard from the 50-yard line. Patriotic songs were played and many of the cheerleaders were on the field in various forms of military uniforms. Toward the end of the show, the Soldiers with the color guard unfurled a large flag and once again the crowd went wild.

It was truly a memorable day of thanks, tribute and just plain fun for a well-deserving group of Soldiers.



Members of the Kansas National Guard were among the honorees at halftime during the Kansas City Chiefs - Oakland Raiders football game on Nov. 19, 2006. (Photo by Maj. Toni Truelove)

Kingman Veterans Day celebration features "Tribute to the Troops"

By Maj. Toni Truelove

Imagine a Veteran's Day celebration including an old-fashioned USO show. Imagine being entertained by Bob Hope, the Andrews Sisters and Marilyn Monroe, just to name a few. Thanks to the students at Kingman High School, that is just what people experienced on Nov. 10 in Kingman, Kan.

Of course, the big name stars were actually very talented student actors and singers who entertained over 400 guests as part of the Kingman High School Sixth Annual Veterans Day Assembly entitled "Tribute to the Troops."

The program opened with the posting of the colors, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and an outstanding rendition of the National Anthem played by the school band, the Kingman High School Madrigals.

The featured guest speaker was Brig. Gen. Jonathan Small, who hails from Kingman. Small spoke of coming home and how his dad taught him what the word "veteran" meant. He spoke of the Americans serving our country now and in the past.

"Today we have many Americans deployed, looking after our interests," said Small. "Americans have always



Kingman native Brig. Gen. Jonathan Small addresses a hometown crowd during Kingman's Veterans Day celebration. (Photo by Maj. Toni Truelove)

given selfless service to our country in times of war and peace."

Small also spoke of the sacrifices of our Soldiers when they "made the choice to leave the comforts of home to protect our fellow Americans."

"Their only request," he added, "is that we honor their sacrifice." Small closed by asking everyone to "walk up to a veteran and thank him or her for their service."

Injured Guardsman promoted

By 1st Lt. Sean Linn

Staff Sgt. Rufus B. Hicks was promoted to sergeant first class and presented with the Army Combat Action Badge in a ceremony held at the Pittsburg Army National Guard Armory on Feb. 3, 2007. Maj Gen Tod M. Bunting, the adjutant general, presented Hicks with his new rank and the Combat Action Badge. Hicks is assigned to Detachment 1, 226 Engineer Company, Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG)

in Pittsburg, Kan.

The Combat Action Badge was awarded for an attack that occurred May 1, 2005. The resulting blast injured Hicks and took the life of his gunner. Hicks sustained major injuries to his legs from the attack. He was taken from the scene of the attack to Baghdad, then Germany and then San Antonio, Texas. The first reports back to the battalion said it was unknown if he

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Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, pins rank on Sgt. 1st Class Rufus Hicks. Hicks was wounded in action in Iraq in 2005. (Photo by 1st Lt. Sean Linn)

Guardsman receives Purple Heart

By Spec. Rick Phelps, UPAR

CAMP SLAYER, Iraq – For Spc. Anthony Tonasket, a mechanic with the 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry, Kansas National Guard serving in Baghdad with the 38th Divisional Support Command, Multi-National Division, March 7 is a day that will always live in his memory. While serving as a gunner on a routine combat patrol around Baghdad, an improvised-explosive device (IED) detonated near the vehicle in which Tonasket was riding.

"The IED was buried in the berm to the left (side of the) road and was detonated not too far away from our location," said Tonasket, a native of Kansas City, Kan.

The impact and initial blast blew Tonasket's safety glasses and earplugs off and hit with enough power to force open his individual body armor.

"When it went off, everything went blank," said Tonasket. "My eyes were open, but all I could see was dirt and dust. At that point, I remember thinking my chest felt light. I thought I had been injured but realized it was because my IBA

(individual body armor) was open."

After "coughing his lungs out" from the gases in the air, Tonasket said he collapsed in the turret seat.

"I don't remember how long I was down, but it could only have been two or three minutes," he said.

Realizing the next several minutes were critical, Tonasket said he pulled himself together – mentally, physically and emotionally.

"I knew I needed to man my weapon and maintain my sector of fire," he said.

The vehicle he was riding in was damaged with both rear tires flat, the trunk blown off and pieces of the driver's side armor missing. Despite this, the convoy continued and Tonasket said he remained alert, scanning his sector and providing spot reports as the convoy moved into Camp Slayer.

Upon arrival at the Entry Control Point (ECP), the first thing he did was clear his weapon to ensure the safety of others.

"When I heard over the radio that one of

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Spc. Anthony Tonasket is awarded the Purple Heart by Col. James Trafton, commander, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry, during an awards ceremony in Iraq. (Photo by Spec. Rick Phelps, UPAR)

Tower duty a vital part of Soldiers' Iraq mission

By Staff Sgt. Lorin T. Smith

From high up in a guard tower, Pfc. Richard Faith squinted his eyes from the sun, trying to see what he thought was a possible threat in the Balad, Iraq farmlands below. He radioed to the Sergeant of the Guard that he saw something in the fields that maybe shouldn't have been there. After receiving confirmation that LSA Anaconda's security element had "eyes on" the suspicious activity, Faith went back to scanning his sector, looking out at the vast green expanse from the concrete tower.

Pfc. Faith, Company E, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, from Ozawkie, Kan., is one of many Soldiers within the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB), who routinely perform one of the most important missions on LSA Anaconda – tower guard. On a post with more than 28,000 Soldiers and civilians, protecting the base from insurgent attacks is a very important job. Each day, young warriors await their chance to get into the concrete and metal towers to do their duty – protect and observe.

Sgt. Christopher Tetrault, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 136th Combined Arms Battalion, clarified that performing the tower guard duty is not a punishment or a detail, but a vital mission necessary to keep the LSA operational.

"The towers are the first and last lines of defense and I don't take that lightly," he said. "Soldiers in the towers are performing the most important job in the camp. If they don't do their job properly, a lot of people are at risk here."

Before each guard shift departs to the towers, Commander of the Relief (COR) sergeants update the Soldiers on what the current Rules of Engagement are and remind each Soldier of the Special Orders. The CORs then inspect the Soldiers to ensure they have all of the required equipment for this duty and that it is in good condition. An example is the inspection to ensure each Soldier has a clean weapon and full ammunition load. After driving the

guards out to their towers, the CORs inspect those structures for the presence of drinking water and the proper equipment.

Sgt. Timothy Gernhardt, a COR with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment, a 24-year-old native of Aurora, Colo., said he puts inexperienced guards with seasoned mentors.

"We always try to match up 'first-timers' with Soldiers who have been on tower guard five times or more," Gernhardt said.

A Soldier's time in a guard tower can bring with it possible stressful situations. The Soldiers are entitled to protect themselves or LSA Anaconda against hostile threats or intents, but only within the legal boundaries of Army-approved Rules of Engagement. They listen attentively to a radio while scanning their sector's field of fire. It can be a scary job, but several 36th CAB Soldiers said they liked the duty.

"Tower guard breaks up the day-to-day routine, which is sorely needed in the 24-hour operational environment we work here," said Spc. Walter Wood, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment. "The local nationals are supportive, friendly and often give us valuable information."

Once a shift is over, the guards clear their weapons before leaving the tower. The clearing process involves both Soldiers checking the other's weapon, with the COR noncommissioned officer checking them as well. Double-checking everyone is important when the safety of the Soldier is involved, said Gernhardt.

When the Soldiers get back to the guard shack, they saunter into the room, drop their body armor and other gear on green Army cots, and head to chow. They have to eat fast, though, so that they could get some rest before the next shift starts. A few hours later, the COR NCOs move the vigilant Soldiers back to their assigned towers, where they stand another watch, scanning the Balad farmlands, this time in the dark, for signs of insurgent activity.



Spc. Jennifer Cole, Company D, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, helps Spc. Jared Ingham, Company E, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, into the tower at LSA Anaconda, Iraq. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Lorin T. Smith)

731st Transportation Company deploys to Iraq

By Maj. Toni Truelove

The Kansas Highway Patrol auditorium in Salina was filled to overflowing on Sunday, Nov. 26, 2006, for the departure ceremony of the 731st Transportation Company in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The parking lot filled up as families, friends and well-wishers were guided in by members of the Patriot Guard, who were also there to lend their support.

This unit is a unique group, comprised of Soldiers from 87 communities, 22 organizations in the Kansas Army National Guard, nine other states and members of the Army Reserve. At least half of the Soldiers had previously been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan and at least a third had been deployed for other missions. The unit uses flatbed trucks to haul dry and refrigerated containerized cargo, general non-containerized cargo, bulk water and bulk petroleum products.

Brig. Gen. Jonathan Small, commander, Kansas Army National Guard, spoke to the Soldiers and their families about the deployment and their service to the nation.

"Each of us here this morning know we

are blessed to live in the land of freedom because we are the home of the brave," he said. "The people of the United States thank you for your service and your sacrifice."

He also told the Soldiers to rely on the great training they've received.

"You have to believe and trust in the fundamentals in which you were trained," said Small.

Capt. Bradley Burns, 731st commander, talked about his goals for deployment. A very important request he had for his Soldiers brought cheers throughout the auditorium.

"I ask that you share one goal with me," he said, "and that's to bring everyone home safely."

As the Soldiers filed back out of the auditorium, most of their eyes, as well as those of their families, were damp with tears. They enjoyed cake and punch as they tried to stretch every last moment to spend together. As the Soldiers got on the busses, they tried to get in one last touch, one last shared kiss, one final word with their families before they left on their journey to defend their country.



Soldiers of the 731st Transportation Company line up in formation in preparation for a departure ceremony in November. (Photo by Maj. Toni Truelove)

Sharon Watson selected as new Public Affairs Director

Sharon Watson stepped into the shoes of Joy Moser last fall, becoming the new director of the Public Affairs Office for The Adjutant General's Department. Moser had served in the role for 26 years prior to her June retirement.

"We are pleased to have a proven communications director like Ms. Watson join our team," said Bunting. "As a true global enterprise, with National Guard men and women serving worldwide and emergency management activities throughout the U.S., we are a very visible agency. Keeping our citizens informed about Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and also informing our members, their families and employers about our various missions is a top priority we take very seriously."

Prior to beginning this new position, Watson served as the communications director for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. At KDHE, she was responsible for overseeing external and internal department communications, including media relations, speech writing, publication review and crisis communication planning and training, including a focus on preparing the public for issues related to bio/chemical terrorism.

"My previous position prepared me in many ways for this role because it, too, dealt with emergencies directly affecting the lives of Kansans, and many times required life-saving information to be provided to the public quickly and accurately," Watson said. "The December ice storm in Western Kansas was just such a situation requiring the Public Affairs Office to put out regular updates on the assistance being offered by the Kansas National Guard, Division of Emergency Management, and numerous other state agencies."

"Emergencies can happen anytime, and being ready to respond 24/7 is critical, as the recent ice storm," Watson added. "Fortunately, my work at Health and Environment and as a news reporter both had those elements, so I'm used to that. It's rewarding to be able to help people in a crisis to get the information they need."

Before joining state government, Watson worked as a broadcast journalist for more than 10 years in Missouri, Kentucky, and Kansas. She also worked as a newspaper reporter and in television news. Watson has a bachelor's degree from William Jewell College with a double major in Communications and Public Relations.

What you do makes a difference at home and abroad

First and foremost, I thank you and your family for your service to Kansas and the nation. We are a nation at war and I am proud and honored to serve with you during this pivotal time in the history of the world.

It is perhaps fitting that we started 2007 with Kansas National Guard Airmen driving through the night to deliver and operate generators in response to the states largest storm. A coordinated team of Kansas Emergency Management staff and Kansas Guard Soldiers and Airmen worked around the clock for days in the state Emergency Operations Center and from deployed locations across the state, coordinating and



Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting

responding in 44 counties in Western Kansas. I am very pleased and proud of the effort and results the entire state of Kansas achieved in response to a storm which left 10,000 power poles down, over 50,000 people without power and livestock struggling to survive.

We are the Kansas Guard. We have proven we can perform any mission our nation asks of us. In January, we were in state active duty status serving in Western Kansas in storm response; on the border of Mexico and Arizona, in Title 32 status, supporting the U.S. Border patrol; and in Title 10 status both as part of Air Expeditionary Forces and Army mobilized forces, serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Djibouti and other places around the globe. The next time you hear someone talking about a global enterprise, feel free to talk about the team you belong to – the Kansas National Guard.

In the last few months, Command Sgt. Maj. Rodina and I visited our Soldiers and

What you do makes a difference. It means the world to the people here at home and to people around the world who only know the chance of freedom from your service.

Airmen in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait. He talks about our trips in this article this month. Simply stated – Our troops are serving with distinction and making a difference – I am always humbled and honored to be among them as they perform their missions.

Also in this edition of the Plains Guardian is an article from Brig. Gen. Christopher Miller, with whom I served while assigned to Randolph AFB, Texas, and who is now a senior commander I met with while in

Afghanistan. I think his article very clearly describes the enemy we face today.

A special note for the Soldiers and families of Bravo Battery of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery. Command Sgt. Maj. Rodina and I were with them in Iraq to deliver the news they have been extended for up to 125 days to maintain a critical presence and mission as part of the president's decision to surge our troop levels this year. These brave Soldiers and their families are making an even larger sacrifice to serve our nation and they deserve and will receive our full support and recognition for their additional time away from home.

What you do makes a difference. It means the world to the people here at home and to people around the world who only know the chance of freedom from your service. I ask you to remain a part of the Kansas National Guard. We need you and your state and nation need you, too.

Proud to Serve.

Seeking the stakes in the Global War on Terrorism

By Brig. Gen. Christopher Miller, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - The taste of the smoke is still strong in my memory, five years after the, Twin Towers were destroyed in a burst of hatred. Today, the taste of dust is equally strong as the afternoon wind blows around me in Afghanistan.

On Sept. 11, 2001, I was three miles from the World Trade Center. Today, I am a hundred miles from where the death of thousands of people and those towering monu-



Brig. Gen. Christopher Miller

ments to human endeavor was planned. As the sixth year since 9-11 begins, a single question reverberates for me: Why are we fighting here in Afghanistan?

The answer is crystal clear. It is as simple as day and night. It is about how we, as Americans, want our children to live. It is about the choice between societies based on fortresses and fear and those based on human trust and hope.

The contrast between then and now, and between those two places, is overwhelming.

Before the attack of Sept. 11, 2001, seared our memory, New York's more than 7 million people lived in an incredible hive

of noise, life, energy, human interaction—a place where both good and bad happened side-by-side, but where progress and prosperity remained as magnetic as Lady Liberty's torch in the harbor.

After the attack, I saw New Yorkers drop their big-city guards and connect person-to-person, as their heroism and dignity came into full view. Over days and months of trying to understand the malevolence that had exploded into their lives, of trying to clean up the twisted steel and pulverized concrete and the remains of thousands of human beings, of accommodating to airline screening and back-pack checking and other reactions to the new threat, I saw the people of New York, like those across the nation, lose a certain innocence.

Five years later, living in Afghanistan, I see innocent Afghans who simply want to live their lives in peace, but they are intimidated by bad men. I see American and other nations' reconstruction teams trying to build the facilities and future of this nation so that Afghan children can live in dignity today and tomorrow.

