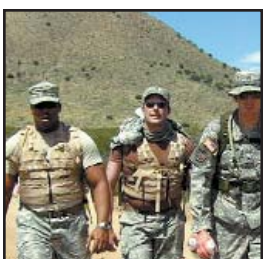




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PLAINS GUARDIAN

VOLUME 50 NO. 4 *Serving the Kansas Army and Air National Guard, Kansas Emergency Management, Kansas Homeland Security and Civil Air Patrol* APRIL 2007

Rose confirmed as first female general in Kansas Guard

By Stephen D. Larson
A vote in the Kansas Senate in March went down as an historic moment for the state as Col. Deborah S. Rose was confirmed as the first woman to become a general officer in the Kansas National Guard. On Tuesday, March 20, the Kansas Senate voted to confirm Rose for selection as brigadier general in the Kansas Air National Guard.
“Colonel Rose’s professionalism and commitment to duty are models for all Kansas Guardsmen,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general. “She has made a tremendous impact on the Kansas National Guard during her many years of service and she’ll be key to guiding the Guard in the future.”
Rose was promoted in April and assumed the position of director of the Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas, Kansas National Guard. She had served as vice commander

of the 190th Air Refueling Wing at Forbes Field in Topeka since April 2004.
“I am greatly honored to have this opportunity and I look forward to working closely with Gen. Bunting and the Joint Forces Headquarters staff,” said Rose.
Rose also made history in April 2002 when she was the first woman to be promoted to colonel in the Kansas National Guard.
Rose acknowledges that being recognized as a “first” is something she will enjoy, to a degree.
“I will relish the recognition,” she said, “as recognition for all women in the military, but that’s not what I am going to focus on.”
“Being the first is an important thing,” Rose said, “but it’s really more about the second, the third and fourth, those that will come after me. That’s the legacy I

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Col. Deborah Rose, vice commander of the 190th Air Refueling Wing, Kansas National Guard, stands at attention with Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, as the orders are read in the Kansas Senate chamber, presided over by Kansas Senate President Steve Morris, naming her a brigadier general in the Kansas National Guard. Rose is the first woman in the Kansas National Guard to achieve that rank. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)

Flora receives command of Kansas Air National Guard

By Sharon Watson
Brig. Gen. Edward Flora received command of the Kansas Air National Guard during a change of command ceremony held Sunday, March 4 at the Kansas National Guard Headquarters in Topeka. Brig. Gen. Edward McIlhenny, who served as the commander since 2003, is scheduled to retire in April.
“A commander counts himself fortunate when one fine officer replaces another,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general. “General McIlhenny has served the Kansas National Guard with distinction and I wish him well in his retirement.”
“General Flora has served us superbly as chief of staff of the Joint Forces Air Component and brings tremendous experience to this command,” Bunting continued. “I am pleased to have a strong leader and excellent airman in this position.”

“I am honored to serve in this command and I look forward to this tremendous opportunity,” said Flora.
Flora, a native of rural Newton, is a graduate of Berean Academy High School, Elbing, Kan., and Wichita State University. He earned a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College in June 1998.
Flora received his commission in the U.S. Navy through Aviation Officer Candidate School in May 1980, and upon completion of flight training was designated a Naval Aviator. He was assigned to the initial cadre for the F/A-18 Hornet and completed three deployments to the western Pacific aboard USS Constellation with Strike Fighter Squadron 25. He graduated from the U.S. Navy Fighter Weapons School, (TOPGUN), in 1986.

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Brig. Gen. Edward Flora (center) receives the command flag of the Kansas Air National Guard from Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, during a change of command ceremony with Bunting and Brig. Gen. Ed McIlhenny (right), the outgoing commander, on March 4. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alan Pickert)

Kansas Guardsman laid to rest with military honors

By 1st Sgt. Carl Mar, 105th MPAD
Funeral services for Kansas Guard Soldier Sgt. 1st Class David Russell Berry were held Saturday, March 3, at the Westside Freewill Baptist Church in Wichita. He was laid to rest afterwards with full military honors at the Eden Cemetery in Milton, Kan.
Berry, 37, was killed in action in Iraq, Feb. 22, when his humvee was struck by an improvised explosive device while responding to an attack by insurgents. He was a member of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas National Guard, Pratt, Kan., which had deployed to Iraq in March 2006 to conduct force protection. Eight other Kansas Soldiers from the same unit were injured during the same attack.



Sgt. 1st Class David R. Berry

Berry, a staff sergeant, was posthumously promoted to sergeant first class.
In addition to family members, hundreds of friends and mourners attended his services, including Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and The Adjutant General of Kansas, Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting. Also honoring Berry that day were more than 200 members of the Patriot Guard who lined the driveway and held flags in front of the church.
In February 2005, he was awarded the Soldier’s Medal, which is the highest peacetime honor that a Soldier can receive.
Berry was serving on active duty at Fort Leavenworth during Operation Enduring Freedom. While at home on leave he came upon a single vehicle accident in Kingman County. The driver had lost control of the vehicle and crashed off the highway and the vehicle was on

fire. At great personal risk, Berry pulled the driver from the burning vehicle, saving his life. Maj. Gen. Bunting presented Berry with this medal while at his pre-mobilization station at Camp Shelby, Miss., prior to his deployment to Iraq.
Berry’s military career spanned more than 16 years. It began when he joined the Kansas Army National Guard in April 1986, enlisting with Detachment 1, Battery C, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, at Kingman, Kan., as an ammunition team chief. He graduated in 1987 from Advanced Individual Training as a Heavy Anti-armor Weapons Infantryman at Fort Benning, Ga. In 1997, he completed the Primary Leadership Development Course at Camp Ashland,

(Continued on Page 2)

Kansas Guardsman laid to rest with military honors

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Neb. In 2001, Berry completed his Basic Non-Commissioned Officer course for Field Artillery. In 2003, he completed the Multiple Launch Rocket System Crewmember course.

Berry's other awards include the Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Kansas National Guard Meritorious Service Ribbon, Kansas National Guard Commendation Ribbon, Kansas National Guard Emergency Duty Service Ribbon and the Kansas National Guard Service Medal.

In civilian life, Berry was a lead supervisor for Farrar Corporation, a metals foundry located in Norwich, Kan.

"All the Farrar employees are closely knit," said Farrar Corporation Human Resources Manager Deborah Durr, who hired him in 1989. "Everyone knew David and many of his best friends came from work. They'd hunt and fish together, go on family outings together."

"When a friend of his wife called to let us know what had happened to him, we were stunned. We all cried," she said.

"He was a skinny kid when he first came to work with us," she recalled. "He was quiet, but he was also easy-going and dependable. No one thought then that he was a Soldier or even that he could be one.

"He really, truly is a hero. He was that as our friend, a person who we respected and admired. He gave all of himself to his friends and we trusted him for his support. It's hard to say it right, but he died a hero as he lived his life."

Tina Braden

But I guess the foundry work helped." "He had to do a lot of heavy lifting back then which was part of his job," Durr continued. "Over the years he bulked up, he grew stronger. He got strong enough, I think, to become the best type of Soldier – one who's willing to make the greatest sacrifice for everyone else."

Among many of Berry's close friends remembering him at a church dinner after the interment was fellow employee Carl Hurd. Their friendship began about six years ago when Hurd hired on at Farrar and Berry was made his supervisor.

"We became good friends," he said. "While David had many friends, he didn't make friends with everybody. You had to be lucky with him on that and if you were, then you had a good friend for life. You could always count on him to be there to help, to do things, to talk. You could talk



Sgt. 1st Class David R. Berry's Kansas Army National Guard career is displayed in this collection of his military memorabilia and personal photographs. (Photo by 1st Sgt. Carl Mar, 105th MPAD)

with him about anything and you knew he was really listening. Yea, we would even talk about subjects I couldn't bring up with my wife."

What Hurd remembers best about Berry was his smile.

"If you ask anybody here they'll tell you about David's crooked smile," Hurd said. "It was part of this look he'd make when you ask him about anything or when you catch him playing a joke on you. He had a way of smoothing over every situation with that look."

On the question of how he felt that day, Hurd answered that he didn't regret the loss of his friend. "It's really the other way around. I'm happy for him, because I think he died while doing exactly what he wanted to do and I'm proud of him for it," he said.

The day before Berry was killed, 12-year-old Kylie Braden had chatted with him through the internet. For her, his death was heart-wrenching. Her parents, Barry and Tina Braden, were longtime friends with the Berry family. Both fathers had attended Cowley County Junior College in the '80s and worked with each other at Farrar. Not long after Berry arrived in Iraq and had set up his computer, Kylie began communicating with him on an almost

daily basis. "Kylie is still shaken by David's death," said Barry Braden. "You know when adults get together, the kids just want to get out of the room? Kylie didn't. She always waited with anticipation for David's arrival. He was like an uncle to her. He always brought her something to eat or play with. They'd kid around and always have a good time. She knows she's going to miss that. We do, too."

The two families enjoyed many activities together, and the two fathers often hunted together which was a passion for Berry. But a common bond between all the family members was a love of Nebraska football. "There's no reason why," said Barry Braden. "We just decided one day we wanted the Cornhuskers to win."

From that moment on, the families met to watch the games on television and traveled to witness the actual games if they were held within driving distance.

"It's not just a cliché to describe David as a hero," said Tina Braden. "He really, truly is a hero. He was that as our friend, a person who we respected and admired. He gave all of himself to his friends and we trusted him for his support. It's hard to say it right, but he died a hero as he lived his life."



Sgt. 1st Class David R. Berry was laid to rest in Eden Cemetery, March 3, at Milton, Kan. (Photo by 1st Sgt. Cal Mar)



Members of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, prepare to fold the American flag as part of the military honors conveyed at Sgt. 1st Class David R. Berry's funeral, March 3, at Eden Cemetery in Milton, Kan. (Photo by 1st Sgt. Carl Mar)



Over 200 members of the Patriot Guard supported Sgt. 1st Class David R. Berry's funeral with a display of flags and patriotism. (Photo by 1st Sgt. Carl Mar)

Brig. Gen. Ed McIlhenny retires from Kansas Air National Guard

By Maj. DeAnn Barr

Hundreds of people traveled to McConnell Air Force Base on April 15 to honor Brig. Gen. Ed “Dusty” McIlhenny with a final farewell ceremony, following his official retirement the day before in Topeka.

McIlhenny, commander of the Kansas Air National Guard, had been a “Flying Jayhawk” since May 1981 and held many levels of command here. He left the unit in 2001 to serve as chief of staff at Kansas Air National Guard headquarters in Topeka.

“I could write a book about my military career, but instead will depart with a simple ‘thank you’ to all of you,” said McIlhenny, “you the people, the life of the Kansas Air National Guard, men and women with whom I have had the honor and privilege of serving. For 26 years I have seen your integrity, sacrifice, and excellence up close. I have witnessed your bravery, compassion, intelligence, professionalism and pride. I entrusted my life to you every time that I flew and you never failed me.”

McIlhenny began his military career at the United States Air Force Academy. During his time there, he distinguished himself as a four-year letterman in lacrosse, earning honors as Most Valuable Player and Team Captain. He completed his Bachelor of Science in Engineering Sciences in 1974 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant upon graduation. He entered undergraduate pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

As a military pilot, he graduated second

in his F-4 Replacement Training Unit class at Homestead AFB, Fla., flew F4s at Moody AFB, Ga., and Keflavick Naval Air Station, Iceland, where he intercepted 22 Soviet TU-95 “Bear” bombers. In Iceland, he was a member of the 57th Fighter Interceptor Squadron 1978 William Tell Competition Team.

Following this assignment, he performed duty as a forward air controller at Shaw AFB, S.C. After six years of active duty, he accepted a full-time assignment as an instructor pilot at McConnell and joined the Kansas Air National Guard in 1981. With the acceptance of a pilot position for American Airlines in 1984, he transitioned to a “traditional” guardsman role and continued as an instructor pilot as the unit transitioned from F-4s to F-16 A and C models and the B-1B.

During his 26 years of service in the KSANG, McIlhenny acted as a flight scheduler, academic instructor, and flight examiner, as well as holding various levels of command. As the commander of the largest Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron in the Air National Guard, he led the reorganization of the unit to an Aircraft Generation Squadron. From 1997 to 1999, he served as vice commander of the 184th Bomb Wing and assumed command in February 1999. Subsequently, he was selected as the chief of staff for the KSANG and promoted to brigadier general. He is a graduate of the Air Command and Staff College, completed in 1983, the Air War College, completed in 1996, and the generals’ Capstone course, completed in



Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, presents Brig. Gen. McIlhenny the Distinguished Service Medal. McIlhenny has more than 33 years of military service. (Photo by Tech Sgt. Alan Pickert)

Army launches Wounded Warrior, Family hotline

WASHINGTON (Armed Forces Press Service) – In March, Army officials launched a new hotline to help wounded warriors and their family members to get information or assistance with medical or other issues.

The “Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline,” 1-800-984-8523, also will help Army leaders improve services to wounded Soldiers and their families, officials said.

“We have designed this call center to be able to collectively hear what the Soldiers say about their health care issues, so as issues are raised, we can identify systemic faults or problematic areas and senior leaders can better allocate resources,” said Maj. Gen. Sean J. Byrne, commander of U.S. Army Human Resources Command.

“It’s all about serving our wounded and injured Soldiers and their families,” he added. “If we can find a way to improve our system, we will. It’s that simple.”

In a statement, Army officials acknowledged that many Soldiers wounded in the global war on terror and their families are “enduring hardships in navigating through our medical care system.”

“The Army is committed to providing outstanding medical care for the men and women who have volunteered to serve this great nation,” officials said in the statement.

Care of wounded Soldiers has been in the spotlight since a February series of articles in the Washington Post revealed shortcomings in outpatient care at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, here. Since then, the hospital’s commander was relieved, Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey resigned, and the service’s surgeon general submitted his retirement request over the issue.

“Recent events made it clear the Army needs to revise how it meets the needs of our wounded and injured Soldiers and their families,” Army officials said in a statement. “In certain cases, the Soldiers’ chain of command could have done a better job in helping to resolve medically related issues.”

Officials stressed that the hotline is not intended to circumvent the chain of command, but is “another step in the direction of improvement.”

“Wounded and injured Soldiers and their (Continued on Page 8)

Wal-Mart gives \$15,000 to help Guard family support initiatives

By Sharon Watson

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. gave a \$15,000 donation to the Kansas National Guard Foundation on March 20 to show support for the Guard and provide assistance to family support initiatives the Guard provides to Kansas Soldiers.

Barbara Bunting, who serves on the board of the Kansas National Guard Foundation, accepted the check on behalf of the organization following a luncheon in Topeka. Several Wal-Mart executives were on hand for the event.

“Our Kansas National Guard members are called upon to protect their country and this great state, and with each deployment their family must adjust, so we are extremely grateful for the donation Wal-Mart is providing to help support the many Guard families who sacrifice along with their Soldier,” Bunting said.

“It is a privilege to be able to assist the Kansas National Guard with their efforts to help each Guard member and Guard family

as well as efforts to make Kansans more aware of what the National Guard does for its community,” said Kelvin Lynch, regional vice president of operations for Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., based in Bentonville, Ark.

Kansas legislators attending the presentation included Sen. Dennis Wilson, Sen. Les Donovan and Rep. Vincent Wetta.

Funds donated to the Kansas National Guard Foundation, Inc. provide financial support for programs aimed at helping Guard members, their families and their communities in dealing with various aspects of military deployments. These include camps for children of Guard members, community meetings and trainings for family members trying to deal with issues arising from Soldier deployments as well as transitioning through the return home.

The foundation also supports programs that educate the public about the roles and accomplishments of the Guard and their families and the benefits of the Guard in communities.



Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting and his wife, Barbara, display a check for \$15,000 donated to the Kansas National Guard Foundation by Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. Barbara Bunting serves on the board of the foundation. (Photo by Sharon Watson)

Joint Forces Medical Center opens



Kansas Area Medical Detachment’s outgoing commander Col. Daryl J. Callahan, incoming commander Col. Avon C. Coffman and Kansas Army National Guard commander Brig. Gen. Jonathan Small prepare to cut the ribbon for the opening of the new Smokey Hill Joint Forces Medical Center at the Kansas Regional Training Institute. (Photo by Lt. Col. Toni Truelove)

At home and abroad, the Kansas Guard is on the job

By Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting

In the past few weeks, we’ve had many things to celebrate, but the loss of a Kansas National Guard Soldier in February weighs heavy on my heart. Staff Sgt. David Berry of Wichita made the ultimate sacrifice as he fought for our freedoms. In the same explosion that claimed Berry’s life, eight other Guardsmen were wounded. Five of them are still recovering from their injuries after a day that forever changed their lives. Each one is progressing and someday we’ll hear the amazing stories of these heroes of battle. I am and will forever be grateful for the commitment and sacrifice I see in them and all of our Guard men and woman and am so proud to serve with each and every one of you.

I recently had the wonderful opportunity to visit some of our Airmen on the U.S.-Mexico border. It was an inspiring experience and a great example of the various



Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting

jobs our Guard is called to perform. The 190th Civil Engineering Squadron was wrapping up their tour of duty while I was there. Their work constructing the border fence in Arizona is impressive. They are the third Kansas Guard unit to deploy for Operation Jump Start.

Despite talk of reducing the presence of U.S. troops in Iraq, I don’t expect to see a reduction in the number of National Guard units being called upon for the mission. In fact, we recently announced more deployments to Iraq with the 35th Military Police unit in Topeka leaving this summer. And when you consider that the 35th Infantry Division in Leavenworth is heading to Kosovo this summer, a land where war has been over for years, it’s very likely Guard units will be going to Iraq and Afghanistan for many more years, as well. Our Guard is being called upon more than ever, but our Soldiers and Airmen are very well trained and ready for whatever they are asked to do.

Speaking of training, this month I was honored to have Governor Kathleen Sebelius join me for a major announcement regarding a proposal for five regional training centers in the state. If the legislature approves the plan, we believe it will make us the first state in the nation to have

centers where all first responders, including National Guardsmen, can train together in each region of the state. It reduces travel time, increases actual time in training and provides realistic hands-on training opportunities. In addition, the training centers would mean Guardsmen get more pre-mobilization training at home, resulting in more time with family. The hub of the center would be in Salina, with other sites to be determined. The benefits of the centers are numerous, not just for emergency responders and National Guard, but for the regions, and the entire state.

A few congratulations are in order for Air Guard staff. First, I’m so very proud to have Deborah Rose as the first female brigadier general in the Kansas National Guard. Rose has served the 190th well as Vice Commander and now moves to Joint Forces Headquarters as director. Also, congratulations to Brig. Gen. Edward Flora, as he steps into the role of commander of the Kansas Air Guard. And finally, I want to wish a happy birthday to the 190th Air Refueling Wing for 50 wonderful years of service. Great work!

It’s evident the hard work of the Guard is not going unnoticed. In the past few weeks, the Kansas National Guard Foundation has been the recipient of a lot of giving. A

donation from Wal-Mart of \$15,000 and from the Kansas Lottery of \$8,800 were both wonderful surprises. The funds will go to help families of the deployed. And the Kansas Speedway has graciously provided tickets to Guardsmen and their families again this year. We so appreciate these gifts which show just how grateful the community is for the sacrifices you make.

We have been looking at ways to improve our Plains Guardian publication to ensure you have all the information you want and need regarding our organization and your colleagues in the Guard. We want the Plains Guardian to be interesting, entertaining and informative, and just to be sure we’re on the right track, we’d like you to give us your feedback. Please go to www.plainsguardian.org and fill out the short survey. Thank you!

Finally, a sincere “thank you” and “well done” to Brig. Gen. Ed McIlhenny for his 33 years of service to our state and nation. Everyone who serves should set as a goal to leave the organization better for their service and Brig. Gen. McIlhenny has certainly made the Kansas National Guard better. I know we will continue to see him in the years ahead as a Patriot Guard rider and a strong voice for us in the community.

Warrior ethos, teamwork are keys to battlefield success

By Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Moberly
Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Moberly recently returned from deployment with the 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has served in the Kansas Army National Guard for 23 years and is currently assigned as the command sergeant major of 69th Troop Command.

I firmly believe that for our country to win this war and defeat terrorism, we have to be successful with our mission in Iraq. We must win the fight in Iraq or we will have to win the fight on our own soil.

The 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry provided an important contribution during a critical time of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Like our forefathers, the men of the 137th Infantry performed with honor and exceeded all expectations. They all endured being away from their families, friends, state and country for over a year and all missed important events in their lives. The average citizen will never know the level of commitment and sacrifice, but that is the gift given to them by the Soldiers of “First Kansas” through each Soldier’s personal sacrifices, sweat, tears and blood.

For the first time since World War II, the men of the 137th deployed to combat under the Regimental colors and, like World War II, have performed their duty in a struggle for our nation’s very survival. Because of the Soldiers of the 137th, and our brothers and sisters standing shoulder to shoulder with us, our home will continue to be the land of the free where suicide bombers, rockets, mortars, snipers, ambushes, oppression, murder, corruption and terrorism are as foreign as Iraq to average Americans, especially our children and grandchildren, and will never become the norm.

The current generation of Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry had the honor of writing the latest chapter in the proud history of the Regiment, the oldest unit in the KSARNG, tracing its lineage to the 20th Kansas Volunteer Infantry and before that the 1st Kansas Volunteer Infantry. Their predecessors performed with valor during the Civil War, Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection, Mexican Border Campaign, World War I, World War II, Vietnam, and Operation Enduring Freedom.

And now, the men of the 2nd Battalion 137th Infantry have continued the tradition and earned their generation’s combat streamer for Operation Iraqi Freedom. It



Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Moberly and a young Iraqi friend.

wasn’t without pain or loss, but the mission was completed with a spirit, motivation, and talent as infantryman, warriors, and Soldiers that will forever amaze and inspire me.

No matter the difficulties, the officers, noncommissioned officers and Soldiers of the “First Kansas” found a way to not only succeed, but to exceed all standards. The strength and quality of our NCO and Officer Corps and Soldiers validated what we already knew to be true.

Across the board, the teams, squads, platoons, and companies of the 2-137th performed at a level that is above and beyond. No single element worked harder, performed better, or had it any tougher than any other element within the battalion.

To see them sweat under nearly 100 pounds of equipment while working in temperatures approaching 140 degrees day after day without relief was inspiring. I was always impressed with the professionalism and ability of our Soldiers. Over 300 Soldiers earned their combat badges and multiple awards for achievement and valor were earned, as well as 11 Purple Hearts.

My lessons learned are too numerous to list in this article. The bottom line is that a unit’s success starts and ends with quality Soldiers with the best leadership, and the battalion was privileged to have Col. Jim Trafton. His experience and abilities as an infantryman and leader are second to none and he lead by example, never asking a Soldier to perform any task that

he hadn’t done or wouldn’t do himself. He held his leaders accountable and trusted them to complete their mission and as a result, leaders throughout the battalion from fire team and squad leaders through company first sergeants and commanders and the battalion staff were the best and strongest I’ve ever had the opportunity to work with.

The main keys to success on the battlefield in my opinion revolve around the warrior ethos and teamwork. Regardless of your military job, it was stressed that all were warriors first and that the strength of the brotherhood was the rock that would get us through the mission successfully. Soldiers that have the confidence in themselves and their brothers to stack up and clear a building without second thought or dismount and search and clear IEDs while their brother provides overwatch – never considering that the Soldier behind the .50 cal machine gun is a cook, mechanic or grunt – can accomplish anything and the training and leadership. The Soldiers themselves proved this day in and day out. How do you get there? Training, training, and more training that never stops.

Our leaders, from the youngest corporal to the battalion commander all took advantage of everyone’s experience, regardless of rank and incorporated the unique experiences in our drills and training making us even stronger. You know a unit is squared away when you see young sergeants take their Soldiers aside and rehearse and drill

and train without being told to do so, even though they’re all exhausted and have to go back on mission with little break.

And now we have a full battalion of combat experienced Soldiers – experience that is invaluable and can’t be learned in school or the classroom and we have even more Soldiers picking up the latest trends and lessons learned while serving as Title 10 Warrior Trainers at mobilization sites. Always remember that young staff sergeant you see may not have completed all his noncommissioned officer training, but he’s got two months of combat experience as a platoon leader or platoon sergeant, successfully leading combat patrols. Take advantage of their skills and experience and those of our other veterans and you’ll set your unit up for success.

