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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*      AUGUST 2007

## Water, water (and more water) everywhere...



Flood waters rose quickly throughout parts of southeast and eastern Kansas June 30, resulting in thousands of gallons of crude oil being released from the Coffeyville Resources refinery into the Verdigris River in Montgomery County when a storage tank continued to release oil after the plant was shut down. A state of disaster emergency was declared for 23 Kansas counties affected by severe flooding. Water rescues were conducted throughout the weekend and the Kansas National Guard was deployed to assist several communities. (Photo by Sharon Watson)

## Explosion claims the life of Kansas Guardsman

By Stephen D. Larson

With respectful solemnity, some loving humor, and the honors that were his due, Sgt. 1st Class Travis S. Bachman was laid to rest on Friday, Aug. 10, in his home town of Garden City.

Bachman, a member of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas National Guard, serving in Iraq with the 714th Security Forces in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, was killed in action on Aug. 1 when an improvised explosive device exploded near his vehicle.

Bachman's funeral services were held at First Southern Baptist Church in Garden City, attended by several hundred family,



**Sgt 1st Class  
Travis Bachman**

friends and Soldiers. One of those Soldiers, retired 1st Sgt. Ed Poley, shared his memories about Bachman.

"There's nothing I can tell you about Travis that you don't already know," said Poley. "He came to us as a typical, wild, out-of-control 18-year-old. I doubt that he could tell you why he first joined the Guard and he was anything but a poster boy for the American Soldier."

"But a strange thing began to happen to him," Poley continued, looking toward Bachman's widow, "and Amber, you can take much of that credit. Travis began to get a sense of who he was and how he could be a part of the Guard."

"That's not to say he didn't occasionally slip back into some of his old habits," said Poley, "but those slips were always short and he always came out of it stronger. By 9-11 Travis was preparing himself to take on the required leadership positions that we needed from him."

"Each time his nation called," Poley told

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## Kansas Guardsman dies while serving in Iraq

By Sharon Watson

Warm sunshine filled the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery Aug. 2 as family and friends gathered to mourn the loss of Sgt. Courtney Dean Finch, a member of the 714th Security Force (SECFOR), Kansas National Guard, Topeka.

Finch, 27, of Leavenworth, Kan. died in Iraq July 23, unexpectedly of unknown causes, however, the cause of his death was determined non-combat related.

Governor. Kathleen Sebelius and Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general joined service members and family members for the funeral.

"I'm saddened to learn of the loss of Sgt. Finch, who has served his country bravely," said Governor Sebelius. "My thoughts and



**Sgt. Courtney Finch**

prayers are with his family and his fellow soldiers."

"The sacrifices our soldiers make for their country are tremendous and I grieve for each family who receives this kind of unfortunate news," said Maj. Gen. Bunting. "I am so grateful for the service of Sgt. Finch and will pray for his family as they go through this difficult time."

At the funeral, Finch's family recalled fond memories of him coming home on leave, of his days as a child, his smile and his sense of humor.

Finch's death came just a month before his unit was to return home from Iraq. He hadn't planned to stay home long, though.

Spc. Tim Carney, accompanied Finch home for the last time, and smiled when he recalled their deployment together. They had both decided Iraq wouldn't be their last tour and had put in to go to Afghanistan next.

"I'm going to miss him," Carney said at a reception at the Leavenworth VFW following the funeral.

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# Kansas National Guard responds to flood waters in SE Kansas

By Sgt. Gilbert Gonzales, 105th MPAD  
On June 27, 2007, a slow-moving storm entered the State of Kansas dumping torrential rains throughout Southeast Kansas, flooding 18 local counties with 20 inches of rain in a three day period. During this time, several counties took precautions to protect their citizens by evacuating them, setting up shelters and food banks and requesting support from the Kansas National Guard.

Elements of the Army National Guard’s 891st Engineer Battalion; 287th Sustainment Brigade; 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery; 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation and the 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment received orders to respond immediately to the region. Within hours, members of these units had “boots on the ground” in the affected areas to assist local authorities in search and rescue, security and logistics operations in support of protecting public interests.

Flooding began the night of June 29. On June 30, a levee broke in Chanute, requiring an immediate evacuation of residents, the opening of shelters in seven different counties and road closings in five other counties, affecting four U.S. highways and six county roads.

Elk City became isolated and their fresh water supply compromised, forcing residents to follow a boil water order.

Swift Water Rescue Teams from Shawnee and Johnson Counties were dispatched to the region along with the U.S.

Corp of Engineers, Kansas Highway Patrol and sheriff’s departments from surrounding counties. Water rescues continued throughout Saturday night, prompting the State Emergency Operations Center, which was monitoring the situation, to mobilize National Guard units to assist.

“Saturday evening, water in the Pottawatomie creek crested at 49.2 feet and then began spilling over the top of the levee, flooding the southeast end of the city,” said Brett Glendening, Osawatomie city manager. “Most of the homes on the northeast side of town are under water, as well as corn crop damage. The levees performed well, though there is lots of seepage.”

Many residents of Osawatomie had very little time to get out of the area and were able to just grab what they could and leave. Karen Guzman, who lived on Pacific Avenue said, “I lost everything, but I was able to save my dog.”

Gary Guthrie, who also lives in that area recalls that they did not have much warning when the water began to come over the top of the levee. “The water was coming fast – we had about 15 minutes warning – it was coming quick, real quick,” recalled Guthrie.

Twelve Soldiers of the 891st were ordered to provide security in Iola, while eight other 891st Soldiers were assisting stranded residents in Petrolia. The 287th began hauling pallets of water to Neodesha, as 23 Soldiers of the 161st were ordered to Chanute and 21 others were sent to Osawatomie to provide

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Flood waters inundated roads, bridges and homes in Osawatomie as heavy rains caused Pottawatomie Creek to overflow its banks. (Photo by Sgt. Gilbert Gonzales, 105th MPAD)



Kansas National Guardsmen assisted Kansas Highway Patrol troopers in manning security checkpoints into flood areas. (Photo by Sgt. Gilbert Gonzales, 105th MPAD)

# Car bomb claims the life of Kansas Guardsman



State Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Rodina pays his final respects to Sgt. 1st Class Travis Bachman. (Photo by Sgt. Michael Yandel)

**Continued from Page 1**  
the mourners, “he was ready to step up and perform as required. Travis became that poster boy for the American Soldier, loved and respected by his men.”

Poley spoke of the love Bachman’s fellow Soldiers had for him and concluded by saying, “Amber, as we leave this place, remember that your family of Alpha Battery loves you as we loved Travis. We will continue to hold you in our hearts all the rest of our lives.”

Rick Durham, pastor of First Southern Baptist, also spoke about his relationship with Bachman and his family.

“As much as I have dreaded this moment,” said Durham, “I count it a privilege and an honor to stand and share about the life of Travis and be a part of the family.”

“We have lost a friend, lost a husband, lost a son, a grandson, father and a fellow Soldier,” he said.

“Travis touched all of our lives in different ways,” said Durham, adding that everyone’s reflections on their relationship with Bachman were different in some ways, but the same in others.

“He never met a stranger,” said Durham. “My first meeting with Travis was like we had been friends all our lives.”

“He was always happy, friendly caring, passionate about the military – he loved the

military,” he continued. “He cared deeply about the men and women who served under his leadership. He took his position seriously, leading with discernment and responsibility, with authority and respect.”

“He was devoted and dedicated to his country. Travis was willing to give his life in the fight against terrorism.”

“Words cannot express the sacrifice that has been given by the Bachman family. Thank you. The United States of America is blessed because of Sgt. 1st Class Travis Bachman. God bless the USA, God bless the Bachman family,” Durham said.

During the graveside service at Valley View Cemetery, flanked by an honor guard of the Kansas Patriot Guard, Bachman’s fellow Soldiers paid their respects with a rifle salute and a reverent flag folding ceremony. The flag was presented to Amber Bachman by Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, on behalf of a grateful nation.

Bachman is survived by his wife, Amber, three children, and his parents, Rodney and Connie Bachman, Garden City. He was a staff sergeant at the time of his death and received a posthumous promotion to sergeant first class.

Governor Kathleen Sebelius directed flags to be flown at half-staff throughout Kansas from sunup to sundown on Saturday, Aug. 11 in honor of Bachman.



# “Rising Eagles” make Kansas National Guard history



New warrant officers of the Kansas National Guard. Top row, left to right: Warrant Officer 1 Andrew M. Laffery, Warrant Officer 1 Stuart L. Stupka, Warrant Officer 1 Kevin J. Herrman, Warrant Officer 1 Michel E. Whisler, Warrant Officer 1 Brent W. Campbell. Front row, left to right: Warrant Officer 1 Billie J. Hancock, Warrant Officer 1 Martin B. Anschutz, Warrant Officer 1 William G. Davis, Warrant Officer 1 Kathleen H. Osborn (Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 4 John Davied)

By Chief Warrant Officer 4 Rosanna Morrow

On Aug. 4, 2007, at the Indianapolis War Memorial, nine members of the Kansas Army National Guard were appointed to the rank of Warrant Officer 1. The current iteration of the Reserve Component Warrant Officer Candidate School, which was approved in 2005, includes three phases.

Phase I consists of a distance learning course with Phase II conducted during five consecutive drill weekends at 13 Regional Training Institutes nationwide. The final two-week resident Phase III brings all the Warrant Officer Candidates together and is conducted at the Indiana Regional Training Institute, Camp Atterbury, Ind.

The most recent class concluded with an impressive 108 Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers from all over the nation being appointed to warrant officer 1. The nine Kansas Soldiers who graduated Aug. 4 began Phase II in 2006 at the Salina Regional Training Institute along with nine other warrant officer candidates from Oklahoma and Nebraska. This occasion marked the first time any members of the Kansas Army National Guard graduated from the RC-WOCS program that was established in 2005. Setting the historical standard, this was also the first time that nine Kansas warrant officer candidates were appointed to warrant officer one during the same ceremony.

# Internal Review Division receives Award of Excellence

The Kansas National Guard Internal Review Division was presented with the National Guard Bureau’s Internal Review Award of Excellence during their annual Symposium in Orlando, Fla. in June. This award recognizes the top Internal Review Division (auditing division) in the National Guard. The award was presented by Chris Gardner, Assistant to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

“I could not be more proud of the Internal Review Division,” said Col. Terry Fritz, United States Property and Fiscal Officer for Kansas. “They continue to excel in their duties and are a dedicated group of true professionals who add value to Kansas. They are very deserving of this award.”

This was the first time this award has

been presented and was based on a multitude of factors.

The Kansas Internal Review Division was also presented with the National Guard Bureau Internal Review “Four Star” award for support to National Guard Bureau Internal Review Initiatives. This is the sixth consecutive year a “Four Star” award has been presented to the Kansas division. Initiatives included membership on the Internal Review Advisory Committee, Internal Review Training Committee, Teaching Internal Review subjects, and hosting Internal Review training activities.

Members of the Kansas Internal Review Division are Jim Istas, supervisor; John Davied, Jim Bridges and Steve Vaughn, evaluators.



From the left: Derrick Miller, chief, National Guard Bureau Internal Review; Jim Bridges, Kansas Internal Review; Jim Istas, director, Kansas Internal Review; John Davied, Kansas Internal Review; Steve Vaughn, Kansas Internal Review; Chris Gardner, assistant to the chief of the National Guard Bureau; and Col. Terry Fritz, director, United States Property and Fiscal Office for Kansas. (Photo provided)

# Drug Demand Reduction office supports Red Ribbon, SADD conference in Salina



Master Sgt. David Miller monitors the progress of a participant of the Red Ribbon, SADD conference as she attempts to “walk the line” while wearing Fatal Vision Goggles, which distort vision and depth perception. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Shelly Mann)

By Staff Sgt. Shelly Mann

The Kansas statewide Red Ribbon Campaign and SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) conference was successfully completed April 25-26, 2007. This conference is a training event for students and community members across the state. The goal of this training/conference is to share ideas, to improve and empower the communities to make healthier life choices.

The Red Ribbon Campaign is a national program that brings awareness to illegal use and misuse of legal drugs. This grass roots campaign was started by the community and family members of Drug Enforcement Agent Kiki Camarena, who was kidnapped and murdered by drug traffickers in Mexico City in 1985. Red Ribbon Week is celebrated by wearing a red ribbon and hosting drug-free events Oct. 23-31 of each year nationwide.

SADD was originally founded as Students Against Driving Drunk, but has since changed to Students Against Destructive Decisions. This is a school-based organization dedicated to addressing the issues of underage drinking, impaired driving, drug use and other destructive decisions and killers of young people.

This is the fourth year the conference was held at the Kansas National Guard Training Site in Salina, Kan. The central location of the training site and the involvement of the Kansas National Guard Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) Staff, enables the parent organization “Kansas Family Partnership” to host the conference at no cost to the Red Ribbon or SADD committee members. The support DDR Staff provides in part, the facilities for the trainings, auditorium for the large group activities, classrooms for the breakout sessions, and presenters.

“These trainings would not be as successful without the assistance from the Kansas National Guard’s DDR (Drug Demand Reduction) staff,” said Michelle Voht, Kansas Family Partnership director.

The Red Ribbon training had 124 Kansans participate and 134 attended the SADD conference. There were more SADD chapters represented this year than ever before in the State of Kansas. As a result of these trainings youth and adults are challenged to come up with a game plan for the following school year. One idea that has been used in many schools is the Mock Disaster. Student organizers and

school administrators plan a mock car accident bringing in an ambulance, police and fire department, to work the accident. The general population of the school is unaware that it’s not real.

“The impact of witnessing a tragedy such as this stays with the students even after finding out that it was not real,” says James Carr.

Another action plan involves the Grim Reaper. Students are pulled out of the hallway throughout the school day, given a black shirt and their face is painted white to represent death. Students are asked not to communicate with anyone “dead.” This can be based on statistics of car accidents per day or deaths due to drug use. This real visual tool shows how many people are impacted by destructive decisions.

A nationally known motivational speaker Bill Cordes focused on the importance of respect for yourself and those around you, how to get more people involved in the prevention efforts of the communities and the power of highly motivated people. Breakout sessions for adults, high school, and middle school student participants were used as training aids.

Spc. Michelle Mitchell made a presentation on the effects of bullying and the link it has to possible drug abuse. In the presentation, Mitchell stated “If problems persist, victims may feel compelled to take drastic measures, such as weapon-carrying or even suicide.”

Victims are more likely to grow up being socially anxious and insecure, Mitchell said. Grades may suffer because attention is drawn away from learning. These are just a few of the things that may happen, when someone is being bullied and all of these can lead to drug misuse or abuse.

Master Sgt. David Miller, Staff Sgt. Doretha Bighems, and Staff Sgt. Shelly Mann gave presentations on the effects of driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol by using a golf cart and Fatal Vision goggles. Fatal Vision Goggles are worn to simulate sight distortion while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The DDR Staff sets up a track using traffic cones to drive around. The participants drive one time around the track without the Fatal Vision Goggle and then do the same track with the goggles on. Usually there are a few major wipe outs with the cones.

After the driving task is complete, the

(Continued on Page 21)



# These are challenging times for Kansas, so be prepared

By Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting

The last few months have been extraordinarily challenging for the Kansas National Guard as we received word of the loss of two Kansas Soldiers in Iraq. The deaths happened less than two weeks apart and both men served in the same unit. The news also came just about a month before these Soldiers were to return home. My thoughts and prayers are with the families of Staff Sgt. Travis Bachman of Garden City and Sgt. Courtney Dean Finch of Leavenworth. The sacrifice these men made and that their families made is the greatest sacrifice there is and our nation is a better place due to their hard work and dedication to their country and to our freedom.

In late August, we happily welcomed home the members of the 714th Security Forces from Iraq, where they had handled convoy security. The members of an



Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting

embedded training team came home in early July from Afghanistan. The Soldiers were there to be mentors to and train soldiers of the Afghani National Army and personnel of the Afghan National Police. The 35th Infantry Division and the 35th Military Police Company have been training to deploy to Iraq very soon and additional units are preparing to be called up to serve this fall.

The demands on our Guardsmen have continued at home, too, as we sustained record-breaking flooding in southeast Kansas in July, resulting in hundreds of families being forced from their homes in several towns, including Osawatomie, Fredonia, Iola, Independence and Coffeyville. Some of the Guard members who had served several weeks in response to the Greensburg tornado once again found themselves in uniform on Kansas soil helping their neighbors.

We have honored more than 1,400 Kansas Soldiers and Airmen for their work in the flood response and Greensburg tornado response. Thanks to their efforts, and that of other response agencies, these communities recovering. Greensburg residents were able to send their children to school in temporary housing (14 mobile units) just

three months after the tornado devastated their town. Greensburg is slowly rebuilding with some businesses open and some residents in town getting permits to rebuild.

The disaster response in Kansas in recent months has not only proven what a difference the Guard can make no matter what the disaster, but it has also shown the value of Incident Management Teams. These teams are made up of volunteers from non-impacted communities with expertise in areas of emergency management, fire or police response, as well as government finance and planning. Kansas Division of Emergency Management deployed teams to Greensburg and to communities affected by flooding in southeast Kansas. The teams were able to step into the roles of incident commander and operations chief, planning, finance and public information. In the tornado and flooding responses, many local officials were dealing with personal property loss and family issues from being in the disaster themselves. Therefore, these teams provided them a chance to take care of their own situations, while the state provided volunteers from other communities through Incident Management Teams. Anyone wishing to volunteer for one of these

teams may apply by going to [www.ksready.gov](http://www.ksready.gov) for more information. One thing we’ve witnessed through all of these disasters is just how resilient Kansas residents are, and in many cases how very self-sufficient they are, as well. However, each disaster has also shown us how important it is for every person and every family to have an emergency kit including food, water and medicines; and for families to have plans of where to meet and/or make contact if phone communication is out. To provide more information about being prepared, the state hosted Kansas Preparedness Day September 10 in Wichita from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sedgwick County courthouse. Equipment displays and informational booths from the Kansas National Guard, and numerous state and local agencies, encouraged Kansans to take the necessary steps to be prepared.

2007 has proven it doesn’t have to be something unexpected to devastate a community, but that an ice storm, tornado and flooding all require some residents to be self sufficient for anywhere from a few hours to a few days. Let’s take the simple steps we must to ensure we are safe no matter what the next disaster is.

# Change is an inevitable part of our lives at home and on the job

By State Command Chief Master Sgt. John Kimball

Change! Changes in the Air Force and Army, changes in unit mission, changes in our organizational structure, changes in our military assignments, changes in our full-time jobs!

Change is everywhere and it affects our lives and most of the important decisions that we make on a daily basis. How we cope with change and how we become a change agent is critical not only to our current mission success, but also to future missions of the Kansas National Guard and to the well-being of ourselves, our families, and our fellow Airmen and Soldiers.

I recently read an article about a motorcycle rider who wanted to recreate a cross-country ride his father took in 1939 prior to joining the Navy during World War II. The recreated ride took the motorcyclist to Pier 33 in San Francisco, Calif. It just so happened that there was a ceremony taking place commemorating the 60th anniversary of the departure of the U.S.S. Indianapolis which carried the components that eventually would become the world’s first atomic bomb that would later destroy Hiroshima, Japan. The speaker at that moment was a Japanese survivor of the bombing.

As the motorcycle rider listened to the speaker, he heard some words that changed his outlook on life and caused him to reconsider many things that he had



State Command Chief Master Sgt. John Kimball

held close. The older Japanese speaker harbored no ill will towards the United States and said, “Before we can make changes in the world, we must first make changes within ourselves.”

I think that is a very powerful statement and one that I thought about for some time. The speaker was saying that change must first come from within and he spoke of the need to get rid of misconceptions. If one cannot adjust his thinking and reasoning processes, one cannot accept change and cannot produce change.

For many of us, much of our military career was somewhat void of change. There was a little tweaking in processes here and there, perhaps a weapon system change and some occasional base closures, but for the most part, we were unaffected. Most of this was driven by the Cold War. We had a well-defined enemy, a military power designed to counter that enemy, and relatively slow changes in technology. Compare that to now – an enemy that is in constant change and technological changes that sometimes seem overwhelming.

For most of our younger Airmen and Soldiers, change has been a constant factor in their careers. Our military is now in a perpetual state of change as it transforms to meet the challenges of a new enemy. It transforms to use new technology and to counter the threats of that same technology in the hands of our enemies. As shown by Sept. 11, 2001, the enemy can come to us in ways that we previously had not considered and were thought to be beyond the realm of reality. Today’s Airman and Soldier must be ready to change – we must be adaptable.

General Michael T. Moseley, the 18th Chief of Staff of the Air Force, says that we must develop adaptable Airmen. One of the core competencies of today’s NCO is to develop adaptable Airmen. We are

asking our Airmen to do things today that we would not have considered prior to Sept. 11, 2001. We have asked thousands of our Airmen to step out of their comfort zone and do tasks normally assigned to the Army. Hundreds have been wounded and many have paid the ultimate price. We are developing battlefield Airmen. We are asking our Airmen to change and to become change agents.

Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, director of the Air National Guard, speaking to Airmen attending the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States national conference recently held in Oklahoma City, Okla., defined the “adaptable Airman” as “an Airman who understands that the United States is great because we’re able to adapt to change. Adaptable Airmen understand that nothing stays constant forever and that Airman who can transform in their lives, their careers, and their abilities and capabilities to meet the demands of the day are those who are going to be most effective.”

I would ask our Kansas Airmen and Soldiers to first change themselves; to rid themselves of any misconceptions or preconceived notions they might harbor. I would ask that they consider their role in winning the Global War on Terrorism. I would ask that they consider their role in making our communities, state and nation strong. I would ask that they become change agents.

The number two goal of General Moseley is that we take care of our

Airmen. He wants to make sure that we leave no Airman behind and that every Airman has a chance to perform up to his or her capabilities. We can only do this if we first change ourselves.

It is regrettable that change is necessary. However, it is even more regrettable that some will not or cannot change. We would all like to have flying missions forever. We would all like to have armor or artillery batteries forever. However, as was previously stated, nothing stays constant forever, and missions must change to leverage technological changes and changes in our enemies.