Yet for all the progress that Afghans have made, with the help of a coalition of free nations, there is an ongoing counter-attack – a denial of progress perpetrated by the same kinds of people who plotted the deaths of 9-11. Because of these evil men, Afghans who need to work together are being taught to distrust each other. It is sad, but there is still hope.

Transportation to and from Afghanistan and Iraq was by a C-130 Hercules provided by the Air National Guard and U.S. Air Force. These aircraft provide a long comfortable ride with some fun maneuvers as they take off and land in the combat zones.

In Afghanistan the 10th Mountain Division flew us to the FOBs in CH-47 Chinooks and UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. Our Soldiers are Embedded Transition Teams (ETT) working with the Afghan National Army (ANA) as trainers. The ETT has been a very successful mission for our Soldiers and the ANA. This was a sad trip for us as we visited the leaders and buddies of our great American Soldier Sgt. 1st Class Bernie Deghand. Bernie, a 35th Division non-commissioned officer, was killed in action shortly before our visit while engaged in combat operations as an embedded trainer. Although deeply saddened and hurt by the death of Deghand, our ETT Soldiers are carrying on their mission courageously and with high morale.

Our Kansas Airman deployed to

In the discouragement of another suicide bombing, it's easy to ask: why do we stay?

Very simply, because we wish to build, live in and sustain a society based on hope and human dignity. Those who attacked us that day stand for everything but.

Living here in Afghanistan, fighting this enemy daily, it's ever clearer how they operate, who they are, and what they want. They want absolute power and they reject every freedom that we stand for.

The choices are blindingly apparent: they are the contrast between valuing life and exalting death, between freedom and tyranny, between openness and shadow, between trust and fear.

This is a struggle waged by evil men who are boundlessly hypocritical, who use airplanes and internet video to spread a worldview that promotes death, yet who could not in a hundred years create a society that could design and build those tools that they use with such despicable effect.

Against these hypocrites, there are those who build tools and use them to feed humankind, share knowledge, and improve life on this planet, however imperfectly.

This is a struggle between evil men who burn schools, behead adolescents, torture teachers and forbid the education of women – and those in our world who build schools and teach both men and women so that they can be doctors, lawyers, fathers and mothers fully capable of preparing their children to build a society of hope and prosperity.

This is a struggle between those who

desire absolute control of information and show utter disregard for calling things as they are – and those who try to honor the free flow of ideas and the idea that truth is important.

More than anything else, we are fighting in Afghanistan to define how human beings treat each other.

If we want to live in a world where ideas are rich and people are allowed to be diverse and the goal is the welfare of the many, we must reject the tyranny of the extremists who planned and perpetrated the murderous disgrace of 9-11.

If we want to live in a world where strangers can meet with openness and trust, rather than fear and skepticism, we must defeat the ideology of al Qaeda, the Taliban and all those groups who categorically reject any philosophy but their own.

If we do not want to live in fear of those who brainwash young men into blowing themselves up with no regard for the children and other innocent civilians whose lives they twist and destroy, we must reinforce the vast number of Muslims who themselves must find the backbone to reject the fanaticism that is distorting their God beyond recognition.

We need to move beyond this fifth anniversary of tragedy and reflection on the dark debris of 9-11 and resolve to fight fear with generosity, murder with justice, intimidation with resolve. The extremists' vision of the world cannot be allowed to flourish.

What are the stakes? Simply everything.

Kansas Soldiers and Airmen serving well in difficult circumstances

By State Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Rodina

The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, and I had the privilege of traveling to Afghanistan in September 2006 and Iraq in January 2007 to visit our deployed Soldiers and Airmen. We have Kansas Soldiers and Airmen stationed at some very remote Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) scattered all over each country. Travel into each country was through Kuwait. We visited the Kansas National Guard's 635th Regional Support Group Soldiers each time we flew in and out of Kuwait. The 635th RSG mission in Kuwait is supporting the huge logistical operation that is required to sustain combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.



State Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Rodina

Transportation to and from Afghanistan and Iraq was by a C-130 Hercules provided by the Air National Guard and U.S. Air Force. These aircraft provide a long comfortable ride with some fun maneuvers as they take off and land in the combat zones.

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Our Kansas Airman deployed to

Afghanistan are supporting U.S. Air Force combat operations at the Bagram and Kandahar Airfields.

The first unit we visited in Iraq was the Kansas National Guard's 714th SECFOR located at an FOB in the northern part of the country. The 714th Soldiers are engaged in convoy security operations.

These brave men and women are doing a fantastic job. I am very proud of this unit's leadership and Soldiers. The 714th maintenance section deserves special mention. The warrior/mechanics are doing a remarkable job keeping the million plus mile gun trucks mission capable.

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Martin takes command of 287th



Col. Henry Martin, incoming commander of the 287th Sustainment Brigade, accepts the brigade flag from Kansas National Guard Chief of Staff Col. Eric Peck, during the change of command ceremony on June 3 in Wichita. (Photo by Maj. Toni Truelove)

Battle Command Training Center prepares for Warfighter exercise

By Capt. Rachel D. Sullivan

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan. - The Battle Command Training Center hosted the 38th Infantry Division, Indiana National Guard, conducting a Warfighter exercise at the facility.

More than 1,500 Soldiers took part in the fully integrated tactical command post exercise designed to provide a training environment that reflects full spectrum operations in the Contemporary Operational Environment.

"Subordinate units from eight different states will travel here next week to take part in the first fully Modular National Guard Division Warfighter," said BCTC Commander, Lt. Col. Scott Sharp, speaking in advance of the exercise. "The Brigade Combat Teams have also undergone their transformation and will participate as modular entities."

The 38th Division Exercise was the first National Guard Warfighter to be conducted in a fully digital environment. The Division utilized a wide array of the Army Battle Command Systems to streamline planning and command and control throughout the exercise.

Derek Stidham, Program Manager for BCTC's ABCS Support Team, outlined the support that his team has given to the 38th Division. "We have been there through the entire process, from stovepipe digital systems to their migration to ABCS 6.4 and the digital Common Operating Picture."

The ABCS Support Team offers a wide variety of ABCS training for Army National Guard units, ranging from initial user training to complete battle staff integration. "We tailor training based on the needs of the unit, as well as the commander's goals and mission essential tasks,"

said Stidham of the training available.

Also critical to the digital exercise the 38th Division conducted was the communications network BCTC has available throughout its facility.

"We are using cutting edge technology from both the military and private industry to enhance the communications capability units have when training here," said Chief Warrant Officer Leonardo Lugo, communications officer for BCTC.

One such system, Voice over Internet Protocol, allows Soldiers to talk to one another over a broadband Internet connection rather than through traditional phone lines. This technology is already widely used throughout the Global War of Terrorism Theater of Operations.

Whether through VoIP or military radios, communication is a critical key to success for units conducting a Warfighter exercise. "The BCTP sponsored exercise is the sole opportunity for National Guard divisions to collectively train and communicate with subordinate units," stated Sharp.

"The time available for traditional Guard units is limited," continued Sharp, "this exercise provides an affordable opportunity for divisions to train on conducting tactical operations. Through this training, they become a more effective organization for supporting Homeland Defense, disaster response or combat operations in the Modular Army National Guard."

The 38th Division is only the second National Guard division to undergo the transformation process to a Modular Army unit. Organized on Aug. 25, 1917, the Division saw combat in both World Wars I and II, and has provided Soldiers and subordinate units for the Global War on Terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Hundreds pay final respects to fallen Kansas National Guardsman

If there was one thing that was evident at the memorial service of Master Sgt. Bernard "Bernie" Deghand, it was that he was well-loved and respected.

The evidence was clear in the number of people that turned out to honor Deghand, a member of Headquarters Company, 35th Division, who was killed in action Sept. 15 in Afghanistan while serving as part of an Embedded Training Team, sent to train Afghan soldiers. More than 600 people packed Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Topeka, occupying every seat and filling the back and sides of the sanctuary. Outside, more than 300 members of the Patriot Guard lined the streets, holding American flags, a flag that Deghand loved.

In his remarks during the service, Father George Bertels acknowledged that there were certainly feelings of sorrow and regret, but that wasn't the focus of the service.

"As I mentioned last night, we are gathered here - really, truly - as a faith community, to celebrate life," said Bertels. "To celebrate one of the greatest gifts that Almighty God has given us."

"And how He has watched over that life," he continued, "nurtured that life, worked with that life, and prepared us for a very, very special life, one even more special than the one we have here today."

"And so at present, we gather here today, as we reflect upon Bernie, we can see how he has touched, no doubt, the lives of so many individuals."

Bertels encouraged those present to follow Deghand's example of giving himself and his time to serve others, his country and God.

"Let us live out our lives," said Bertels, "so that, one day, our lives can be celebrated as his is today."

While Bertels addressed the spiritual aspects of Deghand's life, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Donald Davidson, division chaplain for the 35th Division, spoke of Deghand's military service and how he touched the lives of those with whom he served. He characterized Deghand as a man who took pride in his service, who loved his fellow Soldiers and as a man well-known for his knowledge and opinions on any subject.

"With Sergeant Bernie Deghand, there was never a question or doubt where one stood, nor where he stood on almost any issue," said Davidson.

Davidson said that Deghand was a "neat guy with the firm look, rigid chin, and eyes that could see right through you." And he was a man who "knew."

"He knew what it meant to be a Soldier and he took to it with passion and with enormous pride," Davidson said. "He knew what it meant to be a part of the family of the Kansas National Guard. He knew what it meant to be a sergeant, a senior NCO following in the footsteps of thousands before him."

"He knew what it meant to be an American citizen and to love his country more than words or songs could ever touch," continued Davidson. "He knew what it meant to be a friend, a brother, a son, a father, a husband... At times, while serving in Bosnia, I remember quite well that the answer to many questions, no matter of the question itself, was 'Ask Sergeant Deghand. He knows.' And he did."

"We thank God today for what made Bernie who he was," said Davidson, "and join with his family in being honored to have known him."

The community's outpouring of respect for Deghand and support for his family continued after the service as the funeral procession drove to the cemetery. So long was the procession - stretching six miles along the highway - that the graveside service was nearly completed by the time the last mourners arrived.

It was at that service that Deghand's fellow Soldiers paid their last respects. The flag that draped the casket was reverently folded by the military honor guard and presented to Deghand's widow, Lisa, by Brig. Gen. John Davoren.

Deghand was also honored with a 21 gun salute and the playing of "Taps," the traditional call to rest for weary Soldiers:

Day is done, gone the sun,
From the hills, from the lake,
From the sky
All is well, safely rest,
God is nigh.



A Kansas National Guard honor guard lifts the flag that draped the casket of Master Sgt. Bernard "Bernie" Deghand, who was killed in action Sept. 15 in Afghanistan. (Photo by Jane Welch)

Deployments may be extended

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remain a one-year mobilized to five-year demobilized ratio. However, a number of selected Guard/Reserve units may be remobilized sooner than the current policy goal. That deployment to demobilization ratio remains the goal of the department.

The policy change will also establish a new program to compensate individuals in both active and reserve component forces that are required to mobilize or deploy ear-

lier than established policy goals of deployment to home station ratio times. It will also involve those service members who are required to extend beyond established rotation policy goals.

The policy change also directs commands to review their administration of the hardship waiver program to ensure that they have properly taken into account exceptional circumstances facing military families of deployed service members.

Sacrifice

Continued from Page 1

Leonard Wood, Mo., as a Technical Engineer (62B10). He completed Primary Leadership Development Course and was a Combat Life Saver. In September 2004 he mobilized to deploy with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 891st Engineer Combat Battalion, Iola, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and in December 2005 he chose to extend with Headquarters and Headquarters Company,

110th Engineer Combat Battalion.

For his deployed service, Wood was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Combat Action Badge.

He had 18 years military service and his other awards included the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Kansas National Guard Homeland Defense Service Ribbon and Kansas National Guard Service Ribbon.

Soldiers lend a hand with Iraqi town's water plant project

By 1st Lt. Shannon Terry

The 130th Field Artillery Brigade initiated the rebuilding of the Makasib Water Plant, a facility that has been suffering since before the U.S. presence in Iraq.

The small farming community on the outskirts of Baghdad celebrated the dedication of its new water plant in early December 2006. After several years of sub-standard living conditions, the citizens of Makasib were given the tools required to enjoy a clean glass of drinking water, free from the pollutants previously affecting them.

The 130th Field Artillery Brigade Non-Lethal Effects section, lead by Maj. Kirk Pederson, was instrumental in accomplishing this task. National Guard Soldiers provide a diverse array of civilian job skills that aide in mission accomplishment. Pederson, a financial advisor in the civilian sector, used his organizational, interpersonal and planning capabilities to help facilitate project management.

The water plant project was handed off to the 130th during the transfer of authority from the previous unit. Months of planning, preparation and execution proved to be a highly profitable collective effort. An Iraqi contractor was given the task of redeveloping the obsolete water plant and modernizing its capabilities. The project was approved in 30 days and completed in 60 days from "notice to proceed." Thanks to a combined U.S./Iraqi humanitarian endeavor, the al Makasib water plant is now able to

**"It is still all about relationships and follow-up."
Maj. Kirk Pederson**

adequately provide safe and reliable running water to the town of 3,000 people.

Although this project is the first completed in the area, it most certainly is not the last. The Iraqi government is working with Coalition Forces on numerous humanitarian projects developing in the area in the near future.

"It is still all about relationships and follow-up," said Pederson, "Effects are not possible without delivering a solution, whether in Shawnee, Kansas, or Iraq."

The relationship of the coalition with the local nationals is mutually beneficial. Since the re-opening of the water plant, local atmospherics have been positive. Several residents of this small town have written letters of gratitude to the project managers. The cooperative mood of the local citizens has provided a positive working environment for both the Coalition and Iraqi Forces in the area. Makasib residents are looking forward to future projects within their town and motivated toward the progress of rebuilding in Iraq. They are eager to take part and embark in this new road forward in pursuit of prosperous growth and development as a community.



Maj. Kirk Pederson takes a break with some Iraqi children in Makasib, Iraq, a small town on the outskirts of Baghdad. Pederson and his section were instrumental in facilitating the construction of a new water treatment plant for the community. (Photo provided by 130th Field Artillery Brigade Public Affairs Office)

Guardsmen take re-enlistment oath in the Iraq's Green Zone

Green Zone, Iraq – Under the massive crossed swords in the Green Zone, Iraq, three Soldiers took their oath of re-enlistment. Sgt. Carol Sprawka, Sgt. Andrew Nicks, and Sgt. Justin Rogers, all of the 130th Field Artillery Brigade, stood under the colossal monument, hands raised in allegiance, swearing once again to protect and defend.

It was a proud day for the Kansas Army National Guard and the 130th Field Artillery Brigade. Decked out in full battle gear, in front of the waving American colors, the Soldiers swore to devote another six years to service in the Kansas Army National Guard. Capt. Aaron Leonard, 130th commandant, administered the oath with Col. Alex Duckworth, brigade commander, presiding.

"I have a large sense of pride that comes with being in," said Nicks, an eight-year vet-

eran. "It feels good to serve my country."

"It feels good to finish what I started, since this is my final re-enlistment," said Sprawka, who has been in the Guard for 16 years and has been deployed to Bosnia.