In closing, I am thankful for and honored to serve with the Soldiers of “First Kansas.” I will always remember my time with this Battalion with fondness, indescribable pride, and pain – pain that I failed to bring everybody home. On behalf of a grateful state and nation, I thank the Soldiers of “First Kansas” for your sacrifice. You are a minority, you have volunteered to go into harm’s way to serve our country and our fellow citizens have no idea how truly fortunate they are that men like you exist. And to the families of my Soldiers – thank you for your extreme sacrifice and willingly suffering through over a year of difficult days so that your men could complete their mission with destiny.

PLAINS GUARDIAN

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35th Division, others units alerted for deployments

By Sharon Watson

Approximately 200 Soldiers of the 35th Division, headquartered at Fort Leavenworth, will deploy to Kosovo later this year to become the headquarters unit for Task Force Falcon, a multinational peace-keeping force. The 35th Division includes Soldiers from Kansas, Missouri and Illinois.

When the 35th Division Soldiers mobilize in July 2007, they will go to Camp Atterbury, Ind., for additional training before deploying to Kosovo for their year-long mission in the fall of 2007.

“The Soldiers of the 35th Division served admirably as peacekeepers in Bosnia and Herzegovina back in 2003,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general. “Domestically, they served as the headquarters down in Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina, where they managed more than 15,000 Soldiers and airmen from a number of National Guard units. These Soldiers are capable, enthusiastic and dedicated to their mission of preserving freedom at home and abroad. I know they’ll take on this latest mission with that same degree of professionalism.”

Once in Kosovo, the 35th Division will become part of the Balkans Nine peace-keeping mission. The task force will include approximately 1,500 Soldiers from the U.S. Army active component, Army National Guard and Army Reserve.

For its last deployment in 2003, the 35th Division was awarded the Army Superior

Unit Award. Training for the Operation Enduring Freedom mission began in 2002 with approximately 1,500 Soldiers from 23 states. The division assumed authority in Bosnia on March 23, 2003. Coinciding with NATO force reductions, the division entered the Bosnian mission as a Multi-National Brigade consisting of 1,500 U.S. Soldiers and another 1,700 soldiers from NATO and other nations participating in the Bosnian peacekeeping mission. These included battalion size units from Russia, Turkey, Spain and Poland, and a tank company from Denmark. They completed a successful tour of duty in September 2003.

Iraq Deployments in 2008

The 35th Military Police Company, in Topeka is now alerted for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit will leave within the next few months to begin training at Fort Dix before arriving in Iraq. They will take approximately 170 Soldiers, their entire company, with them. Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 635th Armor will complete filling any positions that might remain.

Two other Kansas National Guard Units are on alert for a potential deployment to Iraq. Additional information will be released on the units and their deployment dates once military orders are received. Currently, approximately 850 Kansas National Guard Soldiers are serving in Iraq. There are no Kansas Guard units in Kosovo at this time.

Infantry battalion honored

On March 10, 2007, during the Third Annual Golden Gloves Boxing Tournament being held at the 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry Armory in Kansas City, Kan., the Honorable Joe Reardon, Wyandotte County Mayor and CEO, presented 1st Lt. Scott Allen, rear detachment commander, with a proclamation from the county stating that March 10 was officially “Kansas Army National Guard Day!”

Reardon presented Allen with the official proclamation at the start of the event, just after the posting of the colors and the

singing of the National Anthem. Over 300 people attended the tournament and viewed around 20 bouts. After accepting the proclamation, Allen thanked him and the audience for all that they did to recognize the unit’s sacrifices they made and had made during the past deployment. He also stated that they should know why Soldiers do the job that they do; for them, their family and friends, the people of the community. The audience responded with a standing ovation and cheered as they left the ring.

Adjutant General policy requires vehicle registration

Current Adjutant General’s Department policy dictates that all persons who regularly enter the Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas complex in Topeka must register their vehicles and receive a window sticker. There is currently no vehicle registration requirement for Guardsmen and other persons who work at or regularly go to any other armory in Kansas.

However, Guardsmen who work at or regularly report to one of the active duty posts (Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth) may register their vehicles through Joint Forces Headquarters to obtain a window decal allowing them access to that post.

All vehicles operated by any person serving in, employed, retired military, eligible dependants of deceased military personnel or contracted (more than one year) by all military services of the Department of Defense, and the State of Kansas will be required to register the vehicle within 14 calendar days (seven calendar days for motorcycles) after assignment; commencement of work, business or acquisition of a motor vehicle. Personnel possessing a current DoD vehicle registration decal from another installation are not authorized to re-register the same vehicle.

Contractors/Subcontractors/Vendors that have a valid contract exceeding 12

months in duration will be eligible to receive a Joint Forces Headquarters Registered Vehicle decal with the contractor (black) identifying sticker. Completion of JFHQ Form 2231, JFHQ Vehicle Registration Request is required.

A JFHQ Registered Vehicle decal with the contractor (black) identifying sticker, will be issued for contractor owned/commercially marked vehicles used to perform on-post services or travel to and from contractor work sites on the installation. A copy of the contract/vending agreement must be provided with the registration application.

Both the JFHQ decal and expiration stickers will be removed from the vehicle(s) and returned to the Vehicle Registration office at the end of the contract period. The JFHQ DoD decal will be returned with a completed JFHQ Form 2230. The JFHQ Temporary Vehicle Pass will automatically be invalid on the predetermined expiration date.

For complete registration requirements, contact the vehicle registration office located in room 106, Nickell Armory Topeka. Authorized personnel may register their vehicle Monday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The phone number is (785) 274-1588.

Mohatt takes command



The new commander of the 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry Maj. Anthony Mohatt shakes hands with Col. Victor Braden, 69th Troop commander, as outgoing commander Col. James Trafton observes. (Photo by Kelly Glasscock. Used by permission of the Wichita Eagle)

Battalion inactivation solemnly closes chapter in Guard history

By Lt. Col. Toni Truelove

Sunday, Jan. 28, was a sad day for many former and current members of the Kansas Army National Guard. They watched as the unit colors of the 1st Battalion, 127th Field Artillery were cased as part of the unit’s inactivation, representing the final chapter in the proud history of the unit.

The ceremony began with representatives of the battalion being called to attention, the presentation of command and honors, and the arrival of the reviewing party. The audience was then invited to stand and participate in the singing of the national anthem.

Retired Lt. Col. Michael McCauley, honorary colonel, 127th Field Artillery Regiment, was invited to make his remarks. “Today is a day of great memories and proud hearts,” said McCauley. “The 127th was an outstanding regiment.”

He spoke of the fact that this day was not about the equipment of the unit, but about the people.

“Today is about pride in the Soldiers,” he said. “Today is about the real heart and soul of the regiment. Today is also about family sacrifice.”

Col. Victor Braden, 69th Troop Command commander, spoke next. As he discussed the Soldiers of the battalion, he quoted Maj. Noel Grubb, acting battalion commander from his speech upon deployment by saying “if your life was a book, would anyone want to read it?”

Braden recognized the experience and knowledge of the people present and spoke

of the finality of the inactivation. “We are closing a chapter in the book of the Kansas Army National Guard.”

Tears were shed during the ceremony by both men and women alike. The proud history of the battalion was evident by camaraderie of the audience. Master Sgt. Greg Gilroy, the master of ceremonies for the event, spent 36 years in the battalion. Attendees included retired Chief Warrant Officer Ewing Fritz and retired Master Sgt. Bob Stevanus, who spent 42 years and 39 years, respectively, with the battalion.

One of the newest members, Pfc. Chris Gordon, was with the battalion for just over a year when the inactivation order came through. He wanted to join the 127th because he was told “nobody knows the field artillery like the 1/127th knows field artillery.” Others agreed with him.

The battalion, headquartered in Ottawa, with units in Burlington, Garnett, Holton, Lawrence, Lenexa, Paola, Salina and Topeka is transitioning to other units within the state. The battalion was organized Oct. 1, 1940, as the 127th Field Artillery and assigned to the 35th Division for service in Europe during World War II. It was reorganized and federally recognized May 24, 1948.

The audience clapped and cheered when the final command of “dismissed” was given to the Soldiers in formation. These Soldiers did not clap and cheer. They solemnly took a step backwards and quietly left the formation. The 66 year legacy of the 1-127th had ended.



The battalion colors of the 1st battalion, 127th Field Artillery are cased for the last time as the unit was inactivated on Jan. 28. (Photo by Lt. Col. Toni Truelove)

Team Shocker Embedded Training Team departs for Afghanistan

By Sgt. Gilbert Gonzales

A departure ceremony was held Thursday, April 5, to honor members of Team Shocker, a team of Kansas National Guard members being activated in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Attendees included Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general; Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Piarson, commander of the 35th Infantry Division; Brig. Gen. Jonathan Small, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard; Brig. Gen. Stewart Reeve, assistant division commander of the 35th Infantry Division; and Col. Victor Braden, commander of the 69th Troop Command, along with Congresswoman Nancy Boyda and other Kansas officials.

The drill floor at the Topeka South Armory (Armed Forces Reserve Center) was filled with family members and dignitaries from other organizations, as well. Some of the representatives there included members of the State Family Readiness Group and the Patriot Guard. In his opening remarks, Bunting addressed the families, offering them gratitude for their sacrifices.

“We can’t do what we do without your support,” said Bunting.

The armory is home to several Army National Guard as well as a Marine Reserve unit. Some of the elements housed at the AFRC consist of the 35th Military Police, 130th Brigade and the 108th Aviation Regiment. Both the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation and 130th Field Artillery Brigade are currently deployed in support

of Operation Iraqi Freedom. “It’s appropriate that this event is held in this armory...an armory that also has Marines,” continued Bunting. Afghanistan is one of the most joint operations taking place at this time. Elements of each branch of America’s defense forces can be found there, as well as defense forces from many other countries. Throughout Operation Enduring Freedom on the bases and even the remote areas of operation of Afghanistan no one element occupies any space alone. The team will encounter harsh environments, as well.

“It is a tough place but the people there deserve to live free,” said Bunting. In March, Boyda, along with four other members of Congress, visited troops deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. She spoke of some of her experiences during that trip and the positive morale of the troops. She also talked of the high regard that Commanding Officers in the field held for Kansas troops, recalling a colonel’s comment to her.

“He said, ‘Your Soldier’s are great!’” recalled Boyda. Boyda also expressed gratitude for the sacrifices that each of the families will be making in sending their loved ones off to active duty in such a harsh environment. Boyda explained that she understands the difficulties that a family will endure during this time and that the National Guard, Family Support Groups as well as her office offer their assistance.



Members of the Team Shocker Embedded Training Team listen as Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting addresses them during a deployment ceremony on April 5. The team will deploy to Afghanistan to train members of the Afghanistan National Army. (Photo by Jane Welch)

“Please call on all of us and consider my office as part of that team,” said Boyda. In his closing words, Bunting quoted to Team Shocker, the words on the World War II monument in Washington D.C.: “Americans came to liberate, not to conquer, to restore liberty and end tyranny...” “That’s what we did in World War II and that’s what we are doing today,” said

Bunting. Team Shocker will depart for Afghanistan from their mobilization station of Fort Riley to join Coalition Joint Task Force Phoenix. The task force is comprised of Guard units from 20 states and seven countries. It is designed to assist the Afghanistan National Army in tasks ranging from recruiting to combat operations.

Soldiers meeting Iraqi needs through Operation Ruby Slippers

As part of Operation Ruby Slippers, a humanitarian aid mission of supplies from Kansas to Iraq, members of the 130th Field Artillery Brigade, delivered goods to a much-in-need area next to Camp Victory. Operation Ruby Slippers was an opportunity for families, friends, neighbors and work associates to collect and see the hearts of Kansans reach across to the hearts of the Iraqi people.

“Our families and friends wanted to do so much to support the Soldiers deployed and since we have seen such a great outpouring of support, we asked them to offer their support to the people of Iraq with whom the American Soldier has developed such close relationships in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom,” said Lt. Col. Kirk Pederson, civil affairs officer for the brigade.

Operation Ruby Slippers collected more than 4,000 lbs. of supplies and had tremen-

dous support from WIBW 580 radio, Studdard Moving Storage and Charles Campbell, father of Lt. Col. John H Campbell, brigade training officer. Medical supplies were shipped ahead of the remaining school supplies, clothes and other miscellaneous items.

Sgt. Carol Sprawka, designed the Ruby Slipper logo. “I was so moved by the sincerity of the two men that we met. Their heart pours out for the sacrifice we as Soldiers and our families have made being separated,” said Sprawka. In addition to Operation Ruby Slippers, 130th Field Artillery Brigade has Operation Every Child Gets Ahead, which is refurbishing or expanding all the schools in their Area of Responsibility and Operation Capital Plaza, building three new markets in their area.



Sgt. Carol Sprawka (center), Spc. Voneen Hale (right) and Sgt. 1st Class John Hoban (background) deliver medical supplies, clothing and other donated items to officials of an Iraqi village. The goods were donated by families, friends, neighbors and co-workers of members of the 130th Field Artillery Brigade, currently deployed to Iraq. (Photo by Lt. Col. Kirk Pederson)

Training gives Soldiers realistic exposure to combat medicine

By Staff Sgt. Brent Waterhouse, UPAR Paintball guns and urban training area make for a realistic combat training environment for students of the Combat Medic Advanced Skills training conducted at the 235th Regiment, Kansas Regional Training Institute on April 4-8, in Salina, Kan.

Given the number of deployments and the care under fire the medics are placed under, the instructors wanted to make this class as realistic as possible. “We have the medical supplies and training areas, all we were lacking was a way to make a realistic combat environment,” said Staff Sgt. Brent Waterhouse.

The students were trained in advanced medical skills such as chest needle decompression, emergency surgical cricothyrotomy, and tactical combat casualty care. “The difference in combat medicine and civilian medicine is that, in the civilian community, an ambulance can arrive to start transporting you to the hospital in less than 25 minutes,” said Waterhouse. “In

combat, the combat medic may be the only person keeping you alive for hours.” Coordination was made by Master Sgt. Sinclair from Recruiting Command to use the paintball guns used for Recruit Sustainment Program training. Lt. Col. Tim Senecaut, executive officer for the 235th Regiment, assisted the coordination with Smoky Hill Weapons Range near Salina. The Air National Guard allowed KSRTI to utilize the Urban Village for its training. The Air Guard personnel also volunteered their own time and brought their children out to assist by acting as Iraqi children. This allowed the course to simulate combat casualties, but also presented the students with civilians on the battlefield and allowed them to role play humanitarian law scenarios. Students of this course were from all over the United States and the feedback was very positive. One student wrote that, “In all my years in the military I have never experienced training as realistic as this.”



Spc. Tami Weitzel, Nebraska National Guard, conducts patient assessment on Staff Sgt. James Lunn, U.S. Army Reserve, during realistic Combat Medic training. (Photo by Spc. Kimberly Graytok)

Family Readiness Groups take care of the home front

By Maj. Rex Johnson, UPAR

Whether deployed or taking part in a regularly scheduled drill weekend or two-week annual training, National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are concerned about the effect their military commitment has on their families. When a Guardsman commits time to the military, very often the family is left to manage the day-to-day functions of running a household.

However, there are many resources available through the National Guard to help Soldiers and their families when Soldiers are absent from home. A Family Readiness Group is one resource available to families through a Soldier’s unit. The mission of a Family Readiness Group is to assist a spouse, children, and other family members. The FRG provides referrals, assistance or social networking that a family may need during a long-term deployment or when a Soldier is attending a drill weekend or a two-week annual training period.

According to Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, 35th Infantry Division Commanding General, the FRG is one of his top command emphases.

“There is absolutely, in my opinion, nothing more important than taking care of the Soldier and their family,” said Pierson during his opening remarks to the Soldiers, spouses, and family members present at the Division’s FRG meeting April 14.

“To me this is paramount,” said Pierson. “It is one of my top priorities...it affects the welfare of a Soldier.”

Many Soldiers may feel that the FRG only plans activities, said Tonya VanSickle, the Kansas National Guard State Family Program Director, but the FRG offers so much more to the Soldier and the family.



Tonya VanSickle, State Family Program director. (Photo by Maj. Rex Johnson, UPAR)

“The Family Readiness Group is really the eyes and ears of what is going on in a military unit,” said VanSickle.

VanSickle adds that even though unit parties are important for morale, there are other services offered by an FRG such as training on issues like financial counseling for a Soldier’s spouse who may be managing the household finances for the first time when a Soldier is deployed.

According to the Family Readiness 101 guide published by the Kansas National Guard, the FRG has several functions. These include, but are not limited to:

arranging for family member identification cards, establishing a phone tree that is used as a way to pass on critical information, publishing a family newsletter, providing training in various areas of family readiness, planning events for children of Guard members, coordinating a health fair for family members, and establishing a family assistance program.

All of these functions become critical while a Soldier is deployed. During deployments for example, a Soldier’s dependents need an identification card to access military privileges, like medical services.

Elizabeth Sutton, whose husband Ronald is a Soldier in the 35th Division, is the Division’s FRG leader. She has been through two deployments.

“A lot of folks [Soldiers and family members] don’t know what happens when the Soldier goes on active duty,” said Sutton. “They do not know what all [benefits] they are entitled.”

Sutton adds that the FRG can help with socialization and learning. The FRG can schedule presentations from subject matter experts to help spouses learn about active military benefits, balancing their checkbook, managing financial matters, and even parenting.

In addition to information about benefits, the FRG provides the social network to support a family while the Soldier is away.

“During deployment time, the spouse is going to know who to contact [when they need help],” said VanSickle.

VanSickle shared a story about a young wife whose husband was a deployed Guardsman. She heard running water under her house and did not know what to

do about it. She emailed her husband who was deployed but he did not receive the message until 12 hours later.

Had the wife known to call the FRG leader, the FRG leader could have provided a name and number of someone to contact for immediate assistance.

Pierson recalled a situation where a Soldier and his family had recently moved. Before the family settled in was able to get to know their neighbors, the Soldier was deployed. Because of the FRG, the wife had someone to call and reach out to for assistance if she needed it.

“Just having someone you can trust, that you know is not going to take advantage of you, but take care of you is a comfort. That is what the FRG is for,” said Pierson.

Sutton added that it is important for the Soldiers to know that their families are taken care of so that they can focus on the mission at hand and not worry about the welfare of their families back home.

“It makes my husband feel better that I am being taken care of while he is away,” said Sutton. “It makes him feel safe.”

Pierson agreed, saying that leaders cannot expect Soldiers to perform their mission well if they are concerned about issues that their family members may be facing alone at home.

Debra Garbee, whose husband Brian also serves in the 35th Division, is involved with the Division’s FRG and was the co-leader in 2004-2005. Garbee said that involvement in the group helps spouses meet each other and to learn about their spouses role in the military and the Division.

“When the unit deployed to Bosnia [I could] speak with people who were going through the same thing. We also sent care

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Families stock coffee bar for Soldiers deployed in Iraq

By Jane Welch

“Leave it better than you found it.” It is a simple saying really and one that a lot of people use. But this is a phrase that the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation (1-108th Aviation), Kansas National Guard, has taken to heart.

The unit was deployed to Iraq in October 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as part of the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade headquartered out of Austin, Texas, Texas National Guard. When the brigade arrived in Iraq they had one more battalion than the brigade they replaced. So the 1-108th Aviation was forced to build their area from scratch. Soldiers were quickly identified who were carpenters, electricians and jack-of-all trades. They started with building their office spaces and then moved on to building walkways and overhangs to provide a little relief during the rainy season and the

unbearable heat that would follow. As part of the improvements the unit constructed a small coffee bar. The only problem they faced was they had a coffee bar, but no coffee.

That is where the families of the Soldiers and District #53 State Representative Ann Mah stepped in. Representative Mah has a connection with the Soldiers of the 1-108th Aviation. She and Command Sgt. Maj. Glenn Peterson are neighbors. Representative Mah has kept in contact with Peterson during his deployment to Iraq. When she heard about how the unit had constructed a coffee bar, but had no supplies to stock it with she went to work. She put out an e-mail to all of the residents in her district asking them to donate items for the coffee bar. She provided collection points throughout her district and held town hall meetings where items were also collected. The response to

her request was overwhelming. On Saturday, April 14, approximately 40 family members, friends and colleagues of the Soldiers of the 1-108th Aviation gathered at the South Armory in Topeka to package the donated items.

At a family readiness group meeting held prior to the packing, the family members got to talk to Lt. Col. Alan Soldan, commander of the 1-108th Aviation, via telephone conference. He expressed how

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Soldiers will get a boot out of country artist’s present

By Jane Welch

Music is woven into the fabric of our lives. We can remember important moments in our life by what songs were playing on the radio, our first date, high school graduation, our wedding, the birth of a child and the list goes on and on. The types of music to listen to are end-

less and it seems that everyone has their own likes and dislikes.

For Brenda Peterson, wife of Command Sgt. Maj. Glenn Peterson, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation, she never really cared for country and western music. That is until she heard the Toby Keith

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Janet Kristinat, wife of Sgt. Jim Kristinat, explains the process for packaging the items to be sent to the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation, as family members and Representative Ann Mah (far right) listen. (Photo by Jane Welch)



Country music artist Toby Keith signed this boot, which will be put in a shadowbox and sent to the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation, Kansas National Guard, for their newly finished coffee bar. (Photo by Jane Welch)

Embedded Training Team returns from Afghanistan

By Staff Sgt. James M. Grosdidier

Sixteen Kansas Soldiers were honored Feb. 25, in a ceremony at Tice Hall, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., for their service while deployed in Afghanistan. The Soldiers, who made up Team Kansas, had spent the previous year working with and training Afghans as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, the ongoing Global War on Terrorism.

Team Kansas initially deployed to Camp Shelby, Miss., where they trained to become part of an Embedded Training Team. When they arrived in Afghanistan, the team was broken up and sent wherever they were needed. Most were assigned to work with the Afghan National Army as mentors. Others were tasked to work with other Afghan entities, such as the Afghan National Auxiliary Police or with American units who needed the skills they brought in-country with them.

About half of the teams that go to Afghanistan are used this way, according to Lt. Col. Mike Slusher, Topeka, who was the team leader during training. When they get to Task Force Phoenix headquarters in Kabul, their biographies are evaluated and they are sent where their skills can be best used. When Slusher, a Vietnam veteran, was asked where he wanted to go, he told them to send him to the worst place they had. He spent most of his tour working with different Afghan National Army brigades in the Helmand province southwest of Kabul, who were engaged in fighting the Taliban and eradicating the poppies that are grown and exported to make heroin.

Slusher, who is assigned to the 35th Division, Fort Leavenworth, was impressed with the motivation and enthusiasm of the Afghan National Army. “The soldiers I worked with were very brave—they would willingly charge uphill under fire when attacked. Their tactics were weak, but that was our job, to take these hard-charging soldiers and make them more effective,” Slusher said.

While Slusher may have asked to be sent to “the worst place” they had, his experiences were not unique for Team Kansas. Team members were assigned to units that had to deal on a regular basis with suicide bombers, improvised explosive devices, rocket attacks and ambushes.

They were awarded five Combat Infantryman’s Badges, two Combat Medic Badges and four Combat Action Badges for their service in Afghanistan. Team Kansas members were also awarded five Meritorious Service Medals.

Not all their hardships were combat related. Sgt. Douglas Plummer, Eudora, was assigned to mentor an Afghan National Army transport company. While in-country he participated in more than 60 convoys and traveled more than 5,800 miles over rough mountain roads and through virtually trackless deserts. One of his convoys was attacked by an IED while there. Plummer said that while the chance of ambush was always there, there was at least as great a danger from road conditions and other drivers.

Most of the members of Team Kansas have positive memories of Afghanistan and their work with the Afghan people. They bring home memories that will last a lifetime. One team member, Staff Sgt. John Cunningham, Fort Leavenworth, will be putting those experiences to good use. Cunningham will be spending the next year at Fort Riley participating in the Warrior Training Program. Cunningham, a bronze star recipient, will use the experiences he gained with the Afghan army to train members of future ETTs.

“It is important that the skills I learned get passed on to the next Soldiers going to Afghanistan,” said Cunningham. “The better job we do in training the Soldiers who will be training the Afghanistan soldiers, the less likely it will be that we will need to send U.S. Soldiers there to perform jobs that they can do themselves.”



Members of a Kansas National Guard Embedded Training Team receive awards and decorations earned while serving in Afghanistan during a special ceremony at Fort Leavenworth on Feb. 25. Members of the team earned five Combat Infantryman’s Badges, two Combat Medic Badges four Combat Action Badges and five Meritorious Service Medals (Photo by Capt. Rachel Sullivan)

Wounded Warrior hotline

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families expect and deserve the very best care and leadership from America’s Army,” officials said. “The Army’s intent is to ensure wounded and injured Soldiers and their families that they receive the best medical care possible. The Army chain of command will ensure every Soldier is assisted in navigating the military health

care system.

The Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline can be reached from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday at 1-800-984-8523. As additional personnel are trained to receive calls and refer them to the proper organization or agency for resolution, the hotline hours of operation will expand to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Adjutant General visits Airmen deployed for Operation Jump Start

By Sharon Watson

Forty Kansas Air National Guard Airmen from the 190th Air Refueling Wing learned just how hot it can be to work in Arizona in early April, especially when the job involves lifting panels of a steel fence and welding them together for Operation Jump Start, the federal mission designed to strengthen security on the U.S.-Mexico border.

But just as the Guard members’ work there started to wind down, their spirits were lifted by a visit from Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the Kansas adjutant general. Bunting, joined by staff from Joint Forces Headquarters and the 190th Air Refueling Wing Headquarters, traveled to Yuma, April 10, to encourage the troops and let them know the strong support they have back in Kansas.

“It’s really the highlight of my job, to get out and see our people in action,” Bunting told an Associated Press reporter accompanying him on the trip. “People have their own opinion about whether we should put a fence along the border, but

“It’s really the highlight of my job, to get out and see our people in action.”
Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting,
The Adjutant General

it’s the task we’ve been given and our guys and gals want to do it right.”

Bunting had planned to visit the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery unit in January 2007, but flight arrangements fell through the week before the Soldiers were to return. The 130th Field Artillery assisted with monitoring the border and reporting activities to border agents and local law enforcement. In July 2006, the 184th Civil Engineering Squadron, based out of Wichita’s McConnell Air Force Base, worked on constructing the border fence.

The 190th Civil Engineering Squadron is the third Kansas National Guard unit to do a border mission since Operation Jump
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Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting (right) helps move metal panels to be used on the wall being constructed on the U.S. Mexico border. Bunting was visiting Airmen of the 190th Civil Engineering Squadron, who were working on the wall as part of Operation Jump Start, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security program to secure our nation’s borders. (Photo by Sharon Watson)

Families stock coffee bar

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excited the Soldiers were about receiving the supplies for the coffee bar.

“Our Soldiers have worked very hard improving our area. In addition to our combat flying duties we were required to build facilities suitable for an Assault Helicopter Battalion,” said Soldan. “This intense task has proven to be a motivator and a huge source of pride for our Soldiers. The coffee bar offers our Soldiers the opportunity to relax and enjoy themselves after a long hard mission day.”

After the meeting concluded everyone went downstairs to the drill floor where the assembly line for the packages had been set up. In addition to the family members, a couple of special guests, Representative Ann Mah and Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, were there to pitch in on the assembly line.

“This is a way we can give them a little taste of home to remind them that the people back in Kansas care about them and want them to come home safely,” said Mah.

“The simplest items are the most meaningful to our Soldiers,” said Bunting. “Now when they are sitting there drinking their cup of coffee it will be one more reminder of home.”

The volunteers quickly lined up, received the instructions and set to work. They not only packed items for the coffee bar such

as coffee, tea, creamer, cups and napkins, but also personal care items such as shaving cream, razors, combs and deodorant. There were even books, games, letter writing supplies and crossword puzzles.

When the last item had been tucked away in a box, the grand total for the morning’s work was 105 packages. The boxes, packaged with love from home and sent to Kansas National Guard Soldiers, will provide them a little bit of home in Iraq.

“Our total family from Kansas has lifted the spirits of our Soldiers,” said Peterson. “And every time our Soldiers sit down to enjoy a good cup of coffee, they will know that Kansans cared enough to take the time by sending a little bit of home to them and showing us their support of our mission in Iraq.”

“I am very thankful to Major General Tod Bunting, Senator Anthony Hensley, Representative Ann Mah and the family readiness group for their hard work getting the coffee to us,” said Soldan. “They have my lifelong thanks.”

So for the next five months the Soldiers will be able to enjoy the fruits of the labor with a little help from family and friends.

And when the unit returns home from Iraq later this year they can be proud that those who follow them into Iraq will find that the 1-108th Aviation left their area in Iraq “better than they found it.”

Kansas Lottery donates \$8,800 to help Kansas Guard families

By Sharon Watson

On April 4, the Kansas Lottery gave an \$8,860.20 donation to the Kansas National Guard Foundation to help support Guard families, especially when their loved one is deployed.

Barbara Bunting, who serves on the board of the Kansas National Guard Foundation, accepted the check on behalf of the organization on the east steps of the State Capitol.

“As Guard members leave home to protect their homeland, their family is left to adjust, and now thanks to the Kansas Lottery, additional support will be available to these families who are also making a tremendous sacrifice,” Bunting said.

“We are pleased to be able to contribute to such a worthy cause, and we want to honor the men and women and their families who are making such tremendous sacrifices by taking this step today,” said Kansas Lottery Executive Director Ed Van Petten.

The Kansas Lottery donation is made possible through the organization’s

Veterans Benefit games, which are sold May 1-Nov. 30. Profits from those games go directly to Kansas veterans programs. The vendor who licenses some of the Veterans Benefit tickets, Oberthur Technologies, generously donated a portion of its fees to the State of Kansas to benefit Kansas veterans.

Funds donated to the Kansas National Guard Foundation, Inc. provide financial support for programs aimed at helping Guard members, their families and their communities in dealing with various aspects of military deployments. These include camps for children of Guard members, community meetings and trainings for family members trying to deal with issues arising from Soldier deployments as well as transitioning through the return home.

The foundation also supports programs that educate the public about the roles and accomplishments of the Guard and their families and the benefits of the Guard in communities.



Barbara Bunting, board member of the Kansas National Guard Foundation, Inc., accepts a check from the Kansas Lottery on behalf of the foundation. (Photo provided)

Singer Toby Keith signs boots

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song “American Soldier” and instantly became a fan.

This song held a great deal of meaning to her and it helped mark an important moment in her life – her husband’s deployment to Iraq.

Fast forward a couple of months and Brenda got a surprise compliment of her son-in-law, Ray Hall. Ray is a DJ for a radio station in North Carolina. He was attending an event in Nashville, Tenn., where he had an opportunity to interview Toby Keith. He told Toby about Brenda

and what a fan she was and how her husband was deployed to Iraq. Toby told him to get her on the phone.

“I picked up the phone and heard someone say ‘Brenda, this is Toby Keith,’ ” said Brenda. “He talked to me about Glenn’s deployment and how he had been to Iraq several times and was planning on going back there in May and would be in the area where the 1-108th AVN is stationed. He also told me to tell Glenn thanks for his service.”

A few months earlier Ray and his wife Lindsey went to a Toby Keith concert in

Counterdrug Support Team helps take down drug dealers

By Sharon Watson

At 6 a.m. on a cold, winter day in Northeast Kansas, the Kansas National Guard Counterdrug Support Team gathered with nearly 80 law enforcement officers and knew they were on the verge of seeing months of work pay off. After weeks of planning, they were ready to see several drug dealers taken off the city streets.

Police officers, deputies and representatives from numerous federal and state agencies pulled into an undisclosed location in the dark, emerging from their cars fully-armed and wearing bullet-proof vests. They listen to a briefing detailing the eight locations to enter and the potential suspects they will face. Some of the suspects have a violent criminal history and federal warrants; many have women and children with them.

But law enforcement has an advantage today. The Kansas National Guard Counterdrug Support Team has logged hours of observation work at several structures in the area over the past six months and has provided information that shows these suspects have drug connections that go into another state; later warrants will be served there.

“This has involved months of painstaking observation work by our teams,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Romans, Counterdrug Non-commissioned Officer in Charge. “We provide information to law

enforcement, such as car tags, illegal activities and all that goes on at a location.”

Many months before law enforcement arrived at the site today, 14 members of the Counterdrug Team has been monitoring these two locations providing information to law enforcement about who is present, activity at the location and any information indicating what officers should expect.

“When we started this, most of our missions were rural,” Romans noted. “That has changed. Now most of our missions are urban. At first it was primarily marijuana, then methamphetamine busts, now its crack cocaine and heroin, too.”

“We do this at no cost to the (law enforcement) agencies,” Romans added. “If they can spare an officer, they will sometimes send them with us, but some rural counties can’t afford to have someone away on observation for several weeks.”

As the law enforcement briefing concludes, the teams begin to move out toward the designated locations to begin the arrests. As they head out, a Counterdrug Team is on the perimeter of the suspect’s location monitoring current activity and providing real time information to officers in route.

“We’re their eyes and ears forward on the ground,” Romans explained. “These Soldiers and Airmen come from all over the state and have extensive backgrounds

(Continued on Page 21)

Bunting named to committee

By Stephen D. Larson

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius announced Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the Kansas adjutant general, has been appointed to the Air Force Reserve Policy Committee. The appointment was made by Michael W. Wynne, secretary of the U.S. Air Force. The two year appointment became effective April 1.

The committee reviews and comments upon major policy matters directly affecting the reserve components and the mobilization preparedness of the Air Force, and provides its input to the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for General Bunting, as well as our entire state, as it will allow Kansas to have input on policy affecting our airmen and women and their families,” said Sebelius. “This appointment reflects General Bunting’s experience and his dedication to the men and women of the Guard.”

The 15-member Air Force Reserve Committee consists of officers in the grade of colonel or above from the U.S. Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve.

Sebelius appointed Bunting as the Kansas adjutant general in January 2004.

Virginia and had Toby sign a combat boot which they then sent to Brenda. The phone call and the boot gave Brenda an idea to surprise the Soldiers in the 1-108th AVN.

On Saturday, April 14, family members of the Soldiers gathered to pack care packages for the Soldiers. An e-mail went out to everyone telling them to bring their cowboy hats because a special picture would be taken that day and everyone would receive their explanation when they got there.

As everyone gathered Brenda unrolled a sign that she had made that said “We love the 1-108th and Toby Keith.” She told everyone the story of how she had talked to Toby on the phone and that he would

soon be visiting Iraq. Her idea was to surprise the Soldiers in the unit with a shadowbox to be hung in their newly constructed coffee bar. The shadowbox will contain one of the boots that Toby signed and the picture of all of the family and friends with their cowboy hats.

Brenda’s hope is that when Toby gets to Iraq, if he gets a chance to visit with the Soldiers of the 1-108th AVN, they can show him the coffee bar and the special present sent from Kansas. She hopes this gesture will mean as much to Toby as his song “American Soldier” has meant to her and all of the other spouses of the Soldiers of the 1-108th AVN.



Family and friends of the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation, Kansas National Guard, wearing their cowboy hats took this photo to send to members of the unit and Toby Keith. (Photo by Jane Welch)

Army aviation units always looking for good candidates

By Staff Sgt. Ken Dedrick, UPAR

Envision yourself flying a UH-60 Black Hawk at tree top level, in a multi-ship formation, wearing night vision goggles. The Kansas Army National Guard is looking for aviators. See if you have the “right stuff” to become a member of this elite corps of pilots.

Lt. Col. David Leger, State Army Aviation Officer, outlined the requirements to become an Army National Guard pilot.

“The common misconception throughout the Guard is that a candidate would need to be in an aviation unit or have an aviation Military Occupational Specialty (MOS). This is not the case,” said Leger.

“A successful candidate needs to be highly motivated, be an American citizen and a high school graduate, Leger continued. “The candidate must also have a GT score of 110 or higher, pass a Class 1 flight physical, pass the aviation flight aptitude standardization test and be under the age of 32 at the beginning of flight school.”

Leger emphasized again that the Soldier does not need to be in an aviation unit and can be in any MOS at the time of application, but will need their commander to sponsor them.

After being accepted on these merits, enlisted applicants attend the Warrant

Officer Candidate Course prior to flight school. Personnel interested in becoming a commissioned officer would complete Officer Candidate School before applying for and attending flight training.

“The primary difference,” Leger said, “is that warrant officers do the bulk of the flying, while the commissioned officers take on a more traditional leadership roll.”

When asked what the benefits of becoming an Army pilot are, Leger responded, “You get to fly. You are qualified as a rotary wing pilot, a skill you can use in the civilian market, in addition to the military. In order to log the hours to maintain your flight status, a Guard pilot will have to devote extra time each month in addition to normal drill time. Also, the Army gives incentive pay ranging from \$125 to \$840 a month.”

To maintain flight status, an Army National Guard pilot is required to have 96 hours of flight time a year, the same as the active component. The Guard allows flight personnel this opportunity by scheduling and paying for this extra time.

“I’ve been flying in the Guard for 20 years, Leger said. “It’s the best choice I made. If I could do anything different, it would be to follow the warrant officer route so I could fly more.”



The 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation is always on the lookout for individuals of any Military Occupational Specialty to train as UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pilots. (Photo provided)

During the time in flight school alone, said Leger, pilots will log approximately 250 flight hours on various military aircraft, after which they are a rated Army Aviator. The application process and flight school will take between 12 to 15 months to complete.

“The application process in the Guard is, of necessity, mostly Soldier-driven,” said Leger. “The applicant will need to be sure to keep in touch with the chain of command and make sure they provide the required documents in a timely manner.”

For information, contact Leger at david.leger@us.army.mil or Capt. Paul Waters at (785) 861-3994.

Singer/songwriter Chely Wright entertains Kansas troops in Iraq

By Maj. Greg Light, Public Affairs 130th Field Artillery Brigade

On Feb. 28, 2007, under the stars at Camp Victory, Iraq, singer/songwriter Chely Wright, best known for her hit songs “Single White Female” and “Shut Up and Drive,” gave a heart-warming show for the troops.

At a VIP visit prior to the show Col. Robert Windham, Task Force Tornado deputy commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Miller presented Wright with a certificate and 130th Field Artillery Brigade coin, as well as a unit patch and “Red Leg” T-shirt.

Windham had the honor of introducing her to the packed parking lot of anxious Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines. Wright interacted with the audience throughout the show, giving away two autographed and personalized guitars and even invited a Soldier to sing with her.

Wright said that performing for the troops is very special for her and some-

thing that she enjoys doing. This is her third trip to Iraq and in the last 10 years she has performed all over the world to entertain deployed troops, including performances in Japan, Korea, Kuwait and Afghanistan.

A native Kansan, Wright comes from a military family. Her grandfather earned a Purple Heart on the beaches of Normandy while serving in the Army. Her father served in the Navy during the Vietnam war and her brother, Chris, a Marine with 15 years of service, was involved in the initial invasion of Iraq in 2003.

The evening concluded with an autograph and photo session with Wright. She signed autographs for several hours, until the last Soldier was able to have his chance. When Soldiers thanked her for coming she made a point to tell them that it was her pleasure and she thanked them for their service and the sacrifices that they are making in Iraq.



Chely Wright performed a heartwarming concert for the troops of the 130th Field Artillery Brigade. (Photo by Master Sgt. Cornelia Gumulauskis)

Mobile Museum takes Guard history on the road

Approaching the 150th anniversary of the Kansas National Guard in 2005, Brig. Gen. Jonathan P. Small, chairman of the anniversary celebration, asked Guard members to find a way to engage the public in the Guard’s celebration and history. Retired Lt. Col. Doug Jacobs suggested taking the heritage of the Kansas National Guard to the citizens of Kansas via a “Mobile Museum.”

“The Mobile Museum is an educational tool to take to the people,” Jacobs said.

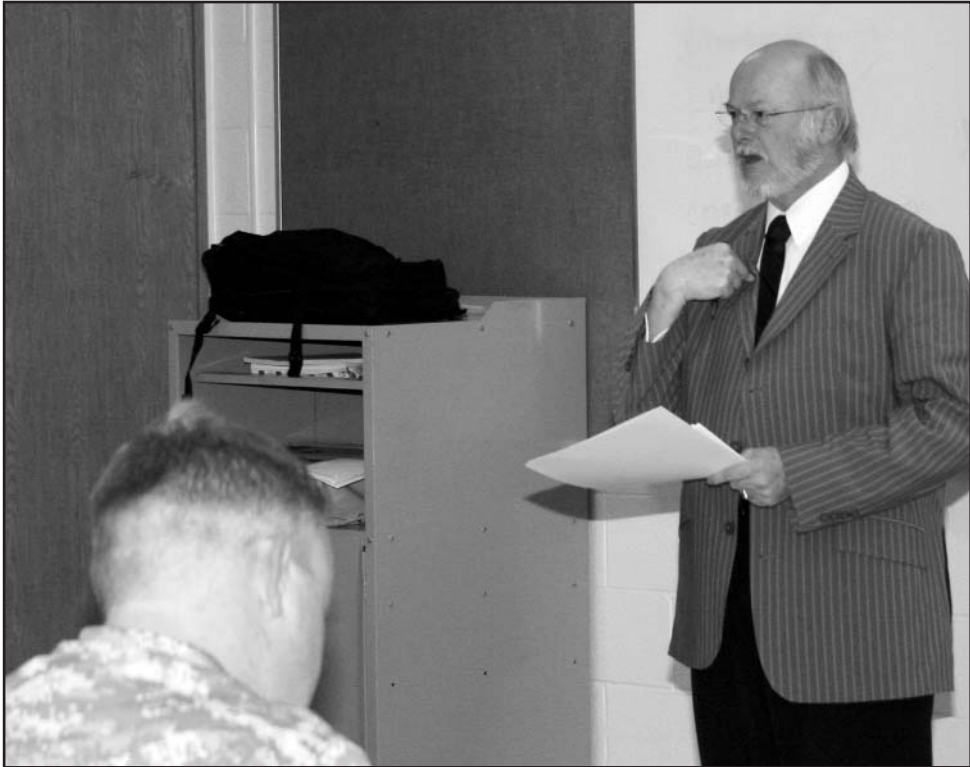
Jacobs was instrumental in developing the idea of a mobile museum to take history to the public. He donated a 26-foot trailer to use as the base. The Mobile Museum was created completely by donations. Artifacts for the museum are provided by the Museum of the Kansas National Guard. The interior displays were built by retired Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Wilson and retired Master Sgt. Greg Gilroy. Camouflage paint for the trailer was paid for by the Committee for the 150th Celebration. Maintenance is provided by the Adjutant General’s department. However, all of the manpower for the project is provided by Jacobs alone, with occasional support provided by a staff member.

“I am always grateful for assistance in any form. Volunteers are always appreciated,” Jacobs said.

In 2005, the 150th anniversary of the formation of the Kansas National Guard, Jacobs and the Mobile Museum traveled to more than 50 communities in the state of Kansas that have armories, presenting Guard history to the public. The event, the Whistle Stop Caravan, kicked off in Jacobs’s home town of Liberal, Kan., in February of that year.

Jacobs is the Command Historian for the Kansas Army National Guard in Topeka, Kan. He has been full time civilian at the

(Continued on Page 15)



Retired Lt. Col. Doug Jacobs gives an overview of the Museum of the Kansas National Guard and the Mobile Museum to Soldiers attending the Unit Public Affairs Representative Course in March. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)

Guardsmen receive Purple Heart medals from President Bush

By Stephen D. Larson

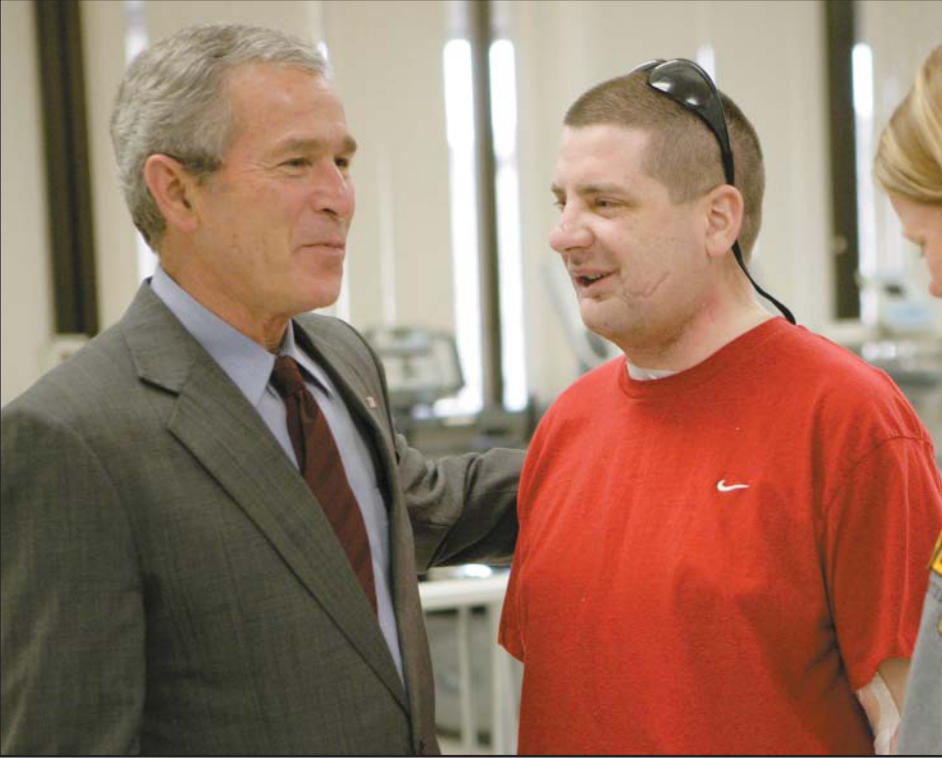
Two Kansas National Guard Soldiers received a visit from President George W. Bush on March 30 and had the honor of having their commander in chief award them Purple Heart medals for wounds received in combat.

Sgt. Bruce Dunlap, Kansas City, Mo., and Staff Sgt. Jerrod L. Hays, Wellington, were among several military service members honored by Bush during a visit to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in

Washington, D.C. Both men are members of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Paola.

“I’m very proud of these fine Kansas Soldiers who have served their country well, and I’m honored President Bush chose two troops from the Heartland to present Purple Heart medals to recently,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general.

The Soldiers were injured in separate incidents involving improvised explosive



President George W. Bush chats with Staff Sgt. Jerrod Hays at Walter Reed Army Medical Center prior to presenting the Guardsman with a Purple Heart medal. Hays was injured in an explosion in Iraq on Feb. 22 that claimed the life of Staff Sgt. David R. Berry. (Photo by Eric Draper, White House Photo Office)



President George W. Bush pins a Purple Heart medal on Sgt. Bruce Dunlap during a ceremony at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Dunlap underwent treatment at the medical center for injuries received in an explosion in Iraq on Dec. 11. (Photo by Eric Draper, White House Photo Office)

devices while serving with their unit in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Dunlap received his injuries Dec. 11, 2006. Hays was injured during an explosion that claimed the life of Staff Sgt. David R. Berry on Feb. 22, 2007.

The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration currently in use anywhere in the world and the first American award made available to enlisted Soldiers. It was created by Gen. George Washington as a

Badge of Military Merit, but was not used after the War of Independence. It was revived in 1932 on the 200th anniversary of Washington’s birth.

This combat decoration is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy or posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those killed in action or who die as a result of wounds received in action.

First female general in Kansas

Continued from Page 1
hope to leave.”

Rose said she enjoys being a mentor to others – men and women – because “you have no idea how much your words mean to others.”

Rose spoke of a casual conversation she once had with another female officer in the Kansas Air Guard, Lt. Col. Janet Hanson, who will be promoted to colonel later this year.

“I asked her if she had completed her War College yet,” Rose recalled, explaining that completion of War College is a requirement for continued promotion in rank. “She said she hadn’t yet and I said ‘Never allow an opportunity that you have in your control to pass by.’”

“I don’t really have much recollection of that conversation,” Rose continued, “but when she (Hanson) came up for promo-

tion, she told me how much those words meant to her. She said ‘I never would have signed up for War College if you hadn’t encouraged me.’”

Rose said that, for her, the first step in accomplishing any goal is to verbalize it. “I’ve always said my goal in the military was to become a brigadier general,” said Rose. “Everybody knows that because I’ve always said it.”

“There’s an Air Guard program for school children called STARBASE,” she continued. “One of the things it teaches is ‘Dreams plus Action equal Reality.’”

Rose entered military service with a direct commission into the Nurse Corps with the 184th Clinic, 184th Tactical Fighter Group in March 1983. She transferred to the 190th Clinic, 190th Air Refueling Group in December 1985. In April 1994, she was moved to a line offi-

cer position where she became the 190th Services Flight Commander, where she served until October 1996, when she became the Commander, 190th Logistics Squadron. In December 2000, she assumed command of the 190th Maintenance Squadron where she served until October 2001. In January 2002, she assumed command of the 190th Mission Support Group before becoming vice commander of the 190th Air Refueling Wing in April 2004.