The Kansas National Guard is well positioned for change. Our senior officer and enlisted leadership is well prepared to support the change efforts and the movement into new mission areas. Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the Adjutant General of Kansas, is the state’s leading change agent. Under his leadership, and the leadership of his staff, the Kansas National Guard is preparing to meet future mission needs and at times, assisting in defining those future needs. Trust in your leadership, change yourself, and become a change agent.

I want to thank each Kansas Airman and Soldier for what you do on a daily basis to serve your community, state and this great nation. I am proud to wear my uniform and to serve along side each of you. Protect your Wingman. And please remember our nine fallen Kansas heroes who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Global War on Terrorism.

## Thankful they were there

Dear Governor Sebelius,

I personally want to take the time to let you know how much my family and I appreciate the National Guard out of Paola, and all of the law enforcement agencies for the great job they have done during the recent flooding in Osawatomie. I have also heard other families say how grateful they are for

them being here. My parents are one of so many who has lost everything. The men and women in the above listed agencies should be recognized in some manner. On behalf of the McDowell family, we are so very grateful for everything.

Sincerely,  
Rhonda McDowell

## PLAINS GUARDIAN

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# 137th Transportation Company conducts first post-Iraq AT

By Capt. Robert Parvin

Annual training happens every year during a two week period for all National Guard units. This, however, was the first annual training for the 137th Transportation Company since June 2004, which was conducted at Fort Riley prior to the unit's deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

"It was a back to basics annual training," said Sgt. 1st Class Paul Jackson. "We licensed 11 new personnel on the Palletized Loading System and ran multiple haul missions downrange at Fort Carson."

The 137th TC conducted a convoy with their battalion headquarters, the 169th Corps Support Sustainment Battalion, to Fort Carson, Colo., on June 9, staying overnight at the Hays Armory and arriving at Fort Carson the evening of June 10.

The first day of annual training began quickly with 11 Soldiers shuttled to the PLS certification course and haul missions began downrange Fort Carson to Camp Red Devil, hauling concrete barriers in support of Range Control operations.

In all, the 137th TC traveled 20,452 miles, moving a total of 594 tons of materials that were hauled in support of range control missions. Mike Camp, the civilian director in charge of range control, stated,

*"It would have taken us four months to haul all of these materials to where we needed them to go that your unit was able to accomplish for me in one week."*

*Mike Camp,  
Range Control,  
Fort Carson, Colo.*

"It would have taken us four months to haul all of these materials to where we needed them to go that your unit was able to accomplish for me in one week."

Camp said that the 137th TC would definitely be welcome back next year for annual training as there is always a need for materials to be moved for Range Control.

It was a busy and well-executed annual training that has the Soldiers looking forward to next year where they will conduct their annual training in San Diego, Calif., hauling raw materials for a border improvement project.

## Class teaches officers how to get along with the media

As part of the 891st Engineer Battalion's quarterly Officer Professional Development program, Maj. Shawn Manley, 891st Engineer Battalion executive officer, conducted a class Aug. 5, 2007 on Strategic Communication and Media Relations.

Manley began the course with an overview of the national strategic communication plans and goals. The presentation stressed the pros of effective communications and how public affairs and public diplomacy at all levels benefit not only our organization, but support the Department of Defense strategic communication efforts.

Following the lecture, the class was divided into groups and each group was given a real world scenario to review. The scenario put each group in the shoes of a commander of a squad that had been involved in riot with escalation of force, possible civilian casualties and personal injuries to the Soldiers. The groups were given 40 minutes to develop their mission statements and develop answers to five questions they believed the media would ask that were going to be tough to answer

and five questions they believed a reporter would ask they could easily answer.

Forty minutes later, the group was faced with 1st Lt. Sean Linn, battalion training officer, escorting Jennifer Denman, a reporter with KOAM Channel 7 News, Pittsburg, Kan., into the classroom. Manley had invited Denman to inject some real-world perspective into the training. Following introductions, Denman interviewed a member from each group about the scenario incident. One by one, each group sent a member to the front of the class where Denman fired questions at them for 10 to 15 minutes.

Following the interviews, there was a critique and the group was able to ask Denman questions about her job as a reporter and her mission when interviewing the Soldiers in Southeast Kansas. The exchange of information between the officers and senior noncommissioned officers of the 891st and Denman should strengthen the battalion's ability to communicate with the media, eliminate perceptions, and foster a continued positive working relationship with the Kansas television station in the future.



Capt. David Burk is asked questions about a training scenario by Jennifer Denman, a reporter for KOAM News in Pittsburg. (Photo by 1st Lt. Sean Linn)

# Kansas Guardsmen among those honored on memorial wall

By Adam Dottle

On the wall of the corridor traveled every day by their peers and friends still serving in Iraq, members of the Strategic Counterintelligence Directorate in Baghdad, Iraq,

dedicated a new memorial to the memory of fallen heroes Staff Sgt. Shawn A. Graham, Texas; Sgt. Jesse Davila, Kansas; and Special Agent Daniel J. Kuhlmeier, Nebraska. The memorial consists of framed photographs of the men along with laser-engraved biographical sketches.

Special Agent John P. Dixon, SCID director, noted that while any gesture of commemoration was inadequate to express the real sorrow and loss experienced by the families, friends and comrades of these men killed serving their country, it was extremely important, nevertheless, to make every effort to preserve the memory of their service and sacrifice. Commemoration serves two purposes, Dixon said. First, and most obviously, no one wants to forget what they accomplished. With the rapid turnover of unit personnel, there are only a few still here in Baghdad who served with Graham, Davila and Kuhlmeier. Secondly, and more importantly, Dixon went on, it is important that every special agent, analyst and linguist assigned to SCID understand the reality of what "ultimate sacrifice" really means.

Dixon suggested to the men and



Sgt. Jesse Davila

women of SCID that they carefully examine the memorial plaques and photos and try to get to know these men a little better so as to help their sacrifices sink in. He noted the truly "joint" nature of their service. All three men had prior service in the Marine Corps. All three had served with the Reserves or National Guard. All had deployed overseas before. All three were dedicated professionals who died while carrying out their mission in Iraq.

Dixon concluded his remarks about these men and their example by quoting George Washington: "I walk on untrod-den ground. There is scarcely any part of my conduct which may not hereafter be drawn into precedent."

Graham, 34, of Red Oak, Texas, died on Sept. 25, 2005, in a vehicle accident while on a mission in support of SCID. He was assigned to the unit as a protective service detail squad leader from the 124th Cavalry Regiment, 36th Texas Infantry Division. He had carried out over 575 combat missions in support of SCID.

Sgt. Jesse Davila, 29, of Greensburg, Kan., died Feb. 20, 2006, when an improvised explosive device exploded next to his vehicle. He was assigned to the unit as a protective service detail team member from the 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry, Kansas Army National Guard. Jesse was an expert in "low profile" missions for SCID.

Special Agent Daniel J. Kuhlmeier, 30, of Omaha, Neb., also died on Feb. 20, 2006, in the same attack that claimed Davila's life. Kuhlmeier was assigned to the SCID from Detachment 204, U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations. Dan was on a sensitive mission to gather information in support of Coalition Forces.

## Guardsmen convoy to annual training in Colorado

By Capt. Roland Galliard

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and the 137th Transportation Company convoyed to Fort Carson, Colo., on June 9-10, 2006, for their annual training.

Combat medics from the 1077th Area Support Medical Detachment provided medical support during the annual training. The 137th TC performed haul missions for the Fort Carson Range Control and Garrison Command, conducted vehicle rollover train-

ing, and virtual convoy training.

HHC provided command and control for the 137th TC, conducted virtual convoy training, vehicle rollover training, and a military decision-making process exercise. The highlight of annual training was the convoy live-fire range in which Soldiers engaged personnel and small vehicle targets with individual and squad automatic weapons.

Soldiers also had the opportunity to visit Pikes Peak, Garden of the Gods, Elitch Park, and Coors Field for a Colorado Rockies baseball game during their free time.



Sgt. 1st Class Marc Plourde instructs Lt. Col. Barry Taylor in the proper loading of the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon on June 18, 2007, during Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion's annual training at Fort Carson, Colo. (Photo by Capt. Roland Galliard)



# 635th Regional Support Group returns home from Kuwait

By 1st Sgt. Carl Mar, 105th MPAD

Eighty Kansas Army National Guardsmen of the 635th Regional Support Group returned home on June 29 flanked by dozens of Patriot Guard riders, who escorted the military transport bus as it rolled down U.S. Highway 96 on its way to the National Guard Armory in Hutchinson.

A large crowd of community supporters, friends and family members waved American flags and cheered as the bus turned into the armory parking lot. Hand painted signs and banners saying “We Love You” and “Welcome Home” greeted the Soldiers along with whistles and applause from the crowd as, one by one, the servicemen made their way off the bus and into the armory for an official homecoming ceremony.

The 635th RSG, formerly the 35th Division Artillery, was activated on April 29, 2006, to serve in the War on Terrorism and had deployed to Kuwait for one year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit, headquartered in Hutchinson, is comprised of Soldiers from many communities throughout Kansas. Their mission was to augment the 377th Theater Support Command and provide logistics operations support for maintenance, transportation, supplies, equipment and manpower in its operational theater.

On the day they began their active-duty, Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general of Kansas, spoke on the importance of their mission.

“Logistics support is a vital part of military operations,” he said. “Without these Soldiers, supplies won’t get transported, vehicles won’t get repaired, troops won’t get the equipment they need. I know [the 635th RSG] will do a terrific job in supporting our efforts to restore peace and establish democracy in Iraq.”

Lt. Col. Mike Erwin, operations officer for the 635th RSG, summed up the unit’s efforts during the past year to the Soldiers’ families.

“During that time, we controlled nearly 1,600 convoys, drove 50,000 miles to move the equivalent of 57 brigades and handled 20,000 containers, 80,000 pieces of equipment and 50,000 vehicles, trailers, racked and winged vehicles that were unloaded or loaded. More than 65,000 pieces of cargo were handled and we supported 59 ocean-going vessel missions and assisted with more than 40 visiting cargo vessels, carrying 45,000 pieces and 400,000 tons of cargo.”

“We processed 1.5 million pounds of cargo for over 1,100 Marine Corps missions and processed over 12 million pounds of Army cargo and over 40,000 tons of mail and 300,000 servicemen that needed plane support, totaling over 52,000 aircraft missions.”

“More than 193,000 passengers were processed for return to the U.S., 476,000 bags were cleared, 57,000 pieces of contraband seized, 100,000 pieces of amnesty turned in, 14,000 vehicles inspected, 1,750 convoys supported, and 27,000 civilian border inspections conducted. There were more than 5,000 connexes, 7,000 containers and 30,000 pallets supported,” he said.

The list of their accomplishments, however, came at a personal cost, Erwin acknowledged. “During the deployment our Soldiers missed holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, first days of school, ball-games and proms.”

“All of our Soldiers are making the commitment today to enjoy every one of these events in the future. We thank you all for your support. We are back to support all of you once again,” he said.

Col. Robert Staiert, commander of 635th



At the command of “Dismissed!” Soldiers of the 635th Regional Support Group rush out to greet their families. (Photo by Sharon Watson)

RSG, added his thanks to those present.

“The families are the larger heroes,” said Staiert. “They decided to give up a loved one for at least a year, even though they knew that their loved one was going into harm’s way. Husbands, wives, brothers, sisters, fathers and mothers left their families and dedicated the next year to the achievements the 635th RSG accomplished.”

“Heroes and warriors all, I thank you. Without the immeasurable support and understanding of the families, we could not have accomplished our mission,” he said.

Shortly afterwards, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Quenzer barked that the Soldiers were “dismissed.” On that word, the audience erupted in a loud “Hurrah” as family

members dashed from their chairs and smothered the waiting Soldiers with kisses and hugs. The reunited families didn’t tarry for long, however. Within minutes, they were gathering the Soldiers’ luggage and headed out to the parking lot.

“I can’t wait to be at home — and do nothing!” said Spc. Sarah Smith. After a year in the Kuwaiti desert, the normally warm June weather in Kansas felt “cold” to her, she said, and she wanted to only relax by a pool under a hot sun for the following two weeks.

“No, way!” said her sister Liz. “We are going to ‘PAR-TAY!’ “

Soldiers of the 635th RSG – welcome home!

# Battery B Soldiers receive heroes’ welcome home

By 1st Sgt. Carl Mar, 105th MPAD

On July 22, 86 Soldiers of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery faced another round of explosions around their vehicles – only this time they welcomed it. The explosions came from aerial fireworks that heralded their arrival back to their home armory in Pratt, Kan. The unit had been away from home nearly 22 months and had just completed a 15-month tour-of-duty supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Twenty-six unit members had returned a month earlier on June 23 and were given the same warm welcome. Now, the remaining unit members were about to join them.

Only minutes earlier they had debarked from their buses and boarded open trailers to travel the final leg of their journey as the honorees in a welcome-home parade. With Patriot Guard cycle riders leading the procession, the Soldiers rode down Main Street to the applause of grateful townspeople, band music, a sea of American flags and the loud booms of fireworks. The City of Pratt had gone all out to give their hometown National Guardsmen a hero’s welcome. The results of their accomplishments in Iraq show that they deserved it.

The Soldiers earned 13 Purple Hearts, 17 Bronze Stars, one Meritorious Service Medal, 29 Army Commendation Medals, and 125 Combat Action Badges. No other Kansas unit has come back with each member receiving the combat action badges.

The end point of the parade was the parking lot behind the Pratt Community College sports arena. As the Soldiers stepped off the trailers and formed into platoons, a crowd of friends and family members quickly gathered around them trying to get a first glimpse of their loved ones. Breaking off into a single file, the Soldiers then marched around the parking



Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting awards the Purple Heart medals to Sgt. Michael Miller and Spc. Peter Richert, who were wounded in the same attack that killed Staff Sgt. David Berry, Feb. 22. (Photo by 1st Sgt. Carl Mar, 105th MPAD)

lot to enter the arena. Greeting them at the entrance was a thunderous applause from the audience inside and the popular Toby Keith song, “American Soldier.” Accompanying the music were the rousing drumbeats and cymbals of the group Special Reality, a drum corps made up of youths from Inman, Kan.

“It was my husband’s idea to have them play,” said Tracy Speice, who lives in Inman along with her husband First Sgt. Stuart Speice, one of the returning Soldiers. “He called me from Iraq and asked if I could make the arrangements to have them here today. He knew how upbeat their music was and believed it was a fitting tribute for the troops when they come in through the doors.”

Although Tracy is a key member of Battery B’s Family Support Group, she said that her organization had only a small hand in organizing the overall celebration. “It was really the combined work of the unit members themselves and of everyone who knows them,” she said. “The Soldiers here come from many communities in central Kansas and people in all of these towns wanted to show their appreciation. Anyone who had an idea or wanted to help in any way helped put the celebration together.”

Inside the arena, the Soldiers stood at attention on the hardwood floor while family members and friends cheered them for minutes on end. When the clamor finally subsided, the final phase of their

welcome home ceremony commenced with addresses by their unit commanders on their tour of duty.

The unit was activated in October 2005 for 18 months of active duty, including six months of training on force protection and a one-year deployment to Iraq. Their deployment was extended in January 2007 for an additional three months. During their deployment, Staff Sgt. David Berry of Wichita was killed in action and eight other Kansas Guard Soldiers were wounded.

“I’m incredibly proud of all these Soldiers,” said Capt. Sean Herbig, battery commander. “They all did an incredible job over there, and I am pleased to have been with them.”

“These troops have experienced some very challenging times during their deployment, including the loss of a Soldier and a friend and several being wounded at the same time, along with an extended tour of duty,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, adjutant general of Kansas. “We’re grateful to have these brave warriors home and proud of their service in Iraq.”

Highlights of the ceremony were the recognition of family members who were there representing wounded Soldiers who couldn’t attend and Kathleen Berry, widow of Staff Sgt. David Berry. The adjutant general also awarded the Purple Heart medals to Sgt. Michael Miller and Spc. Peter Richert, who were wounded in the same attack that killed Berry.

After 445 days of continuous active duty, the Kansas Guard Soldiers heard from the adjutant general the one word they had been anxious to hear all day – “dismissed!”

On that last command, the crowd emptied from the bleachers and rushed into the waiting arms of the 86 men below. The Soldiers were finally home.



# Guardsmen become extended family for disadvantaged kids

By Sgt. Heather Wright

One-hundred-and-five degree weather didn't keep Nicole Williams from her job Saturday afternoon. She was on a mission, and there were kids depending on her. She cheerfully braved the sweltering drill floor along with Soldiers of the 287th Sustainment Brigade on Aug. 5, 2007, to fulfill her mission. She wasn't going to let her kids down.

Williams is a recruitment coordinator for Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Sedgwick County. She is hoping that members of the 287th Sustainment Brigade and the Kansas National Guard will rise to the challenge and become Big Brothers and Big Sisters, or "Bigs," as they're affectionately referred to, for some of the 3,000 children statewide who are waiting to get matched with their own "Big."

BBBS makes a huge difference in the lives of Kansas children. The program began as a local agency in 1969 serving only the Wichita-Sedgwick County area with just nine volunteers and has expanded during the past 38 years to encompass the entire state. In this time, they have matched over 25,000 children with Big Brothers and Big Sisters. In 2001, some of those original volunteers formed the statewide organization and the original Wichita-Sedgwick County effort became Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Sedgwick County.

In 2006 alone, Kansas BBBS helped more than 6,000 children. The children range from ages 5 – 17 and come from various cultures and backgrounds. Eighty percent of the children come from single parent homes, 50 percent live in an environment with alcohol or drug backgrounds, 70 percent are below the poverty level and 40 percent have been abused and neglected. These children need a positive influence in their lives. The BBBS mission is to help boys and girls achieve their full potential through long-term personal relationships with caring volunteers. Xzavior Hill, a former Sedgwick County Little Brother, is living proof that Bigs make a difference.

Col. Joe Hunt, an Air Force officer stationed at McConnell Air Force Base, met Hill as an adolescent. Hill wasn't sure what to expect when he heard his Big Brother

was a military officer. He was a little nervous, but soon discovered his fears were misplaced. Hunt provided friendship, direction and encouraged him to excel. Hunt's influence bore fruit. Hill became more talkative, his grades improved at school and he signed up for the Junior ROTC program – what he described as his "niche" in high school. Hill graduated in 2006 from the Air Force Academy and is pursuing a career as an officer.



*"The way a kid's face lights up when they see a person in uniform coming just to 'see me' is amazing."*  
*Nicole Williams*

Inspired by this story and a fortuitous chain of events, Williams began her drive to "recruit the recruits." Bobbi Megonigle, Family Assistance specialist for the 287th, was discussing the possibility of starting a BBBS program in which deployed Kansas Guard members' children are placed with Bigs while their parents are gone. Upon return from deployment, the parent becomes a Big for a child on the waiting list. During the conversation, Bobbi recommended that Williams call Staff Sgt. Daniel Reling, Training NCO for the 287th Sustainment Brigade, to arrange a presentation during August drill.

Members of the 287th listened to what  
(Continued on Page 20)

# Kansas Guardsman dies in Iraq

Continued from Page 1

Finch enlisted in the Kansas Army National Guard in July 2001 with Company C, 1st Battalion 635th Armor, Lenexa, as a Tank Crewman. He deployed to Kosovo before going to Iraq.

His awards include Army Good Conduct

Medal, The National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device and the German Army Marksmanship - Silver.



Members of the Kansas National Guard carefully fold the flag that draped the casket of Sgt. Courtney Finch, who died of unknown causes in Iraq. Finch was serving with the 714th Security Forces in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Photo by Sharon Watson)

# Parkinson tours National Guard facilities at Fort Riley



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Cam Wahlmeier explains an operational process to Lt. Gov. Mark Parkinson during his visit to the Advance Turbine Engine Army Maintenance facility at Fort Riley. Parkinson toured the facility Aug. 21 to learn about the jobs and training of Kansas National Guardsmen who work there. In addition to the ATEAM, the Kansas National Guard operates the Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site at the post, as well as the Readiness Sustainment Maintenance Site. (Photo by Jane Welch)

# You are wanted and needed in the Kansas National Guard

By Sgt. 1st Class Mack Jackson

This is the first in a series of articles on retention in the Kansas National Guard. It is critical to our state and country that we maintain the strength of the Guard. By increasing our retention rate – getting Soldiers to stay in the National Guard – we can have a well trained, ready force, to respond to State emergencies and provide National Security. This is evident in recent history such as the efforts to help stabilize, provide security and clean up Greensburg, Kan., after the May tornadoes. It is also evident as we continue to provide troops in support of the Global War on Terrorism through out Iraq and Afghanistan.

To better serve our Soldiers each battalion or battery has appointed a dedicated full-time Soldier to work Retention. I encourage each Soldier to find out who their Battalion Retention noncommissioned officer (NCO) is and make an appointment to visit with them. They can

offer you valuable insight on many of the benefits that you may qualify for as a member of the Kansas Army National Guard such as the GI Bill, Student Loan Repayment, Extension bonuses, and many other benefits.

We also have Retention NCOs at the State level to assist with any issues that you may encounter and they are eager to assist in any way possible. As always we encourage you to utilize your chain-of-command for any issues that you may encounter but remember we are also here to assist you. Here is a list of the State Retention personnel and their phone numbers.

- Sgt. Melba Young – State Retention NCO – 785-230-9037
  - Sgt. Raymond Parra – State Retention NCO – 785-806-2349
  - Sgt. Dana Burdick – State Retention NCO – 785-817-7954
  - Staff Sgt. Kenneth Dougherty – State Retention NCO – 785-817-6254
  - Sgt. 1st Class Mack Jackson – State Retention NCOIC - 785-633-0135
  - Col. Jim Trafton – Deputy chief of Staff for Strength Maintenance – 785-274-1019
- The bottom line is we appreciate what you do and we want you to know that you are wanted and needed in the Kansas National Guard.