The ceremony took place in the International Zone, under a large triumphal arch erected to commemorate Iraq's victory in the Iran-Iraq war. The so-called "Hands of Victory" consists of two opposing bronze hands both bearing 140 foot long swords. The monument is constructed of the spoils of the Iran war, a conglomeration of various metals organic to warfare: Firearms of Iraqi Soldiers were reconfigured into the arch casting, five thousand Iranian helmets litter the ground around the base of the hands and are also held in nets. According to Wikipedia, the cemented helmets are positioned in a symbolic gesture of superiority.

Civil Affairs Officer brings smiles to Iraqi citizens

By Spc. Rick Phelps, UPAR

Behind every good infantry battalion is a group whose work behind the scene ensures mission success. For Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry, Kansas National Guard, this starts with Capt. Mark Moore.

Moore is the unit's Civil Affairs Officer. He has been charged with spearheading projects that are intended to improve Iraqi living conditions and foster friendships with local communities. Moore begins each project by taking an informal survey.

"An assessment of the infrastructure of the area we operate in is done first," Moore explained. "We identify the problems and also engage the local population to gauge their issues and concerns."

Water and electric deficiencies, problems Moore describes as "key shortfalls," are typically acknowledged before other issues are handled. Once a project has been chosen, Moore begins the adminis-

trative process involved.

"I submit a project proposal to brigade, who either approves or disapproves," Moore said.

Another positive to these types of projects is that they are open to local contractors.

"We bid the work out to the local contractors," said Moore. "We oversee their work and the completion of the job."

Moore said he is pleased with his experiences.

"It is good to see projects become actioned and funded," said Moore. "They improve the overall quality for some of the locals with our area of operations. I am doing things outside the normal realm since we are operating on a short staff."

Other projects under Moore's direction have included canal cleaning, debris cleanup, distributing school supplies and a local favorite, providing soccer equipment and clothing to local children.



Capt. Mark Moore, Civil Affairs officer for the Kansas National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry, works to improve the lives of Iraqi citizens and foster relationships with local communities. (Photo by Spc. Rick Phelps, UPAR)

Fitness for body and mind



1st Lt. Shannon Terry leads a yoga class three days a week at Camp Victory, Iraq.

When you think of Army Physical Fitness, especially with regard to Soldiers in Iraq, yoga rarely comes to mind. At the South Victory Gym in Baghdad, Iraq, however, that's a different story.

1st Lt. Shannon Terry, 130th Field Artillery Brigade, assumed the instructor position for a multi-level yoga class, held three days a week. Classes average 35 people. The diverse make-up of the classes parallels the population of the Victory Base Complex. American Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, and Marines flex their muscles with the members of Coalition Forces and con-

tractors from countries such as Turkey. All ages and ranks are represented.

"I've received many benefits through yoga practice," said Terry. "I want to help others to manage stress and get flexible."

The Victory yoga sessions are non-competitive and only tap the individual capacity to revitalize the body, mind and soul.

"Yoga will help you in achieving an all-round development of a calm, stress-free mind and a fit body," said Spc. Voneen Hale.

"Everyone should try yoga at least once," said Terry. "It will leave you rejuvenated and refreshed."

M. Wayne Pierson assumes command of 35th Division

By Maj. Rex Johnson

A change of command ceremony at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., on Dec. 9 marked the end of one era and the beginning of the next for the 35th Infantry Division.

Maj. Gen. James R. Mason passed the flag of the division command to Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson during the ceremony in Harney Gym.

During the ceremony, Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, awarded Mason the Distinguished Service Medal for his leadership as the division commander. This is the highest award offered to a Soldier in a peacetime environment.

Under Mason's three-year tour as commander, the 35th ID participated in several international exercises, including Yama Sakura with the Japanese army, Cobra Gold with Thailand and Tiger Balm with the Republic of Singapore. The 35th ID also served as the command and control element during Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in September and October 2005.

Mason thanked his family, the Soldiers of the 35th ID and other Soldiers he served with throughout his 35-year career. Mason praised the efforts of the 35th ID and the National Guard, saying their



M. Wayne Pierson receives his new rank of major general from Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, during a change of command ceremony on Dec. 9, 2006. Pierson received command of the 35th Division from Maj. Gen. Ron Mason. (Photo by Sharon Watson)

actions "testify to the greatness of the American Soldier."

"These are the guardians of our freedom and the American way of life," Mason said. "They do this because they are the American Soldiers."

Mason and his wife will return to their home in Middlesboro, Ky.

Prior to the start of the change of command ceremony, Pierson was promoted to major general.

During Pierson's first remarks as the 35th ID commander, he said division command is a challenge he is looking forward to and one he takes very seriously. He praised Mason's leadership and the teamwork of the Soldiers of the division.

Pierson said that under his command he will strive to ensure the division's ongoing development of its war fighting abilities as it continues to remain adaptive to a changing National Guard environment.

The 35th ID has a long history, dating back to service in World War I and World War II. The division was officially reactivated as an Army National Guard Division in 1984. It is comprised of National Guard units from Kansas, Illinois, Nebraska and Missouri and is headquartered at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Mason looks back on 35 year career with 35th Division

By Maj. Rex Johnson

Maj. Gen. James R. Mason will tell you that he never expected his military career to go as far as it has. Mason, carrying the third highest rank in the U.S. Army, is relinquishing his three year role as the commanding general of the 35th Infantry Division, Kansas Army National Guard. He will be succeeded by Brig. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson.

Mason's 35 year military career began when he enlisted in the Kentucky National Guard in January 1972. After attaining the rank of sergeant in 1974, he attended the state Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. He has spent the majority of his National Guard career within the 35th Division.

Mason said his inspiration to join the service came from his family. His father served in the 2nd Division in World War II at Normandy, Omaha Beach. In addition, three of his uncles also served in uniform.

"I grew up listening to them talk about

their experiences in the war (World War II)," commented Mason. "It instilled something in me that made me want to serve and experience what they experienced."

Unlike the time of the draft when Mason enlisted, today's Army is all-volunteer. "I saw how it was (during the draft years) and how it is now. I am a fan of the all volunteer Army," said Mason. "You can do more with fewer volunteer Soldiers, than we could with more Soldiers in the past who were part of the draft Army."

Mason added that his career has had many highlights. One of those was as the commander of Company A, 1st Battalion, 149th Brigade. In this role, Mason was able to prepare the Soldiers under his command for a potential combat deployment.

I felt empowered as a company commander," said Mason. "I would ask myself, if I am going to deploy with these Soldiers in three years, what kind of training program would I have? I learned that as a company commander, I can make a difference."

He carried this philosophy into the command positions he held with 1st Battalion, the 149th Brigade, and eventually the 35th Division. Although his career had been very successful, Mason commented, "I had no idea that I would command the 35th Division."

Mason was the commander of Task Force Eagle for NATO peacekeeping operations in Bosnia in 2003. As part of the task force, Mason had 630 Turkish Soldiers under his command. He and his Soldiers were in a major Muslim territory during a time that the U.S. military was moving into Iraq. Mason's mission netted the division an Army Superior Unit award. The Army Superior Unit Award is given for outstanding meritorious performance of a unit during peacetime in a difficult and challenging mission under extraordinary circumstances.

As the commanding general of the 35th Division, Mason led the command and control portion for Operation Southern Relief in support of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita relief efforts in 2005. The division coordinated the efforts for nearly 19,000 Army and Air National Guard personnel. They completed over 135 assigned missions and numerous joint force operations. Within the 35 day deployment, the division had delivered over 7 million pounds of food, 10 million pounds of ice, operated 9 points of distribution, evacuated 4,635 citizens, and searched 471,820 structures.

Mason's awards include a Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal, amongst others. He also has received three foreign awards: Russian Medal for Combat Cooperation, Italian Medal for Merit in Peacekeeping Operations and the Slovakian Medal of Distinctive Service to a Foreign Nation.

Mason comments that his career did not always look as promising. As an enlisted man, Mason recalls being told by his squad leader that he needed to make some changes or he would never be promoted to sergeant. Mason took the advice to heart and did make it to sergeant before leaving for Officer Candidate School. He credits that experience as helping him understand how important the counseling and mentoring relationship is for Soldiers.

Mason's advice for Soldiers is to prepare and plan for opportunities of advancement. "I believe that in promotion, 20 percent is luck, and 80 percent is in preparation," said Mason.

Mason completed a successful three year command of the 35th Infantry Division. In his civilian career, Mason is the Dean of Operations for Southeast Community College. He has worked with the college since 1995. He and his wife, Helen, live in Middlesboro, Ky.

WSU fans show their support



Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry are greeted with enthusiastic cheers as they march onto the basketball court at Wichita State University in Wichita. The Soldiers were the guests of honor at halftime ceremonies during the Wichita State - Northern Illinois University game Dec. 30, 2006. The Guardsmen recently returned from a year-long tour of duty in Iraq. Shocker fans also had an unexpected surprise when Spc. Lucas May proposed to his girlfriend during the ceremony. (Photo by Brian Pracht, Wichita State University)



Maj. Gen. James R. Mason delivers his farewell address to troops of the 35th Division, which he commanded for three years. (Photo by Sharon Watson)

Inaugural 2007 - The Kansas National Guard



Lt. Col. Barry Adams, commander of troops, escorts Gov. Kathleen Sebelius as she "troops the line." They are followed by Col. William Seck, superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol, and Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general. (Photo by Jane Welch)

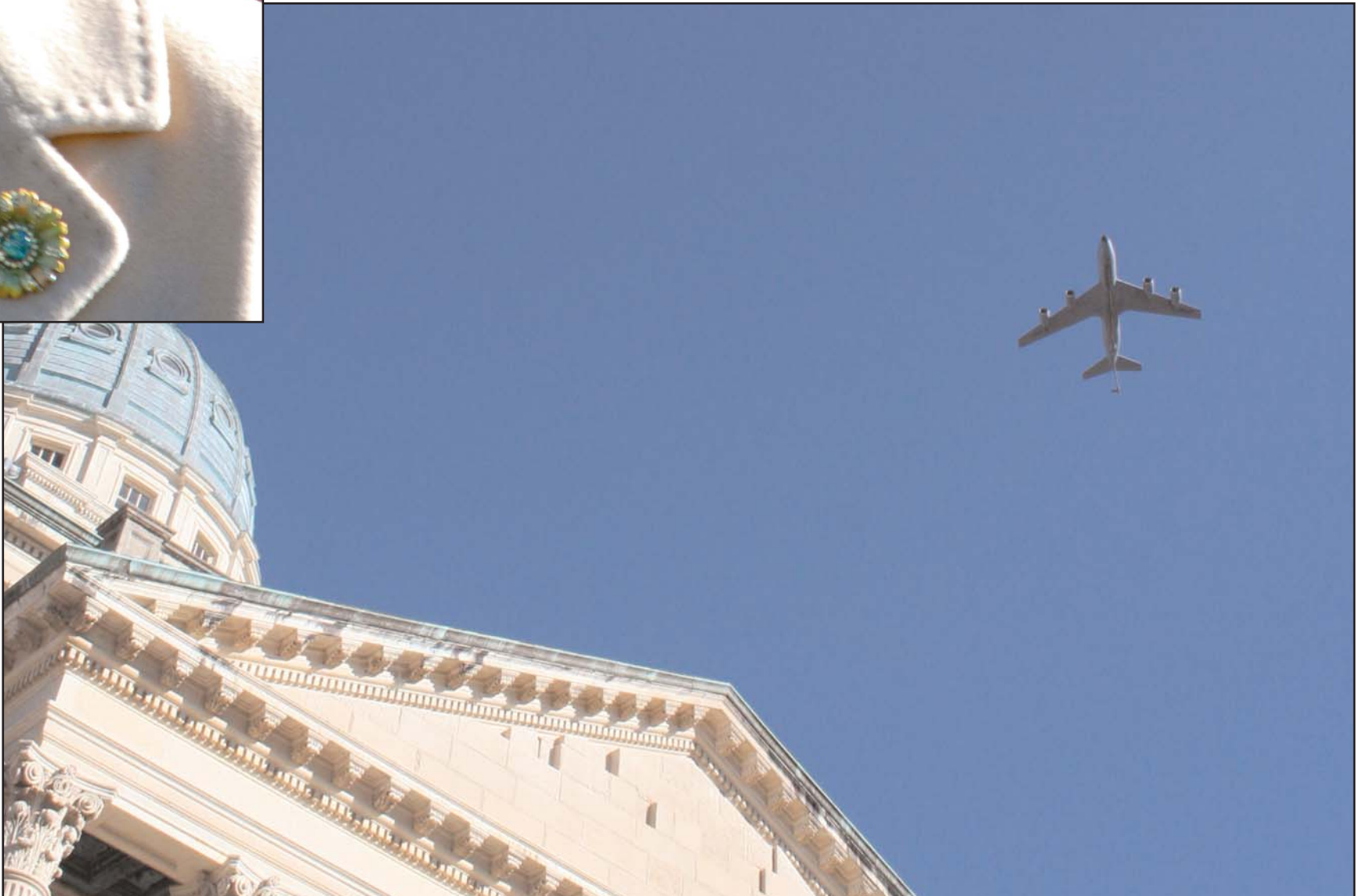


The 35th Division Band, under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Steve Patterson, provided music for the inaugural ceremonies. (Photo by Spc. Terry Lovchik, 105th MPAD)

Guard Salutes Its Commander in Chief



Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery execute a cannon salute in honor of Gov. Kathleen Sebelius (Photo by Capt. Steve Wasko)



A KC-135 air refueling tanker for the 190th Air Refuelig WIng, Topeka, floew over he Kansas Statehouse in honor of Gov. Sebelius. (Photo by Jane Welch)

December's winter storm was costliest in state's history

Damage from the December storm in western Kansas totalled more than \$360 million, the most costly natural disaster in Kansas history.

Forty-four of the state's 105 counties were named in a major disaster declaration by President George W. Bush, making local governments and certain non-profit agencies eligible for federal disaster aid.

Most of the damage – an estimated \$350 million – was to electrical utilities, with power lines and poles downed by freezing rain that led to heavy ice formation. Most of western Kansas gets electricity from rural electric cooperatives, which as private nonprofit organizations are eligible for federal disaster assistance.

"The impact of this storm has been tremendous and we appreciate the expedition of the federal declaration and the diligent work by our joint federal-state public assistance teams to ensure local governments and eligible non-profit organizations are reimbursed for the life-saving steps they took," said Governor Kathleen Sebelius.

Other damage estimates include \$7.8 million for roads and bridges, \$1 million for debris removal, \$1 million for emer-

gency protective measures, and \$900,000 for parks and recreational facilities. All the figures are initial assessments made by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM).

"Now that power has been restored and the emergency response aspects of the storm addressed, we are focused on reimbursing those local governments, utilities and other eligible applicants who have been crucial to keeping our residents safe," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting.

Under the public assistance program, FEMA will pay 75 percent of eligible repair costs, with the remaining 25 percent divided between the state and local agencies.