Rose admits that her career “has not been without its pitfalls, not without failures.”

“But no child ever walked without falling down,” she said. “You have to fail to be able to achieve. That’s why I am not a “one failure” leader.”

Rose said that if people fail to accomplish a goal she’s set, she can be understanding if they are able to tell her why they can’t achieve it.

“I’ve written letters of counseling, letters of reprimand,” said Rose. “That’s part of

my responsibilities as a commander. I would not be doing my job if I didn’t. I believe I’m the kind of leader who can be your best friend and your worst enemy.”

Rose said that her “reputation” as being a tough leader has made some people afraid to work for her.

“Until they actually worked for me,” she smiled.

Rose said she likes to set the bar high for people, “because the higher you set the bar, the more they will achieve.”

Rose said she recently found a quote by former First Lady Rosalyn Carter, a quote she now keeps on her computer to remind her of the kind of leader she wants to be: “‘A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don’t necessarily want to go, but ought to be.’”

“My bottom line,” said Rose, “is when I leave I want people to say ‘This was a better place because she passed through it.’”



Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, pin general’s stars on Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose during a ceremony at the Kansas Senate on April 3. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)



Col. Gregg Burden, commander of the 190th Air Refueling Wing, salutes Rose, his former vice commander, during a special pinning ceremony at the Wing on April 14. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alan Pickert)

Two Kansas Guardsmen awarded Purple Heart medal

By Stephen D. Larson

When Soldiers are wounded in action, a grateful nation honors their sacrifice and devotion to duty by awarding them the Purple Heart, a military decoration created by George Washington to honor Soldiers from our War for Independence.

Staff Sgt. Ernesto V. Gonzales, Goodland, and Spc. Rodney A. Price, Gardner, both members of the Kansas National Guard’s 714th Security Force Company were awarded the Purple Heart and Combat Action Badge on Thursday, March 15 for injuries sustained while serving in Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Col. Henry Martin, commander of the 287th Sustainment Brigade, told those assembled to honor the Soldiers that Gonzales and Price are great Soldiers.

“You’re great because you were willing to put your life at risk so that we may be here today,” said Martin. “It’s people like you and not the reporter that has given us the freedom of the press. It is Soldiers like you and not the poet that has given us free-

“Everybody who’s in uniform gets up every day and works hard to earn the honor to serve with men like you.”

Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting

dom of speech.”

“It is Soldiers like you and not the campus organizers who have given us the freedom to demonstrate,” he continued. “It is Soldiers like you who salute the flag and continue to pursue the strategies to enhance our national security in this new era. It is Soldiers like you who will be known as the greatest generation. I salute you.”

“The honor today is all ours, to be here with you and it’ll be a high honor for me to put these purple hearts and combat action badges on you,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general. “Everybody who’s in uniform gets up every day and

Dodge City Soldier honored



Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, pins a Purple Heart medal on Spc. Matthew Sloan during a ceremony March 24 in Dodge City. (Photo by Michael Schweitzer, used by permission of the Dodge City Daily Globe)

By Ashley Nietfeld
Dodge City Daily Globe

“A lot of times we use the term ‘great American’ loosely,” said Lt. Col. Dave Johnson, Kansas National Guard, as he spoke to the solemn crowd outside First United Methodist Church. “But sitting here today is a truly great American.”

Spc. Matthew Sloan, 21, was honored March 24 with the Purple Heart, the oldest military decoration in the world currently in use. The Patriot Guard joined Sloan’s friends and family as Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, adjutant general for the state of Kansas, pinned the medal on Sloan.

“I’m very thankful for it,” Sloan said the day before receiving the medal. “But I’m not the only one that should deserve this. There’s other guys over there that should deserve other things, as well.”

In June 2002, Sloan, just 17 and a senior at Dodge City High School, joined the Kansas National Guard, hoping to secure his future in education and feeling a growing sense of urgency about what was going on in the world.

On Oct. 12, 2005, Sloan and the other members of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, were given orders that they would be going to Iraq.

“We actually got in the country on the second of April 2006,” said Sloan. “Words really can’t describe what it’s like over there. It’s a place full of devastation, full of disappointment.”

“When I was over there, I had this feeling of urgency to help the people that were over there. Because they really did need it.”

On July 28, 2006, the devastation that Sloan saw each day in Iraq finally reached him.

“We were on what was called route security,” he said, describing the route he and the other members of his unit took as they searched a main transport road, looking for signs of danger.

“We started about 8:00, and it wasn’t but an hour into it when a bomb went off the side of my vehicle,” said Sloan. “My hand was up because I was wiping the sweat from my eye, and right as it happened, it blew up and I caught shrapnel from the bomb and it went through my forearm, missing the bone but hitting the tissue.”

The shrapnel severed the ulnar nerve in Sloan’s arm, causing him to lose all feeling in his hand.

“There were hundreds and hundreds of people from all over that were in continuous prayer, not only for me but for our unit and for the guys that are over there still,” said Sloan. “I firmly believe that nothing else happened to me more so than it did.”

Currently, Sloan is undergoing rehabilitation, working to gain complete use of his arm once again. After rehab, the National Guard will decide whether he’s fit for duty. If doctors decide that he’s not fit for duty, Sloan will be medically discharged.

“I do want to say ‘Thank you so much for the support of the community, for the area churches and all of those in continuous prayer,’” he said. “I hope that they continue to pray for those that are still overseas because they continue to need the support of the community.”



Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, stands at attention with Staff Sgt. Ernesto V. Gonzales and Spc. Rodney A. Price, both members of the Kansas National Guard’s 714th Security Force Company, during a ceremony awarding the two Guardsmen the Purple Heart and Combat Action Badge. Gonzales and Price earned the medals while serving in Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Photo by Sgt. Gilbert Gonzales, 105th MPAD)

works hard to earn the honor to serve with men like you.”

Bunting told the men that he was supposed to be at the Kansas Statehouse testifying before a committee.

“They said ‘General, you’re on at 10:30,’” Bunting related. “I said ‘You’re going to get your feelings hurt really bad if you think I’m going to be anywhere except standing right here with you at 10:30.’”

““I’ll get there when I get there,’” he continued, saying that nothing is going to stand in the way of honoring Soldiers who have earned their awards.

“The Kansas Guard has been around 151 years,” Bunting concluded. “We’ll be around 150 more as long as we have people like you come and join to serve our

state and nation.”

Gonzales and Price were wounded on Oct. 12, 2006, during a mortar attack on Forward Operating Base MAREZ East, Mosul, Iraq. Both were treated by combat lifesavers of the 714th Security Forces and medevaced to Germany. They were later transported to Fort Gordon, Ga., for additional treatment.

Gonzales and Price have been reassigned to Kansas and are currently receiving follow-up treatment.

At the conclusion of the awards ceremony, Gonzales and Price shook hands and then an impromptu embrace, expressing the bond of brothers-in-arms who have endured the pain of combat and experienced the pride of serving their nation.

Guardsman receives Purple Heart in Atchison ceremony

By Maj. Paul Schneider, UPAR

Capt. Abraham Kyle, was awarded the Purple Heart by Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, in a ceremony held at the Atchison, Kan., Armory on Feb. 11, 2007.

Kyle was serving as an embedded trainer for the Afghanistan National Army while deployed with the Kansas Army National Guard when he was wounded in action on Aug. 8, 2006, in Ghazna, Afghanistan, during an attack on a patrol.

Kyle has been a member of the National Guard for 22 years, including an combat tour with the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery in support of Operation Iraqi

Freedom in 2004-2005.

Kyle’s awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement medal with four oak leaf clusters, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M device and Army Service Ribbon.

Kyle and his wife, Kimberly, live in Liberty, Mo., with their children David, Adam, Tyler, Ripley and Xander. Kyle is the son of the late David and Beulah Kyle, St. Joseph, Mo.



Capt. Abraham Kyle receives a Purple Heart medal from Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, in a ceremony held at the Atchison Armory on Feb. 11, 2007. (Photo provided)

190th Air Refueling Wing marks 50 years of service

By Tech. Sgt. Greg Burnetta

Neither 30 plus mph winds nor a malfunctioning bus could keep nearly 200 current and past Coyotes and their families from a reception in Hutchinson to celebrate 50 years of excellence of the 190th Air Refueling Wing.

On Feb. 23, 1957, the 117th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, which would become the 190th, held its first meeting in Hutchinson. That unit was billeted at the former Hutchinson Naval Air Station. The unit originally flew F-80 fighter aircraft before transitioning to various versions of the B-57 and then to its current airframe, the KC-135.

The events began with a luncheon that reunited past Coyotes and their families. After lunch, 80 current members returned to the former naval air station for a commemorative formation in which current Coyotes represented the unit's original members. Over the years, the unit has grown from 94 members to more than 980 current members.

During the formation, several proclamations were read by various dignitaries, each lauding the 190th's accomplishments during times of peace and war.

In addition to the current Coyotes, sev-

eral original unit members, now retired, also participated in the festivities. One former member, retired Lt. Col. Glenn Biberstein, who served 24 years as a navigator in the original unit, was there. Biberstein once had to bail out at 300 feet – a death-defying parachute jump – when his aircraft developed in-flight trouble. It was one of many stories that were told that day.

Former commanders retired Col. Mick Baier and Brig. Gen. Rufus Forrest were also in attendance. Retired Lt. Col. Bill Fry, who served as the unit's original acting commander during the first meeting, also spoke during the formation.

After a tour of the local salt mine, a social hour and dinner, Col. Gregg Burden, current commander of the 190th, cut a unit birthday cake with the help of five original 117th members.

Master Sgt. Bill Gilliland, 190th Historian, was impressed with the camaraderie.

"People like Lieutenant Colonel Bill Fry and the things that they accomplished in the early days of the unit's history are the reason that we are here today," said Gilliland. "Without their efforts, values and foresight, we would not be the very

distinguished organization we are today."

"It is only fitting we honor our heritage and these people with the kind of ceremo-

ny such as we had in Hutchinson. They, and all who followed through the years, are what make us what we are today."



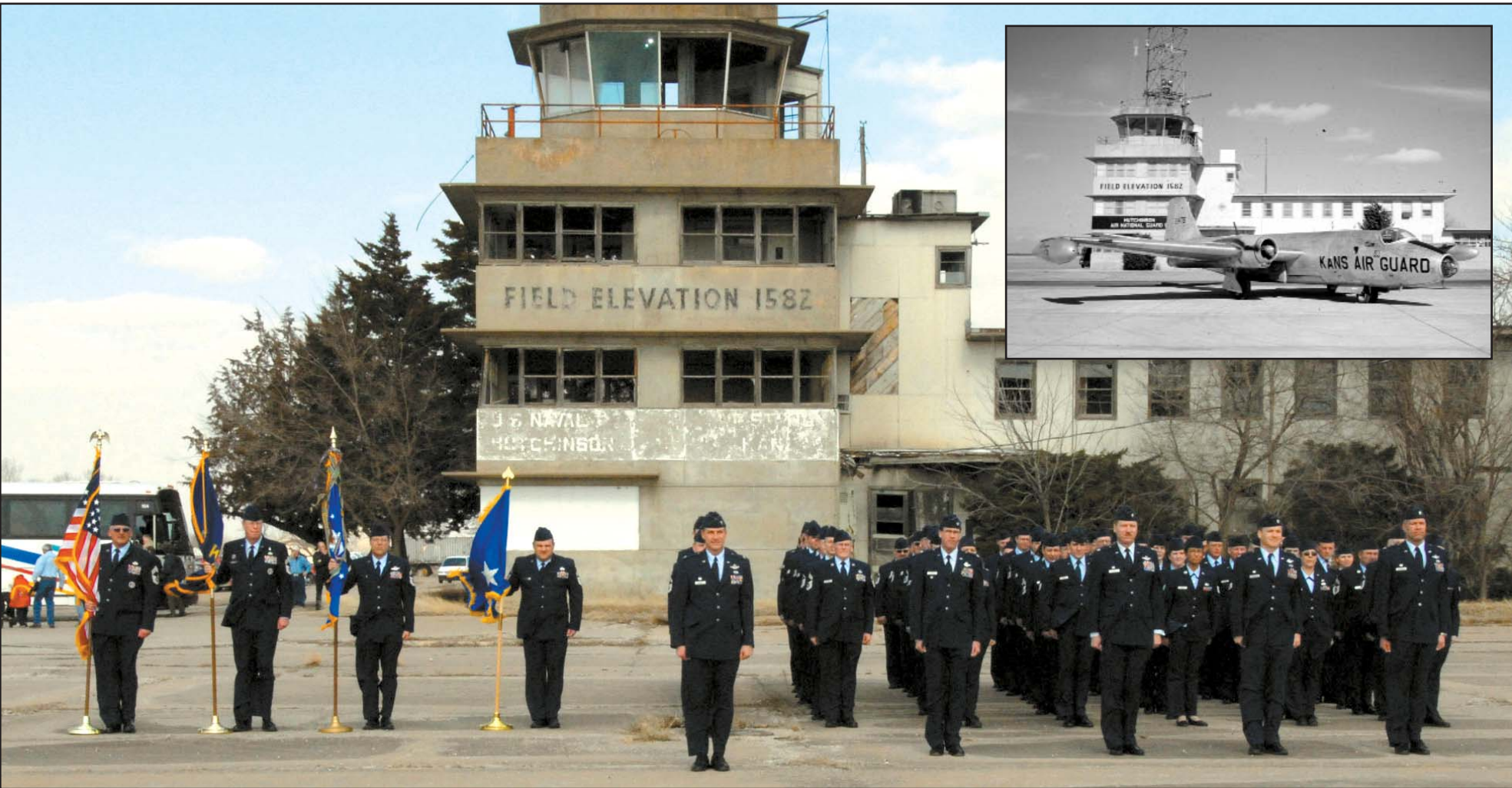
Sifting through the past: Master Sgt. Bill Gilliland (left) and retired Chief Master Sgt. Bobby Ford sort through years worth of documents from the 117th Fighter Interceptor Squadron. (Photo by 1st Lt. Joe Blubaugh)



Retired Lt. Col. Bill Fry (left) and Col. Gregg Burden, 190th Air Refueling Wing commander, listen to the reading of proclamations during the unit's 50th anniversary formation. Fry was the acting commander at the unit's first meeting exactly 50 years earlier in Hutchinson, Kan. (Photo by 1st Lt. Joe Blubaugh)



Col. Gregg Burden joins some of the original members of the 117th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at the 190th ARW 50th anniversary dinner in Hutchinson. From left to right are retired Chief Master Sgt. Bobby Ford, retired Col. Bill Crow, retired Chief Master Sgt. Wendell Nusser, Burden, retired Senior Master Sgt. Joe Meis and retired Maj. Bill Nyquist. (Photo by 1st Lt. Joe Blubaugh)



Members of the 190th Air Refueling Wing stand in formation at the former Hutchinson Naval Air Station, where the unit first met in 1957 (inset). (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mandy Johnson)

Kansas Guardsmen “Jump Start” border operations

By Sgt. Randell Phalp, UPAR

While the nation debates issues of homeland security, illegal aliens and securing our borders, 1st Lt. Philip Morris, is among those doing something about it. Morris, a resident of Manhattan, Kan., and a member of Battery A, 2nd Battalion 130th Field Artillery, served as Officer in Charge during Operation Jump Start, a mission tasking the National Guard to assist in United States Border Patrol operations.

“It was a great experience for me personally,” said Morris, who along with 36 other Kansas Guardsmen served in Naco, Ariz. from Jan. 10 to Feb. 2 this year. Naco Station, located southeast of Tucson, is responsible for patrolling 31 miles of the border between the United States and Mexico, which has seen significant human and drug trafficking in recent years.

The Guard mission is to augment the Border Patrol by observing the border in order to alert Border Patrol of illegal border crossings.

“My men were stationed at Early Identification Sites across Naco Station, which were situated on vistas at an elevation of around 4,000 feet,” said Morris. “From there, you could easily see someone approaching from one to three miles away.”

From these vantage points, Morris’ team used binoculars and thermal imaging equipment to monitor the border and radios to notify Border Patrol agents, who would arrive at the location within 15 minutes.

Guardsmen from across the nation will continue to assist the Border Patrol until the Department of Homeland Security can

hire and train sufficient agents to fulfill the mission independently.

Morris observed that the Border Patrol is understaffed and that suspicious individuals, not just Mexican nationals, attempt crossing the border for numerous reasons, including drug smuggling.

“This border is so open that, if they have the right person bringing them across, they will get across,” said Morris, noting that Naco Station currently has only four miles of fencing separating the U.S. from Mexico.

Guides, called “coyotes,” are paid by illegals to get them across the border. They have a nearly endless supply of customers anxious to enter the United States. For a fee, the coyotes guarantee entry into the U.S., whether their paying customer makes it on the first attempt or their fifth.

“There was one illegal alien that was apprehended five times in one month,” said Morris. “They would try and try and try until they get across.”

During their 21-day mission, Morris and his fellow Guardsmen assisted in the apprehension of 666 undocumented aliens. Upon apprehension, undocumented aliens are fingerprinted and recorded in the Border Patrol information database. Most are then released back across the border into Mexico.

When asked if he thought his mission had a positive impact on border security, Morris, said, “Absolutely, I believe we made a great difference. The National Guard being on the border has been very beneficial. Just having an extra set of eyes on the ground to free up the border patrol



Sgt. 1st Class Brent Wallace, Bonnor Springs, briefs his shift before going on duty at the Naco Border Patrol Station. (Photo provided)

so that they can do a better job has great positive effect. We were able to man their observation points, which freed them up to patrol between the points and respond to our calls.”

So rewarding was the experience that

Morris, a Lake City, Mich. native, said that he has applied to join the Border Patrol full time. If he is successful, he will leave the border debate to others. Morris will simply dedicate his life to doing something about it.

Service marks anniversary of Guardsman’s sacrifice

By 1st Lt. Shannon Terry

A wreath-laying ceremony was held Feb. 20, 2007, at Camp Slayer, Victory Base Complex, Baghdad, Iraq, to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of Sgt. Jessie Davila, of Greensburg, Kan.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 149 Infantry, Kentucky National Guard, joined members of the Kansas National Guard’s 130th Field Artillery Brigade to pay homage to the sacrifice of a fellow Kansas Guardsman.

At 9:45 a.m. local time – the exact time one year ago an improvised explosive device took the life of Sgt. Jessie Davila – the Camp Slayer loudspeaker was heard over the VBC requesting a moment of silence. In a week where B-1 bombers have been a common sight overhead, the roaring sounds of jet engines instilled a sense of reverence in the crowd of observers: Soldiers acutely aware of the risk involved with combat operations.

“I have the highest respect for this Soldier. May his sacrifice serve as a reminder of the reality of combat and the loss of life involved with war,” said Lt. Col. John Luttrell, commander of 1-149 Infantry Battalion “Mountain Warriors.”

Col. Robert Windham and Command Sgt. Major Robert Miller laid a wreath on

the memorial erected by members of the 2nd Battalion, 137 Infantry, Kansas National Guard. The memorial itself – illuminated with floodlights on this solemn occasion – is a 10-foot painted concrete barrier depicting patriotism, honor, and selfless service, values held in high esteem by Davila.

In a climate like that of Iraq, roses are anything but typical. A single rosebush, coupled with a memorial inscription – cared for and attended to by Soldiers – greets visitors to the Joint Visitors Bureau and serves as a reminder of his sacrifice.

The wreath was fashioned from a bouquet of roses received by the 130th Brigade commander on Valentine’s Day. The roses were from Kansas and symbolize the thoughts and prayers from friends and family back home, especially those of the fellow Soldiers and family of Sgt. Davila.

The bond between the Kansas and Kentucky Guard began with the 2-137th transferring authority to the Mountain Warriors, and grew through the working relationship with the 130th.

“He was an artillery Soldier in an infantry unit,” said Windham, “so how appropriate that we honor him here with our Kentucky Infantry brothers.”



Sp. Kody Olson, Hiawatha, looks for Undocumented Aliens from an Entry Identification Site along the U.S. - Mexico Border (Photo provided)



Even though they were on the U.S.-Mexico border, the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery Soldiers could not get away from the snow during their deployment. (Photo provided)



Col. Robert Windham (left) and Command Sgt. Major Robert Miller, Kansas National Guard, lay a wreath on the memorial erected by members of the 2nd Battalion, 137 Infantry, Kansas National Guard. (Photo by 1st Lt. Shannon Terry)

130th Field Artillery Brigade hosts Saint Barbara’s celebration in Iraq

By 1st Lt. Shannon Terry

On the eve of Jan. 31, members of the Multi-National Corps Iraq joined the 130th Field Artillery Brigade, Kansas Army National Guard, in a celebration of Saint Barbara. Approximately 250 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and civilians from several different branches and four different countries, joined in a celebration of camaraderie in the tradition of the Field Artillery. Col. Alex Duckworth, brigade commander, hosted the event.

“The significance was overwhelming,” said Duckworth. “To be in Saddam’s old palace amongst international friends made for a very memorable experience.”

The honorable order of Saint Barbara is the continuation of an ancient and noble tradition, which pays tribute to those warriors who have distinguished themselves in service. To be accepted into the order, an Artilleryman must exemplify the finest traditions and high standards of the Field Artillery. The award is traditionally received at a gathering of comrades in a formal military setting and is presented to individuals who have made substantial contributions to the Field Artillery community.

Award recipients included members of the 130th Field Artillery Brigade and attachments, as well as Capt. Eric East of the Multi-National Corps Iraq Joint Fires Effect Coordination Operations. Lt. Commander Mike Pfarrer, Dayton, Ohio, is attached to the 130th as the Electronic Warfare Officer. Cpl. Charlie “Chaz” Foltz, of Ottawa, Kan., is a long-standing asset in the Kansas Army National Guard and the Field Artillery community. Foltz has over 22 years of dedicated military service and continually lends a hand for the benefit of other Soldiers. Sgt. Mike McClellan, Louisburg, Kan., celebrated his 20th year of service by re-enlisting. He is currently serving as the chaplain’s assistant for the 260th Military Intelligence

Battalion. Sgt. Carol Sprawka, Manhattan, Kan., has been supporting the field artillery through Meteorological Survey for over 16 years. Her dedication to duty has lead her to multiple deployments, serving in both the Middle East and Bosnia. Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Miller, Junction City, Kan., has been serving his country for over 38 years. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1966 and made the transition into the Army in 1980.

“This event was one of the most memorable in my career,” said Miller, “I am honored to work with a group of people that make me so proud.”

The event took place in the Al Faw Palace Ballroom, headquarters to the Multi-National Corps in Iraq. The palace is located on a man-made lake on the western edge of Baghdad on what is now known as the Victory Base Complex. The palace itself is a massive marble façade, complete with a mosaic plaster ceiling, a giant chandelier and a gold painted throne. Inside of the ballroom, flags representing the Multi-National Corps Iraq were displayed with the likeness of Saint Barbara projected to the front of the room. The 1st Cavalry Division Band provided entertainment with a variety of music, from traditional military tunes to jazz and blues. Brig. Gen. James McDonald and the Command Sergeant Major of Multi-National Forces Iraq, Command Sgt. Maj. Mellinger, were honored guests. McDonald spoke of the history and future of the Field Artillery.

Capt. Robert Melton orchestrated the event with the aide of 1st Lt. Chris Philpot.

“It was great to put aside the war for a few hours,” said Melton, “celebrating the rich history of the Field Artillery.”

Maj. Jon Christiansen elaborated, “The 130th FAB has had units engaged in supporting OIF since the start of the operation. It’s an honor to be able to celebrate their history and sacrifice.”

their entire chain of command supports them and their service.”

During the visit, Bunting noticed the gunshot holes in some of the Border Patrol vehicles driving by and he heard from the Airmen how the Border Patrol agents watch out for the Guardsmen and ensure they have what they need.

“Our troops are very well-trained and they have good security and they always maintain good situational awareness,” Bunting told the AP reporter.

Additional Kansas National Guard units are expected to be asked to support Operation Jump Start in the future.

Johnson receives Fuqua award

By Spc. Jerry Hedges, UPAR

Maj. Rex Johnson was the recipient of the 2006 Billie E. Fuqua Award, presented at the annual Unit Public Affairs Representative Course held in Salina at the Kansas Regional Training Center.

The award is presented annually to the UPAR who has made the greatest contribution to the public affairs program of the Kansas National Guard. Johnson, a member of the 35th Division, is the third recipient of the award.

One of the biggest stories Johnson ever experienced is one he hasn’t yet written about – Hurricane Katrina.