Sgt. 1st Class Mack Jackson

# Two complete Honor Guard course

The State of Kansas has its first graduates of the Army National Guard Honor Guard course conducted at Professional Education Center in Little Rock, Ark. Spc. Magen Albert of the 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation and Pfc. Jerry Doby of 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation are the first in Kansas to achieve the ARNG Honor Guard Tab. Albert's exceptional performance brought her the added distinction of being nationally certified as an instructor.

The 80-hour course is an intensive regimen of physical training, advanced drill and ceremony, uniform preparation and performance of military funeral honors ranging from the two man detail to full state burial events.

The course prepares graduates to return

to their home states and teach standardized military funeral honors to Soldiers back in their respective locations. The trainers teach their home state teams a 40-hour course designed around the most common funeral events performed nationwide, to the same standard taught and demanded of the trainers for graduation from the 80-hour course. Soldiers unable to complete the 40-hours course will not be eligible to attend the 80-hour course.

ARNG Honor Guard course graduates receive the unique ARNG Honor Guard Tab, which is not available for sale at clothing sales or other military outlets and trainers are also authorized to wear the coveted Black ARNG Honor Guard Instructor T-shirt during training events.



# 35th Military Police Company deploys for duty in Iraq

By Sgt. Michael Mathewson, UPAR

It was raining on June 12 as the 35th Military Police Company bid its official goodbyes to families and friends. The departure ceremony was conducted in the gymnasium of Topeka’s Hayden High School.

The ceremony had the company standing in a single mass formation on the gymnasium floor. The official party, representing the Kansas Army National Guard, was on a low stage facing the assembled Soldiers. The family members, guests and well wishers arrived in such numbers they filled the bleachers along the sides of the gym and then spread up into the balconies.

The official party consisted of Col. Eric Peck, Chief of Staff, Joint Forces Headquarters; Col. Victor Braden, commander, 69th Troop Command; Maj. Robert Stinson, commander of the 35th MP Company; Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen

Rodina, State Command Sergeant Major; 1st Sgt Robert Istas, first sergeant of the 35th MP Company and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Larry Parrish, deputy state chaplain. Lt. Col. Duke Hester, 69th Troop Command executive officer, was the master of ceremonies.

The many honored guests or their representatives were recognized. The honored guests included members of the American Legion Riders of Post 400 and the Kansas Patriot Guard. The riders had escorted the buses that brought the Soldiers to the school. Following the ceremony, the riders would escort the Soldiers to their departure airport.

Following comments from Peck and Stinson a brief presentation took place. By tradition, a Kansas state flag that had flown over the State Capitol was presented to the departing unit. Peck and Rodina, on behalf of the citizens of the State of



Soldiers of the 35th Military Police Company stand at attention in formation during a departure ceremony for the unit, held June 12 in Topeka. The Soldiers deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Photo by Jane Welch)

## Topel takes command of 170th Maintenance Company

By Staff Sgt. Mark W. Reasoner

The command of the 170th Maintenance Company changed hands in a ceremony held at the Company Headquarters in Norton, Kan., on July 14, 2007. The ceremony was attended by a number of military and civilian guests including the 287th Sustainment Brigade commander and command sergeant major, Col. Robert Schmitt and Command Sgt. Maj. John Ryan, respectively; 287th Special Troops Battalion commander and command sergeant major, Lt. Col. Tony D. Divish and Command Sgt. Maj. Manuel Rubio, respectively; the 287th Sustainment Brigade personnel officer, Capt. Erica Christie; retired Lt. Col. Jake Durhum, former commander of the 170th Maintenance Company and the families of Capt. Teresa A. Bingham and 1st Lt. Wesley O. Topel.

Bingham, currently the 287th STB administrative officer, relinquished the reigns of command by transferring the company guidon from 1st Sgt. Max Wharton to Topel. During the ceremony Bingham was awarded the Army Achievement Medal by Divish for her work and accomplishments with the company over the past two years, as well as a framed company guidon. Mr. Bingham received a red rose and the wife of Topel was presented with a yellow rose from the unit. The red rose symbolizes the completion of an era, while the yellow rose indicates the beginning of one. Cake and punch was served following the ceremony.

Following the change of command, Soldiers in the unit were also recognized

by Schmitt. They were:

- Sgt. Paul Ohlrogge, Detachment 2, 170th Maintenance Company, Kansas Commendation Ribbon
- Sgt. Daren Guy, Detachment 2, 170th Maintenance Company, Army Achievement Medal
- Spc. Jesse A. Cole, Detachment 1, 170th Maintenance Company, Kansas National Guard Service Medal
- Sergeant Ranie D. Ruthig, Detachment 4, 170th Maintenance Company, promotion to staff sergeant
- Staff Sergeant Jose Cintron-Colon, Detachment 4, 170th Maintenance Company, promotion to sergeant first class

Once the ceremonies were finished, the company started round-robin training on a number of warrior tasks including making a medevac request, hand signals, SINC-GARS radio training, moving tactically and completing the new mandatory Department of Defense on-line Composite Risk Management Course as a precursor to deployment training that will begin in earnest for the company in October.

Later, when asked what his goals for the company were during his tenure, Topel replied “The ultimate goal is to safely train, deploy and redeploy the 170th. Along the way, I hope to improve the organization in ways that can be measured and recorded on paper, but also in ways that are not so measurable, but are evidenced in a sense of pride, a high degree of esprit-de-corps and a common bond between Soldiers manifested by a respect for their unit.”



Lt. Col. Tony Divish, 287th Special Troops Battalion commander, having taken the 170th guidon from outgoing commander Capt. Teresa A. Bingham, presents the incoming commander, 1st Lt. Wesley O. Topel with the company guidon while 1st Sgt. Max Wharton looks on. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Reasoner)

Kansas, presented the flag to the 35th MP Company. Stinson received the flag for the unit and in turn entrusted the flag to Istas, who will see to its safekeeping during the mission until it is returned back to Kansas.

Following the ceremony, the Soldiers departed the school for Forbes Field and the aircraft that would take them to their training site, where the unit will receive additional mission specific training. The training is in final preparation for their ultimate overseas deployment.

Speaking after the ceremony, Peck emphasized the fact the 35th MP Company has been mobilized several times for domestic support, include the 35th MP Detachment currently serving at Fort Riley. In the past, the 35th MP Company has been sent to Bosnia, Kosovo, Djibouti and now are being sent to Iraq.

“These deployment shows the need for military police in our operations and especially in the areas where we are engaged in

asymmetrical operations overseas,” said Peck. “We are very proud of what they are doing. They have done a fine job in getting ready to go.”

“We especially appreciate the families,” Peck continued. “We know it takes massive support from the families as we sent these Soldiers off to yet another deployment. We look forward to them completing their training and moving on to their next mission, so they can return home.”

The staff of 69th Troop Command oversaw the unit’s mobilization. As the commander of the 69th TC, Braden said, “I am extremely pleased with the manner that the 35th MP command group prepared its Soldiers for mobilization. They took a balanced approach toward training, administrative, and logistical issues. This approached paid big dividends. I am confident that Major Stinson will lead this element through each future phase of the deployment in the same superb fashion.”

## Above and Beyond



Staff Sgt. Jerrod Hays presents an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve “Above and Beyond” award to his employer, Ron Pomery, president, Kansas Castings, Belle Plaine, Kan. The award was presented July 18 at the company headquarters.

The company received the award for its continuing support of employees who are members of the Kansas National Guard. Hays, who was wounded in Iraq while serving with Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery for Operation Iraqi Freedom, has been an employee of the company since 1999. According to James AuBuchon, ESGR Kansas Chair, “The ESGR ‘Above and Beyond’ Award was created to publicly recognize American employers who provide extraordinary patriotic support and cooperation to their employees, who like the Minutemen before them, have answered their nation’s call to serve.” (Photo by Sharon Watson)



# Road to lieutenant bars is demanding and rewarding

**By Sgt. 1st Class Ternilia Myers**  
“Officer School candidates, on behalf of Col. Norman E. Steen, the 235th Regimental commander, his staff and Soldiers, I welcome you to Kansas,” said Command Sergeant Maj. C. Joseph Romans, regimental command sergeant major, as Region F, 1st Battalion, 235th Regiment (1-235th), opened its doors to 184 National Guard Soldiers from nine states for a two-week training of officer candidates known as Phase I.

Region F is headquartered at the National Guard Regional Training Institute (RTI) in Salina, Kan., and consists of nine states: Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Iowa. Candidates attend this training to achieve one goal – to begin the process that will lead to their commission as second lieutenants.

“Our methods, at times, may seem harsh, but combat is much harsher. It is important as a nation that we select the very best to lead our young Soldiers,” said Lt. Col. Barry L. Adams, who is in his second year as commander of 1-235th.

The Officer Candidate School (OCS) program starts with Phase Zero an ‘unofficial program’ which normally spans from March to May held at state OCS companies in preparation for attending Phase I in



**Teach, Access and Counsel Officers, known as TACs, keep officer candidates moving during a road march exercise, part of the training at Officer Candidate School at the 1st Battalion, 235th Regiment, Salina. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ternilia Myers)**  
Salina. “Phase Zero” is designed to let candidates know what the OCS program entails to ensure that they really want to embark on the demanding training that leads to becoming a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Once complete, candidates attend Phase I, a two week program held

at the Region F headquarters. Phase I primarily trains leadership, drill and ceremony, first aid and land navigation. Once completed, the candidates return to their respective state OCS companies to complete a 13-month program consisting of one, three-day drill every month, which is Phase II of the program. Phase II prepares the candidates for Phase III, which is the final two week program, normally held at one of nine Regional RTIs. Final exams are given at Phase III, which are a culmination of all training completed in Phase I and Phase II. Once all exams are passed, candidates are then commissioned by their state as second lieutenants.

At Phase 1, candidates are trained by instructors and an elite team of Teach, Assess and Counsel Officers (TACs). Each candidate’s physical and mental abilities are challenged. Only the successfully-

motivated and determined candidates are driven to complete the program and uphold the honor of becoming a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.  
Maj. Brian Keating is the OCS Battalion commander and the senior TAC for Phase 1 Training. Keating has been with the OCS program for five years. In the past five years, the program consisted of two phases with 80-100 candidates in each phase. Training year 2007 finds Phase 1 with a total of 184 candidates. The larger Phase 1 class allows the candidates to get more leadership training and time. The logistics of having 184 candidates on the ground at one time has proven to be challenging. With the support of the cadre and battalion staff, all candidates have been housed and are being well fed. Keating is confident that even with new cadre training officer candidates for the first time in Salina, his experienced, highly professional staff will serve as top mentors, which assures the continued professionalism for which his OCS Company is well known.

“The staff and cadre of the 1st OCS Battalion in Salina is the best in the nation,” said Adams. “I have received many comments from people outside of the region who express that the Region F OCS Battalion is one of the finest programs in the nation. Since 1996, Region F has trained somewhere between 2,500-2,900 officer candidates from the nine states.”

Steen states that “OCS is the main effort of the RTI which is a product of the coalition of TACs and Instructors from across the country.” The OCS program is a U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command accredited training program and take its mission seriously.”

“The 1st OCS Battalion of Kansas has a solid reputation in produces quality leaders,” Steen says. “Being a good leader doesn’t happen overnight; Leaders are made, not born.”

## Soldiers vie for “best” title

**By Sgt. Heather Wright**

Wearing their freshly pressed and gleaming Class A uniforms, Spc. Kenneth Raymond Hare of the 170th Maintenance Co., Spc. Kevin Hubbard of the 995th Maintenance Co., Spc. Brandy Hudgins of the 731st Transportation Company, Pvt. Lon Bell of the 287th HHC, Sgt. Brian Bird of the 170th Maintenance Co., Staff Sgt. Jason Oesterreich of the 995th Maintenance Co. and Staff Sgt. Troy Hamilton of the 731st Transportation Company represented their units at the 287th Special Troops Battalion 2007 Best Individual Soldier and Best Non-Commissioned Officer Board on Aug. 5 in Wichita.

The Soldiers were given guidance to review the Army Study Guide at [www.armystudyguide.com](http://www.armystudyguide.com) and to follow local and national news. The Soldiers were expected to know current events; chain of command; military leadership; first aid; combat survivability, crew served weapons, nuclear, chemical and biological issues, the M16A2, drill and ceremonies, map reading, wear and appearance of the Army uniform, military justice, Army history and the code of conduct.

Participants answered questions about

these subjects in front of Battalion Command Sgt. Major Manuel Rubio Jr., three first sergeants and one sergeant first class. Board members asked each Soldier a minimum of six questions. The participants could expect to name three Democratic presidential candidates, know whose record Barry Bonds was trying to break, as well as discuss proper M16A2 maintenance and Troop Leading Procedures.

“Accuracy, self-confidence, personal expression, communication and appearance were all considered,” said Rubio. “All the Soldiers did a great job, but the two that won were exceptionally well prepared.”

Hare won Best Individual Soldier. “He was sharp,” said Rubio. “He knew his material.”

Oesterreich won Best Non-Commissioned Officer. He distinguished himself by answering 38 out of 40 questions correctly.

Oesterreich and Hare will compete against the winners from the 891st Engineers and the 169th CSB on September 9. The winners from that Board will represent the 287th Sustainment Brigade at the State Board in November.



**Although the 235th Regiment is headquartered in Kansas, the OCS draws candidates from nine states (Photo by Sgt. Veronica Almazan-Chapman)**

## Infantry supports air show

**By 1st Lt. Wallace Miller**

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry supported the 2007 McConnell Air Force Base Air Show, July 14 and 15, with security missions and recruiting events. The battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Anthony Mohatt, supplied over 65 Soldiers to augment Air Force security forces at base checkpoints and crowd control.

The majority of Soldiers were assigned to magnetometers at the Boeing checkpoint, where over 80,000 spectators passed through security gates before viewing the show. The battalion also incorporated Soldiers into roving security forces with an Air Force counterpart that patrolled the area in motorized carts. Even though there were no security issues, the 2-137th played a vital role in assisting emergency services with the overwhelming number of heat injuries.

While security was the battalion’s pri-

mary mission a large effort was made to boost recruitment for the Wichita area. Recruiting command provided a rock climbing wall, which created a large draw of potential applicants. The 2-137th Infantry displayed a M2A2 ODS Bradley Fighting Vehicle with Soldiers to provide information. The 161st Field Artillery provided 75mm guns for the daily 21 gun salute and a Paladin for display. Several other units from the National Guard provided equipment for recruiting displays and crowd interaction.

Soldiers of the 2-137th Infantry were commended on their performance from senior Air Force officials. Both the security and recruiting missions were extremely successful and resulted in several potential leads for local recruiters. These Soldiers understand the importance of providing top notch security as well as the importance of strengthening the force.

## Lying down on the job



**Maj. Steve Denney volunteers as a test subject for a Soldier of the 35th Military Police Company receiving instruction for Combat Lifesaver training. The unit is conducting mobilization training at Fort Bliss, Texas, prior to deployment to Iraq. The Soldiers were visited by Brig. Gen. Jonathan Small on Aug. 22. (Photo by Sharon Watson)**



# Coyotes exercise in the heat; conduct “war-game” scenarios

By Capt. Chris Hill

In August, more than 200 Coyotes “deployed” to an overseas base, worked alongside their permanent party counterparts and “redeployed” all within two days — and all without leaving Forbes Field. The “deployment,” was part of an Ability to Survive and Operate (ATSO) exercise designed to test 190th members in a variety of tasks and objectives that might be a part of the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) and a real-world deployment.

The two-day ATSO exercise took place Aug. 4-5, 2007, at Forbes Field Air National Guard Base. According to Lt. Col. Rus Curtis, exercise evaluation team chief, the exercise provided an opportunity to benchmark the 190th’s current level of understanding on ATSO and begin to target areas that are in need of improvement.

“We accomplished our objectives. We captured a lot of data that will aid in the process of improving our response,” said Curtis.

190th members faced a variety of scenarios, including, enemy personnel attacks, scud missile attacks and scouting of unexploded ordinances (UXOs). In addition to these planned events several other events occurred that were unplanned. “We had several things happen during the exercise that compounded our work: Heat stress related incidents removing some people from the exercise, real world UXOs (simulated projectiles that failed to detonate) requiring a response from EOD and extreme heat cancelling portions of the scenario,” said Curtis.

While Curtis did point out that the 190th



Smoke projectiles added to the realism of the training scenario. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mandy Johnson)

does have a lot of work ahead of them in order to be fully prepared for the ORI scheduled for 2009, he appreciated the fact that unit members seem ready to meet that challenge.

“What’s refreshing is there are numerous individuals here that observed the same challenge so I think the improvements we need to accomplish will be easier to achieve,” Curtis said.

Curtis stated that the biggest change to these inspections is the new response concept known as Air Force Incident

Management System (AFIMS). “This drives all that we do for every incident,” he said.

In addition to fully understanding the system, familiarization with alarm and MOPP conditions and operating under degraded capability are areas that will be targeted for additional training and evaluation.

The “conflict” that unit members participated in was developed in a new fashion. According to Lt. Col. Chris Gnagi, 190th chief of Safety and Exercise Scenario Writing Team, this year’s exercise was developed by a cross-functional team consisting of senior Exercise Evaluation Team (EET) members.

“Our initial task from the EET Chief was to touch base with each of the areas we represented and find out what each organization desired to achieve from this exercise,” said Gnagi.

Based on that feedback and direction from Col Gregg Burden, wing commander, the writing team settled on three general

objectives:

1. Near 100 percent participation of all 190th members;
  2. Don and doff gear multiple times to allow for repetitive learning; and
  3. Work out of unfamiliar buildings.
- The scenario writing was a new endeavor for Gnagi who stated that he enjoyed being able to gain a new perspective on how these exercises come together.

“I think the most important lesson I learned from the experience was how much time it takes to put together our exercises and the unbelievable amount of detail and coordination it takes to make them safe, run relatively smooth and be as realistic as possible,” he said.

In addition to the ATSO exercise, the 190th also participated in an Aircraft Generation Exercise. Historically, this type of exercise has been accomplished separately from ATSO. According to Curtis, the separation of these events is a thing of the past as the Air Mobility Command’s inspector general now dictates that these events be scheduled and evaluated back-to-back.

“We wanted to mimic this profile as close as possible to begin acclimating ourselves prior to the ORI,” he said.

The evaluation of the unit and its members fell to members of the EET. The EET is made up of a variety of members from across the base. The Air Force directs the installation commander to appoint an EET chief and directs each unit to appoint highly qualified personnel to become members.

EET members must complete a training process as well as having several online training requirements prior to being certified as evaluators.

“We have a very diverse and capable team,” said Curtis. “I realize this is an additional duty that requires a lot of extra time and energy and am extremely grateful to their commanders for allowing them to serve on the EET.”

With this exercise now in the history books, unit members can look forward to

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Tech. Sgt. Brett Higginbotham, playing the role of an intruder, takes Tech. Sgt. Charity Gillam hostage. (Photo by Staff. Sgt. Mandy Johnson)



A simulated bomb explodes during a 190th Air Refueling Wing training exercise in August. (Photo by Staff. Sgt. Mandy Johnson)



Members of the 190th Air Refueling Wing respond during one of many training scenarios that occurred during the Ability to Survive and Operate exercise Aug. 4 and 5. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mandy Johnson)



# Kansas Guardsmen provide assistance to flooded Kansas towns

By 1st Sgt. Carl Mar, 105th MPAD

As the flooding problems in southeast Kansas reached their peak during the week-end of June 30, Iola and Chanute were among the many communities where Kansas Guard Soldiers were dispatched to assist local emergency management personnel. Ten Soldiers of the 891st Engineering Battalion, from detachments located in both cities, were mobilized Saturday night to help in Chanute. Another ten Soldiers from the 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Olathe, Kan., arrived in Iola Sunday night to assist there.

Chanute and Iola, with respective populations of 10,000 and 6,500, are neighboring communities 22 miles apart, connected by U.S. Route 169. The two cities also straddle the Neosho River, which on normal days one could easily throw a rock across. After six days of heavy rains it had swollen into a torrent more than two miles wide.

On Saturday, June 30, the river breached levees protecting the city of Iola and flooded the southern one-third of the community. To the south, rising water inundated the eastern section of Chanute and was creeping its way toward the city center. A large section of Route 169 disappeared beneath the water. In both cities, the Neosho River crested at record levels, more than 14 feet above flood stage. Thousands of citizens in both cities had to evacuate from their homes and businesses.

Greg Thurman, a fireman with the City of Chanute, gave an example of how widespread the flooding had become. “I live two miles east of the city. My house is okay, but now there’s a huge lake in front of it and because of the detours, I had to drive 90 miles to get to work this morning.”

It was in the midst of the evacuations that Soldiers of the 891st Engineer Battalion began their mission. Working in support of the Chanute Police and Fire Department, they helped families move to higher ground and transported them to Red Cross shelters. They also assisted in swift-



On July 2, the City of Chanute experienced recording flooding from the Neosho River, prompting a call-up of Soldiers from the 891st Engineer Battalion, to assist in water rescue and security missions. (Photo by Pfc. Scott Shetley)

water rescues.

“Our first rescue was out in the county,” said Sgt. Harold Harmon, a refueling specialist with the 891st. Using a Heavy Expanded-Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT), his team’s first attempt to reach the isolated household failed. The water was deeper than the 38 inches which the vehicle could drive through. “We got as close as we could and the fire department crew then launched their boat from our cargo deck. They cruised the rest of the way up to the house where the woman, a senior citizen, was waiting for them on the front porch. After getting her into the boat, they returned to the truck,” he said.

“She never got her feet wet,” he added. Harmon and his teammates performed two more rescues later that morning using

the same method. They employed their HEMTT as a mobile dock. “These rescues were in the city itself. We’d drive up to a safe distance from the homes. The swift-water rescue team would launch their boat and extract the citizens, then bring them back. Doing it this way saved time and allowed for more efficient deployment of the rescue teams,” he said.

By noon Sunday, the flood waters around Chanute had crested and the evacuations ended. However, there was still work that only the Guard engineers with their heavy equipment could perform. Twenty miles southeast of Chanute, the small town of Erie, with a population of around 1,000, was completely surrounded by water and needed supplies for an improvised Red Cross shelter there. Staff Sgt. John Karr, a maintenance inspector with the Fire Support Company Detachment, Iola, was given that transport mission.