The counties eligible for disaster assistance are Cheyenne, Clark, Comanche, Decatur, Edwards, Ellis, Finney, Ford, Gove, Graham, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Hamilton, Haskell, Hodgeman, Jewell, Kearny, Kiowa, Lane, Logan, Meade, Morton, Ness, Norton, Osborne, Pawnee, Phillips, Rawlins, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Scott, Seward, Sheridan, Sherman, Smith, Stafford, Stanton, Stevens, Thomas, Trego, Wallace and Wichita.



Collapsed roofs on these farm buildings give witness to the destructive power of the winter storm that dumped snow on much of Western and Central Kansas in late December 2006. (Photo provided by Kansas Highway Patrol)

State not eligible for federal Individual Assistance Program

The severe winter storm that hit Western Kansas in late December 2006 brought widespread power losses, blocked roads and other problems to that portion of the state. Governor Kathleen Sebelius proclaimed 44 counties part of a declaration of a State of Disaster Emergency and has requested a Presidential Disaster Declaration, asking for federal assistance to restore power and repair damaged public infrastructure. However, before a Presidential Disaster Declaration can be granted, the extent of damage must be within the federal eligibility requirements.

What makes a disaster eligible for assistance? Total damages must be high enough for each county to qualify on its own and the state to qualify as a whole. The program most likely to be activated for this particular disaster upon the governor's

request and if the president signs a disaster declaration for Kansas, is the "Public Assistance" program. The name may lead some to believe this is assistance to the general public, but that is not the focus of the program. The "Public Assistance" Program reimburses state and local governments and certain non-profit organizations for the cost of restoring services to the public.

Before a county qualifies for aid to individuals one of the two following criteria must be met:

- The disaster must affect at least 200 primary residences in each county with uninsured damage of 40-100 percent to the home itself (damage to garage or outbuildings is not considered). The damage to the home has to be severe enough that the occupants

cannot live in it for 30 days or more.

- Disaster damage must affect 25 homes or businesses of at least 40 percent uninsured loss in the same county.

No individual expenditures related to this disaster are reimbursable by any state or federal funding program, including damage to landscape, food spoilage, purchase of generators or the fuel to run them. Insured individuals should notify their insurance agent of their damages as soon as possible to make claims. Assistance to uninsured individuals may come from local relief organizations, such as the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, United Way and others.

The Kansas Division of Emergency

Management has received calls from private individuals requesting Kansas National Guard personnel and equipment to help repair fences, remove snow and ice from driveways and sidewalks, clear debris from residences and businesses and other personal assistance. KDEM officials are reminding the public that Kansas National Guard assets can only be used for life-saving assistance, debris removal from public infrastructure and assistance in restoring power to communities. Homeowners and businesses needing assistance with snow removal, repairs to fences or other structures and other such matters must contact their insurance companies and private contractors.

Storm victims

Continued from Page 1

ities were able to rescue the family this afternoon without Guard assistance. The Guard was also on standby to rescue stranded motorists.

Three weather-related deaths were reported. Two people died in a house fire in Garden City. Carbon monoxide poisoning from a generator was blamed for a death in rural Wallace County where snowfall measured 32 inches deep with drifting up to 13 feet.

Two counties, Ellis and Haskell lost county-wide emergency communication systems when towers were impacted by snow and ice. The Kansas Department of Transportation delivered a communication on wheels unit (mobile communication unit) to each county to restore communication.

Two Black Hawk helicopters from the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation flew from Goodland, Kan., to move hay to stranded cattle in the Wallace, Logan and Cheyenne County areas. The 137th Transportation Company was also involved in hauling hay to affected areas using flatbed trailers and other large vehicles.

"We have been working diligently to ensure the people of western Kansas have what they need and we also want to make sure we protect the state's economic interests," Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general said when requests came from ranchers needing help getting hay and water to their cattle.

A number of other Kansas National Guard units assisted as needed across the affected areas. These units include the 891st Engineer Battalion; 778th

Transportation Company; 1st Battalion, 635th Armor; 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, 169th Corps Support Battalion; 69th Troop Command; 287th Sustainment Brigade; 995th Maintenance Company; 235th Regiment, 170th Maintenance Company; 184th Air Refueling Wing, 134th Air Control Squadron and 190th Air Refueling Wing.

Approximately 134 Kansas National Guard personnel were involved in the storm response. Command posts were established at the armories in Garden City and Hays to direct activities of responding Guard units.

The Kansas National Guard Armory in Colby eventually became home to the Colby Fire Department crews and equipment following a roof collapse at the Colby Fire Department. The collapse was due to heavy snow. Fortunately, no one was hurt.

On Wed. Jan. 3, Governor Sebelius, Congressman Jim Moran, Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, and Adrian Polansky, Secretary of Kansas Department of Agriculture were joined by FEMA Region VII Director Dick Hainje in a flight to survey the damage left by the storm.

This led to an expedited request for a presidential declaration of disaster which paved the way for more than \$360 million in public assistance for western Kansas. FEMA's public assistance program provides reimbursements to local governments and eligible non-profits to be reimbursed for storm response.

Joint FEMA and KDEM offices have been set up in Topeka and Hays to assist western Kansas in the ongoing recovery efforts.

Kansas seeks individuals for emergency response teams

By Sharon Watson

In state emergencies such as severe winter storms, tornadoes and floods, the need for rapid emergency response quickly becomes evident.

As a result, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, a division of the Kansas Adjutant General's Department, is seeking qualified individuals to respond as part of several Incident Management Teams being formed across the state.

The Incident Management Teams will support local jurisdictions overwhelmed by an emergency or natural disaster, providing an all hazards response resource to an affected jurisdiction. The IMTs will be self-sustaining, not requiring any resources from a local jurisdiction and only limited resources from the state for the first 72 hours of an event. In some cases, an IMT member may be asked to support a local jurisdiction which did not require the assistance of an entire IMT.

The Incident Management Teams will be comprised of approximately 20 individuals who have a variety of skills necessary for emergency response. One team will be available in six of the seven Homeland Security regions in Kansas.

"In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, we learned just how critical it is to have trained individuals ready to rapidly respond and additional people ready to relieve them and carry on the important, often life-saving work in response efforts," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas Homeland Security director and

adjutant general. "There are many qualified people in Kansas working in state and local government, as well as the private sector, whose skills would be invaluable during crisis response, and we encourage them to apply to serve."

IMT members would be paid by their employer during training and also while serving on the team in response efforts. Employers are required to approve participation by signing the application. One-hundred hours of training will be provided to team members through grant funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"Employers will gain from having a trained team member on their staff and they will have a qualified team available to provide timely, critical response to their area in a crisis," said Bill Chornyak, deputy director of Kansas Division of Emergency Management. "It's important to note that anyone whose daily role is critical to the state's emergency response would be needed in that role and wouldn't be available to serve on the teams."

The IMT members and their home agencies/jurisdictions/employers would be expected to make a minimum two year commitment to the team, after the initial training team.

Individuals wanting to serve on one of the six Incident Management Teams may review qualifications and apply at www.ksready.gov Applications must be received by Feb. 28, 2007. Interviews will be in March with teams in place by October 2007.

Multinational Soldiers overcome language barriers in Rescuer '06

By 1st Sgt Carl Mar

Yerevan, Armenia – How can more than 400 people from 11 countries, speaking as many different languages, come together and succeed at learning mutual skills in less than two weeks? That was the biggest hurdle which the Multiational Brigade (MNB) had to overcome at the Rescuer '06 exercise, hosted in Yerevan, Armenia, July 12-26, 2006. Organized jointly by the Kansas National Guard and the Republic of Armenia Ministry of Defense through the State Partnership for Peace program, the annual Rescuer command post exercises promote international cooperation and good will between the players' two countries.

“This year's main training objective,” said Col. Murad Isakhanyan, the Armenian Exercise Co-Director, “is to learn how to work together as a multinational brigade and multinational unit and how to respond promptly to national disasters happening in participating countries.” In addition to the American and Armenian personnel, over 150 military and civilian representatives from nine other Eastern European and Southwest Asian countries participated in the exercise: Albania, Austria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Romania, Tajikistan and Ukraine. The American contingent comprised 51 Kansas Guard Soldiers and more than 50 active-duty and civilian members from United States Army Europe (USAREUR). To accomplish its training goal, the MNB had to overcome the communication problem which occurs when so many different cultures come together. Throughout the MNB operations cell, it seemed that no uniform had the same pattern or color. The simulation computers displayed two different

alphabets. Information, maps and instructions were typically available in only three flavors: English, Armenian and Russian. Questions about everything came back in 11 varieties. The key to unraveling the “Tower of Babel” was the presence of the interpreters, who like the exercise participants also came from many different countries. Conspicuously dressed in civilian attire and interspersed among the sea of multinational uniforms, they translated Kazakh to Russian to English or Romanian to English to Russian to Kazakh.

“The language barrier is the biggest challenge to the mission,” said Lt. Col. Duke Hester, co-deputy MNB commander for Rescuer '06. “The time delay caused by translation and interpretation is something that the MNB must handle patiently to ensure that the ideas are exactly coordinated and understood. Though the interpretation delay slows down the MNB pace, it is essential to accurately relay information.” In charge of the approximately two dozen interpreters was Timothy Gusinov, a native Russian who graduated from the Military University in Moscow as a military linguist. Able to speak English, Farsi, Russian and Dari, he served with Russian Special Forces in Afghanistan, as a U.N. military observer during the first Gulf War and in Bosnia. For the past 15 years, he has been a U.S. citizen and teaching at DeVry University in Washington, D.C. In preparation for Rescuer '06, said Gusinov, he held a two-day training session for his linguistic teams to familiarize themselves with military language and acronyms.

“My goal is to meet all linguistic requirements for the exercise to make it a tremendous success. Because if we make



Exercise co-directors Murad Isakhanyan (left) and Col. Joe Wheeler (left center) with Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general (center), are briefed by interpreter Timothy Gusinov. (Photo by 1st Sgt. Carl Mar)

this operation a success, future operations will also be successful and easier,” he said. Helping to foster communication and the atmosphere of cooperation, the Armenian hosts held cultural events for the participants throughout the exercise period. These included appreciation dinners where guests could taste Armenian cuisine and show off their native dances, a tour of the world-renown Ararat distillery, a special presentation of ballroom dancing by winners of the country's national youth group competition, shopping excursions to various parts of Yerevan and sightseeing trips to popular tourist destinations outside of the city. One of the sites was the town of Khor Virap, where 1,700 years ago the Christian priest Grigor Luisavorich cured King Trdat III of madness. This caused the king to convert to Christianity in 301 A.D. and make Armenia officially the first Christian nation in the world.

A spirited example of the good will generated between the host countries was the donation of toys, school supplies and \$500 collected by members of the Kansas Guard to the orphanage of Gavar, located about an hour's drive north of Yerevan. Exercise co-directors, Col. Joe Wheeler, Kansas National Guard, and Col. Murad Isakhanyan, presented the gifts to orphanage director Nicolay Nalbandyan, who responded with tears and said, “I can not find the words to tell you how thankful I am for your helping the children this way.

Never would I have expected that the people of Kansas who are so distant from us would know us and care about our Armenian children so much.”

Also on hand that day to pass out the toys and gifts to the children were Lt. Col. Joe Knowles, Protocol and Visitor/Observer Bureau co-chief, and Maj. Timothy Stevens, International Affairs Officer and State Partnership Coordinator for the State of Kansas. The orphanage staff used the money portion of the donations to purchase a refrigerator, heaters and small appliances for their facility. “What I enjoy so much about this Rescuer '06 opportunity,” said Hester, “is that it demonstrates to the many young Soldiers in the Kansas National Guard and various participating countries how important it is to appreciate language and cultural barriers and to take steps to address them.”

On the final day of Rescuer '06 -- just as they did on the first day -- the Multinational Brigade stood as separate countries in formation for the closing ceremony. The difference was that when the formation broke, instead of trailing off in separate groups, the individual Soldiers rushed to mingle with one another. They hugged or shook hands, took pictures, and exchanged contact information. In their effort to learn mutual skills, they also learned to communicate with one another. That was the real success of the exercise.



Many of the Romanian soldiers have good English skills and were able to communicate without the assistance of interpreters. Here, a group holds a discussion with Capt. Leonard Carper. (Photo by 1st Sgt. Carl Mar)

Purple Heart

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my patrols had been hit with an IED, I rushed to the ECP to meet them,” said Capt. Richard Eaton, Tonasket's company commander. “I had no idea what to expect, and as the gate to the ECP opened, I saw an M1114 coming in at a high rate of speed.

The vehicle was fishtailing and the rear doors were flopping open because of the damage caused by the bomb.

“Amazingly, Spc. Tonasket was still manning his weapon. I had to order him down out of the turret,” said Eaton. “His hearing was gone and he was yelling – not yelling about injuries or the damage to his truck, (but) about how we needed to get back out there and find them (the terrorists).”

Before receiving medical attention, Tonasket sought reassurance about the safety of the other Soldiers on the patrol, displaying his loyalty and dedication to fellow Soldiers, said Eaton.

“This is exactly what an infantry company commander wants to see from his 11Bs (infantrymen), the only difference being that Tony is a mechanic... he is a Soldier.”

“I did what I was trained to do,” Tonasket explained. “I live, eat and work with some of these guys. I may not know them, and they may not know me, but no one was going to be hurt because I didn't do my job.”

By maintaining his bearing under fire, Tonasket likely prevented his patrol from being subjected to a secondary attack and possible casualties, Eaton said.

For his actions, Tonasket was recently awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Action Badge and Army Commendation Medal with a ‘V’ device for Valor.

“Spc. Tonasket is the kind of person that we should all strive to be – totally selfless, hard working and willing to risk everything for the person next to him. I'm a better person for having known him,” concluded Eaton.

International Officers visit statehouse, learn about Kansas



Col. Eric Peck, chief of staff for Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas, listens to a question from an International Officer from Fort Leavenworth's Command and General Staff College. Each International Officer class spends a day visiting the Kansas Statehouse and learning about the Kansas National Guard and the state's legislative and judicial processes. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)

Kansas Guard promotes positive attitudes through summer camps

By Pvt. 2 David Shetley, 105th MPAD

Imagine being the only kid in your neighborhood with a parent or maybe both deployed overseas participating in a conflict that you might not understand. Imagine being the only kid in your entire town in that situation. Who do you talk to? Who do you share your feelings with? Who really understands what you are going through? This is a problem which faces many children of National Guard families. You can talk to a counselor, or even a friend, but even then, unless they are in the same situation they can only listen and not truly understand what you are experiencing.

That is where Kids Camp comes in. The camp held this summer on the campus of the Kansas Regional Training Institute (KSRTI) in Salina, Kan., is for children of National Guard families to get together with other kids to share their experiences. Sponsored annually by the Kansas National Guard Youth Program for children aged 9 to 12, this year's camp was attended by 94 kids.

Children have an amazing capacity for healing emotional wounds through play and just talking and being with other children. That is what the volunteer camp counselors, mostly National Guard members and civilian supporters, hope will happen. The camp counselors set up a regimen of daily activities that keep the kids busy. But it's not so rigid that if a child wants to take a moment to talk to other children there are ample opportunities to do so. In addition to arts, crafts and sports activities, the campers each had a chance to drive a virtual tank in KSRTI's state-of-the-art training center.