In the aftermath of the hurricane, Soldiers of the Kansas Army National Guard’s 35th Infantry Division mobilized to assist the traumatized citizens of Louisiana in what was to be called Operation Southern Relief. Johnson was operations officer for the Kansas task force. He and his team were charged with all command and control functions for National Guard and Reserve Soldiers from all 50 states and four territories. This included the inprocessing of all Soldiers, logistical operations and assignment of missions to the parish commanders.

From Sept. 1 to Oct. 10, 2005, the

team completed 135 missions, which included the distribution of 10.8 million pounds of ice and seven million pounds of food through nine distribution points, conducting searches of 471,820 buildings, evacuation of 4,635 civilians, security of banks and energy centers and assistance with police departments.

According to Johnson, approximately 26,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen were largely appreciated by the residents of the parishes served. Soldiers working in the Washington parish were treated to excellent meals, delivered each evening by the parish citizens. The responsibility for getting 260,342 meals to the Soldiers was also placed on Johnson and his team. Meals gradually became catered to all troops by local restaurants.

During the final weeks of the mobilization, the 35th ID was systematically relieved by the Louisiana National Guard. These Soldiers had just returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom to their own communities to continue their rebuilding process. The 35th ID was completely relieved of their mission on Oct. 10, 2005, at which time they returned to their homes, families, friends, and jobs.



Brig. Gen. Jonathan Small presents the Billie E. Fuqua award to Maj. Rex Johnson at the 2007 Unit Public Affairs Representative Course in Salina, March 3 and 4. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)

Adjutant General visits Airmen

Continued from Page 8
Start began.

Lt. Col. Craig Hansen, commanding officer of the 190th ARW Civil Engineering Squadron, met Bunting in Yuma, Ariz., and escorted the general to meet the Kansas troops who were working alongside Soldiers from Arkansas, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky and other locations.

“The members of the unit were very appreciative that Major General Bunting made the effort to visit them,” Hansen said. “His visit reinforced the importance of the mission and reassured them that



Members of the 190th Civil Engineering Squadron worked alongside Guardsmen from several states for Operation Jump Start, constructing a steel wall along the U.S. - Mexico border. (Photo by Sharon Watson)

Guard history on the road

Continued from Page 10
museum since he retired in June 2006 after 34 years of dedicated military service. His duties at the museum include Federal Property Management and Accountability, Management of the Kansas National Guard Mobile Museum program and primary operator of the Mobile Museum.

Along with the full time job of managing artifacts at the museum it is a large commitment of time. Jacobs said that during the spring and summer and part of the fall he takes the museum out approximately three weekends a month. Jacobs takes the museum to various activities around the state. He goes to county fairs, scouting events, schools, recruitment opportunities, military events and community celebrations. He only goes by request, but says that his calendar fills up fast once word gets out that the museum is available.

The displays vary and he has a lot of ideas of displays that he would like to see developed. He does say that he has a Civil War display and a general display of photographs and other uniforms and headgear. He says that he has the ability to tailor the display to the unit, if requested. Jacobs has artifacts from every conflict that the Kansas National Guard has been involved in, from the Civil War to present day.

One of Jacobs’ goals for the Mobile

Museum is equipping the trailer with audio/video presentation equipment so he can show films that are only able to be shown on laptop at this time. He would also like to expand the displays. To do this, Jacobs is encouraging Guardsmen to donate items and stories of their experiences to the museum to assist with preserving Guard history. He says that there is a 20 year gap in artifacts and historical accounts developing and would like to bring the museum up-to-date to cover the more recent events that current Guard members have been participating in. He pointed out that history is happening to us all and that what you do today is our history tomorrow.

“I am always trying to think of ways to keep the museum fresh for the public,” stated Jacobs.

Jacobs can be reached to make reservations for the Mobile Museum to come to your location at (785) 862-1020.

While the mobile museum does travel all over Kansas, a permanent museum is located at the entrance to Forbes Field Industrial Park, Topeka, Kansas.

Staff Sgt. Robert Thomas, Staff Sgt. David Thaxton, Sgt. John Anderson, Sgt. Gilbert Gonzales, Sgt. Amy Bellerive, Sgt. Jimmy Cranford, and Spc. Matthew Wilson contributed to this article.

Soldier is part-time bull rider, full-time dad

By Sgt. 1st Class Susan Brown, UPAR
“Bull riding is 90 percent mental and 10 percent physical,” says Pvt. Matthew Sullivan, 32, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 635th Armor based in Manhattan, Kan.

“I have been riding bulls since I was 17 years old,” said Sullivan. “I just happened to see it on television one day and decided that this was something that I wanted to try. I got on the first one and I have been hooked ever since.”

“I remember the first bull I got on. It was at a practice pen and the bull was just huge! I couldn’t get my legs down around his sides and I was so nervous my legs were shaking,” he recalled. “But with the help of some of the more experienced riders there I was able to get myself going, although I can’t say I had an outstanding ride. I don’t think I even made the length of the gate, but I was still hooked either way.”

“Once I decided that this was something that I wanted to pursue, I starting asking around about possible schools that I could go to,” he continued. “There were a couple mentioned and I finally decided on one. To be honest it helped in so many ways; from how to select what shows to enter to how

to better my riding techniques to planning out a rodeo schedule for the year and even how to go about lining up sponsors.”
Sullivan says that starting out was pretty difficult and expensive – the traveling expenses, entry fees, rodeo equipment and motel costs. But once the money started to come in, little by little, it got somewhat easier taking care of some of the expenses. Sullivan is hoping to get local businesses to sponsor him to help with the expenses that come with competing in rodeo. His next step is to join the Armed Forces, the Mid States, the United Rodeos and the North American Bull Riding Associations.
His passion has taken him from South Texas to North Dakota. Sullivan describes bull riding as a huge adrenaline rush and it all comes to bear when he climbs on the back of a 2,000 pound bull and gets ready to call for the gate.
“When the gate is flung open, it’s like no other feeling in the world,” says Sullivan.
Sullivan describes bull riding as a complicated dance.
“The bull leads and I follow,” he said.
“I feel that riding a bull is not trying to tame or beat the bull, but more of trying to do my best on an animal that was not



Pvt. Matthew Sullivan hangs on to a wildly bucking bull at a rodeo in Douglas, Neb., hoping to stay on for eight seconds and have a shot at the prize money. Sullivan has been riding bulls since he was 17 years old and a member of the Kansas National Guard since December 2006, serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 635th Armor based in Manhattan. (Photo provided)

meant to be ridden,” says Sullivan. “You put a man who weighs on average 150 pounds against an animal of that size, it’s going to take talent, strength, determination and heart to stay on.”

Sullivan pays anywhere from \$65 to \$100 to enter competitions and has won as much as \$3,500 in one show.

“Even though I pay that kind of money to enter shows, I am nowhere guaranteed that I will win any money!”

“At a rodeo show, riders don’t even get to choose their own bull!” he jokes. “Basically the judges draw the bull out of a kind of lottery. When you don’t win any money for about five or six shows it makes for a long year, but when things click and everything just comes together, it can make for an unbelievable feeling.”

Sullivan also says that he does not really have any one particular bull rider that he admires, but feels he has more respect for what they have accomplished in the sport of bull riding.

Sullivan has sustained many injuries during his riding career – broken bones, torn ligaments, a dislocated shoulder and elbow. He has had his face shattered twice and been knocked unconscious. To avoid injuries, Sullivan now wears protective gear. All bull riders are required to wear a protective vest, but Sullivan also chooses to wear a face mask.

When he is not competing in rodeos, he is a full-time stay-at-home dad to his children and has a supportive fiancé, Jerilyn. After serving in the active Army from 1996-1998, Sullivan stepped down from active duty to stay at home and raise his children. He joined the Kansas Army National Guard in December 2006 because he felt he was “good at the Army.”

As a stay-at-home dad Sullivan says that he cooks, cleans, does laundry and main-

tains other household duties.
“My buddy’s call me the male version of Martha Stewart,” laughs Sullivan. “Now don’t get me wrong. Trying to raise kids is no walk in the park at times. But I really love being able to stay home with the kids and watch how their eyes light up when something finally clicks with them.”
“They definitely teach me to keep on my toes most of the day and expect the unexpected. But, all in all, I probably have the best job in the whole world for a dad.”

He would encourage any of his children who want to join the rodeo to do so. He believes rodeo is a family event, where there is something for everyone of all ages to enjoy.

Sullivan is a food service specialist with his unit. With the help of four to five other cooks, he prepares meals for Soldiers while they are out training or while deployed.

“There is always something more to learn and try in the food service – types of meals, new and better equipment – yet still trying to be a Soldier who can be put on the front line, if needed,” he said.

Just as it takes talent, heart, strength and determination in bull riding it also takes the same qualities to be a father and a Soldier in the Army National Guard.

“I hope that one job will make me better at the other,” he said. “I get a different kind of excitement from bull riding than I do with being with my kids and being a Soldier, as well. But it is a good excitement, none the less.”

“The Army has given me the opportunity to stay in shape for the rodeo seasons. The bull riding helps me to expect the unexpected and to be able to react to anything at the drop of a hat.”

“I believe riding bulls is the toughest sport on dirt!” says Sullivan.

Soldiers attend Unit Public Affairs Representative Course

By Stephen D. Larson
Fifty Kansas National Guard Soldiers spent their March 3-4 drill weekend learning how to tell the story of the Kansas National Guard.
The Soldiers, selected by their commander to be the Unit Public Affairs Representative, attended the two-day course, held annually at the Kansas Regional Training Center, in Salina, to gain the tools they need to effectively present information about Guard Soldiers, Airmen, events and activities to the media and general public. The course was put on by The Adjutant General’s Public Affairs staff.
Brig. Gen. Jonathan Small, the assistant adjutant general – Army and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, welcomed the UPARs at the opening session and emphasized the importance of the UPAR’s role in putting a positive face before the public.
“The story of the Kansas National Guard is your story,” Small said. “No one can tell it better than you can.”
The UPAR’s job is a varied one: reporter, photographer, media liaison, event planner, public relations representative and community contact. During the

UPAR course, the Soldiers received information on such topics as Guard history, flight regulations, community relations, casualty assistance, the news media, news conference planning, as well as lessons and practical exercises on writing and photography.
Sharon Watson, Adjutant General’s Department public affairs director and a former reporter, spoke to the class about how to successfully work with the news media. Steve Larson, deputy public affairs director, taught classes on writing and photography. Administrative assistant Jane Welch spoke on flight regulations related to orientation, VIP and other flights. Lt. Col. Toni Truelove, Joint Forces Headquarters Public Affairs; Maj. Rex Johnson, 35th Division Public Affairs; Maj. Rick Peat and Sgt. Mark Hanson, both with the 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, also taught skills related to working with the media and planning public events at home and in theater.
During the course, class participants practiced interview techniques and generated eight stories for the Plains Guardian, some of which appear in this issue. The remainder will appear in the next issue.

UPAR Class of 2007

Spc. Joseph Andaverde, HHC, 1st Battalion, 635th Armor
Sgt. John Anderson, Det. 1, Co. B, 40th Forward Support Battalion
Pfc. Jesus Baquero, HHC, 1st Battalion, 635th Armor
Sgt. Amy Bellerive, Det. 2, 731st Medium Truck Company
Staff Sgt. Angela Berry, Det. 1, 137th Transportation Company
Spc. Adam Brown, 995th Maintenance Company
Sgt. 1st Class Susan Brown, Training Site Detachment
Spc. Stacy Burns, 1077th Area Medical Detachment
Sgt. Jimmie Cranford, Co. B, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry
Spc. Michael Creach, 995th Maintenance Company
Staff Sgt. Kenneth Dedrick, HHC, 1st Battalion, 635th Armor
Sgt. Kevin Farlow, Co. C, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry
Spc. Terry Frazier, 995th Maintenance Company
Sgt. Gilbert Gonzales, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Spc. John Grubbs, Det. 5, 250th Forward Support Company
Sgt. Robert Hall, Det. 1, 778th Transportation Company
Spc. Jerry Hedges, Det. 8, 250th Forward Support Company
Spc. David Hicks, Det. 1, Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery
Sgt. James Horesky Jr., 995th Maintenance Company
Sgt. David Jermark, 287th Special Troops Battalion
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Matt Jessop, Det. 1, Co. C, 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation
Spc. Rachel Jewett, 778th Transportation Company
Staff Sgt. Donald Johnson, Battery E (Target Acquisition), 161st Field Artillery
Spc. Eric Lawrence, Det. 1, HSC, 891st Engineer Battalion
2nd Lt. James Lehner, Co. A, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry
Spc. Don Little, 995th Maintenance Company

Spc. Douglas Loftus, Det. 1, Co. B, 163rd Corps Support Battalion
1st Lt. Jonathan Mack, 772nd Engineer Company
Sgt. Michael Mathewson, HHC, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation
Staff Sgt. Jacob Millias, Det. 1, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery
Sgt. Brad Millikan, Det. 1, Co. C, 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation
1st Lt. Philip Morris, Det. 1, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery
Pfc. James Murphy, Det. 4, 170th Maintenance Company
Sgt. Randell Phalp, Kansas Area Medical Detachment
Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ronald Reed, Co. C, 2nd Battalion, 235th Regiment
Pfc. Melissa Reid, 242nd Engineer Company
Sgt. Jonathan Reiter, Co. C, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry
Pfc. John Rumpson, HHC, 1st Battalion, 635th Armor
Spc. Jarrod Smith, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery
Sgt. John Stubbs, Co. C, 1st Battalion, 635th Armor
Pvt. Matthew Sullivan, HHC, 1st Battalion, 635th Armor
Sgt. Thomas Tavtigian, Co. B, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation
Staff Sgt. David Thaxton, Co. A, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry
Staff Sgt. Robert Thomas, HHC, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry
Staff Sgt. Paul Thompson, Det. 2, 778th Transportation Company
Sgt. Stony Lee Thompson, 226th Engineer Company
Spc. Amy Vorhees, Co. E, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation
Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Waggoner, 35th Military Police Company
Spc. Jonathan Wells, HSC, 891st Engineer Battalion
Spc. Matthew Wilson, Co B, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry

Flora receives command

Continued from Page 1
In 1987 Flora joined the Kansas Air National Guard and served as an F-16 flight instructor, flight commander and weapons officer at the squadron and group level. Following conversion to the B-1B bomber in 1994, he assumed command of the Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range, the largest and most active weapons range in the Air National Guard (ANG). There he was instrumental in expanding range utilization for the bomber mission and establishing Electronic Combat capabilities at Smoky Hill. In 1996, he returned to the Operations

Group as Commander of the 184th Operations Support Squadron providing leadership in achieving mission ready status as the ANG’s first B-1B bomber unit. In March 1999, Flora was reassigned as the 184th Bomb Wing Vice Commander and assumed command as the 184th Bomb Wing Commander in January 2001. In July 2004, Flora served as the Director of Operations for Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas.
Flora is married to the former Chris White and has three children, T.J., Katie and Cameron. T.J. is a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy and serves as a carrier pilot.

Civil Air Patrol demonstrates emergency response capabilities

By Stephen D. Larson

When severe winter storms left motorists stranded, cattle cut off in the field and homes adrift in a sea of snow, the Civil Air Patrol was called out to lend a hand to local authorities, assistance that showcased the CAPs abilities in search and rescue operations.

The Civil Air Patrol demonstrated the advanced technological capabilities of its Cessna 182 T aircraft with the Garmin G-1000 glass cockpit display and the Gippsland GA-8 aircraft with Hyperspectral imaging system for Topeka area media on Thursday, Feb. 15 at 10 a.m. at Forbes Field in Topeka.

These two aircraft and several CAP pilots were on hand to provide a demonstration for the staff of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, a division of The Adjutant General’s Department.

235th Regiment truck driving school recommended for accreditation

The Transportation Company for the 235th Regiment, Kansas Regional Training Institute, has been recommended for full accreditation following an accreditation visit on March 22, 2007, from the transportation component out of Fort Eustis, Va.

KSRTI is the first National Guard school to receive recommendation for accreditation on the initial visit. Sgt. 1st Class John Jarrell, primary instructor; Sgt. First Class

During the recent western Kansas ice storm that lead to a Governor’s Declaration of Emergency Disaster, the Civil Air Patrol flew more than 65 aircraft sorties on Jan. 1, 2 and 3, 2007.

The Cessna and the Gippsland’s cockpits house state of the art, high tech Global Positioning Systems. Both aircraft have satellite digital imaging systems which allow for instantaneous transmission of airborne digital photos via satellite down-link direct to the end user command post.



High-tech Global Positioning Systems and other equipment such as this enabled Civil Air Patrol personnel to locate stranded motorists during the severe winter storms that struck the state in late December 2006. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)

Both aircraft also have direction finders to locate downed aircraft and many other tracking devices beneficial in the search and rescue missions the Civil Air Patrol performs during emergencies.

During the recent western Kansas ice storm that lead to a Governor’s Declaration of Emergency Disaster, the Civil Air Patrol flew more than 65 aircraft sorties on Jan. 1, 2 and 3, 2007. They were able to assist the Kansas Highway Patrol and members of local law enforcement and local municipalities search for stranded motorists, citizens in distress and cattle that were stranded in snow covered pastures.

The planes are used primarily in Kansas, but occasionally, pilots are asked to help bordering states. In addition to emergency

response, the Civil Air Patrol also conducts aerospace education and cadet programs.

The Kansas Wing of the Civil Air Patrol is part of a private, volunteer, nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation and by congressional charter is the auxiliary of the United States Air Force. The Kansas Volunteer Department of the Civil Air Patrol was created to administer state funds allocated to the Civil Air Patrol which is within The Adjutant General’s Department.

The Civil Air Patrol has four aircraft, more than 45 vehicles, 273 officers and 171 cadets located in 11 squadrons throughout the state. Volunteer membership in the CAP is open to any eligible citizens from age 11 and up. Go to www.cap.gov for information.



Sgt. Michael Dean, Missouri Army National Guard, couples a tractor to a trailer during a truck driving course conducted in Salina, Kan., at the Kansas Regional Training Institute. (Photo by Sgt. Veronica Almazan-Chapman)

Family Readiness Groups

Continued from Page 7

packages to the Soldiers who were over there and published a newsletter for family members,” said Garbee.

The division’s FRG is active at any time the division deploys for an extended period of time, such as during the deployment to Louisiana in September 2005 to support Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. The FRG will again have a significant role as part of the division deploys to Kosovo later this year.

VanSickle added that if an FRG is active all the time, it would be proactive in helping families get ready for the deployment.

“A mobilization is going to happen regardless,” said VanSickle. “The FRG can provide structure.”

Sutton agreed that it does not matter whether a unit is deploying or is gone performing regular Guard drill or annual training.

“It’s the same,” said Sutton. “Families still have issues. It does not matter if they are away for a year, the weekend or the two weeks.”

It is important for Soldiers and their families to be actively involved in the FRG. Volunteers make an FRG run smoothly and the more volunteers involved in an FRG, the more an FRG can do to support the Soldiers and their families during times of need. An FRG is an opportunity for family members to be a part of the unit, to learn about their mission and to identify issues or concerns. It is a way to make a difference and to make the family members a part of the military life.

A Soldier’s involvement in the FRG is also important. It can provide resources for assistance and the social network needed during times that the Soldier is away from home. It is a way for Soldiers to ensure their families have the necessary support while they are deployed or at training. Get involved with the FRG now and set your family up for success and support before you leave for annual training or your next deployment!

For information on Family Support Groups, contact Sarah K. Ragan, (785) 274-1208.

Retirements

Kansas Army National Guard	
Col. Gregg Riley, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka	Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Hatcher, 184th ARW, Wichita
Capt. Darby Prine, Det 1, 287th Sustainment Bde, Hays	Senior Master Sgt. Johnnie R. Johnson, 190th ARW, Topeka
Sgt. Maj. Mark Bell, HHC(-), 2nd Bn 137th Inf, Kansas City	Senior Master Sgt. John C. Kyles, 190th ARW, Topeka
Sgt. Maj. Robert Parker, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan	Senior Master Sgt. Paul McCartney, 190th ARW, Topeka
1st Sgt. Timothy Jordan, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson	Senior Master Sgt. George Medina, 190th ARW, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Juaquin Deleon, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan	Senior Master Sgt. Leann Moore, 184th ARW, Wichita
Sgt. 1st Class Clifford Johnson, HQ, 235th Rgt (RTI), Salina	Senior Master Sgt. John Owen, 184th ARW, Wichita
Sgt. 1st Class William Lafalce, HHC(-), 2nd Bn 137th Inf, Kansas City	Senior Master Sgt. John Thomason, 190th ARW, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Lewis, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita	Master Sgt. Dana Beals, 184th ARW, Wichita
Sgt. 1st Class Kimberly Michael, HQ, 235th Rgt (RTI), Salina	Master Sgt. Kelvin Bissell, 184th ARW, Wichita
Sgt. 1st Class Rex Staven, Co B (-), 1st Bn, 108th Aviation, Salina	Master Sgt. Bret Carvell, 190th ARW, Topeka
Staff Sgt. James Bent, HHB, 1st Bn, 127th FA, Ottawa	Master Sgt. Craig Chambers, 184th ARW, Wichita
Staff Sgt. Richard Gordon, 226th Eng Co, Augusta	Master Sgt. Larry Coker, 184th ARW, Wichita
Staff Sgt. Bobby Lockwood, HQ, 235th Rgt (RTI), Salina	Master Sgt. Bruce Daniels, 184th ARW, Wichita
Staff Sgt. Timothy McCaine, Det 1, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Lenexa	Master Sgt. Gary Filkins, 190th ARW, Topeka
Sgt. Sharon Barnhart, Det 1, HSC, 891st Eng Bn, Garnett	Master Sgt. Glenna Gardner, 184th ARW, Wichita
Sgt. Glenn Causey, 170th Maint Co (-), Norton	Master Sgt. Felix Gorges, 184th ARW, Wichita
Sgt. Matthew Clemons, Co B, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita	Master Sgt. Ramona Green, 184th ARW, Wichita
Sgt. Charles Cox, HHC(-), 2nd Bn 137th Inf, Kansas City	Master Sgt. John Marcus, 184th ARW, Wichita
Sgt. Clifford Denny, Det 3, 731st Trans Co, Hays	Master Sgt. Ricky Johnson, 184th ARW, Wichita
Sgt. Jerry Engle, 772d Eng Co, Pittsburg	Master Sgt. Bernard Kaiser, 190th ARW, Topeka
Sgt. Stephen Hess, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton	Master Sgt. Kurt Keeler, 184th ARW, Wichita
Sgt. John Marshall Jr., HHC(-), 2nd Bn 137th Inf, Kansas City	Master Sgt. Steven Lewis, 190th ARW, Topeka
Sgt. Richard McMillian, 731 Med Trk Co, Larned	Master Sgt. Rex Medcalf, 184th ARW, Wichita
Sgt. Donna Morgan, Det 4, 170th Maint Co, Clay Center	Master Sgt. Dennis Miller, 190th ARW, Topeka
Sgt. Stacy Snyder, Co B (-), 1st Bn, 108th Aviation, Salina	Master Sgt. Brad Murray, 190th ARW, Topeka
Sgt. Terry Vanallen, Det 3, 731st Trans Co, Hays	Master Sgt. Robin Nelson, 184th ARW, Wichita
Spec. Richard Ouderkirk, 226th Eng Co, Augusta	Master Sgt. Michael Newell, 184th ARW, Wichita
Spec. James Paugh, Co A, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Emporia	Master Sgt. Marvin Osborn, 184th ARW, Wichita
Spec. Craig Smith, Co C, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Lenexa	Master Sgt. John Pitts, 184th ARW, Wichita
Spec. Ricky Waller, Co C, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita	Master Sgt. Stephen Porth, 184th ARW, Wichita
	Master Sgt. William Putnam, 190th ARW, Topeka
	Master Sgt. Phillip Ramirez, 190th ARW, Topeka
	Master Sgt. Harry Reese, 190th ARW, Topeka
	Master Sgt. John C. Sanders, 190th ARW, Topeka
	Master Sgt. George Sarris, 184th ARW, Wichita
	Master Sgt. John Schmidt, 190th ARW, Topeka
	Master Sgt. Billy Schnieder, 184th ARW, Wichita
	Master Sgt. Robert Shefelton, 184th ARW, Wichita
	Master Sgt. Grayling Vine, 190th ARW, Topeka
	Master Sgt. Christopher White, 184th ARW, Wichita
	Master Sgt. Stanley Wilch, 190th ARW, Topeka
	Tech. Sgt. Cheri Adams, 184th ARW, Wichita
	Tech. Sgt. Kahle Ernest, 190th ARW, Topeka
	Tech. Sgt. Stephen Ferree, 184th ARW, Wichita
	Tech. Sgt. Richard Fischer, 184th ARW, Wichita
	Tech. Sgt. Brain A. Geske, 190th ARW, Topeka
	Tech. Sgt. Frederick Gunn, 184th ARW, Wichita
	Tech. Sgt. Kevin Howland, 190th ARW, Topeka
	Tech. Sgt. Velvet Hutson, 184th ARW, Wichita
	Tech. Sgt. Johnnie Keller, 184th ARW, Wichita
	Tech. Sgt. James Lewis, 184th ARW, Wichita
	Tech. Sgt. James Miller, 184th ARW, Wichita
	Tech. Sgt. Francisco Quevedo, 184th ARW, Wichita
	Tech. Sgt. Bruce Reed, 190th ARW, Topeka
	Tech. Sgt. Christopher Rush, 184th ARW, Wichita
	Tech. Sgt. George F. Stewart, 190th ARW, Topeka
	Tech. Sgt. Howard Webster, 190th ARW, Topeka
	Tech. Sgt. David Wilson, 184th ARW, Wichita
	Tech. Sgt. Troy Zachary, 184th ARW, Wichita
	Staff Sgt. Melanie Chavez, 190th ARW, Topeka
	Staff Sgt. Addison Miller II, 184th ARW, Wichita
	Staff Sgt. Joseph Nave, 190th ARW, Topeka