“We ferried cots, blankets and food to Erie,” said Karr, who utilized a Guard five-ton truck for the trip. “It wasn’t as bad as one might imagine. Only two miles of it was through deep water and that was right before you got to Erie. The only scary part was that we couldn’t see the roadway in front of us when we were in the water. The only sign of where the road existed was by the riffle of the water where it poured over the road’s shoulder. Using that as a guide we drove slowly and stayed as close as possible to the high side of that riffle.”

“Our windshields are six feet above the ground and often times it would look like the waves of water were coming up to the bottom edge of them. But we never drove through more than three feet of water,” he said. “The waves were created by the piling up of water in front of us as we forced our way through. Still, it was an exciting experience.”

Aside from this one trip, the Guard Soldiers’ mission in Chanute was now devoted to public safety and security. Local law enforcement and fire department personnel were tired from almost three days of emergency response activities and also stretched thin. The Guard Soldiers are able to step in and provide rest time for those first responders. Alongside the Chanute police, the Soldiers began patrolling the flood water boundaries and warning citizens to stay out of the water.

“A lot of kids especially are curious and like to play in the water, but it may be polluted with oil, chemicals, and sewage. It’s just not safe for them,” said Karr. “A lot of displaced homeowners also want to wade back to their properties or to boat back and

check things out. It’s not safe for them, either. So when we see people in the water, we ask them to step out and tell them why. We haven’t many problems so far – the people here seem to be listening and staying out.”

In Iola, the situation was more aggravated. The flood water there had crested on Saturday night and was slowly receding. Many citizens were anxious to retrieve precious belongings and there were possible attempts at looting.

“People are trying to launch boats from the dikes to get to their homes and there’s one fellow with a bad history who doesn’t live in the area that we’ve had to escort out three times already,” said Lt. Bryan Donovan, Iola Police Department. “We haven’t actually caught anyone looting yet, but that doesn’t mean that people aren’t trying. We just haven’t caught them in the act.”

Donovan, who is a Guard member with the 891st Engineer Battalion in Iola, said that the city’s emergency management personnel had been able to handle their crisis well, until the water began receding and exposed a large number of access of points into the flooded areas of town.

At around 7:30 p.m. that Sunday, 10 members of HHC, 169th Combat Sustainment Support Brigade, Olathe Kan., were alerted to provide security assistance in the area. With little time to prepare and drive the two-hour distance, the Soldiers arrived in Iola at 11:30 p.m. and eight were quickly assigned to four stationary security positions surrounding the flood area. Another two proceeded to Chanute to reinforce the Guard security presence there.

“Our mission here will be essentially road security and public safety,” said 1st Sgt. Danny Crumpton. “We’ll redirect traffic trying to travel into town around the flood area, block people from entering into the area and assist the Iola police in prevent looting. Our orders are for 24 hours, but, you know, the Guard will have us stay for as long as we are needed.”

At a security post on top of the dike overlooking the city park, Pfc. Courtney Loudont and Staff Sgt. Kenneth Harry stood near their Humvee as police Lt. Donovan drove up at 3 a.m. Loudont had just explored a hundred yards of the dike and was telling Harry about a cooler she had found floating in the water which still had fresh food inside. Behind them, the city’s football field, illuminated by a full moon, sat like a pyramid in a middle of a lake, water up to the third row of bleachers, and the cross bar of the goal posts barely three feet above the water’s surface. Hundreds of car tires floated everywhere and littered the dry dike. It was an eerie scene.

“I haven’t slept since early yesterday, but it’s funny, I’m not tired at all. I’ve never seen anything this before and I guess my mind is still trying to take everything in. I really feel sad for the people who lived here,” said Harry, as he pointed to a group of homes on the north side of the park.

“There’s been no activity here and we haven’t seen anyone other the police patrolmen who came by. That should be a good thing. Maybe tomorrow when it’s light, we’ll start seeing some people,” he said.

For Capt. Letha Williams, the young officer-in-charge of this group of Soldiers, this was her first time on state active duty and she manned one of the barricades along with one of her NCOs.

“This is quiet, probably not as exciting work as most people would think it would be. But it’s one of the most important duties we, as Guard Soldiers, can do during disaster recovery efforts,” said Williams. “Our uniforms impress people to heed the public safety warnings and take them seriously. It’s what we do to help safeguard the public, and I’m proud to say I’ve had a part in doing that now.”

## Kansas National Guard responds to flood waters in SE Kansas

Continued from Page 2

security. Five Soldiers of the 105th MPAD facilitated information requests from the public and the media and facilitated media access to the disaster areas. A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from the 108th Aviation flew over the disaster area to help assess its extent.

Members of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, who responded to the emergency had little rest upon their return from annual training in Camp Guernsey, Wyo. The Soldiers got home at about midnight Saturday, June 30, and by 8 a.m. Sunday morning they received the call to go to Osawatomie. All recalled personnel were on-site with equipment and supplies to carry out their mission by 2 p.m.

Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Theis commented, “I hadn’t even unpacked my truck yet and we got the call to come here.”

Along with the 21 Soldiers, the 161st sent five humvees and three Palletized Loading System trucks which can perform a wide variety of functions and operate in extreme conditions. These Soldiers set up security checkpoints in and around the city, safeguarding the public and keeping watch on the levees and rising waters.

Pfc. Christopher Thorton explained the capabilities of the PLS trucks that his unit brought along to help in the relief effort. “We have a 46-inch clearance on the front end of the truck and the crane can be used as a tow in life line in the event we need it. The flat rack can lower all the way to the ground to retrieve and drop off supplies or we can use the PLS and its crane as a tow truck to pull vehicles from flooded areas.”

This disaster drew resources and agen-

cies from several different counties and state agencies and was subsequently declared a federal disaster. The Kansas Highway Patrol sent troopers from Troop A and Metro Troopers from Kansas City, Kan. Master Trooper Joshua Weber of Troop A said that eight members of the KHP were rotating 12-hour shifts to assist local authorities and the National Guard.

“We always work well with the Guard members in these events,” said Weber. “The only problem that we have as of yet are the ‘rubbernecks’ crossing the bridge on Highway 169.”

Roads along Highway 169, which runs north and south just east of Osawatomie, seemed to be unscathed by the rising waters, although there was a considerable amount of debris flowing under the bridge there. Jeff McGuire, road supervisor with the Miami County Department of Roads and Bridges, spoke of some of the issues that they were confronting on this issue.

“Some people who have stopped on the Pottawatomie Bridge on Highway 169 have reported that it is swaying a bit,” McGuire said. “The U.S. Corps of Engineers planned to inspect the bridge further, but will have to wait until the water recedes a bit before that can take place.”

By Monday afternoon, the water levels within the levees had receded nearly five feet and the pumps that were set up by the emergency agencies involved in the recovery effort were still pumping the water back into the creek where it belonged. The flood displaced approximately 40 percent of Osawatomie’s population, covering 14 blocks of the city and caused extensive crop damage. However, no lives were lost.



# Heavy rains overwhelm Southeast



Heavy rains caused creeks and rivers to leave their banks, covering roads, bridges, fields and homes over large areas of southeastern and south central Kansas. (Photo by Sharon Watson)



Sen. Sam Brownback visits with Coffeyville residents at an American Red Cross shelter. (Photo by Sharon Watson)



The iron arches are all that were visible of a railroad bridge near Osawatimie. (Photo by Sgt. Gilbert Gonzales, 105th MPAD)



Oil from the Coffeyville Resources refinery could be seen floating in the flood waters near Coffeyville. (Photo by Sharon Watson)



Gov. Kathleen Sebelius answers reporters' questions during a tour of several Kansas towns ravaged by the flooding. (Photo by Sharon Watson)



# Kansas with widespread flooding



Senator Pat Roberts accompanied Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting and other state leaders on a tour of the flood areas and visited with local officials. (Photo by Sharon Watson)



A member of the 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment documents the water levels at a levee. (Photo by Sgt. Gilbert Gonzales, 105th MPAD)



In addition to flooding homes and businesses, the rushing water carried debris into neighborhoods and streets. (Photo by Sgt. Gilbert Gonzales, 105th MPAD)



Eventually the floods receded in Coffeyville, but the oil from a local refinery left its mark on homes and vegetation. (Photo by Sharon Watson)



The scenes were reminiscent of the January 2007 snow storms – homes isolated by the forces of nature – but this time it was the liquid form of H<sub>2</sub>O that covered roads, blanketed fields and stranded motorists. (Photo by Lt. Greg Kyser, Kansas Highway Patrol)



# Iowa Guardsmen pitch in to supply drinking water for community

By 1st Lt. Sean Linn

Soldiers from the Iowa Army National Guard’s 1555th Quartermaster Detachment (Water Purification), based in Dubuque, was called to support Fredonia, Kan., when the local water treatment plant became inoperable following the July floods.

The non-commissioned officer in charge, Sgt. 1st Class Steve Holding, arrived on July 4 to conduct a reconnaissance of the water treatment plant and the area his Soldiers would need to set up their operation. Members of the Kansas Joint Operations Command met Holding in Fredonia to assist with anything he needed to become operational.

Twenty-four volunteers arrived after Holding with the Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit. About half of the team were fully qualified operators who were part of the 1555th Quartermaster Detachment when they deployed to Iraq in 2003 and provided relief support following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. A conversion that made the detachment a company means many of the Soldiers have not completed formal training or have not put their training to the test in a real world situation.

Holding split the group into two 12-man shifts pairing experienced operators with less experienced operators. After three or four days of 12 hour shifts, all Soldiers were confident with their skills. Holding explained that, because filters and replacement parts are so expensive, the opportunity to train Soldiers is not as available as he would like. Real world situations allow his



Four Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Units like this supplied fresh drinking water to the people of Fredonia after their water plant was shut down due to flooding. (Photo by 1st Lt. Sean Linn)

crew to stay sharp. The Iowa Soldiers experienced the typical Kansas support and appreciation from the community and their surrounding neighbors. A local machinist who lives near the water treatment plant, checked on the them nightly and provided support by fabricating parts for damaged equipment. The Fredonia High School provided lodging. Food and recre-

ation for Soldiers not pulling a shift on the ROWPU were presented daily. Many of the Soldiers enjoyed the free green fees, golf clubs and carts provided by the country club and local businesses. All of the Soldiers returned home with new T-shirts that were printed with “Wilson County Yacht Club. Flood of 2007.” The members that have seen duty in Iraq and Louisiana said that the conditions here were extreme. Holding said that, with the

## More than \$100 million approved in Disaster Assistance

More than \$100 million in disaster assistance has been committed to help Kansans recover from the effects of storms in May June and July.

Nearly \$62 million in assistance has been approved to date by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Small Business Administration as they continue to assist the state of Kansas and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management in the recovery from the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding from May 4 to June 1. Nearly \$39 million has already has been approved to help with the recovery from the severe storms and flooding of June 26-July 25.

- For the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding of May 4 through June 1:
- 4,543 individuals from 24 designated counties have applied for disaster assistance. Although Aug. 6 was the last day residents and business owners who suffered damage or loss due to the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding from May 4 to June 1 could register for assistance, they can still call the FEMA Helpline, 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), to check the status of their assistance applications.
  - More than \$7.5 million in Housing Assistance has been approved to cover rental assistance, temporary lodging and housing repairs.
  - More than \$1.5 million in Other Needs Assistance (ONA) has been approved to cover personal property loss, medical costs and other serious disaster-related expenses not covered by insurance.
  - Public Assistance grants totaling more than \$11 million have been obligated to date in response to 486 Requests for Public Assistance from public entities (counties, cities, eligible private non-profit agencies). Under FEMA’s Public Assistance program, qualifying jurisdictions can be partially reimbursed for eligible emergency protective measures, debris removal, and the repair or replacement of damaged facilities and infrastructure.
  - The U.S. Small Business

- Administration has approved more than \$41 million in low-interest disaster loans to Kansas residents and businesses.
- Governmental entities, municipal authorities, and eligible private nonprofit organizations in the following counties are eligible to apply for PA grants: Barton, Brown, Chase, Cherokee, Clay, Comanche, Cowley, Dickinson, Doniphan, Douglas, Edwards, Ellsworth, Harper, Harvey, Jackson, Kingman, Kiowa, Leavenworth, Lincoln, Lyon, Marshall, McPherson, Morris, Nemaha, Osage, Osborne, Ottawa, Pawnee, Pottawatomie, Pratt, Reno, Rice, Riley, Saline, Shawnee, Smith, Stafford, Sumner, Wabaunsee and Washington. For more information, local governments in eligible counties should contact their KDEM officials.
- For the storms and flooding of June 26-July 25:
- 3,989 individuals and households from 23 designated counties have applied for assistance. The 23 counties eligible for Individual Assistance are Allen, Anderson, Bourbon, Butler, Chautauqua, Cherokee, Coffey, Cowley, Crawford, Edwards, Elk, Franklin, Greenwood, Harper, Labette, Linn, Miami, Montgomery, Neosho, Osage, Pawnee, Wilson, and Woodson.
  - State and local government agencies and eligible private nonprofit organizations in the above named counties are eligible to apply for federal Public Assistance money to restore damaged infrastructure and pay for debris and other eligible costs.
  - More than \$14 million in Housing Assistance has been approved to cover rental assistance, temporary lodging and housing repairs. There is one family living in temporary housing supplied by FEMA.
  - More than \$3.5 million in Other Needs Assistance has been approved to cover personal property loss, medical costs and other serious disaster-related expenses not covered by insurance.

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## Incident Management Teams enhance flooding and tornado response efforts

By Sharon Watson

In January 2007, the western part of Kansas was still digging its way out from under snow and ice, the first major disaster of the year, but state officials were thinking ahead. The Kansas Division of Emergency Management, a division of the Kansas Adjutant General’s Department, requested volunteers for rapid emergency response teams to support local jurisdictions in a disaster. Several people applied for the positions, but none of them knew it would be just weeks before they would be needed to help with the Greensburg tornado response and throughout southeast Kansas in flooded areas. Teams were to begin receiving training throughout 2007 with the first teams to be ready for deployment late in the year. But on May 4, when the Greensburg tornado struck, and again on June 30, when flooding began in southeast Kansas, several volunteers grabbed their bags and headed out despite the fact they had not been trained. They were to do what they knew best based on their experience. Training would have to wait.

Dave Sterbenz of the Topeka Fire Department served as the first Incident Commander in Greensburg; Jeff Johnson of Johnson County served in Coffeyville, and Bill Brubaker, regional homeland security coordinator for the northeast Kansas, served in Independence. Many others would follow these individuals, either replacing them or supporting them in other roles. Some volunteers were sent to Osawatomie and Fredonia as flooding issues worsened there. In the town of Greensburg, the incident management teams worked closely with the city administrator and the mayor in making day to day decisions. The entire local aspect of the disaster response was managed by the teams of volunteers from other jurisdictions.

“In Greensburg, as I watched the incident command operations, it appeared local officials were managing the response, because these individuals stepped in and ran the response as if Greensburg were their town,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general and director of Emergency Management/Homeland Security. “It was tremendous to see, especially when I realized not a single one of them was from Greensburg, and some had never even been there before.”

***“Kansas is the first to use incident management teams in this way.”***  
***Danny Hay, operations chief***  
***Kansas Division of***  
***Emergency Management***

In the flooding response (Coffeyville, Independence, Fredonia, and Osawatomie) only partial teams were needed to support the local staff. “Kansas is the first to use incident management teams in this way,” said Danny Hay, Kansas Division of Emergency Management operations chief. “No other state emergency management agency has been using incident management teams in the country.” The idea for incident management teams originated with fire departments in the western part of the United States which called on volunteer teams from other departments to support forest fire response. Hurricane Katrina also proved there was a need for timely disaster response teams from areas that had not been affected by the disaster. Kansas Division of Emergency Management conducted an after action

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# State senator, Guardsmen receive honors from NGAUS

By Sharon Watson

Kansas State Senator Stephen R. Morris received the Charles Dick Medal of Merit from the National Guard Association of the United States during the 2007 NGAUS conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Aug. 25 and 26.

“We’re honored to have legislators support our Kansas National Guard troops and airmen. We’re especially pleased to have one of our lawmakers recognized for his hard work and efforts to gain support for our Guard,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general.

This national recognition program honors outstanding performance and accomplishments and recognizes individuals for taking actions that have a lasting effect on the future of the National Guard. The Charles Dick Medal of Merit was established in 1988 to recognize contributions to the National Guard by elected representatives to legislative bodies. The medal is named in honor of Maj. Gen. Charles Dick, president of NGAUS from 1902 to 1909, a major general in the Ohio National Guard, a Congressman and later a senator. He was responsible for the passage of legislation establishing the foundation of the modern National Guard.

During the past 12 years as a Kansas Senator, Morris, a Vietnam veteran and retired Reservist, has been an example to and advocate for the men and women who serve in the Kansas National Guard and continually garners support for programs critical to the success of the Kansas National Guard. Morris authored legislation and led its passage to create the “Kansas Lottery’s Veterans Benefits” program, a lottery game which provides for tuition scholarships for Kansas Guardsmen, as well as helping fund the State Tuition Assistance Program for tuition to Kansas colleges and universities for Kansas National Guardsmen. Morris also advocated for more funding to repair aging Kansas National Guard armories



Sen. Steve Morris (center) receives the Charles Dick Medal of Merit from the National Guard Association of the United States, represented by Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger (left), chairman of NGAUS, and Col. Robert J. Felderman, (right), chairman of the Committee on Awards. (Photo by Michele Henry)

across the state. Morris personally ensured the movement and passage of the “Kansas Military Bill of Rights,” which ensures that state employees who are activated as National Guardsmen do not lose income due to mobilization; allows a pay differential to make up lost wages upon mobilization; provides activation payments for state employees who serve in the National Guard; provides tuition assistance for dependents of Kansas National Guardsmen killed on active duty; creates the Kansas Military Emergency Relief Fund for veterans and their families; and provides free hunting and fishing licenses for Kansas National Guardsmen, as well as life insurance premiums paid for activated Guard members. Morris led state legislators to adopt a law to provide a death benefit payment for families of National Guardsmen

killed in action. He has also attended departure and arrival ceremonies for many deploying National Guardsmen and during his tenure in the Kansas Senate visited nearly 20 armories and traveled with National Guardsmen to Europe.

Three Kansas National Guard members also received awards at the August NGAUS conference. Lt. Col. Tony DeJesus and retired Lt. Col. Raymond L. Rhodd were chosen to receive a Distinguished Service Medal. This medal goes to members of the Guard who have distinguished themselves for outstanding service and exceptional contributions over an extended period of time.

DeJesus serves as the First Membership Representative for Region IV of the National Guard Association of the United States. He has served with distinction by

chairing the NGAUS Membership Committee in not only maintaining 100 percent membership status, but increasing members. He is responsible for developing and implementing an extremely effective corporate support program for the NGAUS. DeJesus is a recipient of the NGAUS Distinguished Service Award.

Rhodd is retired from the Kansas National Guard with more than 30 years of military service. He currently works as a military analyst with simulations at TRADOC, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Rhodd has served eight years as the chairman of the Resolutions Committee. He is chairman of the NGAUS Continuity Committee and a member of the NGAUS Board of Directors. Rhodd is also state president of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and a member of the Kansas Commission of Veterans Affairs. He is an advocate for military veterans as evidenced by his relationship with the VA and military service organizations within the state. He spearheaded the designation of major arteries of the Kansas Highway system to recognize the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Capt. Trenton Shepherd was selected to receive the Company Grade Leadership Award. This award demonstrates outstanding leadership and professionalism in service to country and community. Shepherd, commander of the 190th Air Refueling Wing’s Flight Services, was named the 2007 NGAUS Company Grade Officer of the Year in April. He served on the executive board of NGAUS as a Company Grade Air Representative and is a member of the Long-Range Planning and Awards Committee. Shepherd also volunteers monthly for the Lord’s Table, a Wichita homeless shelter.

“To have individuals taking steps to contribute to the future of the Kansas National Guard is critical, and I want to thank each of our honorees for their service and outstanding contributions,” Bunting added.

## 778th Transportation Company has productive annual training

778th Transportation Company at the annual training conducted on April 28 to May 11, in Salina was a valuable experience with time to prepare and complete vehicle maintenance checks and services as well as other important task associated in a truck company. Capt. Chet Conrad, commanding officer, reported that this annual training was productive in spite of the inclement weather.

During the two week period, the 778th conducted 39 maintenance tool box inventories, two five-year services on the M1000Ts, four annual services on the 1070s, two semi-annual services on the

1070s, HET drivers training, 21 warrior task classes were given to the entire company and 14 battle drills and convoy operations were practiced and executed.

1st Sgt. William Quainey praised the Smoky Hill Bombing Range as an excellent training ground for many of the battle drills.

An extra mission was placed upon 778th during this time period in response to the Greensburg tornado. Spc. David Beams and Staff Sgt. Avan Burkes went to support the 891st Engineers as fuelers in the clean up efforts. Later, they were replaced by Spc. Jeremy Shoemaker.

whether natural or man-made.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, economic status or retaliation. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, you should call FEMA toll-free at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or contact your State Office of Equal Rights. If you are suspicious of any abuse of FEMA programs, please contact the Fraud hotline at 1-800-323-8603.

SBA is the federal government’s primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover uninsured and uncompensated losses and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations.

## Prosecutor is Patriot



Barry Wilkerson, Riley County attorney, was the recent recipient of an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Patriot Award for his support of the Kansas National Guard. Wilkerson was nominated for the award by Col. Victor Braden, commander, 69th Troop Command. Braden (left) is an attorney in his civilian career and one of Wilkerson’s former employees.

“I worked for Barry from July 2005 to October 2006,” said Braden. “Before hiring me, I made him aware of the time requirement for National Guard duties. Despite this warning, he hired me and supported my National Guard duties throughout my tenure. Beyond this support, Barry has worked closely with the Fort Riley Judge Advocate General concerning numerous cases involving military personnel.”

“I consider Barry a Patriot,” he continued. “He continually displays his dedication toward the betterment of his community and supports military-related causes.”