A highlight of this year's camp was an

opportunity for all the kids to learn from motivational speaker Bill D. Cordes on how to cope with their unique problems. Cordes is author of "The YOGOWYPI Factor" and other support books for teens. "YOGOWYPI" (yo-go-wi-pi) is an acronym for "You Only Get Out What You Put In," and it is Cordes' key strategy for how kids in transition can support themselves and one another.

The main mission of the camp counselors is to just be a friend when they're asked to be, and have an open mind and open heart.

"It's one of the best camps I have been involved with. Everything is going smoothly, we have a lot of returning volunteers and when you have people that put their heart into it and that come back year after year, it is a good thing," says recently retired 1st Sgt. Jeff Shelton who has been volunteering since his children went through the camp.

Another mission of the counselors is to be good examples and representatives of the National Guard whom the kids can look up to. They want each child to get a sense of pride and know that their parent is a part of a professional army that takes care of its own. Many of the volunteer National Guard counselors have children that had to deal with one or maybe both parents being deployed in the past, so they know what these kids are going through. The camp was a huge success this year as it has been every year since it started.

The Law Camp held during the same time at Lake Afton, 20 miles west of Wichita, was another camp that members of the Kansas National Guard participated in this year. The camp is organized by the local law enforcement and Kansas



Retired 1st Sgt. Jeff Shelton instructs kids on the next round of morning activities at Kids Camp this past summer. (Photo by Pvt. 2 David Shetley, 105th MPAD)

National Guard for kids from underprivileged neighborhoods to attend. The goal of the volunteers is to make a connection with these kids and to show them they need not be afraid of the police or other uniformed services, a feeling that had been instilled in the children from an early age. The Kansas National Guard provides support, shelter and a static display for the camp and some logistical help as well.

"I have had a lot of fun. The kids are

just being kids here. We have a nice mix of every type of kid you can get," said Sgt. Mark O'Brien of the 287th Sustainment Brigade. He also went on to say that "It shows the kids that Soldiers are people and not nameless people behind guns. It provides them with a personal aspect to each of us in uniform."

As always, all leaders for these camps volunteered their time and hearts to help reach out to the youth of Kansas.

STARBASE, NEKAAL join forces to bring out the stars

When cooperation between two fun and educational entities join efforts, the results can be nothing but fantastic. That's what happened during the inaugural festivities at the Ramada Inn on Jan. 7. Kansas STARBASE, operated by the Kansas Air National Guard, has a mission to teach kids science and math, using space and technology. The North East Kansas Amateur Astronomy League (NEKAAL) has a mission of finding Near Earth Objects (NEO) that may impact the earth. NEKAAL also has an outreach program to teach kids and adults astronomy facts.

The two joined together to operate a Starlab, a portable, domed planetarium. A projector in the center displays stars, constellation and planets, as well as earth science features. The Starlab can hold up to 25 kids plus the speakers.

The speakers were Janelle Burgardt, the outreach person for NEKAAL, and Master Sgt. Brian Martin and Chief Warrant Officer

2 Scott Sackrider, who are also members of the Kansas National Guard. Martin is a meteorologist for the 190th Air Refueling Wing and Sackrider is the information assurance manager for Joint Forces Headquarters.

The three spent the afternoon teaching 225 kids about constellations. While showing the constellations, the three speakers told stories relating to various stars and constellations, such as a family that revolves around the North Star and the origin of some of the names in the Harry Potter series.

"The Starlab is a great resource for reaching kids," said Burgardt. "There are always a lot of 'oohs and ahs' when they use it. The [Kansas National Guard] should be applauded for their efforts in showing kids that science can be fun."

More information can be found on their respective websites at www.KANSASSTARBASE.org and www.NEKAAL.org



Law campers compete in a team-building exercise at Lake Afton, west of Wichita. (Photo by Pvt. 2 David Shetley, 105th MPAD)

Injured Guardsman promoted

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would survive his wounds and doubtful if he would ever walk again.

Once Hicks recovered from his initial surgeries he let his fellow Soldiers in Iraq know that he would not only recover, he would be walking by the time the battalion returned from Iraq and be standing tall to welcome them home at Fort Sill, Okla. Seven months later, as promised, Hicks was standing with only the assistance of a cane at Fort Sill.

Bunting first visited Hicks while recuperating in San Antonio and has kept in touch and monitored his progression since the first visit.

"I've promoted a lot of Soldiers, but promoting Sergeant Hicks is one of the proudest days of my life," said Bunting "In many ways, no doubt about it, he's just lucky to be alive."

Hicks has been a member of the KSARNG for 16 years. He joined the Guard in 1990, starting as an infantryman with Company A, 3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry. Hicks has also served with the 35th Military Police Company and Company A, 891st Engineer Battalion.

His awards and decorations include the Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Hicks has attended the Military Police Course, Heavy Equipment Operator Course, Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Non-commissioned Officer Course and the Advanced Non-commissioned Officer Course.

Hicks is the son of Shirley Jean Russell of Strong, Ark.



Karen LaValle of STARBASE, coordinates with Janelle Burgardt of NEKAAL on operating the starlab at the inauguration. (Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Scott Sackrider)

Two inducted into Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame

By Maj. Toni Truelove

Two very deserving gentlemen were inducted into the Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame on Sunday, November 5th in Topeka. Retired Brig.Gen. Alfred P. Bunting and retired Bgrid. Gen. Ronald D. Tincher were the 82nd and 83rd Kansas Guardsmen to receive this honor for their truly exceptional contributions to both the Kansas National Guard and the communities in which they live. These selections were made after a stringent grading process by two committees followed by final approval by the Hall of Fame board of directors.

The ceremony opened with the introduction of past inductees and then the new inductees. The introductions were followed by an outstanding band concert by the 35th Infantry Division Band. A letter of congratulations from Governor Kathleen Sebelius was shared with all attending the induction. Col. Deborah Rose, a member of the Board of Governors, discussed the selection process and thanked the different committees and units that participated in the event.

Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, adjutant general and son of retired Brig. Gen. Bunting, gave his remarks and talked about departure and retirement ceremonies and how they remind him of when his father left for Korea. He called his father the "greatest

man that ever lived." He spoke of the 120 years of military service given by his family. Bunting spoke of Tincher and said he was the "model traditional Guardsman." He spoke of Tincher's "boundless energy." He told the audience that both Bunting and Tincher were "cut out of the same cloth." He closed by saying "It's a great day for Kansas and a great day for the Buntings and the Tinchers."

Videos and slide shows were shown of both men talking about their careers and showing pictures from throughout their lives. Both men, coincidentally, served the Kansas National Guard with over 42 years of service each.

Bunting retired from the Kansas Air National Guard. He spent the last five years of his service as the Assistant Adjutant General - Air and Commander of the Kansas Air National Guard. Bunting and his wife, Marjorie, reside in Burlingame. They have four children

Tincher retired from the Kansas Army National Guard. His last years serving in the Kansas National Guard were spent as the Assistant Adjutant General - Army and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard.

Tincher and his wife, Judy, reside in Olathe. They have seven children, 17 grandchildren and one great grandson.

Panelists share war stories

Soldiers and civilians gathered at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard on Feb. 3, 2007, to celebrate the museum's 10th anniversary and to listen to stories from veterans of Vietnam and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

The museum offered three informative panel discussions: An Iraqi panel at 9:30 a.m., a Vietnam panel at 11 a.m. and another Iraqi panel at 1:30 p.m. The museum also sponsored a lunch featuring homemade chili, fresh veggies, cinnamon rolls, donuts and a commemorative cake.

Retired Brig. Gen. Ed Gerhardt and retired State Command Sgt. Maj. Jack Elliot came up with the ideas of the panels to generated interest in the museum.

"We want to encourage people to come out and see their museum. It was built with their donations," said Gerhardt. "It covers the entire history of the Kansas National Guard from the Civil War forward."

The first panel consisted of Col. James Trafton, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry; Capt. Shannon Nicklaus, 891st Engineer Battalion; retired Command Sgt. Maj. Jana Harrison, 169th Support Battalion and Sgt. 1st Class

George Reeves, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery Brigade. The Soldiers were all deployed to Iraq in support of OIF. Though they all had different experiences in the Middle East, a common theme was the need for a stable infrastructure in Iraq.

They spoke of Iraqis without electricity, clean water or food, struggling to keep their families intact. The Iraqi schoolchildren's education is interrupted by daily gun battles. Lack of traffic regulations adds to the chaos. Against this background of privation and disorder, U.S. Soldiers must continue their mission - a truly daunting task.

The Vietnam discussion panel included retired Col. Bill Vonderschmidt, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery Brigade; retired Col. Robert Dalton and retired Maj. Bruce Muzzy, 69th Infantry Brigade; former Staff Sgt. Ernest Gerhardt, 2nd Battalion, 120th Field Artillery Brigade and former Sgt. James Gerhardt, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery Brigade.

The final panel discussion included Col. Lee Tafanelli, 891st Engineer Battalion; Lt. Col. Roger Aeschliman, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry and Harrison.

Former officers inducted into Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame

Six former officers of the Kansas National Guard were honored in a ceremony inducting them into the Officer Candidate School (OCS) Hall of Fame on Saturday, Sept. 23 at the Kansas Military Academy in Salina, Kan. The

officers honored were retired Col. John S. Foster, retired Col. Tom M. Tritsch, retired Col. Frank H. Wright IV, retired Col. James H. Hower Jr., retired Col. John R. Simecka and retired Col. Everett (Rick) Weaver.

Retirements

KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
 Maj. Gen. James Mason, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
 Col. Timothy Carlin, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
 Col. Thomas Dean, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
 Col. Robert Roach, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
 Col. William Vonderschmidt, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
 Lt. Col. Todd Starin, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
 Maj. Bryan Reinert, RTS-Maint, Salina
 Maj. Craig Stewart, HHB, 130th FA Bde, Topeka
 Capt. Robert Lawrence, HSC (-) 891st Eng Bn, Iola
 Chief Warrant Officer 4 Richard Marsh, Det 1, Co C 1st Bn, 171st Avn, Topeka
 Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ronald Mullinax, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
 Chief Warrant Officer 4 John Ring, 995th Maint Co (-), Smith Center
 Chief Warrant Officer 2 Stephen Guley, 250th FSC (-), Ottawa
 Sgt. Maj. Stephen Gfeller, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
 Sgt. Maj. Rose Johnson, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth
 Master Sgt. John Brandau, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Ralph Figgers, BCTS, Fort Leavenworth
 Master Sgt. Joseph Flesher, HHS (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha
 Master Sgt. Ronald Herring, HHD, 169th CSSB, Olathe
 Master Sgt. Robert Thompson, HHD, 169th CSSB, Olathe
 Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Brown Jr., KSRTI Det, Salina
 Sgt. 1st Class Laura Hart, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
 Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Hearty, HHD, 169th CSSB, Olathe
 Sgt. 1st Class Gary Jaquis, RTS-Maint, Salina
 Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen Love, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
 Sgt. 1st Class George Lowe, KSRTI Det, Salina
 Sgt. 1st Class Mary Macklin, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
 Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Meyer, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Mankato
 Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Mudd, Co B, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Junction City
 Sgt. 1st Class Brian Vines, Co A, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Emporia
 Sgt. 1st Class Richard Wheeler, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola
 Staff Sgt. Timothy Adee, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville
 Staff Sgt. Loren Albers, Det 1, 170th Maint Co, Goodland
 Staff Sgt. Earnest Banks, Det 4, 250th FSC, Troy
 Staff Sgt. Eric Bishop, R&R Cmd, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Robert Cain, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville
 Staff Sgt. Steven Coberley, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
 Staff Sgt. Sidney Conger, Det 3, 778th Trans Co, Council Grove
 Staff Sgt. Jerry Daniels, FSC(-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola
 Staff Sgt. Carolyn Downing, HQ, 235th Rgt (RTI), Salina
 Staff Sgt. James Gerlaugh, Det 1, 287th Sustainment Bde, Hays
 Staff Sgt. Leonard Harrison, HHC, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. David Johnson, Btry B (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Horton
 Staff Sgt. Chad Johnson, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville
 Staff Sgt. Larry Leach, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola
 Staff Sgt. Glenn Miller, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg
 Staff Sgt. Mark Mitzner, Det 1, 772nd Engr Co, Fort Scott
 Staff Sgt. Kelly Nelson, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan

Staff Sgt. Juanita Perkins, HHD, 169th CSSB, Olathe
 Staff Sgt. Robert Potts, Det 1, 772nd Engr Co, Fort Scott
 Staff Sgt. Leslie Smith, Det 1, HSC, 891st Eng Bn, Garnett
 Staff Sgt. George Webb, 35th MP Co, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Roy Wood, Co B (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Salina
 Sgt. Melinda Barnes, Det 1, 287th Sustainment Bde, Hays
 Sgt. Daniel Boden, Det 1, 731st Trans Co, Liberal
 Sgt. Brian Brown, Det 2, 170th Maint Co, Colby
 Sgt. Wayne Chapman, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan
 Sgt. William Christman, Co C, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Lenexa
 Sgt. Robert Dingsus, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe
 Sgt. Jeffrey Ellefson, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg
 Sgt. Kent Goodall, 778th Trans Co, Kansas City
 Sgt. Dale Harwood, Det 3, 170th Maint Co, Russell
 Sgt. Ronald Herda, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg
 Sgt. Christopher Jones, 995th Maint Co (-), Smith Center
 Sgt. Timothy Jordan, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita
 Sgt. John McFarland, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville
 Sgt. Sean Miller, Det 3, 778th Trans Co, Council Grove
 Sgt. Virginia Payne, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola
 Sgt. Merlin Peter, Det 2, 170th Maint Co, Colby
 Sgt. Michael Peterson, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Mankato
 Sgt. Max Rissen, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
 Sgt. Larry Saathoff, Det 2, 995th Maint Co, Belleville
 Sgt. Gerald Stegner, Det 2, 778th Trans Co, Wichita
 Sgt. Anthony Sutton, FSC(-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola
 Sgt. Mark Terpening, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan
 Sgt. Rodney Webster, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe
 Spc. James Cole, Det 4, 250th FSC, Troy
 Spc. Thomas Nelson, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville
 Spc. Glen Ruta, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson
 Spc. Thomas Wallmark, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD
 Col. Gary Wells, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Lt. Col. Clyde Davis, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Lt. Col. Mike Hall, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Lt. Col. Mark Welte, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Lt. Col. Roberta Williams, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Lt. Col. Jeff Young, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Maj. Rick Durham, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Maj. Jim Price, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Chief Master Sgt. Joe Ward, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Senior Master Sgt. Will Dobby, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Senior Master Sgt. Karen Wendling, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Dave Campos, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Bob Davis, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Larry Montgomery, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Debbie Quade, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Harry Stamps, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Kevin Thomas, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Kelly Turner, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. John Welsby, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. John Bishop, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Tim Fergus, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Lynn Herrell, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. David Lopez, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Russell Shane, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Montese Sonnier, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Kevin Straub, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. David Weide, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Brian Hyslop, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Don Johnson, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Brian Sauer, 184th ARW, Wichita
 Senior Airman Louis Comstock, 184th ARW, Wichita



Capt. Shannon Nicklaus (right) answers a question during a panel discussion about Operation Iraqi Freedom. Other panelists included retired Command Sgt. Maj. Jana Harrison (left), Col. James Trafton and Sgt. 1st Class George Reeves (not pictured). (Photo by Sgt. Mark Hanson, 105th MPAD)

Chaplain retires after 25 years of service to his country

By Maj. Toni Truelove

Chaplain (Col.) Gregg Riley recently retired from the Kansas Army National Guard after serving his country for more than 25 years. His service included four years in the United States Navy and seven years in the Army Reserve before joining the Guard. His calling in the military, as well as in his civilian life, has been that of an Episcopal priest.