Awards and Decorations

Kansas Army National Guard Awards

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Col. Milton Ayala, 130th FA Bde, Hiawatha
Col. Robert Bloomquist, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Col. Daryl Callahan, Area Med Det, Lenexa
Col. Timothy Carlin, HHB (-), 35th Div Arty, Hutchinson, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Col. Alex Duckworth, HQ, 130th FA Bde, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Col. Walter H. Frederick III, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Col. Calvin Johnson, HQ, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Col. James E. Trafton, HHC (-), 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster

Col. David Wheeler, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster

Lt. Col. Victor Braden, HQ, 1st Bn, 108th Aviation, Topeka

Lt. Col. Michael Dittamo, 69th TC, Topeka, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Lt. Col. Paula Fisher, Area Med Det, Lenexa

Lt. Col. Lawrence Hannan, HQ, 174th Ord Bn, Hays

Lt. Col. Jane Harris, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Lt. Col. Danny Hay, HHC, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City

Lt. Col. Duke Hester, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Lt. Col. Lee Lacy, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Lt. Col. Joseph Long, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster

Lt. Col. Timothy Marlar, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita

Lt. Col. Ronald Martin, HQ, 35th Div Arty, Hutchinson

Lt. Col. Laura McKnight, HQ, 2nd Bn, 235th Rgt, Salina

Lt. Col. Roger Murdock, 69th TC, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Reichman, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Lt. Col. Gregg Riley, HHB (-), 35th Div Arty, Hutchinson

Lt. Col. Lee Tafanelli, HSC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Lt. Col. Michael A. Thornbro, 69th TC, Wichita

Lt. Col. Richard A. White, Kansas Area Med Det, Lenexa

Lt. Col. Robert E. Windham Jr., 1st Bn, 235th Rgt, Salina

Lt. Col. Jerry Young, 1st Bn, 235th Reg, Salina

Maj Barry Adams, R&R Cmd, Topeka

Maj Matthew Bedwell, HHD, 169th Corps Spt Bn, Olathe

Maj Jerry Clary, Co C, (RTS-M), 235th Regt (KSRTI), Salina

Maj Millicen Dill, HHC, 35th Inf Div (M), Fort Leavenworth

Maj Tony Divish, HQ, 235th Reg (KSRTI), Salina

Maj Jeffry Jack, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Maj Norman Jennings, HHC, 35th Inf Div (M), Fort Leavenworth

Maj Mark Kayser, HQ, 235th Reg (KSRTI), Salina

Maj Charles Lawhorn, HHC, 35th Inf Div (M), Fort Leavenworth

Maj David Lee, HHD, 169th CSSB, Olathe

Maj Eric McGraw, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Maj Anthony Mohatt, HQ, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City

Maj John Nondorf, HHB (-),35th Div Arty, Hutchinson

Maj Kent Peterson, Area Med Det, Lenexa

Maj Anthony Randall, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Maj Ronald Rousser, HQ, 635th RSG, Hutchinson

Maj David Schmidt, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Maj Timothy Talone, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Maj. Michael Callahan, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Maj. Scott Henry, 73rd CST, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Maj. Michael R. Myers, HHC, 2nd Bn, 130th Inf, Kansas City

Maj. Kirk P. Pederson, HHB, 130th FA Bde, Topeka

Maj. David M. Schmidt, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Maj. Timothy J. Talone, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Capt. Christopher Albright, Co B, 891st Engr Bn, Coffeyville

Capt. Kevin Braun, Co B, 1st Bn, 235th Rgt, Salina

Capt. Scott Cohorst, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Capt. Steven Grisham, HQ, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan

Capt. Daniel Kinney, HSC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola

Capt. Larry L. Leupold, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Capt. Shawn Manley, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola

Capt. Shannon Nicklaus, Co A, 891st Eng Bn, Pittsburg

Capt. Gregory Platt, 73rd CST, Topeka

Capt. Colin Riniker, 323rd Missile Spt Co, Wichita

Capt. Paul Schneider, HHD, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Capt. Robert Wood, Co B, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita

1st Lt. Michael Mitchell, R&R Cmd, Topeka

1st Sgt. Stanley Dalton, 69th TC, Wichita

1st Sgt. Stanley Otis, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman

1st Sgt. Frank Roath, HHB (-), 35th Div Arty,

Hutchinson

1st Sgt. Jeffery Shelton, 323rd Missile Spt Co,

1st Sgt. Paul A. Swanson, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

1st Sgt. Michael Watkins, Co D, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Porfidio Degaldo, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Finice L. Matthews, 731st Med Trk Co, Larned

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ronald Mullinax, HHD, 174th Ord Bn, Hays, Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ronald Reed, RTS-M, Salina, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Chief Warrant Officer 4 John T. Ring, 995th Maint Co., Smith Center

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Philip C. Snyder, Co A, 1st Bn, 108th Aviation, Topeka

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Bennett Cooper, Co A, 1st Bn, 108th Aviation, Topeka

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kenneth E. Hampton, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Warrant Officer 1 Ross England, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Command Sgt. Maj. Jana Harrison, HHD, 169th CSSB, Olathe, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth, 69th TC, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Miller, 69th TC, Wichita

Command Sgt. Maj. Alan Mueting, HQ, 235th Rgt, Salina, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Command Sgt. Maj. Wade E. Webber, HHC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Maj. Lynn Holt, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Sgt. Maj. Allen Kirby, 69th TC, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Master Sgt. Griseldis B. Belin, HHD, 169th CSB, Olathe

Master Sgt. Willie F. Carter, 73rd CST, Topeka

Master Sgt. Kenneth S. Clark, HQ, 235th Rgt, Salina

Master Sgt. Gerald J. Domitrovic, HHB (-), 35th Div Artillery, Hutchinson

Master Sgt. Wayne R. Dunkle, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Master Sgt. Charles Evans, HHD, 169th CSB, Olathe

Master Sgt. John H. Feek, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Master Sgt. Joseph D. Flesher, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Master Sgt. Lonny T. Greer, R&R Cmd, Topeka, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster

Master Sgt. Gary L. Habig, HHB, 130th FA Bde, Topeka

Master Sgt. Darrel W. Haeffele, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Master Sgt. Leonard L. Haverkamp, HHB(-), 35th Div Artillery, Hutchinson

Master Sgt. Ronald C. Herring, HHC, 169th CSSB, Olathe

Master Sgt. Kevin J. Herrman, HHD, 174th Ord Bn, Hays

Master Sgt. Teddy J. Hull, HHD, 174th Ord Bn, Hays

Master Sgt. Andrew J. Kennedy, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster

Master Sgt. Quinten B. Kentzler, HHB, 35th Div Arty, Hutchinson

Master Sgt. Kenneth E. Kessler, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Master Sgt. Michael R. Leachner, HHD, 169th CSB, Olathe

Master Sgt. Roderick O. Mather, R&R Cmd, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Master Sgt. Becky D. Middendorf, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Master Sgt. Kenneth R. Rawlings, R&R Cmd, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Master Sgt. Rodney D. Rogers, 69th TC, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Master Sgt. Travis M. Rudd, R&R Cmd, Topeka

Master Sgt. Melvin R. Smith, R&R Cmd, Topeka

Master Sgt. Ronnie C. Stelter, 2nd Bn, 235th Rgt, Salina

Master Sgt. Stuart L. Stupka, 287th STB, Hays

Master Sgt. Robert D. Thompson, HHC, 169th CSSB, Olathe

Master Sgt. Christopher Vertz, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Boller, 170th Maint Co, Norton

Sgt. 1st Class Jan Brandt, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Brewster, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class Herman Colbert, Co B, 891st Eng Bn, Iola

Sgt. 1st Class Edward Crane, HHC, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City

Sgt. 1st Class Larry Douthit, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan

Sgt. 1st Class Rebecca R. Elias, HHC, 169th CSSB, Olathe

Sgt. 1st Class Larry Eubanks, Btry A, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Marysville

Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Finch, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class Steven Fowles, R&R Cmd, Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class Wesley Hagan, HHD, 169th CSSB, Olathe

Sgt. 1st Class Anthony F. Halpin, Co C, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Lenexa

Sgt. 1st Class Paul H. Harris, HHD, 635th RSG,

Hutchinson

Sgt. 1st Class Laura M. Hart, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class David M. Hawkins, R&R Cmd, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. 1st Class Mark Holtsclaw, 778thTrans Co, Kansas City

Sgt. 1st Class Allen Hudson, Btry C (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Abilene

Sgt. 1st Class Mack H. Jackson, R&R Cmd, Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Jackson, Area Med Det, Lenexa

Sgt. 1st Class Steven B. James, Det 1, 24th Med Co (AA), Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class Gary R. Jaquis, RTS-M, Salina

Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Jayne, HHB (-), 35th Div Arty, Hutchinson

Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Jones, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. 1st Class James Knight, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Sgt. 1st Class Richard Kyle, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Sgt. 1st Class Craig Ledet, 2nd Bn, 235th Rgt, Salina

Sgt. 1st Class Bertha Mastin, R&R Cmd, Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class Darryl McNair, R&R Cmd, Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class Jodi Melby, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class Jesse C. Meyer, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Mankato

Sgt. 1st Class Louisa M. Miser, 995th Maint Co, Smith Center

Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Mitchell, R&R Cmd, Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class Frank Narvaez III, HQ, 235th Rgt, Salina

Sgt. 1st Class Jay Nemnich, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class Robbie Newman, 2nd Bn, 235th Rgt, Salina

Sgt. 1st Class Paul Norman, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class John Oehme, 73rd CST, Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class Olive Palu, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Sgt. 1st Class Charles Pence, Det 1, 714th Maint Co, Clay Center

Sgt. 1st Class John Pfeffer, Det 1, Co C, 891st Eng Bn, Cherryvale

Sgt. 1st Class Marc Plourde, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. 1st Class Floyd Ragsdale, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Sgt. 1st Class Edwin Rahe, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Sgt. 1st Class Donald Rickley, HQ, 235th Rgt (KSRTI), Salina

Sgt. 1st Class Geoffrey Robinson, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Horton

Sgt. 1st Class Craig J. Rohleder, 287th STB, Hays, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. 1st Class Gary L. Shipman, 995th Maint Co, Smith Center

Sgt. 1st Class David Shortle, HQ, STARC (-), Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class Ray E. Simmons, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. 1st Class Roger Sinclair, R&R Cmd, Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class James Steven, Det 1, 24th Med Co, Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class Mickey Summers, 73rd CST, Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class Joe K. Swopes, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class Tommy D. Temple, 323rd Missile Spt Co., Wichita

Sgt. 1st Class Nels Thompson, 714th Maint Co (-), Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class John R. Weigle, Btry C, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Abilene

Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Westphal, R&R Cmd, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. 1st Class Richard H. Wheeler, HQ, 891st Eng Bn, Iola, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. 1st Class Charles Whitney, R&R Cmd, Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class Claude J. Williams III, R&R Cmd, Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class Dennis R. Wilson, HHB, 130th FA Bde, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. 1st Class Leslie Wing, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman

Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Wipperman, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class Herbert C. Wischnack, 73rd CST, Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class Harold Zibell, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Mankato, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. 1st Class David L. Zimmerman, Co A, 891st Eng Bn, Pittsburg

Sgt. Sgt. Joseph Blackwood, Co C, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Lenexa

Staff Sgt. Martin Byrne, R&R Cmd, Topeka

Staff Sgt. Steven Coomes, Det 3, 995th Maint Co, Phillipsburg

Staff Sgt. Jerry Evans, HHD, 635th RSG, Hutchinson

Staff Sgt. James L. Gerlaugh, 287th STB, Hays

Staff Sgt. Steven Horton, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Horton

Staff Sgt. Francisca Jimenez, 73rd CST, Topeka

Staff Sgt. Christopher S. Lucas, 73rd CST, Topeka

Staff Sgt. Mark Murphy, Det 1, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Troy

Staff Sgt. Rolando Nabua, Det 3, 170th Maint Co, Russell

Staff Sgt. Anthony Redden, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Staff Sgt. Eric Rich, HHB (-), 1st Bn, 127th FA, Ottawa

Staff Sgt. Mark Schmidt, 235th Rgt, Salina

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey D. Smith, 935th DASB, Salina

Staff Sgt. John R. Westmacott, 731st Med Trk Co, Dodge City

Staff Sgt. Mark A. Wiedmer, Det 1, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Troy

Sgt. Daniel W. Boden, Det 1, 731st Med Trk Co., Liberal

Sgt. Brian S. Brown, 170th Maint Co, Norton

Sgt. Michael Clarkson, Co B, 1st Bn, 108th Aviation, Topeka

Sgt. Cully Clary, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Horton

Sgt. William E. Cochran, Btry B(-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Horton

Sgt. Jimmie A. Mahathey, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman

Sgt. Leland R. Mead, 731st Med Trk Co (-), Dodge City

Sgt. Ronald Osborn, Det 3, 170th Maint Co, Russell

Sgt. Merlin Peter, 170th Maint Co, Norton

Sgt. Steven Pope, Co A, 1st Bn, 108th Aviation, Topeka

Sgt. Max E. Rissen, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Sgt. Mark R. Terpening, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan

Sgt. Timothy Trainor, HHC (-), 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City

Sgt. Joseph E. Williams, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Horton

ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Sgt. 1st Class Darrian L. Campbell, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman

Sgt. 1st Class Anita G. Istas, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class Mary T. Macklin, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. Kevin L. Durkes, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. David L. Istas, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita, 5th Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. Jamie Jones, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Staff Sgt. Randy Kohlman, Det 3, 995th Maint Co, Phillipsburg

Staff Sgt. Keith Kraushaar, Btry C, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Abilene

Staff Sgt. Samuel Kyle, Det 1, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Troy, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. James Larsen, Det 1, Btry A, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Troy, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. Christopher Lucas, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman

Staff Sgt. Jerry Mac Webb, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Mankato

Staff Sgt. George McMahon, HHB, 130th FA, Topeka

Staff Sgt. James Merriman, Btry C (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Abilene

Staff Sgt. Jesse Meyer, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Mankato, 5th Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. Eric Mincks, HHB (-), 35th Div Arty, Hutchinson, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. Brent Montgomery, Det 1, Co A, 1st Bn, 108th Aviation, Salina

Staff Sgt. Mark Murphy, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Horton

Staff Sgt. Michael Oborny, Svc Btry, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Hutchinson, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. James Peeler, Jr, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Mankato, 5th Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. John Perdue, Det 5, STARC, Topeka, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. Mark Powls, 35th Inf Div Band, Olathe, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. Tracey L. Rutkowski, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita

Staff Sgt. Gary Sesna, HHS (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. Roxanne Shaw, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. Drue Staatz, HQ, 2nd Bn, 235th Regt, Salina

Staff Sgt. Robert Stanley, R&R Cmd, Topeka

Staff Sgt. Broaderick J. Udohnkana, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. Luis Vazquez, Jr., Btry C (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Abilene

Staff Sgt. Jerry Webb, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Mankato, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. Sherry Weishaar, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Staff Sgt. Terry Welch, 105th MPAD, Topeka

Staff Sgt. Thomas J. West, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita, 6th Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. Kelly Winder, Det 2, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Atchison

Staff Sgt. Joseph Worthington, 35th Inf Div Band, Olathe

Staff Sgt. Bobby Yates, Btry F, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Salina

Sgt. James Anderson, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Yancy Ballard, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman

Sgt. Timothy Barraclough, HHB, 130th FA, Topeka

Sgt. Scott Bauman, Btry C (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Abilene, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. John P. Beckman, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Aimee Bissell, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Sgt. Preston Blackburn, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Samuel Bonham, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

City, Neb.

Sgt. Maj. Shorb was a member of the Kansas Army National Guard where he was a communications chief assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, Hiawatha.

Retired Sgt. Harry Calvert Stiverson
Retired Sgt. Harry Calvert Stiverson, 74, died June 10, 2006.

He was born Sept. 2, 1931, in Santa Barbara, Calif.

Stiverson was a member of the Kansas Army National Guard where he was a food service specialist assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 137th Infantry, Wichita.

He retired with more than 21 years of service.

We Remember...

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Lorand Blaine ‘Buck’ Hand
Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Lorand Blaine ‘Buck’ Hand, 85, Topeka, died Sept. 9, 2004.

He was born July 26, 1919, at Claudell.

Hand was a member of the Kansas Army National Guard where he was a unit personnel technician assigned to Company A, 169th Support Battalion.

He retired with more than 35 years of service.

Bobbie G. Kern
Bobbie G. Kern, 75, Scranton, died Dec. 27, 2005.
He was born June 16, 1930, at Ogden.
Sgt. Kern was a member of the Kansas

Army National Guard where he was a senior wireman assigned to Headquarters Battery, 35th Div Arty, Topeka.

Maj. Ronald L. Rousser
Maj. Ronald L. Rousser, 41, Topeka, died Feb. 7, 2006.

He was born Sept. 8, 1964 in Salina.
Rousser was a member of the Kansas Army National Guard where he was a Brigade Signal Officer for the 635th Regional Support Group in Hutchinson. He also was a project manager for the Directorate of Facilities Engineer, Kansas Army National Guard.

He had more than 23 years of Military service.

Retired Senior Master Sgt. C. Robert Wegerer
Retired Senior Master Sgt. C. Robert Wegerer, 58, died April 3, 2006.

He was born Oct. 12, 1947.

Wegerer was a member of the Kansas Air National Guard where he was an aerospace ground equipment superintendent assigned to the 184th Fighter Group, Wichita.

He retired with more than 26 years of service.

Gary L. Denton
Gary L. Denton, 67, St. Marys, died May 13, 2006.

He was born Aug. 12, 1938, at Topeka.
Staff Sgt. Denton was a member of the Kansas Army National Guard where he was a repair inspector assigned to the 110th Ordnance Company, Manhattan.

Lyman Eugene ‘Gene’ Shorb
Lyman Eugene ‘Gene’ Shorb, 82, Hiawatha, died Aug. 28, 2006.
He was born Jan. 19, 1924, at Falls

Sgt. Timothy D. Buchhorn, Co E, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Lawrence, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Charles Buckles, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Sgt. Annette Burns, HQ, STARC (-), Topeka

Sgt. Jeremy Byers, HHB, 1st Bn, 127th FA, Ottawa

Sgt. Richard Carr, Btry A, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Marysville

Sgt. Jose Carrillo, Svc Btry, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Hutchinson

Sgt. Kurtis Casselman, HHC, 35th ID, Ft. Leavenworth

Sgt. Joseph W. Cheek, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Tony Chiles, Det 1, Btry C, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Salina, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Earl Chism, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Bobby Clair, Svc Btry, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Hutchinson, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Beverly Claycamp, HQ STARC (-), Topeka

Sgt. William Cochran, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Horton, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Justin Cordry, Det 1, Btry A, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Concordia, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Morgan Davis, HQ, STARC (-), Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Eric Dean, Btry C, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Abilene, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Jason Dickey, HHB (-), 35th Div Arty, Hutchinson

Sgt. Justinn E. Doby, R&R Cmd, Topeka

Sgt. Michael Downing, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Benjamin Droge, HHD, JFHQ KS, Topeka

Sgt. Lester Ebel, HHS (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Sgt. Rebecca Elias, Det 3, 731st Med Trk Co, Council Grove, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Aaron Engles, Btry F, 161st FA, Salina, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Chad Faulkner, HHB, 130th FA Bde, Topeka

Sgt. Andrew Filbeck, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita

Sgt. Rogelio Flores, HHS (-) 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Johnnie Franks, Det 1, 24th Med Co, Topeka

Sgt. Bryan Fuqua, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman

Sgt. Ronald Gann, Det 1, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Sabetha

Sgt. Susan Garcia, HHD, STARC (-), Topeka

Sgt. Raymond Gawith, Svc Btry, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Hutchinson

Sgt. Matthew George, R&R Cmd, Topeka, 6th Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Joseph Gerritzen, Det 2, HHB, 1st Bn 161st FA, Newton

Sgt. Robert Gilliland, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Horton, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Larry Gilmore, Det 1, HHB, 1st Bn, 127th FA, Lawrence, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Jason Good, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Garden City

Sgt. Duane Griffin, Det 3, 170th Maint Co, Russell, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Rebecca Harris, 35th Inf Div Band, Olathe

Sgt. Stephen Hess, Battery F, 161st FA, Salina, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Sheree Hicks, HQ, STARC, Topeka, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Robert Himelrick, III, 731st Med Trk Co, Dodge City, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Timothy Hoesli, Btry F, 161st FA, Salina, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Christopher Jackson, HHC, 1st Bn, 108th Aviation, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Jon Jackson, Co A, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City

Sgt. Kurtis Jackson, 995th Maint Co, Smith Center, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Travis Jacobs, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Terry A. Jameson, HHS(-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Matthew J. Johnson, HHC (-), 1st Bn, 108th Aviation, Topeka

Sgt. Michael Jones, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Horton

Sgt. Terry Jones, Btry F, 161st FA, Salina, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Win Jordan, HHD, 174th Ord Bn, Hays

Sgt. Paul Jom, HHS (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Sgt. Dewayne Kalivoda, Det 2, 995th Maint Co, Belleville

Sgt. Myra Kennedy, Det 2, 170th Maint Co, Colby, 3rd Oak leaf Cluster

Sgt. Myra D. Kennedy, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Robert Kern, HHB (-) 35th Div Arty, Hutchinson

Sgt. Mark Ketchem, 73rd CST, Topeka

Sgt. John Kilpatrick, R&R Cmd, Topeka

Sgt. Darrel Koch, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman

Sgt. William Kramer, 242 Engr, Wichita

Sgt. Brandon L. Kuker, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Bruce Laffery, Det 2, 995th Maint Co, Belleville, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Roel Landez, Det 3, 731st Med Trk Co. Council Grove

Sgt. Dean P. Lester, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Mankato, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Kevin Linder, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman

Sgt. Randall Logan, Det 1, HHB, 1st Bn, 127th FA, Lawrence

Sgt. Robert Longacre, HHB (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita

Sgt. Mark Longbine, Btry C, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Abilene

Sgt. Kimberly Loomis, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Mankato

Sgt. Chuck Lowe, HHS (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Samuel Lyle, 35th Inf Div Band, Olathe, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. David Mack, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Michael Mader, 35th Inf Div Band, Olathe, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Seth Marlar, Det 2, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton

Sgt. David McKinney, Co A, 2nd 137th Inf, Kansas City

Sgt. John McLean, Co E, 2nd 137th Inf, Kansas City, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Donald McLendon, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita

Sgt. John McMahan, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Harrison McWhorter, Det 2, HQ STARC, Salina

Sgt. John McWilliams, 995th Maint Co, Smith Center, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Jodi Melby, Det 2, 714th Maint Co, Junction City, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Darrin Meyers, Btry B (-), 2nd Bn, 130th, FA Horton

Sgt. Andrew Mitchell, Det 2, 731st Med Trk Co, Wichita

Sgt. Denise Mitchell, Det 6, HQ STARC, Topeka

Sgt. Laurie Monarez, 242nd Engr Co, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Edward Monteith, Co C, 1st Bn, 108th Aviation, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Anthony Moore, Det 2, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Atchison, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. John Moore, 35th Inf Div Band, Olathe

Sgt. Donna Morgan, Det 1, 714th Maint Co, Clay Center, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Michael Mulligan, HHB (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita

Sgt. Barry Munger, 995th Maint Co, Smith Center

Sgt. Kevin Newell, Btry C, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Abilene, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Kelly Ninabuck, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Garden City

Sgt. Ivan Nordquist, Btry A, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Marysville

Sgt. Timothy O'Neil, 35th Inf Div Band, Olathe, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Gregory Osborne, 35th Inf Div Band, Olathe

Sgt. Tana Patton, Det 1, 323rd Missile Support Co, Fort Riley, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. David Paul, Det 1, HHB, 1st Bn, 127th FA, Lawrence

Sgt. James Peterson, Svc Btry, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Hutchinson, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Clearance Pierce, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Garden City

Sgt. Lester Pletcher, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Mankato, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Anthony Rainey, HQ STARC (-), Topeka

Sgt. Donald Rasdall, Det 2, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Atchison

Sgt. Randall Rathmann, Det 2, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Atchison

Sgt. Travis Ratzloff, Btry F, 161st FA, Salina

Sgt. Christopher Richardson, Btry A (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Marysville

Sgt. Phillip Rockey, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Sgt. Christopher Rolen, Co D, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf , Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Clay Rose, Det 1, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Liberal

Sgt. Michael Rouse, Btry C, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Abilene

Sgt. Donald Sand, Btry A, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Marysville

Sgt. Kenneth Scheibe, 2130 Ord Det, Sabetha, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Jeffrey Schmidt, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Erik Schroeder, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita

Sgt. Daniel Scroggins, 731st Med Trk Co, Dodge City

Sgt. Francis Sheely, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Horton, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Sean Smith, Svc Btry, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Hutchinson

Sgt. Antonio Talbert, HHB, 130th FA Bde, Topeka

Sgt. Marty Tatum, Btry A, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Marysville

Sgt. David Taylor, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City

Sgt. Dereck Thomas, 1st Bn, 235th Rgt, Salina, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Charlie Thrush, 2nd Bn, 235th Rgt, Salina

Sgt. Jay Vanwey, 995th Maint Co, Smith Center, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Richard Weese, Svc Btry, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Hutchinson

Sgt. Roy Wellman, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Sgt. Elmer White, HHS (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Sgt. John White, Det 2, 995th Maint Co, Belleville.