The award was presented to Wilkerson by Brig. Gen. Jonathan Small (right), assistant adjutant general – Land Component, Kansas National Guard. (Photo provided)

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- 7,010 visits to Disaster Recovery Centers throughout the region have been made by people affected by the disaster who have met with recovery experts there.
- Public Assistance grants totaling \$303,152 have been obligated to date in response to 231 Requests for Public Assistance from public entities (counties, cities, eligible private non-profit agencies). The remaining RPAs currently are being evaluated.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration has approved nearly \$21 million in low-interest disaster loans to Kansas residents and businesses.

FEMA coordinates the federal government’s role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters,



# Guardsmen maintain security, build friendships in Djibouti

**By Sgt. Michael Mathewson, UPAR**  
What is Djibouti like?  
“It’s brown” said Spc. Kristin Mathewson and Spc. Nathan Decker, 35th Military Police Company in unison.  
Spc. Eugene Buchheister said “It’s hot” to the same question.  
The Republic of Djibouti is on the Horn of Africa and occupies a significant strategic location. It sits on the shipping lanes of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. It is also across the strait of Bab el Mandeb from the Yemen Arab Republic and the Saudi Arabian peninsula.  
Formerly part of French Somaliland, Djibouti is one of the many countries where the Kansas Army National Guard is serving in the Global War of Terrorism. For several rotations, the 35th Military Police Company has been sending teams of eight to 12 Soldiers to support the multi-national operations in the former French colony. As MPs, their primary mission is security.  
Mathewson was in Djibouti during 2005 and 2006, conducting port missions and civil affairs protection. Decker and Buchheister recently returned from their tour. Decker conducted combat search and rescue and Buchheister was involved in military to military operations. They all operated out of the multi-national, multi-service Camp Lemonier. Lemonier is a former French colonial base outside the Djibouti capital city of Djibouti.  
Mathewson said that port missions involved arriving at the ports hours before a ship was due. She would provide security

for the explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams, which include scuba divers. The EOD teams would sweep the docks and then the divers would inspect the hulls of the ships. The MPs would often board the ships and conduct searches of the often rusted and fragrant compartments. Mathewson said that they would also take small boats out to U.S. Navy ships and, somewhat to her surprise, attack submarines.  
Decker was impressed by the amphibious assault ships, which resemble small aircraft carriers. The combatants would remain off shore. The MPs provided security for the boats transporting supplies.  
Mathewson also provided security for civil affairs teams in several locations in Ethiopia. One of her more memorable adventures was supporting a CA team in Goaleh. The team constructed a water tank that would be used for irrigation the local fields.  
Decker worked with a multi-service combat search and rescue team. The rescue teams were transported in Air Force MH 53 Pave Low Super Jolly Green Giant heavy lift helicopters. The helicopters are designed to support special operations at night and in bad weather. Decker, along with a group of Marines, provided security for the Air Force rescue crews. The teams trained extensively with other nations and operated over a large area of eastern Africa. He spoke of one rescue mission in the Gulf of Aden. A British warship encountered pirates attacking a private yacht. In a short battle, the pirate boat was



**Spc. Ty Hysten, 35th Military Police Company, plays a game with local children in Djibouti. (Photo by Spc. Kristin Mathewson)**  
sunk. The rescue team was requested to pick up the water logged survivors.  
One of Buchheister jobs was to work closely with the French and Djiboutian armies. He spent much of his tour training Djiboutian soldiers on their AK-47 assault rifles. He also did cross training with British and French soldiers on American weapons.  
“They all seemed to like our 9mm pistols,” said Buchheister. “They really like our 15-round magazines over their seven.”  
The three Soldiers are proud of their service in Djibouti, but are glad they are back in Kansas.  
“With continued economic development, in 10 years Djibouti might be a tourist location,” said Decker.  
“I would like to go back just long enough to see if the water tank we built was still working,” said Mathewson.

# Military Police Detachment augments Fort Riley security forces

**By Sgt. Michael Mathewson, UPAR**  
If you are on Fort Riley hopefully you will not be pulled over for a minor traffic violation. However, if you are, you will likely see the Santa Fe Cross of the 35th Infantry Division on the uniforms of military police officers. What are Kansas Army National Guard MPs doing enforcing traffic regulations on a Forces Command post?  
The Military Police Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment at Fort Riley requested law enforcement support. The Adjutant General of Kansas responded by providing a detachment from the 35th MP Company to support Fort Riley. On Jan. 9, 41 members of the newly formed 35th Military Police Detachment arrived at Fort Riley for active duty with the 97th Military Police Battalion. Maj. Norman Jennings, commander, 35th MP Detachment, explained that when the request for our mission went forward, the battalion had one of its three companies deployed. Due to additional deployments, the battalion’s resources are even more limited today. Jennings said that the 35th MP Detachment assumed the law enforcement mission on March 19 after completing a law enforcement train-up.  
The train up was a Fort Riley Department of Emergency Services Law Enforcement certification that included areas of law enforcement ranging from traffic stops to responding to allegations of rape and domestic violence. The Soldiers also qualified on their basic weapons, trained in hand-to-hand combat techniques and the use of pepper spray. Jennings credited the certified civilian law enforcement officers in the detachment for the success of the short train-up period.  
One of the civilian law enforcement officers in the detachment is Sgt. Steven Rupert. Rupert retired from the Navy in 1992 after 21 years as an aircraft fire control specialist. He joined the National Guard following 9/11. He said becoming an MP was a natural choice for him based on his years in law enforcement. At the time of his call up, Rupert was the police chief of the Sac and Fox Nation and the Mayetta City Marshall.



**Sgt. George Baker, 35th Military Police Detachment, conducts a routine traffic stop at Fort Riley. (Photo by Sgt. Michael Mathewson, UPAR)**  
The detachment has three basic law enforcement functions, traffic, patrol and bike patrol. The Traffic section monitors traffic laws and regulations and responds to traffic accidents. The Patrol section responds to reports of crimes and criminal activities. The Bike Patrol operates mainly in the housing areas and bike trails.  
The six Soldiers of the Bike Patrol were certified by the International Police Mountain Bike Association. The training and certification was achieved through the actions of Sgt. Joseph Ralston, another civil law enforcement officer.  
Spc. Jamie Decker of the Bike Patrol said “We were trained by the Topeka Police Department on their bike course. The course was hard, but a lot of fun. We had to ride down steps, jump over curbs, make traffic stops and the best part, firing our weapons from our bikes.”  
“They taught us how to fall off of our bikes and we fell off a lot,” Decker continued. “The instructors gave out stars for their bike helmets when someone fell off.”  
Decker received four stars; Spc. Rebecca

*“The course was hard, but a lot of fun. We had to ride down steps, jump over curbs, make traffic stops and the best part, firing our weapons from our bikes.”*  
**Spc. Jamie Decker**

Beeson set the record receiving six.  
“Although he is only receiving two stars, Spc. Dale Westbrook had the best end-over-end wreck,” said Decker.  
“It was hard to learn not to put out your hands when you fall,” said Beeson. “I do not understand why, but a 9mm pistol in its holster does not cushion a fall.”  
Jennings was proud of the amount of military training and civilian education members of the unit were doing. In addition, to the bike certification, the detachment has three Soldiers in the Warrior Leader Course and 14 Soldiers have trained as Combat Life Savers. Sgt. Brian Ehrler has completed BNCOC phase I. The detachment has two Soldiers attending the Special Reaction Team school at Fort Leonard Wood. Sgt. Chad May, Traffic section, is working on his MBA at Baker University. Spc. Jennifer Wilkins just graduated Washburn University with a Criminal Justice degree in Law Enforcement and Corrections. Decker is studying Sociology online with Allen Community College and following her  
tour, hopes to attend KSU with the goal of obtaining a PhD in Sociology.  
Jennings did say that serving so close to home is not without problems. He said that the Soldiers are close to home, but cannot always be at home. Although, most Soldiers work five days and are off two, they are not at home on many evenings or weekends. There are many family events and functions that are missed. Families understand a lack of involvement from a Soldier serving far from home, but there is a challenge to balancing the demands of what is going on at home just a couple of hours away and maximizing one’s focus here on the mission.  
Fort Riley has been impressed with the performance of the 35th MP Detachment. Master Sgt. Billy Counts, acting command sergeant major, 97th MP Battalion, said “This is an outstanding unit. Without them we would not be able to accomplish our mission.”  
Jennings said that many of the Soldiers were excited about the possibility of going with the 35th MP Company when they deployed overseas this spring. However, The Adjutant General stood behind his commitment to Fort Riley and the Soldiers accepted the direction to continue the current mission. Jennings said that, although the detachment’s tour is over early in the second quarter of next year, the Soldiers’ motivation remains high. When the MP battalion asked if the detachment Soldiers would volunteer for a 90-day extension, a poll of the unit indicated that more than 90 percent of the Soldiers would be willing to sign up.



# Airmen carry out hush-hush “Minuteman Project”



Constructed of wood, aluminum and corrugated metal, this depiction of the traditional Minuteman now graces the lobby of the 190th Air Refueling Wing Operations and Training facility. (Photo provided)

## Coyotes exercise in the heat

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additional training and exercises over the coming months as the unit prepares to deploy for its ORI in 2009.

“I would like to say to all 190th mem-

bers, ‘Thanks for playing.’ In true Coyote fashion, you overcame the irregularities and shortcomings of the scenario and challenges mother nature provided to make this exercise a success,” said Gnagi.



190th members conduct a search for potential unexploded ordnance. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mandy Johnson)

**By Staff Sgt. Emily Alley**

For several weeks, a clandestine project referred to as the “Statue of Liberty” lay in the Sheet Metal Shop at the 190th Air Refueling Wing.

The secret project came about following a discussion between Col. Chris Stratmann, Mission Support Group Commander and Col. Gregg Burden, Wing Commander. The two were thinking about options for the vast amount of space in the lobby of the Operations and Training Facility. Stratmann suggested the idea of a Minuteman and received immediate approval from Burden.

“I liked the look of the brushed aluminum columns and trim already in the lobby. I also had admired the art of Bruce Gueswel whose work appears in Chipotle restaurants,” said Stratmann. The Gueswel pieces feature a three-dimensional effect achieved through layers of wood, aluminum and corrugated metal.

Stratmann came up with the idea of using the classic National Guard Minuteman design, but to make the “lines” of the drawing the background and to make the “blank” spaces the foreground by cutting aluminum in the shape of those spaces and putting the pieces on stand-offs against a black background.

Burden cleared Stratmann to discuss the idea with the Fabrication shop. Upon hearing the idea, the members of the Fabrication shop wondered if the project was even doable. However, they were willing to try.

The Fabrication shop was free to conceptualize the project. Their only directives were to keep the minuteman theme, as the icon of the National Guard, and to use the sculpture technique suggested by Stratmann.

Master Sgt. Tim Johnson, who helped supervise the project, said that the restaurant piece cost \$20,000, while the Fabrication shop was able to construct the 190th’s piece mostly from scrap-metal. “The most expensive part was the wood,” he said.

According to Johnson, they were tasked with the sculpture because they were the “only ones with the equipment.” Other members, however, suggest raw talent prompted the opportunity. “Just tell it like it is. We’re the best,” said Master Sgt. Eldon Jackson.

The sculpture hung, veiled, in the lobby of the new Headquarters building until just after the official ribbon-cutting ceremony. “We kept it pretty quiet,” said Stadler.

Visitors can now enjoy the 11-foot, original sculpture as they enter the main doors of the headquarters facility.

“It is an excellent welcome to all who visit the 190th to help them understand the importance of the National Guard and the concept of the Minuteman,” said Lt. Col. Tony DeJesus, Maintenance Squadron commander.

“It’s an awesome tribute to the men and women of the 190th and the National Guard as a whole. All who participated should be very proud of themselves and I thank them for their efforts,” said Stratmann.

## Airmen lend a hand



When six miners were trapped by a cave-in in the Crandall Coal Mine in Utah, time was of the essence in finding and rescuing them. Substrata Camera Services in Knoxville, Tenn., possessed special camera equipment that could be valuable in accomplishing that goal. However, it is approximately 1,800 miles from Knoxville to Salt Lake City with a minimum drive time of 26 hours.

In order to expedite getting the camera equipment to its destination, a C-17 Globemaster III from the 172nd Airlift Wing, Mississippi Air National Guard, Jackson, Miss., was dispatched to meet the equipment truck at the 190th Air Refueling Wing, Forbes Field, Topeka.

Airmen from the 190th Air Refueling Wing assisted the Mississippi Airmen in loading the truck into the cargo hold of the C-17.

“This mission is typical of what the National Guard is all about,” said Col. William Crisler, commander, 172nd Airlift Wing. “We’re always ready to respond at a moment’s notice to help our citizens in a time of need.” (Photo provided)

## Incident Management Teams

**Continued from Page 14**

report in August to determine ways to improve the teams. Training was identified as one of the most important steps to ensure a team’s success in the future. Six of seven regional incident management teams have been formed and the seventh, in the Kansas City Metro area, is now forming. More volunteers are needed in every region to ensure there are enough people available to respond at a moment’s notice.

“Employers will also gain from having

one of their staff train as an incident management team member,” said Bill Chornyak, deputy director of Kansas Division of Emergency Management. “Their training will ensure they are better able to respond to a disaster in their day to day position and ensure they understand disaster management roles.”

Anyone interested in participating on an incident management team in the future, go to [www.ksready.gov](http://www.ksready.gov) for information and an application form.



# Awards and Decorations

<b>Kansas Army National Guard</b>
<b>LEGION OF MERIT</b>
Col. Thomas D. Arnhold, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Col. Stuart B. Hamilton, Kansas Senior Army Advisor, JFHQKS, Topeka

<b>BRONZE STAR MEDAL</b>
Maj. Lon Williams, ETT #2, JFHQ KS, Topeka Capt. Allen Moore, ETT #2, JFHQ KS, Topeka Master Sgt. Roman Asebedo, ETT #2, JFHQ KS, Topeka Master Sgt. Tony Bennett, ETT #2, JFHQ KS, Topeka Master Sgt. Kenneth L. Paillet, ETT #2, JFHQ KS, Topeka

<b>MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL</b>
Col. Daryl J. Callahan, Area Med Det, Lenexa, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Col. Avon C. Coffman, Area Med Det, Lenexa Lt. Col. John D. Muther, Area Med Det, Lenexa, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster Maj. Andy J. Price, Area Med Det, Lenexa, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Capt. Jaden Stapleton, ETT #2, JFHQ KS, Topeka Capt. Kenneth J. Weishaar, Rec and Ret Cmd, Topeka, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster Capt. Chad Wyancko, ETT #2, JFHQ KS, Topeka Sgt. 1st Class Samuel E. Gantner, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Sgt. 1st Class Dale R. Lawson, HHB (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. 1st Class Martin D. Martinson, HHB (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha Sgt. 1st Class George V. Reeves, Btry B (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Horton Sgt. 1st Class Craig A. Smith, Co A, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka
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<b>ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL</b>
Sgt. 1st Class John M. Burns, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster Staff Sgt. Daniel Shaughnessy, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Staff Sgt. Diana Starr, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Sgt. Lonnie J. Hermann, Area Med Det, Lenexa

<b>ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL</b>
Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Lucas, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster Staff Sgt. Samuel Day, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka Staff Sgt. Michael L. Ramos, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka Sgt. Brian K. Kane, 35th ID Band, Olathe Sgt. Samuel W. Lyle, 35th ID Band, Olathe, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster Sgt. John R. Tejada, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Spc. Joseph M. Felton, 35th ID Band, Olathe

<b>KANSAS NATIONAL GUARD COMMENDATION RIBBON</b>
Master Sgt. Jimmy L. Jarvis, 287th Sustainment Brigade, Wichita Master Sgt. Paul A. Wilson, 287th Sustainment Brigade, Wichita Sgt. 1st Class Michael E. Schlingman, 287th Sustainment Brigade, Wichita Spc. Robert W. Putman, 287th Sustainment Brigade, Wichita Spc. Jenny D. Smith, 287th Sustainment Brigade, Wichita Spc. Earnest L. Sualsberry, 287th Sustainment Brigade, Wichita

<b>KANSAS NATIONAL GUARD ACHIEVEMENT RIBBON</b>
Sgt. Stacy K. Schiedeman, 287th Sustainment Brigade, Wichita Spc. Shanna A. Kating, 287th Sustainment Brigade, Wichita Spc. Dana M. Ward, 287th Sustainment Brigade, Wichita Pvt. 2 Norma Zepeda, 287th Sustainment Brigade, Wichita

<b>KANSAS EMERGENCY DUTY SERVICE RIBBON (Greensburg Tornado)</b>
Col. Martin Sellberg, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Col. Lee Tafanelli, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Lt. Col. Tony Divish, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Lt. Col. Barry Manley, 891st Eng Bn, Iola Maj. Damon Frizzell, 102nd MHD, Topeka Maj. Robert Krull, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Maj. Shawn Manley, HSC (-) 891st Eng Bn, Iola Maj. Richard Peat, 105th MPAD, Topeka Capt. Christopher Broadrick, HSC (-) 891st Eng Bn, Iola Capt. David Burk, HSC (-) 891st Eng Bn, Iola Capt. Christopher Carter, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Capt. Jeffrey Marlow, 891st Eng Bn, Iola Capt. Shannon Nicklaus, HSC (-) 891st Eng Bn, Iola Capt. Justin Nusz, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Capt. Robert Parvin, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe Capt. Mark Penrod, HSC (-) 891st Eng Bn, Iola Capt. Drew Polen, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg 1st Lt. Bryson Casey, HSC (-) 891st Eng Bn, Iola 1st Lt. Mark Doud, HSC (-) 891st Eng Bn, Iola 1st Lt. Richard Dunn, HSC (-) 891st Eng Bn, Iola 1st Lt. Mathew Gilpin, Det 2, 226th Eng Co, Cherryvale 1st Lt. Brian Henning, HSC (-) 891st Eng Bn, Iola 1st Lt. Curtis Hervey, Det 1, 772nd Eng Co, Fort Scott 1st Lt. Chadwick Hines, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville 1st Lt. Eric Hollingsworth, HSC (-) 891st Eng Bn, Iola 1st Lt. Earnest Kratina III, Co B, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Junction City