"Ministry is ministry," said Riley, "whether at home or in the military."

Riley found that, through the years, Soldiers began to see the cross he wears, rather than his rank.

"That's when you know you've arrived," he added.

Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, spoke of Riley with fondness.

"As the TAG, my relationship with chaplains is very special", said Bunting. "I wear this cross that you gave me every minute of every day."

He thanked Riley, on behalf of the Kansas National Guard, for his service.

Riley's fondest memories of his time with the Kansas National Guard range from the time he spent with the 35th Division Artillery (DIVARTY) to his deployment in support of Hurricane

*"Ministry is ministry, whether at home or in the military."
 Chaplain (Col.) Gregg Riley*

Katrina. He was there through many life changing events with the Soldiers of DIVARTY, including births, deaths, marriages and divorces.

"You go through the whole life-cycle with them," said Riley.

During his deployment in support of Hurricane Katrina, Riley said "We wrote the book as we went." He was in charge of more than 50 chaplains in a joint operation including using a naval vessel for some Catholic services. Since many of the local clergy were gone, some of his chaplains took care of not only the military, but held services for some of the civilians, as well.

"It was an unprecedented event," said Riley.

The ceremony concluded with many gifts and awards, including roses for Carlene, his wife of 38 years.

Awards and Decorations

Kansas Army National Guard Awards ARMY COMMENDATION MEDALS

Lt. Col. Timothy Marlar, HHB (-), 35th Div Arty, Hutchinson
Lt. Col. Gregory S. Salisbury, HQ, STARC, Topeka, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Lt. Col. Michael C. Slusher, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Lt. Col. Ronald Martin, HHB (-), 35th Inf Div, Fort Leavenworth
Lt. Col. Donald E. Troth, HQ, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Lt. Col. Mark T. Stevens, HHB, 35th Div Arty, Hutchinson, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
Maj. Thomas C. Barnett, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
Maj. Craig M. Brenton, 69th TC, Topeka, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Maj. Christopher A. Burr, HHB (-), 35th Div Arty, Hutchinson
Maj. Scott B. Carlson, HQ, STARC, Topeka, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Maj. Ronald G. Chronister, HHC, 35th ID (M), Fort Leavenworth
Maj. Michael P. Dittamo, HHB, 130th FA Bde, Topeka
Maj. Kurtis W. Houk, HHC, 108th Avn, Topeka, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
Maj. Lee A. Keffer, HHB (-), 35th Div Arty, Hutchinson
Maj. Claude L. Lovell III, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka
Maj. David Marr, HQ, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth
Maj. John W. Reuger, HHB (-), 1st Bn, 127th FA, Ottawa
Maj. David M. Schmidt, HHB (-), 1st Bn, 127th FA, Ottawa, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Maj. Lon E. Williams, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Maj. Robert A. Wood, R&R Cmd, Topeka
Capt. Scott A. Arpin, Co D, 1st Bn, 114th Avn, Salina, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Capt. Scott D. Beechel, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan
Capt. Kurt R. Bruggemeyer, HHC, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Capt. David R. Burk, 226th Eng Cbt Co (H), Augusta
Capt. Tony A. Burt, 242 Engr Co, Wichita
Capt. Scott R. Chew, Co B, 1st Bn, 635th Armor, Junction City, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Capt. Dirk A. Christian, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Capt. Erica Christie, HHD, 174th Maint Bn, Hays, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Capt. Teddy L. Culbertson Jr., Co B, 891st Engr Bn, Coffeyville
Capt. Anthony Diaz, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka
Capt. Brian M. Duncan, HHD, 169th CSB, Olathe
Capt. Greg Edson, Co A, 1st Bn, 635th Armor, Emporia, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Capt. Daniel Evasco, HQ, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth
Capt. Van T. Flemming, HHB (-), 35th Div Arty, Hutchinson, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Capt. Joseph B. Gilion, HQ, 891st Engr Bn, Iola, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Capt. Molly G. Gillock, HHD, 169th CSB, Olathe
Capt. Paul E. Gonzales, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka
Capt. Steve Hardin, 242nd Eng Co (DT), Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Capt. Charles Harriman, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Capt. Ralph Heady, HHB (-), 35th Div Arty, Hutchinson
Capt. Brennan J. Heelan, HHB (-), 1st Bn, 127th FA, Ottawa
Capt. Terresa R. Hoke, 74th QM Co, Topeka
Capt. Stephen H. Holdeman, Co B, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Junction City, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Capt. Kathleen M. Isaacsen, 778th HET, Kansas City
Capt. Jerome D. Kalamen, HHC, 891st Engr Bn, Iola
Capt. Todd M. Loughney, Det 1, 24th Med (AA), Topeka, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Capt. Clifford E. Lowe, HHB (-), 35th Div Arty, Hutchinson
Capt. Charles T. Lunkwitz, 995th Maint Co, Smith Center
Capt. Lisa A. Mullinax, 170th Maint Co, Norton
Capt. Shannon D. Nicklaus, Co C, 891st Engr, Augusta, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Capt. Andrew B. Parker, Btry C, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Abilene
Capt. Bradley E. Parson, HHB, 130th FA, Topeka
Capt. Andrew B. Parker, Btry C, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Abilene
Capt. Bradley E. Parson, HHB, 130th FA, Topeka
Capt. Willy F. Pegues, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth
Capt. Thomas R. Powers, Btry C, 1st Bn, 127th FA, Holton
Capt. Troy M. Price, HQ, 35th Div Arty, Hutchinson, 6th Oak Leaf Cluster
Capt. Raymond J. Schachtner, Co C, 891st Engr Bn, Augusta
Capt. Brain L. Schoenhofer, HQ, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth
Capt. William A. Strong, HHD, 169th CSB, Olathe
Capt. Kenneth J. Weishaar, Co A, 891st Engr, Pittsburg, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Capt. Owen P. Ziegler, HHB (-), 1st Bn, 127th FA, Ottawa
1st Lt. Teresa A. Bingham, HQ, 169th CSB, Olathe, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
1st Lt. Jason L. Fountain, Co D, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City
1st Lt. Tracy E. Howell, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha
1st Lt. Randy S. Matthews, Co B, 1st Bn, 108th Avn Regt, Salina, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
1st Lt. John A. McGrann, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka
1st Lt. Allen L. Moore, Co D, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City
1st Lt. Justin T. Nusz, HSC, 891st Engr Bn, Iola, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
2nd Lt. Douglas J. Brownback, Co B, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita
2nd Lt. Kyle Chansler, Btry F, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Salina
2nd Lt. Jason T. Davee, HHD, JFHQ KS, Topeka
2nd Lt. Nancy A. Glowacki, HHD, 169th CSB, Olathe
2nd Lt. Larry L. Leupold, Det 1, Btry C, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Salina
2nd Lt. Todd Miller, 242nd Eng Co (DT), Wichita
2nd Lt. Trenton A. Miller, R&R, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
2nd Lt. Robert M. Parvin, 242nd Engr Co, Wichita, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
2nd Lt. Patricia A. Wakefield, JFHQ-KS, Topeka, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
2nd Lt. Kimberly Young, HHB (-), 35th Div Arty, Hutchinson
Chief Warrant Officer 4 Larry L. Heim, HQ, 69th Troop Command, Olathe
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Steven R. Hood, Det 1, 24th Med Co, Topeka, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Chief Warrant Officer 2 David L. Johnson, Co A, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark R. Kingman, Co A, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka
Chief Warrant Officer 3 James R. Oliver, Det 1, 24th Med Co, Topeka
Chief Warrant Officer 4 Anthony M. Schultz, HHC, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Darren D. Smith, 714th Maint Co, Topeka, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Command Sgt. Maj. Scott W. Haworth, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. Maj. Kerry Jackson, Det 6, HQ STARC, Topeka
Sgt. Maj. Rosemary Johnson, HHC, 35th ID (M), Kansas City, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
1st Sgt. Jerrold R. Allen, 714th Maint Co, Topeka
1st Sgt. Bobby D. Dodd, HHB (-), 1st Bn, 127th FA, Ottawa
1st Sgt. Donald G. Garst Jr., 74th QM, Topeka
1st Sgt. Ernest C. Gwin, Co E, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City
1st Sgt. Frank E. Roath Jr., HHB (-), 35th Div Arty, Hutchinson, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
1st Sgt. Stuart L. Stupka, 995th Maint Co, Smith Center, 5th Oak Leaf Cluster
1st Sgt. Bradley C. Wyatt, Co C, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita
Master Sgt. Mark A. Baxa, HHC (-), 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
Master Sgt. John W. Birdsong, R&R Cmd, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Master Sgt. William D. Buck, HQ, 891st Engr Bn, Iola, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Master Sgt. Stephen L. Gfeller, HQ, STARC, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Master Sgt. Lonny T. Greer, R&R Cmd, Topeka, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Master Sgt. Michael H. Guyett, HHB (-), 1st Bn, 127th FA, Ottawa, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Master Sgt. Terry B. Jones, R&R Cmd, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Master Sgt. Richard L. Kelley, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Master Sgt. George Medina, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Becky D. Middendorf, HQ, 235th Regt, Salina, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Master Sgt. Rodney D. Rogers, 69th TC, Olathe, 7th Oak Leaf Cluster
Master Sgt. Craig S. Tunheim, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Mankato
Master Sgt. James J. Zeller, R&R Cmd, Topeka, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Mark A. Albrecht, Det 2, HQ, STARC, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Frank D. Asebedo, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Garden City
Sgt. 1st Class Robert D. Audano, Btry B, 1st Bn, 127th FA, Lenexa
Sgt. 1st Class Jerry L. Brewster, HHD, 169th CSB, Olathe, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class James A. Brown, Svc Btry, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Hutchinson
Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Burrell, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Horton
Sgt. 1st Class Gregory W. Cochran, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Cheryl A. Chance, HHB, 35th ID, Hutchinson
Sgt. 1st Class John Conover, Co C, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Lenexa, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Ralph A. Coy, R&R Cmd, Topeka, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class James Crosby, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Danny J. Crumpton, 714th Maint Co, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth M. Dewitt, Det 1, Btry C, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Salina, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Ricky W. Elder, HHS (-) 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Darrin D. Fahey, R&R Cmd, Topeka, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class William D. Flavin, 995th Maint Co, Smith Center, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Steven E. Fowles, Det 6, HQ, STARC, Topeka, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class David L. Fullerton, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Mankato
Sgt. 1st Class Laurinda L. Garland, 235th Regt, Salina, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Kirk A. Gibson, Co C, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita, 5th Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class David B. Gochenour, R&R Cmd, Topeka, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class John B. Gull, R&R Cmd, Topeka 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Billie J. Hancock, R&R Cmd, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Larry E. Henry, Det 6, HQ, STARC, Topeka 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Robert J. Herlinger, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class George J. Hibbs, 242d Engr Co, Wichita, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Joshua J. Hoke, R&R Cmd, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Roy L. Hosier, HQ, 891st Engr Bn, Iola, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Paul A. Johnston, HHC, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Darel L. Keller, Det 2, 995th Maint Co, Belleville, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Dennis V. Lewis, 323 Ord Co, Wichita
Sgt. 1st Class Joseph B. Loeffler, HHD, 169th CSB, Olathe, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Mahan, 174th Ord Bn, Hays, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Donald W. Marchant, 69th TC, Olathe
Sgt. 1st Class Bertha K. Mastin, Det 6, HQ, STARC, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class James L. Masterson, HQ, 69th TC, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Darryl M. McNair, R&R Cmd, Topeka, 8th Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Ronnie R. McWhirt, HQ, 235th Regt, Salina, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Trenton Miller, KU Army ROTC, Lawrence
Sgt. 1st Class Louisa M. Miser, 995th Maint Co, Smith Center
Sgt. 1st Class Roy F. Musick Sr., HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Lary A. Patrick, Btry C, 161st FA, Kingman, 5th Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Keith E. Peine, Det 1, Svc Btry, 1st Bn, 127th FA, Garnett
Sgt. 1st Class Michael K. Peterson, Co B, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Michael L. Pomes, 102nd Military History Det, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Kit A. Portz, Co A, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Emporia
Sgt. 1st Class Craig J. Posch, HHC, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Travis M. Rudd, R&R Cmd, Topeka, 6th Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Todd C. Schainost, HSC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola
Sgt. 1st Class Charles D. Shortle, HQ, 235th Rgt, Salina, 5th Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Paul A. Swanson, HQ, STARC, Topeka, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Kurt A. Wassenburg, HQ, 235th Regt (KSRTI), Salina
Sgt. 1st Class Max L. Wharton, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Mankato, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Richard H. Wheeler, HQ, 891st Engr Bn, Iola
Sgt. 1st Class Nancy E. White, HHB, 130th FA, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Christopher S. Wyman, Co B, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Junction City, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Mark T. Young, Co C, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Darrin J. Yuhn, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Mark G. Zafran, Det 1, 778th Trans Co, Kansas City
Sgt. 1st Class Curtis B. Zimmer, Btry F, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Salina
Staff Sgt. Joseph A. Alaniz, R&R Cmd, Topeka, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Ronald M. Beasley Jr., Co C, 891st Engr Bn, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Daniel R. Bell, Btry B, 1st Bn, 127th FA, Lenexa
Staff Sgt. Benny J. Benjamin, 995th Maint, Smith Center
Staff Sgt. Joseph E. Blackwood, Co C, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Lenexa, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. David L. Brun, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka
Staff Sgt. Darrel Bruner, HQ, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. David J. Burke, Co A, 891st Eng Bn, Pittsburg
Staff Sgt. Arron B. Card Jr., Co C, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita
Staff Sgt. Dwane S. Clifford, Co B, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Ray S. Crook, 242d Engr Co (DT), Wichita
Staff Sgt. Richard M. Dailey, Btry F, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Salina
Staff Sgt. Michael Dickmeyer, HHB (-), 1st Bn, 127th FA, Ottawa
Staff Sgt. Randall K. Edes, Co A, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Ronald F. Elledge, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Mankato
Staff Sgt. Matthew S. Emerson, HSC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Stephen K. Finch, HQ, STARC, Topeka, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Christopher A. Fletcher, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 127th FA, Salina
Staff Sgt. Calvin K. Fomyby, 242nd Eng Co (DT), Wichita
Staff Sgt. David M. Hawkins, R&R Cmd, Topeka, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Sheree Hicks, R&R Cmd, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Dewayne Holmes, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Kerry A. Hurd, 242d Engr Co, Wichita
Staff Sgt. Brandon B. Ingram, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar BN, Manhattan, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Michael D. Jackson, Det. 1, 24th Med (AA), Topeka
Staff Sgt. Jorge S. Jacobs, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan
Staff Sgt. Julie A. Kempel, HQ, STARC, Topeka, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Kathleen G. Love, HHC, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Lloyd E. Mattix, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Abilene
Staff Sgt. James H. McClay, HHC, 35th ID (M), Fort Leavenworth, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Michael V. Miller, Det 1, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Liberal
Staff Sgt. Donald E. Moyer, Det 1, 778th Trans Co, Manhattan
Staff Sgt. Kelly W. Nelson, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar Bn, Manhattan
Staff Sgt. Bobbie Newman, HQ, 69th TC, Olathe, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. John C. Oehme, 73rd, CST (WMD), Topeka
Staff Sgt. Tonya R. Oliver, 69th, TC, Olathe, 1st Oak Leaf

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We Remember...