Sgt. Todd Will Banks, Co C, 1st Bn, 108th Aviation, Topeka

Sgt. Dwayne Willey, 2130 Ord Det, Sabetha

Sgt. Joseph Williams, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Horton

Sgt. Christopher Wilson, 35th Inf Div Band, Olathe

Sgt. Warren Wilson, Det 1, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Sabetha

Sgt. Kevin Wiltz, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Steven Winchester, Co C, 1st Bn, 108th Aviation, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt. Jesse Young, Svc Btry, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Hutchinson

Spc. Debra M. Maxey, Area Med Det, Lenexa, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Spc. Juan Moncada, Det 1, 731st Med. Truck Co, Liberal

Spc. James R. Pittman, Svc Btry, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Hutchinson, 5th Oak Leaf Cluster

Spc. Brandon J. Williams, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Spc. Keith Wilson, 242nd Eng Co, Wichita

Pfc. Jarrett Kuck, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson

Pvt. 2 John P. McCartney, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman

Pvt. Amanda J. Danner, 35th Div Arty, Hutchinson

Pvt. David Vlachos, Svc Btry, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Hutchinson

Kansas Air National Guard Awards

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Lt. Col. Clyde Davis, 184th ARW, Wichita

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Lt. Col. Michael Hall, 184th ARW, Wichita

Lt. Col. Scott Poynter, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Lt. Col. Dean Taylor, 184th ARW, Wichita

Lt. Col. Paul Thompson, 184th ARW, Wichita

Lt. Col. Kent Wade, 184th ARW, Wichita

Lt. Col. Mark Welte, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Lt. Col. Roberta Williams, 184th ARW, Wichita

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Young, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Lt. Col. Richard Yule, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Maj. Craig Moore, 184th ARW, Wichita

Maj. James Price, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Maj. Michael Venerdi, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Maj. Willaim Wallace, 184th ARW, Wichita

Chief Master Sgt. Sidney Baldwin, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Chief Master Sgt. Terry Clain, 184th ARW, Wichita

Chief Master Sgt. Sharon Clark, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Chief Master Sgt. Keith Kahnt, 184th ARW, Wichita

Chief Master Sgt. Gary Wade, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Chief Master Sgt. Steven Westhoff, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Senior Master Sgt. Larry Coffman, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Senior Master Sgt. Keith Decker, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Senior Master Sgt. Willaim Dobey, 184th ARW, Wichita

Senior Master Sgt. Tammy Duncan, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Senior Master Sgt. Melody Frazier, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Senior Master Sgt. Terry Kerns, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Mosier, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Senior Master Sgt. Mark Tuggle, 184th ARW, Wichita,

1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Senior Master Sgt. Karen Wendling, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Master Sgt. Kurtis Baergen, 184th ARW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Kimberly Barnes, 184th ARW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Sandra Bearden, 184th ARW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Bart Brown, 184th ARW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Douglas Butts, 184th ARW, Wichita

Master Sgt. David Campos, 184th ARW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Philip Catlett, 184th ARW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Michael Cornelson, 184th ARW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Robert Davis, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Master Sgt. Richard Drown, 184th ARW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Patrick Engstrom, 184th ARW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Bradley Hansen, 184th ARW, Wichita

Master Sgt. John Kill, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Master Sgt. Kenneth Mauler, 184th ARW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Thomas Mikkelson, 184th ARW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Lawrence Montgomery, 184th ARW, Wichita

Master Sgt. David Ross, 184th ARW, Wichita

Master Sgt. John Runyan, 184th ARW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Donald Schafer, 184th ARW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Thomas Shaffer, 184th ARW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Lawayne Smith, 184th ARW, Wichita

Master Sgt. William Smith, 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

Master Sgt. Stephen Zani, 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. John Bishop, 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. Holly Chapman, 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. Christina Durham, 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. Timothy Fergus, 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. Troy Henderson, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Tech. Sgt. Lynn Herrell, 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. John Ives, 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. David Lopez, 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. James Miller, 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. Lonie Reed, Jr 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. Montese Sonnier, 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. Kevin Straub, 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. Janet Stuhlsatz, 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. David Weide, 184th ARW, Wichita

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Capt. Keith Hickman, 184th ARW, Wichita

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Master Sgt. James Chessher, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

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Master Sgt. Stephen Doningues, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

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Master Sgt. Melanie Graber, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

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Master Sgt. Randi Hill, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

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Tech. Sgt. Brian Clingan, 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. Jason Lacoss, 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. John Maly, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Tech. Sgt. Eric Maynor 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Tech. Sgt. Russell Shane, 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. Erik Swanson, 184th ARW, Wichita

Staff Sgt. Edward Benoit 184th ARW, Wichita

Staff Sgt. Westley Broxterman, 184th ARW, Wichita

Staff Sgt. Allen Damm, 184th ARW, Wichita

Staff Sgt. Robert Ewing, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. John Grindstaff, 184th ARW, Wichita

Staff Sgt. Donald Johnson, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. Andrew Smith, 184th ARW, Wichita

Sgt. Ryan Voss, 184th ARW, Wichita

Senior Airman Derick Tibbetts, 184th ARW, Wichita

AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT

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Master Sgt. Chad Brown, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Master Sgt. Donna Buckman, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Master Sgt. Michael Collins, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Master Sgt. Michael Scott, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Master Sgt. Tracy Unruh, 184th ARW, Wichita

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Tech. Sgt. William Galbreath, 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. Korey Haukom, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Tech. Sgt. James Helms, 184th ARW, Wichita, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster

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Staff Sgt. Marsha Chavez, 184th ARW, Wichita

Staff Sgt. Allen Damm, 184th ARW, Wichita

Staff Sgt. Emily Halderson 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. John Herrman 184th ARW, Wichita

Staff Sgt. John Herrman, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. Louis Jacobs III, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. David Kenney, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. Glenn Ludwig, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. Glenn Ludwig, 184th ARW, Wichita

Staff Sgt. Angela McNew, 184th ARW, Wichita

Staff Sgt. Keith Melvin 184th ARW, Wichita

Staff Sgt. Jacqueline Monterrubio-Lopez, 184th ARW, Wichita

Staff Sgt. Edgar Salazaraguirre, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. Brandie Schulte, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Staff Sgt. Peter Welling, 184th ARW, Wichita

Senior Airman John Baxter, 184th ARW, Wichita

Senior Airman John Baxter, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Senior Airman Louis Comstock, Jr. 184th ARW, Wichita

Senior Airman Jared Halderson, 184th ARW, Wichita

Senior Airman Jason Harkness 184th ARW, Wichita

Senior Airman Verne Mitchell, 184th ARW, Wichita

Senior Airman Chad Neptune, 184th ARW, Wichita

Senior Airman Jerrell White, 184th ARW, Wichita

Airman 1st Class Caleb Eilhert, 184th ARW, Wichita

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Master Sgt. Jeffrey Brown, 184th ARW, Wichita

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Chief Master Sgt. Willard Morris, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Chief Master Sgt. Sheila Payne, 184th ARW, Wichita

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Chief Master Sgt. Jack Solter, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Senior Master Sgt. Russell Atwater, 184th ARW, Wichita

Senior Master Sgt. Lucian Buttel, 184th ARW, Wichita

Senior Master Sgt. Kristine Clarke, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Senior Master Sgt. Gregory Hennes, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Senior Master Sgt. Edwin Kramer, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Master Sgt. Angel Acosta, 184th ARW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Frank Cook, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Master Sgt. Neil Fogg, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

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Tech. Sgt. Randall Kendall, 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. Homer King, 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. Russell Shane, 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. Montese Sonnier, 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. Cynthia Swazey, 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. Robin Willson, 184th ARW, Wichita

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Staff Sgt. Delbert Alt, 184th ARW, Wichita

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Staff Sgt. Jose Cabral, 184th ARW, Wichita

Staff Sgt. Zachary Constance, 184th ARW, Wichita

Staff Sgt. Brady Cooper, 184th ARW, Wichita

Staff Sgt. Charles Metzger, 184th ARW, Wichita

Staff Sgt. Mark Rush, 184th ARW, Wichita

Staff Sgt. Jack Wait, 184th ARW, Wichita

Senior Airman Karey Haukom, 184th ARW, Wichita

Senior Airman Jessica Latour, 184th ARW, Wichita

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Senior Airman Francis Nguyen, 184th ARW, Wichita

Senior Airman Clinton Pozehl, 184th ARW, Wichita

Senior Airman John Simmons, 184th ARW, Wichita

Senior Airman Kim Stanfield, 184th ARW, Wichita

Senior Airman Tonya Williamson, 184th ARW, Wichita

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Airman 1st Class Weston Hopkins, 184th ARW, Wichita

Airman 1st Class Byron Smith, 184th ARW, Wichita

Airman 1st Class Danny Squires, 184th ARW, Wichita

Airman 1st Class Jessica Woydziak, 184th ARW, Wichita

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Senior Master Sgt. James Beard, 184th ARW, Wichita

Senior Master Sgt. Jim Marklevits, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Senior Master Sgt. Roosevelt Matthews, Jr 184th ARW, Wichita

Senior Master Sgt. Eugene Turner, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Senior Master Sgt. Karen Wendling, 184th ARW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Susan Ballard, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Master Sgt. David Campos, 184th ARW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Jill Jantz, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Master Sgt. Dennis Lanham, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Master Sgt. Debra Quade, 184th ARW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Brian York, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Tech. Sgt. William Galbreath, 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. Korey Haukom, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Senior Airman Treg White, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak

Request for small toys leads to community project

By Amy Paden

I would love to share our story with you on how our project, “Hearts of America” got started. It all began really with my cousin, Anna, and her husband, Danny Caesar. In 2006, while Danny was serving in Iraq he asked Anna to gather some small “Happy Meal” size toys, new or used, for him and his team mates to distribute out to the Iraqi children. Anna then shared the request with family members (I’m a cousin of Anna’s). When I received word of it, I knew this would be an easy task. Anna was hoping for a few hundred toys.

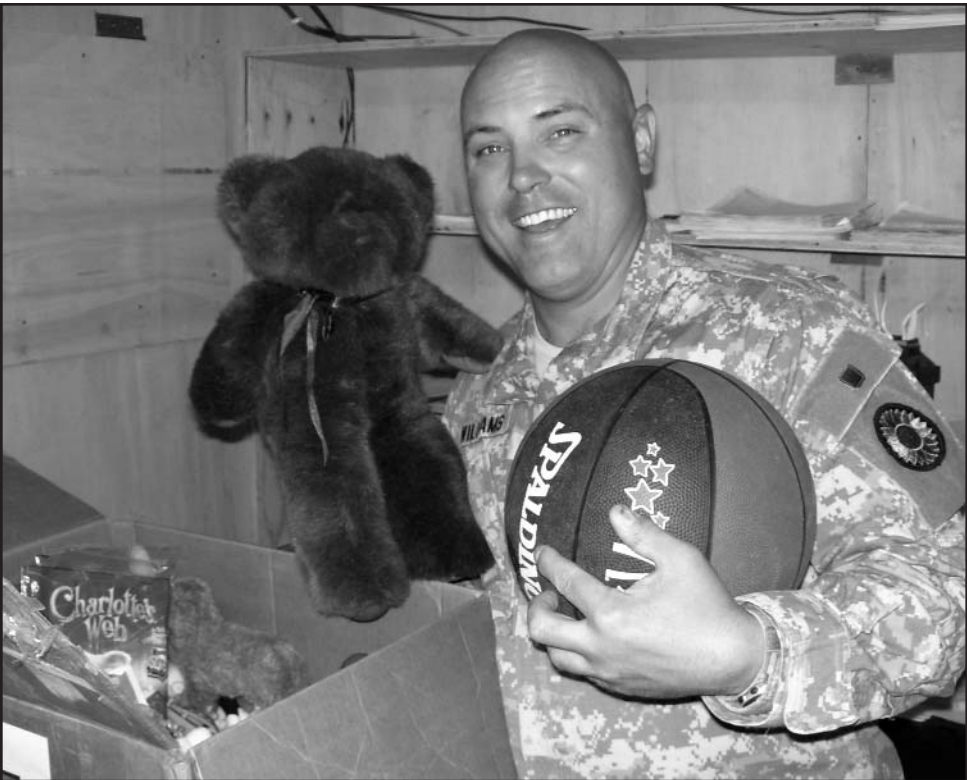
To sum it all up, I shared the idea with family, friends, strangers and co-workers at Salina Regional Health Center. The ball really starting rolling when I e-mailed all the hospital employees. I told them that our family was gathering toys, new or used, and for them to please consider going through their children’s and grandchildren’s toy boxes for any unwanted toys. As a result, on Aug. 7, 2006, we mailed over 4,000 toys to Iraq!

Since then, Danny has returned from serving in Iraq and is in the process of retiring from the 4th Infantry Division out of Fort Hood, Texas. Anna is busy being a mommy and helping her mom and grandma. I, on the other hand, wish to continue on with the efforts, because I’m having a great time gathering items for our Soldiers serving in the Middle East.

We’re presently gathering items for four troops. Each one seems to have a specific request. Some need hygiene items. Some have contact with children, others don’t. Another, stationed at a Combat Support Hospital, wants blankets, knit hats and socks to help his fellow military comrades keep warm during their medevac transport to Germany. Before sending a package to a Soldier / troop I always include a letter about our collection efforts that took place and a little about some of the volunteers.

After the first shipment, I decided our project needed a name. After thinking about it for a while, it was obvious, because people just gave from their heart and still do.

So that’s how Hearts of America got its



A basketball and a teddy bear – displayed by Maj. Lon Williams, a member of a Kansas National Guard Embedded Training team in Afghanistan – are just a few of the thousands of toys and other items collected by the grass-roots “Hearts of America” project. (Photo provided)

name. Many people have inspired me to continue. Here’s a poem that someone enclosed in with a bag of toys.

*For all holidays past here’s a gift at last.
One that I hope you’ll hold dear
for a lot longer than a year.
One so you don’t even dare
to start to forget I care.
One so you know I love you much.
And limits, I don’t know of such.
And to you I dedicate a part
of my heart.*

I’ve met some amazing people through this hobby/journey of mine. People from all walks of life have participated in this project of gathering items for our troops. I keep saying, “People want to help. Sometimes they just don’t know exactly how they can.”

Since our first shipment we’ve had a tremendous amount of support from the Salina media. We now have a few sponsors, Big Lots of Salina and Food 4 Less in Junction City. We don’t receive any grants

or other assistance; we rely on individual donations and fundraisers. Currently, the Food 4 Less in Junction City is matching all monetary donations through the end of May up to \$2,500.

To date, we have approximately 30 volunteers. Our oldest volunteer is a lady who is 92 years old!!! She bakes treats to sell at our hotdog stand and works the booth, as well. Our next event will be just in a matter of a few weeks (April 30 and May 7). Food 4 Less is offering to be a collection site for food, hygiene items, batteries, new and used toys, throw blankets, knit hats, socks, and children’s shoes (new or used). Big Lots of Salina will be sponsoring our 2nd annual hotdog stand along with Pepsi-Cola during Memorial weekend (May 26, 27 and 28). All proceeds go toward paying nominal expenses and shipping fees. We also have a metal box that weighs over 1,000 lbs. in Salina at Security Savings Bank for the community to leave their donations. Its accessible 24 hours a day,

seven days a week.

If you’re wondering how some in the The Adjutant General’s Department became aware of our project, this is how that all came about. Back in November 2006 I was trying to find another recipient because Danny and a couple of others that I corresponded with had returned to the U.S. So in hopes of finding someone with interest, I drove over to the National Guard facility on Armory Road in Salina. I just walked into one of the offices and introduced myself to one of the Guardsmen there. I explained that I wanted to continue on with the efforts and that I had some treats and toys that I would like to send to someone who might want to become a recipient of such in Iraq. About a month or so later, I received an e-mail from the TAG office stating they would try to find a recipient. Then soon after that I received another e-mail that, if I didn’t mind, they have someone in Afghanistan that would like to participate and that is my friend Maj. Lon Williams, a member of a Kansas National Guard Embedded Training team in Afghanistan.

From that point, I asked Lon if there was anything that his team wanted that we would do our best in trying to accommodate them. Lon has mentioned AA and AAA batteries and small size pillows to fit in their rucksacks. We were happy to assist in gathering him those items. One of our volunteers made 10 pillows with pillow cases for each. It was kind of funny because my mom wanted to participate in the sewing project and didn’t get to for the other lady just did it all.

Other than sending some treats to them and this and that I would say we’ve sent them maybe 400 or so toys and we’re in the process of sending him much more. My goal this next shipment is to send him at least a few thousand toys.

Lon has been so wonderful about being a recipient there in Afghanistan. I’m thankful that I got the opportunity to correspond with him. It’s been a pleasure in providing items for him and his troops there.

Anyone interested in more information or in helping with the project may e-mail me at rpaden@eaglecom.net or call (785) 655-9402.

Manhattan Guard unit gathers food for Flint Hills Breadbasket

By Pvt Matt Sullivan, UPAR

During the weekend of March 3-4, Sgt. 1st Class Richard Bridges, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 635th Armor, helped organize a food drive to gather canned goods to be delivered to the Flint Hills Breadbasket, a local business that distributes the food to families in need in the surrounding areas.

Bridges, the Kansas National Guard recruiter for Riley County, believes the Guard unit needs to be involved in the community and one of the things he had arranged was the food drive. He spoke with the manager at one of the local grocery stores in Manhattan and was able to get some of the Soldiers from the unit to collect nonperishable food items from customers as they left the store. The Soldiers were able to gather 1,645 pounds of food from donors.

They gathered items such as canned goods, dry cereal, pasta and other non-perishables. Bridges was very happy with the results of the food drive and hopes that it will aid the families and shed a new light on the unit in Manhattan as a unit that wants to be an active participant in the community.

“It seems that most of the recruiting and retention events are there looking for people to join the National Guard,” said Bridges, who believes that this is not true. They want to be in the community’s eye and viewed as helpers of the community. Bridges hopes that this shows how much they are willing to help the community.

“I had noticed in the Manhattan Mercury

“We got so much food it may take a deuce and a half (large truck) to deliver it all!”

Sgt. 1st Class Richards Bridges

that the Boy Scouts had also been out gathering food for the local Breadbasket and some people had stated that some of them (Boy Scouts) had gone door to door to collect food,” said Bridges. “I believe that this will help a lot of families out, especially with Easter on the way.”

The food was delivered to the Flint Hills Breadbasket March 8 by a small group of Soldiers from the 635th Armor helping to unload and sort the food.

“We got so much food it may take a deuce and a half (large truck) to deliver it all!” said Bridges.

“The food will be distributed among the many families in the Manhattan/Fort Riley area, as needed,” said Tascha Phillip, executive director for the Flint Hills Breadbasket. “There is no minimum requirements to get help from the Breadbasket. If you come in and say that you can’t feed your family then they (the Breadbasket) will help you to feed your family.”

Phillip also stated that the Breadbasket relies on donations from the communities and grants to help raise food items for needy families. She would also like it understood that the Breadbasket is not a



Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 635th Armor in Manhattan load donated food for transport to the Flint Hills Breadbasket, a Manhattan-based food pantry. The Guardsmen collected more than 1,600 pounds of food for the organization. (Photo by Pvt. 2 Jesus R. Baquero Jr., UPAR)

permanent fix, but more of a way for them to help families to get back on their feet through assistance.

“We also accept monetary donations,” said Phillip. “We use the money to buy

groceries that we need, like if we have plenty of spaghetti noodles but no sauce, then we will use that money to go and buy the spaghetti sauce. The food will definitely be welcomed and put to good use!”

Kansas National Guard supports Governor’s Easter Egg Hunt

By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR
When professionals do their job, their presence is not always noticed.
On March 31, Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius opened the lawn of her official residence, Cedar Crest, for the Annual Governor’s Easter Egg Hunt. The weather had been cold and rainy for the preceding three or four days. There were questions as to whether the event was going to be held on the lawn at all.
However, the rain had broken enough for hundreds of children and their parents to fill the lawn. In addition to all the hunters were members of the local media, volunteers and members of the Kansas Army National Guard.
Coming up the drive to Cedar Crest, did many of the volunteers or eager hunters of chocolate-filled plastic eggs notice the

lone figure standing there? Sgt. Brent Pellett, 35th Military Police Company, backed up by the Capitol Police and the Kansas Highway Patrol, was the first person visitors met. Pellett, who is getting ready for an overseas deployment, said his mission was to provide security and traffic control for the visitors.
Walking down the path toward the “hunting grounds” visitors passed Sgt. Terry Clark, 35th Military Police Company, and his High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, HMMWV. Clark opened his vehicle to members of the public. Clark said he enjoyed sharing his knowledge of the Guard and the HMMWV. Clark spent a good part of the morning explaining the capabilities of his vehicle.
Next to Clark’s HMMWV, Sgt. 1st Class Roberta Sprouse, Recruiting and Retention

Command, set up her information table. When asked why she had brought information on college funding to an event for children ages one through nine, Sprouse said “A lot of their parents are of an age where they might be interested in joining (the Guard). Also, one never knows what spark or seed might be planted today, that in nine or 10 years may lead to a new Soldier.”
A little further down the path, a Guard lowboy trailer served as the stage for Sebelius and the live entertainment, Kreg Hoover and Joel Davidson, aka the Two Classics. Power for the stage was provided by a Guard generator. Supporting the generator was Spc. Anthony Tonasket, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry; and Spc. Thomas Regan, Detachment 2, 250th Forward Support Company.

Throughout the day, the two Guardsmen kept the music playing. Tonasket kept the generator running while Regan handled the electrical connections. Tonasket also brought his daughter, who was one of the successful egg hunters.
Away from all the other action were three additional Soldiers. The signal for the start of the event was provided by Spc. Jennifer Savage and Spc. Jon Zirkle, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation. Taking direction from Sgt. 1st Class Max Miller, 69th Troop Command, each of the two Soldiers released a hand grenade simulator for the “boom” that started the event.
Each Guard member did their job in such a highly professional manner, most of crowd only saw the event and not the work that went into producing such an event. That is the way it should be.