1st Lt. Derek Leeds, Det 2, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Atchison 1st Lt. Michael Liotta, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville 1st Lt. Jonathan Mack, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg 1st Lt. Lonny Nelson, Det 1, 242nd Eng Co, Winfield 1st Lt. Drew Polen, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg 1st Lt. Michael Raschen, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville 2nd Lt. Kraig Buffington, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville 2nd Lt. Leighton Feters, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville 2nd Lt. Jason Hulse, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville 2nd Lt. Zachary Kittle, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg 2nd Lt. Derek Leeds, Det 2, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Atchison 2nd Lt. Ryan Lynch, Det 1, 226th Eng Co, Pittsburg 2nd Lt. Gerald Simecka II, Det 1, 137th Trans Co, Topeka 2nd Lt. Andrew Wright, HSC (-) 891st Eng Bn, Iola Chief Warrant Officer 4 Leo Blasi, Co B (-) 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Salina Chief Warrant Officer 4 Nicky Hay, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Chief Warrant Officer 3 Valerie Suddock, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ronnie Fankhauser, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka
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Chief Warrant Officer 2 Steven Peak, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jerry Sanko, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Boring, 891st Eng Bn, Iola Command Sgt. Maj. John Ryan, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Sgt. Maj. Timothy Tiemissen, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th AR, Manhattan 1st Sgt. Todd Schainost, 891st Eng Bn, Iola 1st Sgt. John Short, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Master Sgt. Stephen Chrisman, Co B (-) 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Salina Master Sgt. Marion Dohle, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Master Sgt. Roy Hosier, Det 1, HSC, 891st Eng Bn, Garnett Master Sgt. Carl Mar, 105th MPAD, Topeka Master Sgt. Timothy Roloff, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Master Sgt. Todd Schainost, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Master Sgt. John Short, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Master Sgt. Tracy Williams, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Aguirre, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Sgt. 1st Class Richard Anderson, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Sgt. 1st Class Robert Barber, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th AR, Manhattan Sgt. 1st Class Russell Beth, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Sgt. 1st Class Randy Bole, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Sgt. 1st Class Michael Briggs, 891st Eng Bn, Iola Sgt. 1st Class Tommie Cleveland, 731st Trans Co, Larned Sgt. 1st Class Robert Cable, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Dauben, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Sgt. 1st Class Brian Donovan, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Sgt. 1st Class James Grayson, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Sgt. 1st Class Gary Hanshaw, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. 1st Class Gary Harp, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. 1st Class George Harris Jr., Det 2, 226th Eng Co, Cherryvale Sgt. 1st Class Anita Istas, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Sgt. 1st Class Fred Jones, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe Sgt. 1st Class Eric Kaltenborn, Co C, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Lenexa Sgt. 1st Class Todd Kenyon, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Sgt. 1st Class John Melnick, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe Sgt. 1st Class Dale Munk, Det 3, 778th Trans Co, Council Grove Sgt. 1st Class Micheal Schmidt, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Sgt. 1st Class Russell Shaffer, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. 1st Class William Siler, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Sgt. 1st Class Steven Smith, Det 1, 226th Eng Co, Pittsburg Sgt. 1st Class Lorn Spohn, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. 1st Class Mark Suddock, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Sgt. 1st Class Ray Switzer, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th AR, Manhattan Sgt. 1st Class Richard Wahlmeier, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Sgt. 1st Class Warren Wood, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. 1st Class Derwin Worcester, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Sgt. 1st Class Michael Yoho, Det 1, 242nd Eng Co, Winfield Staff Sgt. Christopher Adair, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe Staff Sgt. Benjamin Aldridge, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe Staff Sgt. Richard Anderson, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Staff Sgt. Gary Bainbridge, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Staff Sgt. Robert Barber, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan Staff Sgt. Ronald Beasley, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Staff Sgt. Angela Berry, Det 1, 137th Trans Co, Topeka Staff Sgt. Avan Burkes, 778th Trans Co, Kansas City Staff Sgt. Randall Burns, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Staff Sgt. David Coats, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Staff Sgt. Aron Coleman, Det 1, 772nd Eng Co, Fort Scott Staff Sgt. Charles Craig, 137h Trans Co (-), Olathe Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Dancinger, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe Staff Sgt. Jon Depiesse, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Staff Sgt. William Driscoll, Det 3, 778th Trans Co, Council Grove Staff Sgt. Travis Eichorn, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Staff Sgt. Matthew Emerson, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Staff Sgt. Leon Everhart, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Staff Sgt. Lawrence Gantos, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe Staff Sgt. Andrew Garr, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Staff Sgt. Joseph Gerritzen, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Staff Sgt. Robert Graham, Det 2, 226th Eng Co, Cherryvale Staff Sgt. Daniel Grubb, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Staff Sgt. William Hamilton, Det 2, 731st Trans Co, Wichita Staff Sgt. Gary Harp, Det 1, 242nd Eng Co, Winfield Staff Sgt. Lonny Henkle, 891st Eng Bn, Iola Staff Sgt. Kelvin Hicks, Det 1, 242nd Eng Co, Winfield Staff Sgt. Frankie Hull, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Staff Sgt. Donald Johnson, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Staff Sgt. Eric Kaltenborn, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan Staff Sgt. John Karr, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Staff Sgt. William Kerby, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Staff Sgt. Dennis Krom, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Staff Sgt. Craig Laber, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe Staff Sgt. Tiffany Lane, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Staff Sgt. Stephen Legeiter, Btry C (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman Staff Sgt. Darrin Littlepage, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Staff Sgt. Hayden McElroy, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Staff Sgt. Donald Moore, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Staff Sgt. Robert Nelson, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Staff Sgt. Robbie Nichols, Det 1, HSC, 891st Eng Bn, Garnett Staff Sgt. Craig Pack, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Staff Sgt. Clayton Reed, 731st Trans Co, Larned Staff Sgt. Jeffery Richardson, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Staff Sgt. Danny Roberts, Det 1, 772nd Engr Co, Fort Scott Staff Sgt. Robert Rosendahl, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Staff Sgt. Robert Ryan, Det 3, 731st Trans Co, Hays Staff Sgt. Michael Sawyer, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe Staff Sgt. Ricky Schafer, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Staff Sgt. Gregory Schmidt, Btry B (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Horton Staff Sgt. Jamie Schulte, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Staff Sgt. Joseph Shuey, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Staff Sgt. John Simon, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Staff Sgt. Michael Sisk, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Staff Sgt. Timothy Stoner, Det 2, 731st Trans Co, Wichita Staff Sgt. Linus Thuston, Det 1, FSC, 891st Eng Bn, Chanute Staff Sgt. Vernon Vancleave, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Staff Sgt. James Veasey, Det 2, 731st Trans Co, Wichita Staff Sgt. Michael Wahl, Det 1, 226th Eng Co, Pittsburg Staff Sgt. Warren Wood, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Staff Sgt. Jared Worley, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Staff Sgt. David Wymore, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. David Barnes, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Sgt. Tracy Barragan, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Sgt. Jamie Baxter, 287th Sust Bde, Wichita Sgt. David Beerbower, Det 1, 226th Eng Co, Pittsburg Sgt. Bruce Bentley, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. James Bergen, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. James Bishop, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Sgt. Brian Blandaner, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Kevin Boese, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Sgt. Edward Boring II, Det 1, FSC, 891st Eng Bn, Chanute
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Sgt. Dennis Britton, Det 1, 242nd Eng Co, Winfield Sgt. Jeremy Carriger, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Sgt. Rene Castilleja, Det 2, 226th Eng Co, Cherryvale Sgt. Phillip Castillo, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe Sgt. Mark Chamberlin, Det 1, 226th Eng Co, Pittsburg Sgt. Heideibert Chee, Det 2, 731st Trans Co, Wichita Sgt. Jason Christian, Det 1, 772nd Engr Co, Fort Scott Sgt. Kevin Corder, Det 1, 242nd Eng Co, Winfield Sgt. Roy Culbertson, Det 1, FSC, 891st Eng Bn, Chanute Sgt. Jason Curran, 778th Trans Co, Kansas City Sgt. Stacy Dawson, Det 1, 772nd Engr Co, Fort Scott Sgt. Rudolph Draper, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Robert Dungan, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe Sgt. Tommy Ellis, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Sgt. Clinton Everman, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Sgt. Rebekah Filtingberger, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Sean Fisher, Det 2, 226th Eng Co, Cherryvale Sgt. Tony French, Det 1, 226th Eng Co, Pittsburg Sgt. Paul Gamble, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Sgt. Alex Garcia, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Andrew Garr, 891st Eng Bn, Iola Sgt. Michael Gerber, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Gilbert Gonzales, 105th MPAD, Topeka Sgt. David Graham, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th AR, Manhattan Sgt. Miles Graham, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe Sgt. Robert Graham, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Michael Guertin, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Sgt. Danelle Hall, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe Sgt. Maria Hargis, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Harold Harmon, Det 1, FSC, 891st Eng Bn, Chanute Sgt. Patric Harrison, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Jon Havner, Det 1, 242nd Eng Co, Winfield Sgt. Matthew Helmer, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Douglas Hennen, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Bradley Hesse, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Sgt. Jeremy Hitt, 69th TC, Topeka Sgt. Dustin Housel, Det 2, 226th Eng Co, Cherryvale Sgt. James Jackson, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Sgt. Timothy Johnson, Det 2, 226th Eng Co, Cherryvale Sgt. Jeffery Keltner, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe Sgt. Joseph Kinyon, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Christopher Koochel, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Sgt. Richard Langdon, Det 1, 242nd Eng Co, Winfield Sgt. Travis Letterman, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Kent Lockhart, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Sgt. Toby Long, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Sgt. Joseph Love, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Jared Ludwig, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. John Lyon, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Rollin Malphrus, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th AR, Manhattan Sgt. John Manley, Det 2, 226th Eng Co, Cherryvale Sgt. Alin Martin, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Susan Massey, Det 1, HSC, 891st Eng Bn, Garnett Sgt. John McCoy, Det 1, 772nd Engr Co, Fort Scott Sgt. David McDonald, Det 1, HSC, 891st Eng Bn, Garnett Sgt. Daniel Meyer, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Sgt. Mary Middleton, Det 2, 226th Eng Co, Cherryvale Sgt. Thomas Miller, Det 2, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Atchison Sgt. Roger Moler, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Daniel Montgomery, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe Sgt. Jason Morton, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. 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Carrie Seeger, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Sgt. Daniel Shipley, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Aaron Shrader, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Sgt. Curtis Smith, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Everett Smith, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Richard Smith, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th AR, Manhattan Sgt. Steven Smith, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Sgt. James Snoddy, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Sgt. John Staier, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Sgt. Leonard Swink, Det 2, 226th Eng Co, Cherryvale Sgt. Donald Tharp Jr., 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Stoney Thompson, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Thomas Thornhill, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Sgt. Amy Umbarger, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Sgt. Michael Walls, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. David Warren II, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Robert Wells, Det 1, 226th Eng Co, Pittsburg Sgt. Joseph Wiegman, Det 1, 242nd Eng Co, Winfield Sgt. Marc Willbern, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Jeremy Wilson, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Sgt. Jerry Wilson, Det 1, 226th Eng Co, Pittsburg Sgt. Christopher Wittig, 287th Sust Bde, Wichita Sgt. Matthew Womble, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe Sgt. Richard Wood, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Heather Wright, 105th MPAD, Topeka Sgt. Frank Zamarripa, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Autumn Adams, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. James Allen, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Robert Allison, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Cory Anderson, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Lacy Atkins, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Gerianna Bass, Det 1, FSC, 891st Eng Bn, Chanute Spc. David Beams, HHC, 35th Inf Div, Fort Leavenworth Spc. Michael Beerbower, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Ricky Beerbower, Det 1, 242nd Eng Co, Winfield Spc. Scott Beerbower, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Spc. Melissa Benson, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Paul Blakley, Det 2, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Atchison Spc. John Blea, Det 3, 731st Trans Co, Hays Spc. Kevin Brabb, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Beau Brough, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Michael Browning, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Shaun Bruggman, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. David Carver, Det 1, 242nd Eng Co, Winfield Spc. Garren Charter, Det 1, FSC, 891st Eng Bn, Chanute Spc. David Childers, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Travis Cobb, Det 2, 226th Eng Co, Cherryvale Spc. Stephanie Cokeley, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Brett Cole, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Spc. Brian Collins, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Deric Croan, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Melissa Dame, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Spc. Jaret Dauben, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Chris Daughtery, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Geremiaah Dawson, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Jon Deal, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola
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Spc. Robert Dejulio, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Leonard Demel, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Brian Dewberry, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Walter Dobbins, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Zachary Dooley, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Spc. Rudolph Draper, Det 1, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Ottawa Spc. Joshua Dye, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Benjamin Easley, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. William Eller, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Ronald Elstun, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Eric Estes, Det 2, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Atchison Spc. Jerrod Eubanks, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Spc. Danel Fogle, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Spc. Samuel Frantz, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Spc. Richard Freel, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Jonathan Freeman, Det 1, HSC, 891st Eng Bn, Garnett Spc. Mark Galindo, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Brandon Gallow, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Spc. William Glasgow, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Andrew Glaspie, Det 1, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Holton Spc. Jessie Gould, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Stephen Graham, Det 2, 226th Eng Co, Cherryvale Spc. Christopher Gray, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Triston Greer, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Spc. Christopher Gross, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Michelle Hallacy, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Spc. Rex Hammer, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Randy Haney, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Larron Harrison, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Mathew Helmer, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Robert Helmer, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. James Hensley, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Leonard Herrman, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Jesse Hodge, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Jeremiah Hoesli, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Jerrod Hottman, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Spc. Jeffery Howard, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Brandy Hudgins, Det 2, 731st Trans Co, Wichita Spc. Desmond Huff, Det 1, 772nd Engr Co, Fort Scott Spc. Alan Huffman, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Richard Hurst, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Amber Ivy, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. James Jackson, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Spc. Robert Jackson, Det 1, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Holton Spc. Wesley Johnson, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Robert Judd, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka Spc. Joshua Karhoff, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Josh Karleskint, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Teresa Kendall, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Dean Kipp, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Spc. Eric Lawrence, Det 1, HSC, 891st Eng Bn, Garnett Spc. Walter Lero, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Jason Lewis, Det 1, 242nd Eng Co, Winfield Spc. Jerry Lofland, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Joseph Love, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Scottie Love, Det 1, FSC, 891st Eng Bn, Chanute Spc. Lee Maier, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Spc. Arden Martinie, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. William McClelland, Det 1, FSC, 891st Eng Bn, Chanute Spc. David McCord, Det 1, 772nd Engr Co, Fort Scott Spc. Ronald McDaniel, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Randal McMillan, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Stephen Melton, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. David Miller, 778th Trans Co, Kansas City Spc. Anthony Mishler, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Mark Montandon, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Christopher Moore, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Jacob Morrison, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Spc. Kevin Murphy, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Brian Newsom, Det 1, 772nd Engr Co, Fort Scott Spc. Daniel Noyes, Det 2, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Atchison Spc. Timothy O’Crowley, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Jeremy O’Ferrell, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Tommy Olivas, Det 1, 772nd Engr Co, Fort Scott Spc. William Olson, 242nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Dale Ouderkirk, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Tisha Overman, Det 1, HSC, 891st Eng Bn, Garnett Spc. Dustin Parker, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Michael Patterson, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Larn Perkins, Det 1, FSC, 891st Eng Bn, Chanute Spc. Jessie Peyton, Det 1, 242nd Eng Co, Winfield Spc. Clint Pierce, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Aaron Plumley, Det 2, 226th Eng Co, Cherryvale Spc. William Putman, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Robert Putman Jr., 287th Sust Bde, Wichita Spc. William Ratzlaff, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Derek Redenius, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Corey Redfern, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. William Reeder, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Spc. Scott Reeves, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Johnathan Reid, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Harrison Rindt, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th AR, Manhattan Spc. Ty Robertson, Det 1, 137th Trans Co, Topeka Spc. Christopher Roe, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Spc. Ryan Rogers, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Kenneth Ruppel, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Joshua Russ, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Brandon Russell, Det 1, 772nd Engr Co, Fort Scott Spc. Kyle Sandon, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Andrew Scott, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Jeremy Shomaker, 778th Trans Co, Kansas City Spc. Timothy Shoulders, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Bangone Sihongheune, 778th Trans Co, Kansas City Spc. John Sims, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Jenny Smith, 287th Sust Bde, Wichita Spc. Joseph Smith, 105TH MPAD, Topeka Spc. Natasha Smith, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Spc. Samuel Smith, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. William Smith, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. John Solis, 287th Sust Bde, Wichita Spc. Johnny Speer, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Brian Stewart, Det 1, FSC, 891st Eng Bn, Chanute Spc. G.E. Stubblefield, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Kenneth Taylor, Det 1, HSC, 891st Eng Bn, Garnett Spc. Macarthur Thompson, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Steven Thompson, Btry B (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Horton Spc. Benjamin Vanderford, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Jonathan Wells, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Spc. John Whistler, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Travis Winebrinner, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Daniel Winegar, Det 1, 242nd Eng Co, Winfield Spc. Matthew Winkleman, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Spc. Michael Woods, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Spc. Kyle Wyres, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Spc. Justin Zimmerman, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Pfc. Charles Arbogast, Det 1, 772nd Eng Co, Fort Scott Pfc. Adam Beckman, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Pfc. Derrick Brown, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend Pfc. Samuel Casalnuovo, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg Pfc. Joseph Cowan, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Pfc. Cody Cummings, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Pfc. Robert Diebert, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe Pfc. Michael Ellison, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Pfc. Robert Firestone, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th AR, Manhattan
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Pfc. David Gilliland, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe  
Pfc. Bryan Hale, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg  
Pfc. Victor Haskins, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola  
Pfc. Christopher Heller 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville  
Pfc. Dale Jesseph Jr., HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola  
Pfc. Cassandra Jones, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville  
Pfc. Donald Jones Jr., 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville  
Pfc. Nathan Laviolette, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend  
Pfc. Jonathan Lee, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola  
Pfc. Kenneth Maxwell II, Btry B (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Horton  
Pfc. Byron Mohammed, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola  
Pfc. David Reed, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville  
Pfc. Melissa Reid, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville  
Pfc. April Remaly, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville  
Pfc. William Rogers, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville  
Pfc. Charles Rosenhoover, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola  
Pfc. Georgia Schafer, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
Pfc. Jacob Schainost, Det 2, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Topeka  
Pfc. Austin Sigg, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola  
Pfc. Mark Smith, Det 2, 226th Eng Co, Cherryvale  
Pfc. Nicholas Stipp, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola  
Pfc. Matthew Sullivan, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th AR, Manhattan  
Pfc. Steven Taylor, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola  
Pfc. Anthony Throckmorton, Det 1, FSC, 891st Eng Bn, Chanute  
Pfc. Andrew Ward, Det 2, 226th Eng Co, Cherryvale  
Pfc. Benjamin Whitsitt, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville  
Pfc. Robert Williams, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend  
Pfc. Sequoia Williams, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe  
Pvt. 2 Jonathan Belosic, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola  
Pvt. 2 Andrew Benward, Det 1, 242nd Eng Co, Winfield  
Pvt. 2 Jeremy Berry, Det 1, 242nd Eng Co, Winfield  
Pvt. 2 Brian Butler, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg  
Pvt. 2 Kurt Chance, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg  
Pvt. 2 Robert Davis, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville  
Pvt. 2 Kyle Galvin, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola  
Pvt. 2 Josey Leck, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville  
Pvt. 2 Travis Mayer, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend  
Pvt. 2 Shane Nickelson, Det 1, 772nd Engr Co, Fort Scott  
Pvt. 2 Kevin Norton, 772nd Eng Co, Pittsburg  
Pvt. 2 Celia Prince, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville  
Pvt. 2 Christopher Rodie, Btry E TAB, 161st FA, Great Bend  
Pvt. 2 Kenneth Rood, Det 1, 772nd Engr Co, Fort Scott  
Pvt. 2 Danielle Smith, Det 1, HSC, 891st Eng Bn, Garnett  
Pvt. 2 Jimmy Stephens, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville  
Pvt. 2 Bobby Whitley Jr., Det 1, 772nd Engr Co, Fort Scott  
Pvt. 2 Joshua Wilson, Det 1, 226th Eng Co, Pittsburg  
Pvt. William Butts Jr., Det 2, 226th Eng Co, Cherryvale  
Pvt. Trina Cobb, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola  
Pvt. Russell Fields, Det 2, 226th Eng Co, Cherryvale

EMERGENCY STATE ACTIVE DUTY RIBBONS  
(Coffeyville Flooding)

Col. Lee Tafanelli, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
Lt. Col. David Leger, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
Lt. Col. Roger Murdock, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita  
Maj. Steven Ferrell, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita  
Maj. Patrick Hrenchir, HHC, 35th Inf Div, Fort Leavenworth  
Maj. Roger Krull, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
Maj. Andy Trager, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita  
Capt. David Burk, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola  
Capt. Luke Foster, 250th FSC (-), Ottawa  
Capt. Lenard Leivan, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City  
Capt. Robert Parvin, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe  
Capt. Gary Penrod, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Capt. Letha Williams, HHD, 169th CSSB, Olathe  
1st Lt. Gabriel Brockman, Det 1, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Ottawa  
1st Lt. Kevin Kennedy, Det 1, Co C, 1st Bn, 171st Avn, Topeka  
1st Lt. Courtney Townsend, Det 2, 778th Trans Co, Wichita  
1st Lt. Grant Watson, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita  
1st Lt. Bradley Webster, 170th Maint Co (-), Norton  
2nd Lt. Eric Deeds, Co B, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Junction City  
2nd Lt. Jason Hulse, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville  
2nd Lt. Derek Leeds, Det 2, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Atchison  
2nd Lt. Jerry Monasmith Jr., Det 1, 778th Trans Co, Manhattan  
2nd Lt. Patrick Reed, Det 1, Co A, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City  
Chief Warrant Officer 5 Robert Good, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
Chief Warrant Officer 4 John Alexander, Det 1, Co C, 1st Bn, 171st Avn, Topeka  
Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ronnie Jackson, Det 1, Co C, 1st Bn, 171st Avn, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Mark Baxa, HQ, 235th Rgt (RTI), Salina  
Master Sgt. Danny Crumpton, HHD, 169th CSSB, Olathe  
Master Sgt. Kirk Gibson, Co B, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita  
Master Sgt. David Kennedy, Co C, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Thomas Sprague, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Paul Wilson, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita  
Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Aguirre, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola  
Sgt. 1st Class Larry Arnold, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Sgt. 1st Class Robert Barber, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Boschee, Det 2, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Atchison  
Sgt. 1st Class Michael Cooper, HHD, 169th CSSB, Olathe  
Sgt. 1st Class William Cooper, Det 2, 778th Trans Co, Wichita  
Sgt. 1st Class Sherman Crawford, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton  
Sgt. 1st Class Michael Dickmeyer, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Sgt. 1st Class Jason Fears, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City  
Sgt. 1st Class Robert Hernandez, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita  
Sgt. 1st Class Paul Jackson, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe  
Sgt. 1st Class Fred Jones, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe  
Sgt. 1st Class Lisa Martin, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita  
Sgt. 1st Class John Melnick Jr., 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe  
Sgt. 1st Class Doreen Neumann, HHD, 169th CSSB, Olathe  
Sgt. 1st Class Randy Rice, HHB, 130th FA Bde, Topeka  
Sgt. 1st Class Michael Shaffer, Det 1, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Lenexa  
Sgt. 1st Class Russell Shaffer, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville  
Sgt. 1st Class Ray Switzer, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Staff Sgt. Christopher Adair, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe  
Staff Sgt. Keith Bartlett, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Staff Sgt. Ronald Beasley Jr., FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola  
Staff Sgt. Angela Berry, Det 1, 137th Trans Co, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Jerry Birdsley, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Staff Sgt. Douglas Boland, Det 2, 250TH FSC, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Travis Bowser, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Staff Sgt. Jesse Brinker, Btry C (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Abilene  
Staff Sgt. Dwane Clifford, Co B, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Dennis Coulthard, Det 7, 250TH FSC, Holton  
Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Dancinger, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe  
Staff Sgt. Kenneth Dedrick, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Staff Sgt. Michael Dill, Btry C (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA,