Olin "Bud" M. Mentzer Jr.

Olin "Bud" M. Mentzer Jr., 58, Topeka, died June 27, 2005.

He was born June 2, 1947, in Topeka. Pvt. 2 Mentzer was a member of the Kansas Army National Guard where was a trainee assigned to the Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 127th Artillery, Ottawa.

Retired Master Sgt. Kenneth A. Cornelius

Retired Master Sgt. Kenneth A. Cornelius, 74, Topeka, died July 28, 2005.

He was born May 27, 1931, in Juniata, Neb.

Cornelius was a member of the Kansas Air National Guard where was an aircraft maintenance technician assigned to the 190th Air Refueling Wing, Topeka.

He retired with over 31 years of service.

Harlan P. Fellers

Harlan P. Fellers, 67, Topeka, died July 30, 2005.

He was born June 25, 1938, in Lebo. Staff Sgt. Fellers was a member of the Kansas Army National Guard where he

was a wire team chief assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 127th Artillery Group, Topeka.

Jerry F. McFadden

Jerry F. McFadden, 66, Lenexa, died Aug. 3, 2005.

He was born June 2, 1939, at Smith Center.

Staff Sgt. McFadden was a member of the Kansas Air National Guard where he was an information technician assigned to the Headquarters, Kansas Air National Guard, Topeka.

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 John L. Humerickhouse

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 John L. Humerickhouse, 81, Ottawa, died Oct. 5, 2005.

He was born Oct. 1, 1924, at Centropolis.

Humerickhouse was a member of the Kansas Army National Guard where he was general supply technician assigned to the Headquarters, State Area Command, Kansas Army National Guard (-), Topeka.

He retired with over 40 years of service.

Kenneth L. "Kenny" Gastineau

Kenneth L. "Kenny" Gastineau, 69, Tulsa, Okla., died Oct. 9, 2005.

He was born Feb. 22, 1937, in Great

Bend.

Pfc. Gastineau was a member of the Kansas Army National Guard where he was a supply handler assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Kansas Army National Guard, Topeka.

Homer H. Akin

Homer H. Akin, 74, Melvern, died Oct. 28, 2005.

He was born Nov. 27, 1930, in Home City.

Sp. 5 Akin was a member of the Kansas Army National Guard where he was a powerman assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 891st Engineer Battalion, Manhattan.

Samuel C. Green

Samuel C. Green, 81, Wichita, died Oct. 29, 2005.

He was born March 12, 1924, in St. John.

Capt. Green was a member of the Kansas Air National Guard where he was a supply officer assigned to the 184th Maintenance Squadron, Wichita.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Morris

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Morris, 68, Hutchinson, died Dec. 8, 2005.

He was born Aug. 7, 1937, in Hutchinson.

Morris was a member of the Kansas Army National Guard where he was the command sergeant major assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 130th Division Artillery, Hutchinson.

He retired with over 29 years of service.

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Rex D. Thompson

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Rex D. Thompson, 72, died Dec. 28, 2005.

He was born Nov. 10, 1933.

Thompson was a member of the Kansas Air National Guard where he was a structural manager assigned to the 184th Air Refueling Wing, Wichita.

He retired with over 33 years of service.

Retired Staff Sgt. William H. Vest

Retired Staff Sgt. William H. Vest, 70, Iola, died Jan. 1, 2006.

He was born Jan. 5, 1935, in Iola.

Vest was a member of the Kansas Army National Guard where was a cannon crewman assigned to Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 127th Field Artillery, Garnett.

He retired with over 23 years of service.

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Cluster
 Staff Sgt. Michael W. Osborne, Btry B, 1st Bn, 127th FA, Lenexa
 Staff Sgt. Claude R. Paulsen, HHC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. Robert L. Potts, HSC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola
 Staff Sgt. James D. Pyatt, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. Jeremy F. Rabb, 635th Ar, Manhattan, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. Kevin D. Rieschick, Btry C, 1st Bn, 127th FA, Holton
 Staff Sgt. Russell K. Roe, 69th TC, Olathe
 Staff Sgt. Michael Sawyer, 778th Trans Co HET, Kansas City
 Staff Sgt. Kent G. Schierkolk, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha
 Staff Sgt. Charles E. Selig, Det 2, 995th Maint Co, Belleville
 Staff Sgt. David L. Sherman, C Co, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Lenexa 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. Kendra K. Shingleton, HHC, 35th Div, Fort Leavenworth
 Staff Sgt. Thomas A. Simmons, Kansas Counter Drug Program, Topeka 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. Craig A. Smith, Det. 1, 24th Med (AA), Topeka 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. Leslie L. Spicer, Co B(-), 891st Engr Bn, Augusta
 Staff Sgt. Thomas N. Sprague, Co C, 891st ENGR BN, Augusta 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. Jeffrey A. Taylor, Det 1, C Btry, 1st Bn, 127th FA, Salina
 Staff Sgt. Eric S. Thompson, Det. 1, C Btry 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Salina
 Staff Sgt. Edmond W. Thorne, B Co, 1st Bn, 108th Avn Regt (GSAB), Topeka 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. Michael L. Wahl, Co A, 891st Eng Bn, Pittsburg
 Staff Sgt. George R. Walz, 323rd Missile Spt Co, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Jerry M. Webb Jr., Det 1 995th Maint Co, Mankato, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. Terry L. Welch, 105th PAD, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. Tate A. West, Co A, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Lawrence
 Staff Sgt. Joseph L. Williams, Btry C (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Abilene, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. Charles D. Wilson, Co A, 891st Engr Bn, Pittsburg
 Staff Sgt. Michael J. Wilson, HQ, STARC, Topeka, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. Matthew J. Winzer, Co B, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. Herbert C. Wischnack, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. Jay A. Yeager, Co B, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. Kimberly K. Young, HHB (-), 35th Div Arty, Hutchinson
 Sgt. Stephen C. Ahlstedt, Btry C (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Abilene
 Sgt. Robert Arambula, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Garden City
 Sgt. Joseph D. Ast, Co C, 2nd Bn, 137th, Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. Clinton D. Barnett, HHC, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka
 Sgt. Anthony E. Bivens, 995th Maint Co, Smith Center
 Sgt. Alan B Boatman, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Mankato
 Sgt. Michael Bohdan, Det 1, Btry B, 1st Bn, 127th FA, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. Louis B. Bonner II, HHD, 169th CSB, Olathe, 5th Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. Robert S. Botkin, Service Btry, 1st Bn, 161 FA, Hutchinson
 Sgt. Scott O. Brenton, Co A, 2nd Bn, 137th, Inf, Lawrence
 Sgt. Nathan L. Brown, HHC, 891st Engr, Iola, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. Kurtis L. Casselman, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. Jeremy Clawson, 105th PAD, Topeka 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. Richard L. Coffey, B Btry, 1st Bn, 127th FA, Lenexa
 Sgt. Ronald A. Cordova, 35th MP Co, Topeka
 Sgt. Matthew L. Dobbs, R&R Command, Topeka
 Sgt. Marc A. Exley, B Co, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. Joseph A. Gerritzen, Det 2, HHB 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita
 Sgt. Steven R. Gilliland, 74th QB CO, Topeka
 Sgt. Barbara A Goeken, 170th, Maint Co, Norton
 Sgt. Richard J. Haney, Det 1, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. Devra D. Harrison, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth 5th Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. Roy Hollan, C Co, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. Brian L. Howe, Btry C (-), 1st Bn, 127th FA, Holton
 Sgt. Craig A Jackson, Btry E, TA, 161st FA, Larned
 Sgt. William P. Kramer, 242d Engr Co, Wichita 5th Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. Joshua R. Loos, HQ, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. Chuck W Lowe, HQ, STARC, Topeka 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. Jesse Lowe, C Co, 1st Bn, 635th Ar BN, Lenexa
 Sgt. Richard L Lowery, Det 1, HHC, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. Christopher S. Lucas, Det 1, 24th Med Co., Topeka 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Jeffrey M. Mann, Btry C, 1st Bn, 127th FA, Holton
 Sgt. John J. McWilliams, 995th Maint Co, Smith Center 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. Thomas F. Miller Jr., B Co, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. Denise J. Mitchell, R&R, Topeka
 Sgt. Scott H. Pitchford, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar BN, Manhattan 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. Steven R. Pope, Co A, 1st Bn, 108th Avn Regt (GSAB), Topeka
 Sgt. Fernando J. Porras, Co A, 1st Bn, 108th, Avn Regt., Topeka
 Sgt. Daniel P. Quinn, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. Randy L. Reasoner, C Co, 891st Engr Bn, Augusta
 Sgt. Charles Rhoten, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City
 Sgt. David W. Richardson, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City
 Sgt. Pete Rios, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Garden City
 Sgt. Mitchell B. Roberson, Co C, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Sgt. Kal J. Robinson, HQ, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. Jared J.P. Savage, 105th MPAD, Topeka
 Sgt. Rodney D. Seaba, HHC 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. JT Smith, Co A, 1st Bn, 108th, Avn, Topeka
 Sgt. Misty L. Spinelli, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth 2st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. Andrea M. Stokes, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. Leon Stegman, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Garden city 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. James M. Swafford, Co A, 1st Bn, 635th Armor, Emporia
 Sgt. Antonio F. Talbert, HHB, 130th FA, Topeka
 Sgt. Freddie W. Taylor, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan
 Sgt. Mark R. Terpening, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan
 Sgt. Orville A. Thompson, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. Martin A. Tidd, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Armor, Manhattan 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. Gaiquiri S. Tyler, Co C, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Lenexa 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. Richard L. Upshaw, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th, Ar, Manhattan
 Sgt. Samantha M. Wier, 137th, Trans Co, Kansas City
 Sgt. Terry K. Wilson, Co C, 1st Bn, 635th Ar BN, Lenexa 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Sgt. Michael C. Zeller, 74th, QM, Topeka
 Cpl. Matthew Hill, HHB, 1st Bn, 127th FA, Ottawa
 Cpl. Terrance James, B Co., 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Cpl. Perry W. Johnston, Co D, 2nd 137th Inf, Wichita
 Cpl. Dave L. Lebbin, Btry E, TA, 161st FA, Larned
 Cpl. Prentiss L. Rhodes, B Btry, 1st Bn, 127th FA, Lenexa
 Cpl. Timothy L. Rozell, HHB 1st Bn, 127th FA, Ottawa 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Spc. Gregory D. Barnes, Co D, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. Howard F. Barnes, 242nd, Engr Co, Wichita
 Spc. Kristin A. Benson, HHC, 35th ID (M), Fort Leavenworth
 Spc. Michael A. Black, HHB, 1st Bn, 127th FA, Ottawa
 Spc. Brian T Blackman, Det 1, HHC, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Michael C. Boswell, Det 1, HHB, 1st Bn 127th FA, Lawrence
 Spc. Leon D Bryson, 995th Maint Co, Smith Center
 Spc. Daniel L. Buck, Btry A, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Marysville
 Spc. Matthew J. Burdick, Co A, 1st Bn, 635 Armor, Emporia
 Spc. Howard C. Cardwell, HQ, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth
 Spc. Lori D. Carver, HHB, 130th FA Bde, Topeka
 Spc. Shane Collins, Det 2, 995th Maint Co, Belleville
 Spc. Jessica E. Cox, HQ, STARC, Topeka 1st Oak leaf Cluster
 Spc. John W. Dale, Co C, 135th Sig Bn, Carrollton, MO
 Spc. William E. Dill, Det 2, 170th Maint Co, Colby
 Spc. Eric S. Dimmer, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan
 Spc. John Doty, HHB, 1st Bn, 127th FA, Ottawa
 Spc. Troy Erlich, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha
 Spc. Kevin D. Farlow, Co C, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Jeremy E Fisher, Btry C, 1st 161st FA, Kingman
 Spc. Lortresa Y. Forbes, HHC, 35th Inf Div, Fort Leavenworth
 Spc. Theresa L. Garza, 35th MP Co, Topeka
 Spc. William J. Ham III, Det 1, Btry C, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Salina
 Spc. Dennis L. Hardy, Det 1, Btry A, 1st Bn, 127th FA, Garretson
 Spc. Tami S. Hilton, HHB (-), 35th Div Arty, Hutchinson
 Spc. Leslie A. Hilton, B Co, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Cornel P. Hubbard, Det 1, HHC, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Kenneth W. Husky, Co C, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Spc. Larry J Jackson, 242 EN CO (DT), Wichita
 Spc. Robert F. James, Co D, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Spc. Patrick E. Johnson, 995th Maint Co, Smith Center 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
 Spc. Brett E. Johnson, 242D EN CO (DT), Wichita
 Spc. Daniel B. King, Co A, 1st Bn, 635th Armor, Emporia
 Spc. David J. Koerner, HHD, 174th Div Arty, Hays

Spc. Jerome S. Koger, HHB (-), 1st Bn 127th FA, Ottawa
 Spc. Chadley Kunker, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City
 Spc. Kenneth A. Little, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th, Manhattan
 Spc. Jennifer R Maurer, 137th Trans Co (REAR), Kansas City
 Spc. Phillip E. McGlothlin, 137th Trans Co, Kansas City
 Spc. Billy Meier, Btry F, 161st FA Salina
 Spc. Gaylin A. Meyer, Det 1, Co A., 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Spc. David W. Miller, 714th Maint Co, Topeka
 Spc. Jacob K. Moulin, Btry A, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Marysville
 Spc. Kevin Murphy, Co A, 891st ENGR CBT BN, Pittsburg
 Spc. Debra G. Pierce, HHD, 169th CSB, Olathe
 Spc. Fernando J. Porras, Co A, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka
 Spc. Jacob P. Pottorf, HHS (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha
 Spc. Jason A Riddle, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City
 Spc. Timothy L. Rozell, Det 1 HHB (-), 1st Bn 127th FA, Lawrence
 Spc. William P. Ruth, B Co, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Ivan L. Schwaller, HHB, 130th FA Bde, Topeka
 Spc. John G. Sheehan, HHC, 891st Engr Bn, Iola 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Spc. Matthew D. Slater, Co A, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Emporia 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Spc. James Speakman, HHB (-), 35th Div Arty, Hutchinson
 Spc. Carol S. Sprawka, HHB, 130th FA Bde, Topeka
 Spc. Vincent A. Stegman, 242nd Engr Co (DT), Wichita 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Spc. James E. Stewart, Co D, 2nd 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Russel M. Summers, Det 1, HHB, 1st 127th FA Bn, Lawrence
 Spc. William Towell, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City
 Spc. Timothy J. Van Dellen, 137th Trans Co., Olathe ARCOM-2
 Spc. Andrew P. White, B Co, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita
 Spc. Glenn R. Whitley, HHB, 130th FA, Topeka
 Spc. Adam L. Whitling, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Spc. Brian P. Wilhite, 69th TC, Olathe
 Spc. James D. Willett, Btry C (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Abilene
 Spc. Jason Wolff, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar BN, Manhattan
 Pfc. Nathan E. Criswell, Co A, 1st 645th Ar, Emporia
 Pfc. Joseph W. Crusinberry, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161 FA, Garden City
 Pfc. Allen Graham, Btry F, 161st FA, Salina
 Pfc. Mark A. Hanson, 105th PAD, Topeka 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Pfc. John C. Heath Jr., Btry B (-), 1st Bn, 127th FA, Lenexa
 Pfc. Kelley A. Houser, Det 1, 714th Maint Co, Manhattan
 Pfc. Robert L. Hubbard Jr., Co D, 2nd 137th Inf Wichita
 Pfc. James D. Lehner, HHB, 130th FA, Topeka
 Pfc. Brad A. McGregor Co A, 1st 635th Ar, Emporia
 Pfc. Kenneth L. Spreie, C Btry, 161st FA, Kingman
 Pfc. Brad M. Zarrillo, Co C, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Lenexa
 Pvt. 2 Alan Hunter, Co C, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Lenexa

KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD Meritorious Service Medal

Col. Bradley Link, 184th ARW, Wichita, 5th Oak Leaf Cluster
 Col. Dana Garvey, 184th ARW, Wichita, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Col. Dana Garvey, 184th ARW, Wichita, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
 Col. Gary Wells, 184th ARW, Wichita, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
 Col. Michael Foster, 184th ARW, Wichita, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
 Col. Randy Roebuck, 184th ARW, Wichita, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
 Lt. Col. Bradley Bockus, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Lt. Col. Charles Jacobs, 184th ARW, Wichita, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
 Lt. Col. Chester Wilson, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Lt. Col. Gary Wells, 184th ARW, Wichita, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Lt. Col. Hans Neidhardt, 184th ARW, Wichita, 5th Oak Leaf Cluster
 Lt. Col. James Miller Jr., 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Lt. Col. Mark Welte, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Lt. Col. Mark Wilson, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Lt. Col. Scott Poynter, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Maj. Jason Barnes, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Maj. Kyle Smith, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 2nd Lt. Jeffrey Schmitt, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Command Chief Master Sgt. Joe Ward, 184th ARW, Wichita, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Chief Master Sgt. John Davis Jr., 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Senior Master Sgt. Michael Beason, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Senior Master Sgt. Tracy Marshall, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Senior Master Sgt. Jeanie Emerson, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Master Sgt. Arthur Bossert, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Master Sgt. Charles Porsch, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Master Sgt. Donna Buckman, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Master Sgt. Jean Thompson, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Master Sgt. Jeffrey Brown, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Master Sgt. Jennifer Allen, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Master Sgt. Paul Lillig, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Master Sgt. Dana Beals, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Master Sgt. Daniel Rogers, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Master Sgt. Danny Paxton, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Master Sgt. Felix Gorges, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Master Sgt. Glenna Gardner, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Master Sgt. Harold Mistler, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Master Sgt. Jerry Swift, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Master Sgt. John Kill, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Master Sgt. Kelvin Bissell, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Master Sgt. Robin Nelson, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Tech. Sgt. David Wilson, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Tech. Sgt. James Hughes, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Kerr, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Tech. Sgt. Stephen Ferree, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Tech. Sgt. Tracy Ross, 184th ARW, Wichita,

Kansas Commendation Ribbon

Lt. Col. Jeannine L. Garnsey, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Maj. Chris A. Snyder, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 2nd Lt. Craig M. Cooper, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 2nd Lt. Michael L. Ehrstein, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Senior Master Sgt. Keith M. Daley, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Master Sgt. Jeffrey W. Aldrich, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Master Sgt. John C. Foster, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Master Sgt. James C. Schlehber, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Master Sgt. Kelly N. Short, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Tech. Sgt. William H. Galbreath, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Staff Sgt. Brian K. Clingan, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Staff Sgt. William R. Gardenhire, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Staff Sgt. Richard S. Knoblock, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Staff Sgt. Louis S. Latimer, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Staff Sgt. Garrett M. Rake, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Senior Airman Christopher C. Leonard, 184th ARW, Wichita,

Kansas Achievement Ribbon

Maj. Shon A. Gerber, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Maj. Lincoln D. Schroeder, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Senior Master Sgt. Robert D. Anderson, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Senior Master Sgt. William A. Angstadt, 184th ARW, Wichita, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Senior Master Sgt. Gary A. McBee, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Senior Master Sgt. Karen M. Wendling, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Master Sgt. John D. Bever, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Master Sgt. Bart K. Brown, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Master Sgt. Michael D. Collins, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Master Sgt. Lawrence D. Montgomery, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Master Sgt. Basil W. Pepperd, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Master Sgt. Mark E. Post, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Master Sgt. Michael R. Scott, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Master Sgt. John L. White, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Tech. Sgt. Bradley W. Brenner, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Tech. Sgt. Cory R Buthe, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Tech. Sgt. Joseph M. Daley, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Tech. Sgt. Jarrod B. Delong, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Tech. Sgt. Johnathan E. Dingman, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Tech. Sgt. Kim L. Evans, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey L. Flanigan, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Tech. Sgt. Tony D. Gliedewell, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Tech. Sgt. Michael E. Halsig, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Tech. Sgt. Brian D. Janssen, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Tech. Sgt. Eric D. Maynor, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Tech. Sgt. James S. Rader, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Tech. Sgt. Mark S. Schulke, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Tech. Sgt. Donald R. Somers, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
 Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey G. Stewart, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Tech. Sgt. Chris A. Taylor, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Tech. Sgt. Robert J. Wilson, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Tech. Sgt. Keith J. Woodrome, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. Michael P. Balevre, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Staff Sgt. Cortney E. Bartley, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Staff Sgt. George A. Bergen, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Staff Sgt. John N. Chorn, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Staff Sgt. Robert P. Harvey, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. Dashiell E. Kitchen, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Staff Sgt. Thomas E. Link, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
 Staff Sgt. Phillip L. Lipke, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Staff Sgt. Christopher D. Platzer, 184th ARW, Wichita,
 Staff Sgt. Wesley T Shockey, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Serving well

Continued from Page 4

We then flew in a U.S. Army Reserve C-12 to visit the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Soldiers. The 1-108th is conducting combat air operations. When the 108th Soldiers arrived in country, they were required to build their battalion operations, command and living areas. They have done a good job and I can say that we have some very proficient carpenter/aviators. The 1-108th Soldiers are doing an excellent job maintaining and flying their aircraft in a difficult combat environment. The 1-108th is part of the Texas Army National Guard's 36th Combat Aviation Brigade. Command Sgt. Maj. Glenn Peterson of the 108th was recently selected and elevated to the Command Sergeant Major position of the 36th CAB. This is quite an honor for this Kansas noncommissioned officer, congratulations to Pete!

Sgt. Maj. Chuck Harris of the Texas Army National Guard was selected to be the 1-108th command sergeant major for the rest of the deployment. I spent a lot of time with Harris and I know that our Soldiers are in good hands.

We also found the two Kansas Airmen that are also stationed at the same camp as the 1-108th. These Airmen are supporting US Air Force combat operations. They were very surprised to see Maj. Gen. Bunting and their command sergeant major. As it rained the whole time we were there, the Airmen's work area next to the flight line was flooded. They continued to support the mission as if being ankle deep in water was normal. I give a big command sergeant major HOOAH to these hard working young Airmen!

Also stationed there were Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery that are attached to the 1st Battalion, 167th Cavalry Squadron, Nebraska Army

National Guard. These Soldiers provide convoy escort and other security operations. In south central Iraq we have more 1-161st FA Soldiers stationed at an FOB as part of the Minnesota Army National Guard Combat Brigade. These 1-161st FA Soldiers are also providing convoy and other security operations. While visiting the 1-161st FA Soldiers Maj. Gen. Bunting and I found out that their tours had been extended by 125 days. This extension is due to the troop surge announced by President George Bush. Although not happy with the extension, our Soldiers took it in stride, are still proud to be part of the mission and want to finish the job. The Soldiers were more worried about their families' reaction back home than they were of any inconvenience to themselves. What an honor it is to serve with these outstanding Soldiers.

The 36th CAB UH-60 air taxi service took us to see the 1-161st FA Soldiers at

their FOB and then on to visit the Soldiers of the 130th Field Artillery Brigade. The 130th FA oversees security for the Multi National Forces Iraq in the Baghdad area. They are the Command and Control for several hundred Soldiers providing area security. The 130th FA Brigade is a joint headquarters mostly made up of senior staff NCO's and officers.

In all the areas that we visited you come away impressed by the jointness of the operations. Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen assigned to the same units and working as one team.

Kansas Soldiers and Airmen are a *huge* part of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. I wish that the people of Kansas – and all of the American people – could see what a great job our Soldiers and Airmen are doing in very difficult and dangerous conditions. I know that they would be as proud of them as I am.

Air Guard assists with storm relief efforts in Western Kansas

By Maj. DeAnn Barr

Twenty four Airmen from the Kansas Air National Guard, Wichita, deployed on New Year's Eve with only a few hours notice to assist residents of Western Kansas recover from the massive power outages that covered the region following an ice and snow storm.

Lt. Col. Curtis Coln, commander of the 134th Air Control Squadron, 184th Air Refueling Wing, led the group of volunteers as they convoyed across the state at dusk, as requested by the governor earlier that day.

The Airmen were fulfilling their state Military Assistance to Civil Authorities (MACA) mission in providing relief within Kansas borders. An estimated 20,000 people were without power on Dec. 31.

"Lives were saved by our members' quick response this New Year's Eve," said 184th Wing Commander Col. Randy Roebuck. "The Kansas Air National Guard's 134 ACS immediately went into action and traversed icy roads at night to ensure that shelters in Western Kansas had the electricity they needed. Providing that kind of life-saving service to our state, as well as our nation, is what being a Guardsman is all about."

As the 134th convoy of five-ton multi-purpose trucks traveled farther into Western Kansas on New Year's Eve, the road conditions deteriorated.

"From Wichita to Wakeeney the roads were not bad. After that, everything was a solid sheet of ice," said Coln. "Interstate 70 was terrible and side roads were even worse. There were several overturned cars

off the side of the road."

One group of the convoy witnessed a Sport Utility Vehicle overturn in front of them and stopped to help until emergency relief arrived nearly an hour later.

"As we came upon the accident at midnight, three young adults from Indiana were crawling out of their overturned vehicle. None of the passengers were traveling with coats or emergency gear," said Master Sgt. Tom Gattis. "We called the authorities and immediately provided first aid for cuts and directed traffic for about an hour before emergency services arrived. We also dressed them in our arctic gear and sheltered them in our trucks until help arrived. We joked that this would be a New Year's Eve we would never forget."

The mission was to provide seven generators, the unit's entire inventory, and to deliver 200 cots from the Red Cross in Wichita to various shelters in Western Kansas. When the convoy arrived in the wee hours of New Year's Day, they went straight to work setting up generators in the communities that needed power.

"The first generator was on line at 4:30 a.m. on New Year's Day and we were finished hooking all of them up by 11 a.m.," said Coln. "The only delay was getting electricians to hook the generators to the water and sewer pumps. The first two days most of my people only had about two hours of sleep."

Derby resident Chief "Butch" Connor received his call to deploy while picking up party trays at a grocery store for a family gathering planned later that day. Less

184th Airmen participate in mass vaccination exercise

By Maj. DeAnn Barr,

The Sedgwick County Health Department conducted a Mass Vaccination Drive-Thru Clinic Exercise Saturday, Nov. 4, at the Kansas Coliseum Pavilion in Wichita.

Eighty troops from the 184th Air Refueling Wing, Kansas Air National Guard, were asked to participate in the exercise, along with other community volunteers, to help simulate a mass response.

"The Pandemic Flu Mass Immunization Exercise is one aspect of an ongoing cooperative planning effort involving a wide array of Sedgwick County agencies and local professionals," said Col. Michael Foster, 184th Support Group commander. "Our troops are participating in the exercise to test the county's ability to potentially immunize thousands of its citizens in the event of a pandemic flu outbreak. The wing's personnel are acting as patients in a drive through clinic scenario. One of our

duties as Kansas Guardsman is to provide community assistance when called upon by state or national authorities. This is a great opportunity for our local Guardsmen to work hand-in-hand with our community officials and help conduct this very important exercise."

The Mass Vaccination Exercise helped test Sedgwick County's mass vaccination procedures that will be implemented in the case of an emergency or event such as a pandemic influenza, providing that a vaccination is available. Oranges were inoculated with saline to simulate the injection.

"We know that it is always a good idea to be prepared in case of an emergency, either man-made or natural," said Sedgwick County Commission Chairman Ben Sciortino. "It is very important that we test our procedures to get the needed help to our citizens, should such an incident occur."



Master Sgt. Susan Ballard receives a simulated injected from Tech. Sgt. Barbara King, two of the 80 volunteer Guardsmen from the 184th Air Refueling Wing who participated in the mass vaccination simulation run by Sedgwick County on Nov. 4 in an effort to test the County's disaster preparedness system. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Joan Holup)



Senior Master Sgt. Bill Angstadt and Tech. Sgt. Keith Woodrome from the 134th Air Control Squadron, 184th Air Refueling Wing, operate a power generator in Utica, Kan. This generator is providing power to a water pump station that supplies water to Utica and surrounding communities. (Photo by Capt. Debbie Balentine)

than an hour later he was on base with his bags packed, assembling the volunteers. As chief of the 134th Air Control Squadron, he and Coln formulated the deployment plan.

"It was an excellent opportunity for the 134th to show the core competencies of volunteerism," said Connor. "All of us that went on the trip were volunteers. I've been doing this for a long time, but it was reassuring to see the spirit of volunteerism in the younger generation. Knowing we would

have a positive impact on those folks out there was a real motivator as well."

Half of the troops returned to base after a few days of setting up equipment and the other half will remain for the duration to maintain and move the generators from site to site.

"With these generators, we have been providing power to water pump stations, so the town could have running water for household use again, and water pressure for fire protection and for flushing the sewers."

184th wins maintenance award

By Maj. DeAnn Barr

The 184th Air Refueling Wing's Maintenance Group has been awarded the 2005 Air National Guard Maintenance Effectiveness Award in the category of Medium Aircraft Maintenance.

This is the third time in the past seven years the unit has received this honor.

"This is an award each and every one of you has earned over time," said Maintenance Group Commander Col. Leonard "Chip" Mattingly, while addressing the group during the presentation ceremony. "I'm very proud of everyone's efforts. This reminds us of what we do as

Flying Jayhawks."

The Group, which maintains KC-135 aircraft, distinguished itself by accomplishing superior aircraft maintenance from October 2004 through September 2005. During fiscal year 2005, the 184th Wing maintained a 78.7 percent Mission Capable Rate, and a 31.06 Utilization Rate, which were well above the ANG standards of 74 percent and 23.9 percent respectively.

The group also supported three major deployments, numerous individual deployments, and hurricane relief, providing 887 sorties for 3,092 flying hours and off-loading 1,957,040 gallons of fuel.

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