Sgt. Brent Pellett, 35th Military Police Company, assisted with traffic control for the annual Governor’s Easter Egg Hunt. (Photo by Sgt. Michael Matthewson, UPAR)



A Kansas National Guard HMMWV, attended by Sgt. Terry Clark and Spc. Jon Zirkle, proved a popular attraction. (Photo by Sgt. Michael Matthewson, UPAR)

Counterdrug Support Team helps take down drug dealers

Continued from Page 9
that help them here.”
The Counterdrug Teams are armed and receive extensive law enforcement training. But in the 15 years of the program, no Counterdrug Guard member has ever deployed a weapon or fired a round.
“We receive training, not because we’re trying to be police officers, but because we operate in that environment,” Romans said. “In an unusual circumstance, we can arrest, restrain, detain, but that’s not what we plan to do. We want law enforcement to be the ones kicking in the doors and doing the arrests.”
And that’s exactly what happens at the first crack house upon which law enforcement agents descend. This is the location of an alleged crack cocaine dealer, believed to be a major dealer with extensive connections. No shots are fired. The arrest is a success. The agents head to another location for a quick brief on the next potential take down. In a few moments they’re back on the road, ready for the next arrest.
As law enforcement move toward another area, a Counterdrug Team positioned there many hours before, has provided details of what to expect. At this structure, law enforcement is faced with more resistance, those inside are yelling, but the arrest is a success. After a while, a young girl emerges, possibly one of the suspect’s family.
Mike, a Counterdrug Support Team and National Guard member has been on the job 10 years, and worked in law enforcement previously. (His last name is withheld to protect his identity). “It gives you a sense of giving something back,” he said. “You feel like you’re making a difference. You get to see all the work you put into it, the work you do, the long hours all culmi-

nate...It’s good to see it go off without a hitch, no damage to property.”
“I see this as an extension of the National Guard, really helping against the domestic enemy,” Mike added. “I’d really like my daughter to grow up in a drug-free environment.”
“Our training here helps us in the National Guard as well,” said Jack, a Counterdrug Support Team member since 1995.
“Some of these crack houses, law enforcement may not have known about without our help (observation).” Jack noted. “In the larger scheme of things, if law enforcement didn’t have our manpower out there, they might miss something”
Counterdrug Support Teams typically work in teams of two to four when doing

observations, which can occur in any part of the state, require long hours and sometimes forces them to be away from family for a few weeks, something National Guard members are somewhat accustomed to, as well.
“We feel like we give the National Guard units back a more well-rounded Soldier or Airman than they give us initially, because of all the training we put them through and the experience they get,” Romans added. “These are real word missions...Kansas Guardsmen are typically in a training role, but this is one unit that is doing real world missions every day.”
On this particular day, the drug raids net 22 arrests, 600 grams of cocaine, 30 grams of marijuana, \$22,000 in cash, eight guns and eight autos.

Since the Counterdrug Support Program began in 1991 more than \$95 million in narcotics have been seized, nearly a 1,000 weapons, more than 250 vehicles, and more than four million dollars in currency as well as other assets bringing the total value of property seized to more than \$6 million. The Kansas Guard Counterdrug Team has also assisted law enforcement in making 1,667 felony arrests since the program’s inception.
Like many programs, the Counterdrug Support Program has seen its financial support, which comes from federal funds, cut in recent years. In 1999, there were 40 people in the program, but today there are only 32 full-time Counterdrug Support Team staff including a state-certified K-9. Five members of the team are currently deployed.
Nationwide, the trend is the same. The program started 15 years ago with nearly 4,000 Counterdrug Support Team members, now it’s 2,400.
“We get tons of requests from law enforcement,” said Romans. “There’s a need for more of us.”
Lt. Col. Brian K. Sholar, the Counterdrug Coordinator, pointed out that the other critical components of the Counterdrug Organization are the Drug Demand Reduction Program and the Substance Abuse Program. DDR has reached thousands of Kansas children and adults with the drug prevention message and drug avoidance training. The Substance Abuse Program is responsible for drug testing Soldiers and Airman in the Guard to ensure personnel are meeting The Adjutant General’s zero drug tolerance policy.
For now, Sholar knows it’s a matter of prioritizing the missions they are asked to support and he knows his organization is making a difference.



Plainclothes members of the Kansas National Guard Counterdrug Team assist law enforcement officers with perimeter support during recent NE Kansas drug raid. (Photo by Sharon Watson)

Regional training centers will enhance preparedness

By Sharon Watson

Governor Kathleen Sebelius and Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Director of Kansas Homeland Security and Kansas adjutant general, announced a proposal to develop five regional training centers to enhance the state’s capabilities to defend against terrorism and respond to disasters and emergencies. The announcement was made at a news conference on April 13.

Four regional training centers would be developed in strategic locations around the state to ensure state and local first responders, the Kansas National Guard and public safety organizations have state-of-the art training facilities. A fifth existing training site in Salina would serve as the training hub. The Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center at the Smoky Hill Weapons Range near Salina currently has approximately 36,000 acres for air and ground training.

“Kansas is taking the lead in the nation in enhancing its homeland security capabilities by developing these regional training centers where first responders and public safety organizations, including our

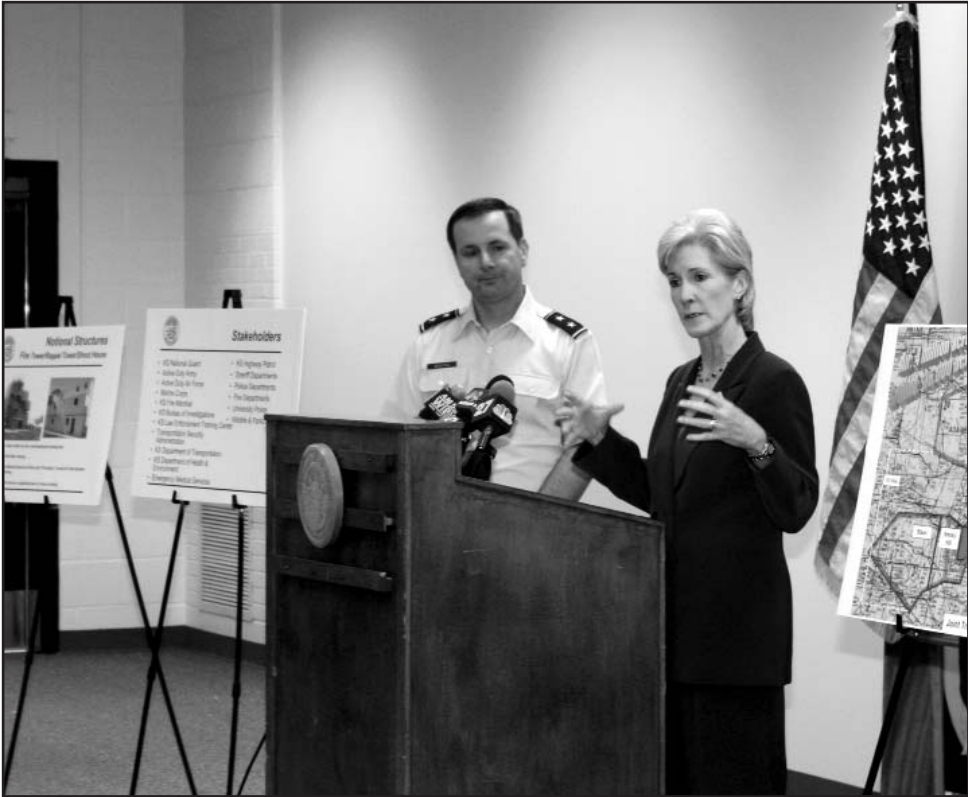
National Guard, train together to ensure our state is the best prepared in the country,” Sebelius said.

The regional training centers concept resulted from The Adjutant General’s Department working with numerous state and local government agencies and public safety professional organizations to determine how best to integrate the needs of emergency responders, public safety and the National Guard into realistic training and exercise facilities.

The funding for the proposed regional training centers would be provided through bonds of no more than \$32 million over three years.

“This is a win-win solution for addressing the needs of Kansas homeland security professionals by providing multi-disciplinary training and exercise capabilities not currently available in the state,” said Bunting. “Most importantly, it’s a big win in our effort to better protect every Kansan.”

The Adjutant General’s Department’s role includes homeland security, and with nearly 8,000 Kansas National Guardsmen



Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting answer questions regarding five proposed regional training centers that would enhance National Guard and first responder training and readiness capabilities throughout the state. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)

whose main mission is to protect Kansas, the agency is the largest first responder/public safety organization in the state.

“The regional training centers will allow our state to have an integrated training approach to handling disasters and emergencies, while providing our National Guard additional training resources for future deployments,” Bunting added.

“With this training, our state will be better prepared to handle whatever situations may come our way requiring a unified response, whether it’s numerous tornadoes, wildfires, floods, terrorism or several events at once.”

Each of the new centers will be strategically positioned to reduce travel time for those seeking training.

“These regional training centers will also be instrumental in not only ensuring our state responders are compliant with the

National Incident Management System, but that they also have a place to train and exercise together,” Sebelius added.

“We’re confident the regional training centers will place Kansas as a leader in the country when it comes to being ready to respond to emergencies and related needs of Kansans,” Bunting said.

State and federal partners who may consider using the regional training centers include: Kansas Fire Marshal’s Office, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas Highway Patrol, sheriff’s departments, police departments, fire departments, university police, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Emergency Medical Services, Kansas Wildlife and Parks Department, Transportation Security Administration and other military Reserve components.

Winter storm “field tests” Kansas Response Plan

By Stephen D. Larson

The winter storm that blanketed the western half of the state with ice and snow in late December 2006 was the first field test of the Kansas Response Plan and emergency management officials say the test was a success.

In September 2005, Governor Kathleen Sebelius signed a statewide emergency management plan outlining roles, responsibilities and procedures for state agencies involved in response to disasters, terrorist threats and other emergencies that threaten the lives and health of Kansans.

“This storm proved the Kansas Response Plan is a very good concept,” said Danny Hay, operations branch chief for Kansas Emergency Management. “The intrastate cooperation between agencies was excellent.”

Hay explained that the Kansas Response Plan, which is based on and incorporates the National Incident Management System, becomes active when the governor declares a State of Disaster Emergency.

“We determine the nature of the emergency and look at which agencies are best equipped to handle the response to it,” said Hay. “In this disaster, the three primary agencies for saving and sustaining lives were the Kansas National Guard, Kansas Highway Patrol and American Red Cross. The Guard and Highway Patrol were primarily involved in the face-to-face, search and rescue operations. They also provided electrical generators and operators to help restore critical emergency power. The Red Cross was doing the sustaining activities, such as putting up shelters.”

Hay was quick to point out that those

three agencies were not the only ones involved in the response.

“The Civil Air Patrol was flying missions for search and rescue,” said Hay. “Kansas Department of Transportation was helping to clear the roads so that stranded motorists could be reached. On the health side there was the Kansas Department of Health and Environment ensuring that hospitals and nursing homes were being taken care of.” Hay said it was a joint effort on the part of local responders, state agencies and volunteer organizations.

Hay also gave big kudos to local emergency managers across the affected areas.

“They’re the unsung heroes,” he said. “These guys and gals worked for days on end with minimal sleep representing their citizens and counties in giving aid and assistance and ensuring the correct resource requests get to the state.”

Hay admitted that, while the plan worked well, actual emergencies allow for improvements to internal processes.

“There are some internal policies and procedures that we’ll tweak,” said Hay. “We had some individuals and cities calling us directly for assistance, when they are supposed to work through the county emergency management office. It’s a requirement (of the plan) that in order for us to engage state assets, the county emergency manager has to call and tell us that they have exhausted all their resources. It’s the same whether it’s Kansas City or a small town.”

But most importantly, the winter storm demonstrated that the Kansas Response Plan works well for protecting and assisting Kansans when disaster hits.

Assessment teams resurvey damage from winter storms

By Stephen D. Larson

Over the next several weeks, joint Public Assistance damage assessment teams from the State and FEMA will be revisiting Kansas counties impacted by the severe winter storms that struck the state Dec. 28-31, 2006, and were named in a State of Disaster Emergency Declaration signed by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius on Jan. 7, 2007. The state team consists of staff from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) Public Assistance Program, in the Kansas Adjutant General’s Department.

The joint teams (16 KDEM staff and 4 FEMA staff) will be re-evaluating damages to roads in approximately 15 counties to determine allocation of federal and state funds needed for restoring infrastructure and mitigating future problems. Many roads were inaccessible and inspection teams could not completely assess damages when deployed in January through March of this year.

“Rarely does a storm of this magnitude hit us,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general. “The storm that struck last December affected 40 percent of our counties and covered the entire western half of the state. It was the most expensive disaster we’ve ever had. In light of this, we are sending out these assessment teams to get a fresh look at damages and make sure every eligible cost is recorded.”

The estimated cost for the Public Assistance Program is approximately \$380 million. There were 241 eligible applicants

from local governments and private non-profit organizations and 541 project worksheets have been completed to date. The largest part of the storm related costs are for restoration of electricity. At the storm’s peak, more than 10,500 power poles were down.

Currently, approximately \$24 million in reimbursements have been obligated for debris removal, emergency protective measures, roads, buildings and equipment, utilities and other costs. Costs are reimbursed on a 75 percent federal/25 percent non-federal funds basis. The non-federal funds have historically been divided on a 10 percent state/15 percent local basis.

The State of Disaster Emergency signed by the governor was for Public Assistance only, because damages did not meet the eligibility requirements for the federal Individual Assistance Program to reimburse losses to individuals and businesses.

When a disaster strikes, preliminary damage assessment teams visit the affected areas to determine if there are enough damages to meet eligibility guidelines. When a declaration is issued, FEMA establishes a Joint Field Office where applicants may file their requests for reimbursement of costs associated with the disaster. When requests are granted, projects are formulated and project worksheets written, after which funds are allocated for the projects. Sometimes, repair and mitigation projects will take several years before completion and closing of the project files. Currently, the state has open disaster files dating back to the winter storm of January 2002.



State agencies and volunteer organizations worked side by side in the State Emergency Operations - and in the field - in response to the winter storm that blanketed much of western Kansas in December 2006. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)

Memorial Death March a grueling, rewarding experience

Five members of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 127 Field Artillery, who recently returned from a deployment in Iraq, participated in the annual 26.2 mile Bataan Memorial Death March held at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., on March 25. This year marked the 18th running of this event.

The event honors a select group of World War II Soldiers, who were responsible for the defense of the islands of Luzon and Corregidor and the harbor defense forts of the Philippines. They fought in a malaria-infested environment, surviving on half or fewer rations with little or no medical support, outdated equipment and no air support.

On April 9, 1942, tens of thousands of American and Filipino Soldiers surrendered to Japanese forces. They were marched for days in the scorching heat through the Philippine jungles. Thousands died along the route; survivors faced the hardships of prisoner-of-war camps.

Approximately 4,000 marchers from across the United States and several foreign countries participate in this annual event sponsored by the Army ROTC Department at New Mexico State University.

This was the first year a unit from the State of Kansas had fully sponsored and supported a group of Soldiers to compete in the march. The Soldiers were provided with orders for the event, transportation to and from the event and even lodging and meals were included in their weekend.

“We were extremely grateful for all of the support the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery provided,” said Sgt. Ken Wilson.

The group of five competed in the National Guard Heavy Division, consisting of a minimum 35 pound rucksack.

Fortunately for the Soldiers, they were supplied with some of the new, more comfortable modular rucksacks the Army provides as opposed to the older style olive-drab rucksacks.

“These were a select item issued to us to utilize for this event,” said 1st Lt. Steven Schneider. “I believe they greatly improved our overall performance.”

The course was a grueling 26.2 mile route beginning on post and traveling through some of most beautiful New Mexico desert and returning to the same location. The team was required to wake up early Sunday morning and be on post by around 4:30 a.m. Following the opening ceremony, the team finally headed out shortly after 6:45 a.m.

The sun rising over the eastern horizon was a spectacular sight, with the thousands of marchers stretching along the early few miles of the course. The course consisted of pavement, dirt and sand trails and one short stretch known as the “Sand Pit.”

The course took the Soldiers from an elevation of roughly 4,000 feet, up and around the base of a local mountain to about 8,000 feet and back down again to post. Along the route were strategically placed water points, roughly one every two miles, and medical aid stations.

“At every aid station you would see Soldiers and civilians alike nursing hotspots, blisters and some dehydration cases,” said Sgt. Gabriel Bailey. “We would keep moving though, only stopping to grab Gatorade or water and some fruit. We had a deadline - seven hours and 30 minutes - and we were determined to make it.”

In the tradition of the Army, the team was required to complete the event as a team, leaving no one behind. If one member was unable to finish, the entire team



The 1st Battalion, 127th Field Artillery Bataan Memorial Death March team endured heat, thirst and blisters as they took part in the 18th annual event that honors the approximately 75,000 Soldiers who were force-marched to a Japanese prisoner of war camp in 1942. (Photo provided)

would be disqualified. This motivated the team to come to each others aid when one was struggling and support each other during the entire course. The goal for the team was to place in the top two of their division, a rather daunting task given that four of the members had never competed in anything like this.

The team remained motivated and upbeat throughout the entire course. Not a single member fell out and completed the mission set by their team captain.

“I have never been this fatigued before in my entire life,” said Spc. Jeffrey Donaldson. “Who could imagine walking

would be so difficult, but so rewarding.”

The team crossed the finish line in a time of seven hours, 24 minutes and 24 seconds. Despite reaching their goal of under seven and a half hours, the team missed second place by only 20 minutes to take a strong third place finish in their division.

“It was an extremely valuable and worthwhile experience for these Soldiers. I am extremely proud of their accomplishment and to have been able to introduce them to such an important piece of military history. To have been given a glimpse of what the real Soldiers of Bataan experienced will last with them for a lifetime,”

World War II land mine detonated by bomb squad

By Stephen D. Larson

At first, officials of the Museum of the Kansas National Guard weren’t quite sure what it was. In fact, they didn’t even know they had it.

“It” was a World War II era Japanese land mine, which the museum received in a collection of military records, weapons and memorabilia donated to the museum by the grandson of the original owner. Museum staff discovered the mine when they began unpacking and cataloging the collection.

After locking the device in a safe away from public areas, the museum staff hit the books and the Internet.

“We started doing research on it to find out exactly what we had,” said retired Lt. Col. Doug Jacobs, command historian for the museum, located at Forbes Field, Topeka. Jacobs said that technical informa-

tion about the mine was found in a 1953 Departments of the Army and Air Force manual purchased through the Internet.

They learned that the mine was a Type 93 anti-tank and anti-personnel mine from World War II. Jacobs said the device was X-rayed and appeared to have something inside, but “we had no way to be exactly sure what it was.”

“There is a shadow there,” said Jacobs. “Originally, these mines were filled with picric acid in a compound form. This may be some residue of that or it could have been filled with clay or something inert. Either way we don’t know and we don’t want to take any chances.”

Jacobs said that the mine had a safety cap in place and that, based on the X-ray, the detonator appeared to have been removed.

On Thursday, April 12, Explosive



This World War II era Japanese land mine was discovered in a collection of military memorabilia donated to the Museum of the Kansas National Guard in Topeka. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)

Ordnance Officers from the Metropolitan Topeka Airport Authority’s Police Department picked up the mine to take it to a safe location in a bomb disposal truck. The plan was to shoot the mine to determine if the mine was still active. By shooting the device, they would create an opening in it so the officers could look inside and determine its contents.

“Assuming it does not explode and is determined to be safe, we plan to recover the pieces and put them on display in the museum,” said Jacobs. “It’s a great artifact. You usually don’t get something like this in such good shape.”

As news media looked on, the mine was shot by remote control. Nothing happened.

However, by looking inside, the MTAA officers determined that there was still some sort of residue that could possibly be explo-

sive material. Jacobs said he made the decision to destroy the mine in the interest of public safety. Placing one pound of explosives in the device, the mine was remotely detonated with a deafening “boom,” vaporizing the mine and leaving a three foot crater. Jacobs and others searched the area, but no trace could be found of the mine.

Although disappointed at the loss of such a fine historic artifact, Jacobs said that the device served as a reminder to the public that old military ordnance from any era may pose a danger.

“Anyone who has a land mine, shell or other military device or souvenir that could be explosive in nature, should have it evaluated by an expert,” Jacobs said. “If you have questions about the safety of such a device, contact local law enforcement for guidance.”



Lt. Frank Rezac, Metropolitan Topeka Airport Authority Police and Fire Officer, placed the mine in a field not far from the Forbes Field runway. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)

Heroic actions earn award



Col. Eric Peck, chief of the Joint Staff, Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas, presents a Kansas Distinguished Service Award to Spc. Daniel Smith Jr. Smith was honored for heroic efforts he took to save the life of an injured driver during a recent snow storm in northeast Kansas.

The injured man had been driving a sand dump truck that had flipped over on I-70 between Lawrence and Kansas City on Feb. 16, 2007. Smith ran across heavy traffic in the snow to get to the truck and help the driver. Smith, a former U.S. Army Medic, administered first aid and stayed with the driver until an ambulance arrived.

Smith works full time with the Kansas National Guard in the Recruiting and Retention Detachment in Topeka and also serves with the 35th Military Police in Topeka.

Governor expands Commission

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius held a ceremonial bill signing March 26 for legislation The Adjutant General’s Department has been working on which expands the Commission on Emergency Planning and Response to a 27 member commission. The commission makes decisions regarding state preparations for different types of emergencies. By including more experts in the discussions, it will allow for a better planned response by the state.

New members include representatives from a variety of fields, including law enforcement, transportation, agriculture, animal health, health care, public health, and local government. The leaders of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Kansas Department of Agriculture and Kansas Animal Health Department become members of the commission as a result of this bill.

The number of commission members appointed by the Governor is also expanded from seven members to 18 members. The additional appointed members will include one representative each from counties, cities, agriculture, transportation, energy, law enforcement, fire fighters, county emergency managers, emergency medical services, public works, hospitals, public health, tribes of Kansas, individuals with disabilities and one representative of the seven regional homeland security councils.

Current law stipulates that three members represent business and industry, and this bill now requires that one of these individuals represent broadcasting. Finally, counties and cities, which each previously had two representatives on the commission, are now represented by one person each.



Governor Kathleen Sebelius signed a bill on March 26 expanding the Commission on Emergency Planning and Response. Left to right: Michele Bolton, Randi Stahl and Deputy Director Bill Chornyak, Kansas Division of Emergency Management; Anthony Fadale, Kansas Department of Administration; Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general; John Prather, vice president, Groendyke Transportation; Governor Sebelius, Randy Duncan, Sedgwick County Emergency Manager; Mindee Reece, Kansas Department of Health and Environment; Jack Taylor, City of Emporia; Mark Krentz, Kansas Department of Transportation; and Randy Mettner, The Adjutant General’s Department. (Photo provided)

Kansas Speedway presents race tickets to Kansas National Guard



Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting turns over two oversized tickets from the Kansas Speedway to State Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Rodina. The tickets represent 2,500 tickets to the April 28-29 racing events at the Speedway. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)

By Sharon Watson

At a Statehouse ceremony on April 4, Kansas National Guard members and their families were presented with 2,500 tickets to opening weekend races at the Kansas Speedway by Speedway President Jeff Boerger and Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius.

“I’m thrilled we’re able to present these tickets to the Kansas National Guard,” said Boerger.

“The Kansas Speedway has been great for our state, creating jobs, attracting visitors and now helping to show support for the citizen Soldiers of Kansas,” said Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. “These tickets are just a small token of the appreciation we have for the Guard’s service to our state.”

Heartland Park, AT&T to sponsor Armed Forces Day Celebration

By Sharon Watson

To show appreciation to everyone serving in the military, Heartland Park, AT&T and The Topeka Capital-Journal will sponsor the third annual Armed Forces Day May 19 in Topeka. It runs from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. and admission is free.

The event was a tremendous success the past two years. The Kansas National Guard will have equipment displays and a UH-60 Blackhawk flyover. The Fort Riley and Kansas National Guard Mounted Color Guard will be on hand along with the 35th Infantry Division Band. Active duty military will also be represented including displays by the U.S. Marine Corp. First responders,

including police, fire and EMTs, will also have equipment displays.

“It’s a great opportunity for family and friends of military members to experience some of the sights and sounds common to military duty,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas Adjutant General.

In addition to military displays, there will be music, fireworks, a hot rod and humvees car show, and a swing dance. Parking is available through Gate E.

On May 28, Heartland Pak will also sponsor Armed Forces Memorial Dirt Track Special. For information on both events, go to www.hpt.com or call 800-43-RACES.

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