Kingman  
Staff Sgt. Tobe Eggers, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Staff Sgt. Charley Finley, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton  
Staff Sgt. Lawrence Gantos Jr., 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe  
Staff Sgt. Joseph Gerritzen, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton  
Staff Sgt. Adam Gonsalves, 778th Trans Co, Kansas City  
Staff Sgt. Larry Goode, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton  
Staff Sgt. Aaron Goza, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Staff Sgt. Michael Green, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City  
Staff Sgt. Kevin Hansen, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton  
Staff Sgt. Christopher Hargis, Det 2, 226th Engr Co, Cherryvale  
Staff Sgt. Kenneth Harry, HHD, 169th CSSB, Olathe  
Staff Sgt. Frankie Hull, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville  
Staff Sgt. Jason Jouret, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City  
Staff Sgt. John Karr, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola  
Staff Sgt. Stephen Legleiter, Btry C (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman  
Staff Sgt. Roger McGill, Det 1, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Lenexa  
Staff Sgt. Wesley Naegele, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Daniel Reling, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Kal Robinson, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Staff Sgt. Ruben Roman, HHD, 169th CSSB, Olathe  
Staff Sgt. Bryan Schultz, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. J Smith, Det 1, Co C, 1st Bn, 171st Avn, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Edward Sullivan, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton  
Staff Sgt. James Veasey, Det 2, 731st Trans Co, Wichita  
Sgt. Michael Adams, HHD, 169th CSSB, Olathe  
Sgt. Andrew Arzola, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe  
Sgt. Thomas Baker Jr., Det 1, Co C, 1st Bn, 171st Avn, Topeka  
Sgt. Michael Banicky, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Sgt. Jason Carr, Co B, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita  
Sgt. William Cejka Jr., Det 7, 250TH FSC, Holton  
Sgt. Jacob Cloud, Det 1, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Lenexa  
Sgt. Arthur Cole, Det 1, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Lenexa  
Sgt. Craig Cox, Det 1, 1161st FSC, Pratt  
Sgt. Jimmie Cranford, Co B, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita  
Sgt. Roy Culbertson, Det 1, FSC, 891st Eng Bn, Chanute  
Sgt. Christopher Cummings, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita  
Sgt. Kent Devault, HHD, 169th CSSB, Olathe  
Sgt. Donald Dickey, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City  
Sgt. Brandon Eastwood, HHS (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha  
Sgt. Jason Ekeland, Btry C (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman  
Sgt. Robert Fillpot, Det 1, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Lenexa  
Sgt. Jeromy Fisher, Btry C (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman  
Sgt. Andrew Gilfillan, HHS (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha  
Sgt. Richard Gooch, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton  
Sgt. David Graham, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Sgt. Harold Harmon, Det 1, FSC, 891st Eng Bn, Chanute  
Sgt. Bradley Hesse, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola  
Sgt. Dustin Housel, Det 2, 226th Engr Co, Cherryvale  
Sgt. Jeremy Johansen, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe  
Sgt. Michael Kelly, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe  
Sgt. Kenneth Kumle, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Sgt. Darel Long, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Sgt. Rollin Malphrus, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Sgt. John Mattingly, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Sgt. Thomas Miller, Det 2, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Atchison  
Sgt. Mark Mingorance, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Sgt. John Mixon Jr., HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Sgt. Aaron Patterson, Det 2, 731st Trans Co, Wichita  
Sgt. Dennis Pritchett, Det 1, 250th FSC, Burlington  
Sgt. Douglas Roach, Det 1, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Holton  
Sgt. Ryan Sample, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Sgt. Gary Schrand, Det 1, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Lenexa  
Sgt. Douglas Spencer, Det 1, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Holton  
Sgt. Michael Swisher, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Sgt. Quaint Tallent, HHS (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha  
Sgt. Brandon Tritsch, HHS (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha  
Sgt. Joseph Wiegman, Det 1, 242nd Eng Co, Winfield  
Sgt. James Willett, Btry C (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Abilene  
Sgt. Jeremy Wilson, FSC(-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola  
Sgt. Paul Wilson, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita  
Sgt. Scott Wineinger, Det 1, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Lenexa  
Spec. Shawn Andrews, Det 1, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Lenexa  
Spec. Brian Bach, Det 1, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Lenexa  
Spec. William Baker, Btry C (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman  
Spec. Kevin Beat, Btry C (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman  
Spec. Michael Beckner, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita  
Spec. Kyle Bolling, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City  
Spec. James Brace, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Spec. Charles Brantly, HHD, 169th CSSB, Olathe  
Spec. Jeremy Brothorst, Det 1, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Holton  
Spec. Denny Browning, Det 1, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Holton  
Spec. Matthew Browning, Det 1, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Holton  
Spec. Jason Bryan, Det 1, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Holton  
Spec. Andrew Burns, Det 1, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Ottawa  
Spec. Christopher Cease, Det 1, 250th FSC, Burlington  
Spec. Jimmy Coonce, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton  
Spec. Curtis Dawson, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Spec. Christopher Deniger, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton  
Spec. Nicholous Downs, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita  
Spec. Scotty Eggleston, Det 1, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Lenexa  
Spec. Ronald Elstun, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville  
Spec. Aaron Ewing, Det 2, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Atchison  
Spec. Justin Farabee, Det 1, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Lenexa  
Spec. Matthew Froese, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton  
Spec. Andrew Glaspie, Det 1, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Holton  
Spec. Rafael Gonzales, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Spec. Stephen Graham, Det 2, 226th Engr Co, Cherryvale  
Spec. Erik Guerrero, HHS (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha  
Spec. David Halsey, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton  
Spec. Kevin Harper, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton  
Spec. Brian Holloway, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita  
Spec. Bret Johnson, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita  
Spec. Kevin Lemieux, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton  
Spec. Wolfgang Lettenbauer, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Spec. Brandon Maxwell, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Spec. Justin McCauliffe, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton  
Spec. Gerald McDonnell, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita  
Spec. Brian McKinney, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita  
Spec. Jared Meier, Det 1, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Lenexa  
Spec. Corey Merrill, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Spec. Shane Miskell, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita  
Spec. Joshua Moore, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City

Spec. C.L. Morris, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita  
Spec. Graham Moulden, Det 3, 250TH FSC, Sabetha  
Spec. Christopher Munson, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Spec. Daniel Noyes, Det 2, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Atchison  
Spec. Heath Oden, 250th FSC (-), Ottawa  
Spec. Michael Pearce, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton  
Spec. Nathaniel Pharr, 250th FSC (-), Ottawa  
Spec. Aaron Plumley, Det 2, 226th Engr Co, Cherryvale  
Spec. Wesley Poell, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton  
Spec. Russell Richards, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton  
Spec. Harrison Rindt, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Spec. Brandon Rupe, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita  
Spec. Joshua Sinclair, Det 2, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Atchison  
Spec. Arthur Sions, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Spec. Colin Smysor, HHD, 169th CSSB, Olathe  
Spec. Sheldon Snodgrass, Det 1, Co C, 1st Bn, 171st Avn, Topeka  
Spec. Tahnya Spears, Det 5, 250TH FSC, Fort Riley  
Spec. Heidi Stotler, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka  
Spec. Jeremy Stover, Det 2, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Topeka  
Spec. Tony Tatum, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita  
Spec. Denny Tellez, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton  
Spec. Aaron Todd, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita  
Spec. Donald Tryon, Det 2, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Topeka  
Spec. Matthew Vail, Btry C (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Abilene  
Spec. Charles Wakole, Det 1, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Holton  
Spec. David Ward, Btry C (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman  
Spec. Courtney White, Det 1, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Lenexa  
Spec. Mark Wilderom, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton  
Spec. Chaney Williams, HHS (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha  
Spec. Tamara Willie, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita  
Spec. Dustin Wilson, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita  
Spec. Shawn Wise, Det 1, 250th FSC, Burlington  
Spec. David Young, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton  
Pfc. Aladar Beltran, Btry C (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman  
Pfc. Jeremiah Bentley, Det 1, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Holton  
Pfc. Brandon Bretsnyder, Det 2, 250th FSC, Topeka  
Pfc. Jesse Burgoon, Co A (-), 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Lawrence  
Pfc. Trenton Caswell, Det 1, 1161st FSC, Pratt  
Pfc. Gale Friend, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City  
Pfc. Robert Hale Jr., 35th MP Co, Topeka  
Pfc. Jacob Hardison, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City  
Pfc. Dennis Holman, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson  
Pfc. Michael Hull, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe  
Pfc. Quincy Hunter, HHC (-), 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City  
Pfc. Adler Ladewig, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City  
Pfc. Patrick Lane, Btry C (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman  
Pfc. Courtney Laudont, HHD, 169th CSSB, Olathe  
Pfc. John McCartney, Btry C (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman  
Pfc. Christopher Parrish, HHC (-), 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City  
Pfc. Charles Robinson, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita  
Pfc. Nicholas Stevens, Det 1, HHC, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita  
Pfc. Nicholas Watkins, Det 2, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Topeka  
Pvt. Ronald Bowen, Btry C (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman  
Pvt. Mark Davis, Btry C (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman  
Pvt. Garrett Reed, 250th FSC (-), Ottawa  
Pvt. 2 Nicholas Brenneman, Btry C (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman  
Pvt. 2 Christopher Clay, Co C, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita  
Pvt. 2 Jeffery Cranor, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita  
Pvt. 2 Joshua Fetteke, Co C, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita  
Pvt. 2 Angelo Fitchett, HHC (-), 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City  
Pvt. 2 Marc Gray, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita  
Pvt. 2 Clayton Hawley, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita  
Pvt. 2 Gregory Howell, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita  
Pvt. 2 Jonathan Jamison, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe  
Pvt. 2 Michael McGraw, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita  
Pvt. 2 Benjamin Moser, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita  
Pvt. 2 Bruce Pease Jr., Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton  
Pvt. 2 Colt Pfautz, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton  
Pvt. 2 Alexander Windsor, Btry C (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Abilene

Kansas Air National Guard  
MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Lt. Col. John R. Camahan, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster  
Maj. Dale A. Cope, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Maj. David A. Weishaar, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Chief Master Sgt. Russell L. Brotsky, 184th ARW, Wichita, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster  
Chief Master Sgt. Michael L. Ebenkamp, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Chief Master Sgt. Sheila S. Payne, 184th ARW, Wichita, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster  
Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth E. Dent, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. Angel D. Acosta, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Chris A. Bernhardt, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Ricky A. Durham, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Neil H. Fogg, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Clay Hickman, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Robert A. Johnson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Jennifer L. Kaup, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. Daniel L. Lovell, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. Leslie D. Mayeux, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Daniel R. Penick, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. Dale E. Taylor, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Marcus L. Thompson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Michael L. Wendling, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Kari Ann Boales, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Thomas R. Dawson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Gilbert L. Hooper, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Frank W. Hopkins, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Willie H. Jackson, 184th ARW, Wichita

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

Master Sgt. Richard D. Longberg, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Larry G. Wallace, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Larry R. Endeccott, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Michael J. Paquette, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Steven L. Standley, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Jarrod D. Smith, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Timothy C. Trapp, 184th ARW, Wichita

AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

Senior Master Sgt. Deborah L. Quinn, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Raymond C. Antal, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Cassie M. Bailey, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Andrew K. Child, 184th ARW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. Ronald S. Daman, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Hugh S. Fraser, 184th ARW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster  
Tech. Sgt. Fredric J. Johnson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Daniel S. Rader, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Bryan D. Byers, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Loth Chhang, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Andrew D. Jamerson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Jeremy L. Sheffler, 184th ARW, Wichita

ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Staff Sgt. Dustin A. Nash, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka

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Tech. Sgt. Aaron J. Crain, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Matthew L. Dailey, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Anthony G. Gordon, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Matthew T. Miller, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. John E. Moon, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Natalie A. Parks, 184th ARW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Senior Airman Jeremy C. Nichols, 184th ARW, Wichita

EMERGENCY STATE ACTIVE DUTY RIBBONS  
Greensburg Tornado

Brig. Gen. Edward Flora, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka  
Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka  
Col. Michael C. Foster, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Col. Dana J. Garvey, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Col. Leonard H. Mattingly, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Col. Randy A. Roebuck, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Col. Christopher A. Strattmann, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Col. Gary V. Wells, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Lt. Col. Thomas E. Ames, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Lt. Col. Roger A Barr, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Lt. Col. Oliver J. Bergeron III, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Lt. Col. James H. Culp, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Lt. Col. Lin G. Dehning, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Lt. Col. Joel T. Erskin, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Lt. Col. Ross W. Flynn, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Lt. Col. Francis X. Froncek, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Lt. Col. Jeannine L. Garmsey, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Lt. Col. Lloyd Hatfield Jr., 184th ARW, Wichita  
Lt. Col. Joseph M. Jabara, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Lt. Col. John J. Smith, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Lt. Col. Michael J. Tokarz, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Lt. Col. William S. Waddell, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Lt. Col. Vonda M. Wigal, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Lt. Col. Chet B. Wilson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Lt. Col. James A. Winningham, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Maj. Deann M. Barr, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Maj. Mark A. Buettgenbach, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Maj. Douglas J. Chase, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Maj. Debbie D. Eskew, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Maj. Mark A. Green, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Maj. Joanna L. Hupp, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Maj. Jamie E. Hutchinson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Maj. Rip D. Lee, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Maj. Derek A. Lundgren, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Maj. Timothy J. Smith, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Maj. Timothy D. Stevens, 190th ARW, Topeka  
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Maj. Terry L. Williams, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Capt. Billy R. Garst, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Capt. David P. Gomez, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Capt. Michael D. Hagerty, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Capt. Kevin W. Hopkins, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Capt. Kelly A. Martin, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Capt. James W. McCosh, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Capt. Richard E. Moon, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Capt. Brock J. Sissel, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Capt. Warner D. White, 184th ARW, Wichita  
1st Lt. Alyson L. Stockton, 184th ARW, Wichita  
1st Lt. Gregory O. Thomas, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Chief Master Sgt. Russell L. Brotsky, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Chief Master Sgt. Hugh E. Buchtel Jr., 190th ARW, Topeka  
Chief Master Sgt. Terry N. Clain, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Chief Master Sgt. Sharon L. Clark, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Chief Master Sgt. Alan W. Connor, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Chief Master Sgt. Michael L. Ebenkamp, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth S. Emerson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Chief Master Sgt. Michael A. Hamilton, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Chief Master Sgt. Barry L. Hofflinger, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Chief Master Sgt. Howard R. Koehn Jr., 184th ARW, Wichita  
Chief Master Sgt. Edwin E. Kramer, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Chief Master Sgt. Elmer S. Logue, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Chief Master Sgt. Jerry G. Millsaps, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Chief Master Sgt. Willard L. Morris Jr., 184th ARW, Wichita  
Chief Master Sgt. Danny M. Roush, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Chief Master Sgt. Ronald H. Sageser, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Chief Master Sgt. Johnny R. Skelton, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Chief Master Sgt. Jack L. Solter Jr., 184th ARW, Wichita  
Chief Master Sgt. Gary E. Wade, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Chief Master Sgt. James R. Weldy, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey P. Akin, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. William A. Angstadt, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Harold E. Brotemarkle, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Lucian L. Buttel, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Hervey D. Carraway III, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Larry D. Coffman, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Carolyn J. Crabb, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Keith M. Daley, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Keith D. Decker, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth E. Dent, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. John C. Foster III, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. William W. Foster Jr., 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Robert D. Gates, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Ronald D. Haskins, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Gregory E. Hennes, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Steven K. Holderman, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Jim A. Marklevits, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Roosevelt Matthews Jr., 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. John K. McCalla, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Curtiss L. Nagel, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Brian D. Siefert, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Thomas M. Skala, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Thane K. Stauffer, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Scott K. Then, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Master Sgt. Eugene R. Turner, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Kelly D. Abbey, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Angel D. Acosta, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Clark D. Aiken, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Michael L. Akers, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Debra S. Alaniz, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Jennifer A. Allen, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. David P. Baker, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Charles W. Ballard, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Susan M. Ballard, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. James E. Barth, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Casey S. Batterton, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Sandra J. Bearden, 184th ARW, Wichita



# Kansas National Guard teams compete in marathons

On April 29, a running team consisting of Senior Master Sgt. Greg Hennes, Tech. Sgt. Mark Wall, Tech. Sgt. Joel Willis, Tech. Sgt. Ryan Voss and Tech. Sgt. Richard Knoblock, all from the Mission Support Group, 184th Air Refueling Wing, competed as a five-person marathon relay team in the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon.

Strong training preparation, strategy, and good weather conditions contributed to a time of 2 hours, 49 minutes over the 26.2 mile course to take first place in the 37 team military/fire/police division. Even more astonishing, they were the third place team overall among 571 teams competing that day. This event by far was not about running, but about life. One hundred sixty eight banners line the marathon course, one for each victim of the great wrong that was done in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995. Those banners served to remind us as we ran that we have been given the gift of life and that it is too precious to waste.

A week later, an 11-member Kansas National Guard Marathon team competed at the 30th Annual Lincoln National Guard Marathon trials. Over 250 marathoners from all 50 states and three U.S. territories compete in this marathon that starts and ends at the University of Nebraska campus. State teams combine their top individual finishing times to determine team placing. In addition, these trials also determine the top male and female guard runners to represent the National Guard in future Armed Services and civilian competitions.

Just two nights before, the people of Greensburg were devastated with a very destructive tornado. During the annual “roll call of states.” the team decided to make this more than an individual or team event, dedicating their run for those that suffered loss. All members huddled prior to the start and prayed during the benediction and National Anthem for the people of Greensburg. It became an inspiration along the course as runners high-fived each other during the out and back section of the marathon.

Five new members were added to this year’s team.



**Staff Sgt. Stacy Fagan, 184th Air Refueling Wing Services Squadron, was the top female runner for the Kansas National Guard team at the 30th annual Lincoln National Guard Marathon trials. (Photo provided)**

Voss, a Raven with the 184th Security Forces Squadron at McConnell AFB, was the highlight for this was his first

ever marathon. An avid runner at shorter distances, Voss decided to run this marathon with little training. He acquired an 18 week training program and the help of fellow team members to prepare. It proved to be helpful as he was the first Kansas runner to cross the finish line with a time of 3 hours, 17 minutes, and 46 seconds. That was a great time considering the 20-30 mph winds and flooding along the course caused by torrential rains the night before.

Other first-time Kansas runners were; Capt. Erin Kearney, 169th Corps Support Sustainment Battalion; Tech. Sgt Mark Wall, 184th Security Forces Squadron; Tech. Sgt Margaret Bullington, 190th Logistics Readiness Squadron and Sgt. Becky Harris, 35th Division Band.

The top female runner for the Kansas team was Staff Sgt. Stacy Fagan from the 184th Services Squadron with a time of 3 hours, 43 minutes, and 41 seconds. She was the 12th National Guard female finisher securing her a spot on the “All Guard” team once again. Additionally, Senior Master Sgt. Doug Anderson had the honor of being selected to the “All Guard” team as a Masters runner.

Other Kansas runners include Lt. Col William Hefner, 190th ARW; Sgt. 1st Class Nate Fabrizius, 35th Division Band; and Tech. Sgt. Michael Hagen, Detachment 1, 184th ARW.

This year focused more on the motto of the marathon team, “To foster morale, camaraderie, and teamwork through running and running related activities.”

“Some of us wear green and some of us wear blue, but for this event we were all purple,” said Hagen.

The 2008 Lincoln National Guard Marathon Trials are scheduled for May 4, 2008. If you are interested in becoming eligible as a member of the elite Kansas National Guard Marathon Team, contact the coordinator, Tech. Sgt. Mike Hagen at the Smoky Hill Range, 785.827.9611, ext 110 or email Michael.hagen@ksmcco.ang.af.mil

# Infantry Guardsman wins It PaYS to join the National Guard 2007 State TAG Match

**By 1st Lt. James Lehner, UPAR**

Staff Sgt. Justin Hackett, Lawrence, is the Kansas Army National Guard’s The Adjutant General Match Champion.

The state TAG Match was held May 18-20 at the Smoky Hills Range in Salina. As a competitor representing Company A, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry in the pistol competition, Hackett shot a 141 against Army and Air Force shooters to secure the top place finish. For this performance, Hackett was awarded the Expert in Competition Badge, which is a permanent military award. While not a competitor in the Sniper Competition, Hackett utilized his combat sniper experience to assist range personnel in the evaluation of sniper team competitors.

Hackett is currently serving as the platoon sergeant for 3rd Platoon of Company A. “His experience and presence is essential to the platoon mission,” says his Platoon Leader, 2nd Lt. Michael Hayes.

“He always sets the standard, inspires the men to meet that standard and to continually strive towards new goals of proficiency. He is one of those NCOs that I can trust to be capable of teaching any class on anything, anywhere, with whatever resources are available. I am really fortunate to have him.”

Hackett enlisted in the Army on Aug. 13, 1997. As an active duty Army sniper, Hackett served on three separate deployments in the Middle East and one year in Korea. Upon completion of the mission, Hackett returned to Kansas to pursue degrees in criminology and psychology at Kansas State University. He also enlisted in the Kansas Army National Guard.

Hackett is originally from Beloit. He is the son of Gary and Terry Hackett and husband of Capt. Casey Hackett, an active duty Army veterinarian recently returned from a 14 month deployment in the Middle East.

## Retirements

### Kansas Army National Guard

Lt. Col. Dale Bauer, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
Chief Warrant Officer 5 Wayne Kern, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
Chief Warrant Officer 4 Richard Leiker, Training Site Det, Salina  
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kenneth Bluthardt, Det 37, OSA Cmd, Topeka  
1st Sgt. William Finn, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe  
Master Sgt. Terry Combes, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th AR, Manhattan  
Sgt. 1st Class Victor Burr, Co C, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita  
Sgt. 1st Class William Flavin, 995th Maint Co (-), Smith Center  
Sgt. 1st Class John Gull, R&R Cmd, Topeka  
Sgt. 1st Class Kent Merrifield, Training Site Det, Salina  
Staff Sgt. Danny Carrvens, Det 1, Co C, 1st Bn, 171st Avn, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Carroll Ewers Jr., 778th Trans Co, Kansas City  
Staff Sgt. Edwin Huddleston, Det 4, 250th FSC, Troy  
Staff Sgt. Tommy Kaup, Btry A(-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City  
Staff Sgt. Timothy Lehmann, Det 1, 242nd Engr Co, Winfield  
Staff Sgt. Paul Rader, Training Site Det, Salina  
Sgt. Michael Ford, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th AR, Manhattan  
Sgt. Alan Lott, HHC (-), 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City  
Sgt. Randall Miller, 250th FSC (-), Ottawa  
Sgt. Paul Ohlrogge, Det 2, 170th Maint Co, Colby  
Sgt. Gregorio Torrez, Det 1, 137th Trans, Topeka  
Sgt. William White Sr., HHC (-), 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City

Sgt. James Whitehead, 731st Med Truck Co, Larned  
Sgt. Clarence Willey, 250th FSC (-), Ottawa  
Spc. Douglas Ford, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th AR, Manhattan  
Spc. Adam Gordon, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe  
Spc. Marty Robbins, Det 3, 778th Trans Co, Council Grove

### Kansas Air National Guard

Lt. Col. John Carnahan, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Maj. Shellie Harmon, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Master Sgt. Tammy Duncan, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Mike Horton, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Mosier, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Curtiss Nagel, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Suzanne Innes, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Douglas Butts, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Richard Drown, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Jeffrey Durocher, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Stephen Zani, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Kenneth Knox, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Thomas Mikkelson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. James Miller, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Robert Noland, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Daniel Penick, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. James Root, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Dale Taylor, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Stephen Zani, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Kristine Henderson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Gilbert Hooper, Jr., 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Willie Jackson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. James Robbins, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Michael Thurston, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Robin Willson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Bodine, 190th ARW, Topeka



# Awards and Decorations

## Continued from Page 19

Master Sgt. Fred W. Beat, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Gary W. Berger, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Robert A. Bledsoe, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Paul G. Bliss, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Gordon R. Bosie, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Zachary L. Bottenberg, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Amy L. Buchanan, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Donna J. Buckman, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Kenneth M. Buthe, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Anna L. Chappell, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Ross C. Chappell, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Sidney D. Colliatie, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Michael D. Collins, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Frank W. Cook, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Brian E. Custer, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Patrick D. Engstrom, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Jimmy R. Evans, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Tiyonna L. Evans, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Neil H. Fogg, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Charles V. Garcia, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Donald L. Gerstenkorn, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Melanie J. Graber, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Michael E. Halsig, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Stephen C. Hamel, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Stephen S. Henson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Sherry L. Hertlein, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Scott M. Higgins, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Jay S. Honey, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Terri C. Hoover, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. James F. Hunter, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Timothy W. Iman, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Randolph W. Johnson, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Robert A. Johnson Jr., 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Shawn D. Jones, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. David M. King, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Wayne T. King, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Christopher C. Knaak, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Jack S. Kortkamp, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Orville H. Lanier, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Donald J. Lenk Jr., 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Cindy C. Locey, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Kelly C. Longacre, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Daniel L. Lovell, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Martin Maes, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Stephen D. Manker, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Stephen E. Mann, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Richard W. Masters, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Billy R. Mayo, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. William E. McClain, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Collin T. McGinnis, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Leland E. McKinley, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Russell R. Mercer, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. William S. Mick, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Eric L. Montgomery, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Daryl E. Mosier, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Roger C. Murphy, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Thomas J. Nestor Jr., 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Robert D. Noland, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Brison L. Palmer, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Floyd E. Parks, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Curtis L. Patten, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Kristina S. Perkins, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Lanning C. Pike, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Cynthia R. Price, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Jack W. Reynolds, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Curtis R. Rogers, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Lawrence H. Rye, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Donald E. Sawyer, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Donald W. Schafer, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. James C. Schlehuber, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Michael R. Scott, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Thomas E. Shaffer, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Michael E. Shields, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Kelly N. Short, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Eric R. Smith, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Lawayne T. Smith, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Stacie M. Smith, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Roger M. Sorensen, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Kenneth A. Steadman, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Bobby R. Stroupe, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Selina G. Touhey, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Oscar R. Trevino, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Tracy L. Unruh, 190th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Joseph M. Vajgert, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Michael E. Vore, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Jack D. Webber, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Barry L. Weiner, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Jeffrey L. Welshans, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Brian L. Wohletz, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Jessie L. Wolfe, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Brian L. York, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Paul A. Armstrong, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Daniel D. Arnold Jr., 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Paul H. Arnold, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Gerard L. Ast, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Michael P. Balevre, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Kenneth A. Barnes, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Liliana G. Benitez, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Kari Ann Boales, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Rebecca J. Bodine, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Curtis L. Brown, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Dennis J. Burdick, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Aaron B. Carpenter, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Mary A. Casey, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Andrew K. Child, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Justin E. Christman, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Patrick L. Cochran, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Joseph M. Daley, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Jodee S. Dalton, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Randall S. Davidson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Steven T. Dearmond, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Jarrod B. Delong, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Tona L. Diekhoff, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Greg A. Dotson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Christopher K. Dubois, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Michell O. Egger, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Rachael V. Elmer, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Kenny H. Everett, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Josh A. Falk, 190th ARW, Topeka

# Red Ribbon, SADD conference

Continued from Page 3  
participant is put through a field sobriety test. This activity helps students to understand not only the dangers of driving under the influence, but also the dangers of being in the vehicle with some one who is under the influence.

Finally, for the SADD conference, different SADD chapters submitted their ideas for the T-shirt design and theme to be

Tech. Sgt. Sherry L. Fincham, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Steven M. Finley, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Charles D. Frank II, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. William D. Gardenhire, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. William R. Gardenhire, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Jerry W. Gardinier, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Mark A. Gordin, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. John J. Graber, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. John M. Gray, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Timothy J. Green, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Darla L. Griffin, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Dawn R. Gudde, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. James D. Guy, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Guy C. Hagan, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Emily R. Halderson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Carl J. Harry, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Corey V. Haukom, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. James R. Helms, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Troy A. Henderson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Christopher J. Hines, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Randall L. Hutcherson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. John M. Ives, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Robert G. Johnston, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Richard S. Knoblock, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Shawn M. Knowlton, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Dustin E. Land, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Louis E. Locke, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. John P. Maly, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Todd A. Marshall, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Eric D. Maynor, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Matthew M. McCoy, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Garrett L. Metcalf, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Matthew S. Meyer, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. David E. Naylor, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Chad E. Nicholas, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Kent A. Niebuhr, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey C. Norris, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Michael J. Paquette, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Christopher D. Platzer, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Michael L. Quimby, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. James S. Rader, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Elbert M. Randall, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Christopher B. Reese, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Ronald J. Richert, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Paul E. Riggs, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Gordon W. Rogers, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Efrain M. Ruelas Jr., 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Patrick A. Sampson, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Joseph A. Schroeder, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Craig C. Shaft, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. John E. Shankles Jr., 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Michael E. Shields, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Mark R. Sloan, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. David W. Smith, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Donald R. Somers, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Clinton R. Spitler, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. David A. Steele, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Derick L. Tibbetts, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Kevin W. Tomlin, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Toney E. Turner, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Thomas L. Vandersluis, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Vic L. Vinson, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Ryan A. Voss, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. John E. Vsetecka, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Neil A. Waller, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Marvin J. Weber, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Darin L. Weier, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Lucretia A. Williams, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Joel M. Willis, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Robin P. Willson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Joshua E. Wiser, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Keith J. Woodrome, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. William A. Wulkuhle, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Jay A. Young, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Darren R. Andrews, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Kenneth N. Andrews Jr., 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Robert W. Bartholic, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Anthony J. Blubaugh, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Scott L. Brock, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Elana G. Bupp, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. James L. Burton, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Timothy D. Calvin, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Erin M. Castaneda, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Samuel A. Clark, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Benjamin R. Clifton, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Sean P. Cochran, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Heather L. Copeland, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Jeffrey G. Crees, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Cody D. Criqui, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Matthew L. Dailey, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Trevor S. Dawayhixon, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Todd A. Dawson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Sheldon C. Dillingier, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Fagan, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Racheal L. Fowler, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Jayme L. Gabbard, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Givens, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Robert E. Glendening, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Anthony G. Gordon, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Kareem L. Grim, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Aaron M. Grunden, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Jared A. Hartter, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Cole L. Hawkins, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. John J. Herrman, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Melvin R. Hinkle III, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Louis G. Jacobs III, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Erik S. Jacobson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Roger A. Jallo, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Brett J. Jenlink, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Paul D. Jones, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Jason A. Kallansrud, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Lucas Michael. Kekel, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. David P. Kenny, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Sean M. Kesler, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Michael G. Kingsford, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Dashiell E. Kitchen, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Anthony D. Krones, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Joel L. Laurin, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Rick A. Leslie, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Phillip L. Lipke, 184th ARW, Wichita

used the following year. The Lyndon High School SADD chapter won the contest this year. Their T-shirt design had a spotlight look to it that stated, “SADD, Stop (red), Adjust (yellow), and Go again (green), 2008.” The meaning behind this is that you can stop what you are doing, think about what the consequences are, adjust your actions, and then move on in a positive direction.

# Two retire from battery

The Horton unit of Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery will miss two Soldiers who have a combined 56 years of service to the Kansas Army National Guard. Sgt. 1st Class George Reeves and Sgt. 1st Class Fredrick Halvorsen find it hard to say good-bye, but are prepared to move on to civilian careers and family time.

Halvorsen has a total of 27 continuous years of service with the National Guard, spending his last nine years with Battery B in both Troy and Horton. During this time, he served as a platoon operations center chief and, more recently, as battery operations sergeant. During Halvorsen’s time with Battery B he deployed to Iraq, from December 2003 to February 2005, and also served 35 days in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina.

Halvorson recalls the cultural experiences he has gained through the Kansas Army National Guard, as well. In 2000, he participated in a Kansas National Guard exchange program with the English Territorial Army. With stops in Iceland and an exercise in Germany in 1982, Halverson acknowledges that the he has gained experiences and new perspectives that money can’t buy. Through his career, Halverson has earned several notable awards, among them are a Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal and the State Emergency Services Ribbon.

“If I had the power to make myself 20 again, I’d re-enlist and do another 27 years,” said Halverson. “I’m proud of all my service. Not all of it was fun, but I always felt I was doing something important.”

Although he has missed a lot of things in the last 27 years, the Guard experience has been outstanding. Halverson is looking forward to spending more time with his grandchildren and not missing any more family and school events. He also plans to finally have a much better looking yard. He and his wife, Linda, reside in Seneca.

Staff Sgt. Kristen D. Love, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Jeff A. McCrory, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Michael J. McGuire, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Seth W. Mecum, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Barrett D. Medley, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Justin A. Meier, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Bobbi J. Miller, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Jacqueline. Monterrubio Lopez, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Justin D. Moody, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. John E. Moon, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Mario R. Neal, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Joshua C. Newlin, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Jeffrey R. Nicholson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. William R. Nixon IV, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Robert D. Ogan, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Jason L. Parker, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Jami L. Perusich, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Ronald J. Pierpoint, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Wayne N. Price Jr., 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. David L. Prosser, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Mathew L. Quinton, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Aaron C. Rausch, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. David M. Riddel, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Erik W. Rollefson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Travis L. Sailsbury, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Aaron B. Santry, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Theodore W. Schmitt, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Timothy W. Shifflett, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Cade L. Sisson, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Tamra A. Smith, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Eric S. Stanley, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Michael C. Stochl, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Cameron C. Taylor, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Timothy C. Trapp, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Dustin M. Ward, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Ashley M. Williams, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. John I. Williams, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Nicholas O. Wright, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Jason D. Yakel, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Bradley S. Yocum, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Holly T. Baker, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman John W. Baxter, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Aaron D. Boddy, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Christopher J. Bowling, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Joshua D. Bowser, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Seth A. Brees, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Keri L. Christian, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Shane M. Clarke, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Marc A. Cox, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Philip A. Daley, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Ashley A. Fournier, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Wayne L. French, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Chris G. Guild, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Jared D. Halderson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Keith D. Hill, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Thomas D. Hopper, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Cody C. Howard, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Jeremy L. James, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Troy P. Kaufman, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Jessica L. Lacore, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Jennifer A. Lyne, 184th ARW, Wichita

Reeves has been with the Kansas Army National Guard for 29 years. Of those 29 years, 25 have been with Battery B. Reeves spent four years with the battalion headquarters in Hiawatha. He has held several positions within Battery B. Among them are unit clerk, personnel sergeant and since 1995 as readiness noncommissioned officer. With Reeves’ time and experience within Battery B, the emotional ties run deep. Reeves is looked at as a family member by the Soldiers of the battery which makes his departure difficult.

Through the years, Reeves had made many sacrifices to ensure that the battery was always mission capable and successful in the field. In the tradition of selfless service, Reeves was able to overcome several hardships in order to deploy with his unit to Iraq, where he served the final six months of the deployment. Throughout the years, Reeves’ accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. His notable medals include the Iraqi Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (3), Army Achievement Medal (3), and Good Conduct Medal (8).

Upon reflection of his service to the Kansas Army National Guard, Reeves said “It has been an honor and a privilege to serve with, and for, some of the finest Soldiers and people there are in this area. I will truly miss these Soldiers.”

Reeves is looking forward to working at Hammersmith Manufacturing in Horton and to spending more time with his family. Reeves credits much of his success in the National Guard to the support of his family: his wife, Jamie, and his children; Curtis, Falls City, Neb., Ashlee and Lindsey, Sabetha, Kan., and Drew and Caitlynn, Horton.

The changes around Battery B will be notable and Halverson and Reeves will be missed. The Soldiers of Battery B wish them the best and look forward to continued contact as they make the transition to civilian life.

Senior Airman Doyse J. Manz, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Adrian M. Meiers, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Jodi L. Mirabal, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Eledria J. Mitchell, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Nicholas P. Mosier, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Blake A. Moulden, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Jeremy C. Nichols, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Jeffrey S. Nixon, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Danielle N. Peavler, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Daniel J. Radford, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Latosha S. Ramos, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Aaron D. Robinson, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Stanislaus V. Saiz Jr., 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Jason J. Schell, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Christopher G. Schulte, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Brett A. Shouse, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Louis G. Smith IV, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Steffan C. Smith, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Renee D. Snyder, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Brett J. Starbuck, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Matthew M. Sutherland, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Ana M. Tavares, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Frankie C. Tran, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Laura Nicole. Turner, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Justin A. Wheeler, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Matthew A. Williams, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Airman 1st Class Chad T. Archer, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Airman 1st Class Chelsey J. Buckner, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Airman 1st Class Amber G. Cole, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Airman 1st Class Joseph P. Cybulski, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Airman 1st Class Trenton R. Dudley, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Airman 1st Class Sarah A. Faul, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Airman 1st Class John D. Gaber, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Airman 1st Class Alison E. Hastings, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Airman 1st Class James W. Lewis, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Airman 1st Class Derek E. Love, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Airman 1st Class Justin L. McDaniel, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Airman 1st Class Adam R. Nelson, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Airman 1st Class Jamie U. Nishimura, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Airman 1st Class Rachael K. Ortega, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Airman 1st Class Edgar A. Padua, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Airman 1st Class Steven M. Parker, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Airman 1st Class Jacob I. Perez, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Airman 1st Class Wesley A. Phillips, 184th ARW, Wichita

## EMERGENCY STATE ACTIVE DUTY RIBBONS Coffeyville Flooding

Col. Keith I. Lang, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Maj. Brian J. Budden, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Capt. James W. McCosh, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Capt. Ryan D. Strong, 190th ARW, Topeka  
1st Lt. Kevin R. Cline, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Joanne M. Weddle, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Randall L. Hutcherson, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. James L. Burton, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Robert E. Glendening, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Phillip L. Lipke, 184th ARW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Mitzi R. Merkel, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Ana M. Tavares, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Airman 1st Class Rachael K. Ortega, 190th ARW, Topeka



# Kansas airman is a living portrait in patriotism

By Maj. DeAnn Barr

Service before self is a value that can be easier to repeat by rote memory, but harder to live by. For Col. Brad “Cuff” Link of the Kansas Air National Guard deciding to volunteer for a six month tour in Iraq last fall became something he had to do.

“The closer I get to retirement, the more I knew I had to contribute to the war, to “carry my own pack up the mountain” and give something back to this country of mine that has given me so much,” said Link.

A command pilot with over 5,400 hours between the B-1B, B-52 and KC-135, he was selected as the Deputy Director Air Component Coordination Element, Multi-National Force Headquarters, Baghdad.

“Basically, I was a fireman,” said Link. “My boss was a two-star general and the senior airman in theater, and I was his eyes and ears at the Strategic Operations Center located at the U.S. Embassy for anything that had to do with air. I took care of issues as they came up.”

Admittedly, it was the first time in his career that he worked at the strategic operations level.

“We dealt with anything remotely related to air from military to civilian; air strikes, airspace, rebuilding the Iraq Air Force/civilian capabilities, recovery efforts of personnel, movement of dignitaries, those types of issues. It was very interesting work, and I liked being part of something that is going to effect generations to come. Flying over an area is one thing, but having your boots on the ground is another. I have the deepest respect for those young troops who go out there every day, they are the real heroes. Anything we can do to support them is what it’s all about.”

Link describes the daily tempo of the job to that of a marathon; if there was a lull you took some time out to hit the gym. Aside from that, an average day was 6 a.m. to 8 or 9 p.m. seven days a week. One was always on call 24/7. The U.S. Embassy where he worked was one of the many former palaces of Saddam Hussein, and Link’s personal quarters (half a small trailer) were a short walking distance from the building, inside the compound.

“In a way, our environment was surreal. The palace was beautiful. It had a swimming pool and ping pong tables and the like set up. There was a post office and cleaners, and then the trailers we lived in, all providing the semblance of normalcy. Really though, it was like living on a



Col. Brad “Cuff” Link. (Photo by Maj. DeAnn Barr) rose petal floating in a cesspool. The city has been so torn apart.”

Link lived inside the compound for the entire six month tour, but did venture out to various locations to visit with troops that fell within his chain of command.

Throughout the deployment, Link learned to appreciate simple pleasures in life. A highlight was when his wife of 27 years, Joni, sent him a set of bedding that was made larger than the mattress, and could keep a person warm throughout the winter nights that hovered near 30 degrees consistently.

Every morning, the shower averaged about two minutes of warm water, and Link had come to dread the battle of

the slimy bar of soap versus the cardboard box he stored it in.

“One day I went to the place where many generous people from the States had donated toiletries. I spotted a plastic covered soap dish and asked if I may have it. That plastic covered dish made my day for at least a month! One learns to take joy in the very simple little things.”

Aside from enjoying the challenges of a new job, Link enjoyed the many friendships he made in the multinational environment.

“We called our work area the Eagle’s nest, where a bunch of Colonel’s hung out. We all became fast friends enjoying each other’s company. We were good at picking each other up when needed as you had to keep your highs and lows even keel.”

Link is sure his experiences in Iraq have changed his outlook forever.

“You can’t go over there and not have it change you. When I went over I was apprehensive, the unknown, that kind of thing, but coming home I think there was a weariness in my eyes. You talk to folks, and they don’t have the same frame of reference as you do,” said Link.

Not only did Link make it home safely, despite more than one “duck and cover” incident, he came home having been awarded the Bronze Star and the Iraq Campaign Medal.

“The Iraq Campaign medal is more important to me because everyone who deploys in theater is awarded that, I was proud to have earned it beside so many other Soldiers.”

Having deployed with an already fierce sense of patriotism, Link’s experiences have only made his convictions more deeply rooted.

“We are so fortunate in this nation. Some of the things that we are worried about are so trivial, when in many other places in the world people just worry about feeding their families for the week.”

Link believes his sense of patriotism began developing while growing up in Buffalo, New York. It started growing when he realized his dad had served in WWII and Korea.

“This country is so great, there are so many people that have sacrificed so very much for our freedom. The more I see of the world, the more I realize how grateful we as a nation should be.”

# Johnson bids farewell to 35th Infantry Division

Staff Sgt. James M. Grosdidier

Col. Thomas E. Johnson said goodbye to the 35th Infantry Division and the Kansas Army National Guard in a ceremony held Sunday, June 24, at the 35th Infantry Division Headquarters, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Johnson, who has recently returned from a year-long tour of duty in Iraq, is ending a National Guard career that spans five decades.

Johnson has served with the 35th Division since 2002. At that time the unit was deploying on a peacekeeping mission to war-ravaged Bosnia-Herzegovina in Eastern Europe. The 35th was the headquarters of Stabilization Force 13 (SFOR-13). While in Bosnia, Johnson had the dual responsibilities of being the deputy commander, Task Force Eagle, and the ground force commander for U.S. Forces.

As the deputy commander, Johnson had the number two slot in one of three multinational brigades that were engaged in keeping the peace in the newly independent country of Bosnia-Herzegovina, a one-time province of Yugoslavia. Johnson’s brigade consisted of two battalion-sized task forces, an aviation battalion and a hospital. Johnson commanded multinational forces including U.S., Russian, Turkish, Danish, and Finnish contingents, plus a special battle group comprised of troop elements from Portugal, Poland, and Slovenia.

Johnson’s primary responsibility in Bosnia was as the ground force commander for U.S. Forces. His duties included the training, deployment, and operational control of Soldiers from 12 states for the six-month mission in Bosnia. While in country, Johnson’s troops conducted peacekeeping patrols, assisted in the apprehension of suspected war-criminals, seized secret weapons caches and actively assisted the U.N. and NATO in helping to

*“The last four years have been exciting. We started the transformation to a modular division. I’ve had the opportunity to work with a great staff here at headquarters. They have done great work. They will do great things in the future.”*

*Col. Tom Johnson*

rebuild the country still reeling from its disastrous fratricidal war.

“This has been a tough time for the Guard, but also a good time,” said Johnson. “Guard units have been picking up lots of peacekeeping and combat missions. They have shown that they are the equal of any regular Army unit. The troops are doing a great job and they are motivated. Guard commanders are getting lots of great training and experience.”

Soon after the division headquarters returned home to Fort Leavenworth, Johnson became the division chief of staff, a position he held from January 2004 to January 2006. Johnson’s tenure as chief was highlighted by the division’s mobilization in 2005 to New Orleans in support of relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

As Task Force Santa Fe, the 35th Division had control of 26,000 Soldiers from several states. As chief of staff, Johnson synchronized search-and-rescue efforts, planned for the security of critical infrastructures and successful efforts to develop logistical support for the personnel assigned to relief efforts.



One-time 35th Division Chief of Staff Col. Tom Johnson confers with Col. Michael Selby, current chief of staff. (Photo by Staff Sgt. James M. Grosdidier)

“The last four years have been exciting,” Johnson said, referring to his time as chief of staff. “We started the transformation to a modular division. I’ve had the opportunity to work with a great staff here at headquarters. They have done great work. They will do great things in the future.”

At the end of his 40 years of Army service, both the tempo and the danger of Johnson’s career increased considerably. He spent the last year attached to the 1st Infantry Division in Iraq. As the team chief for the 1st Region Border Transition Team, he taught, coached and mentored senior division staff personnel of the Department of Border Enforcement in the Kurdish region of northern Iraq. There, his 11-man

team worked to improve the operational effectiveness of the Iraqi Border Patrol, created a functioning Tactical Operations Center, and developed a Regional logistics supply system. While in Iraq, he was awarded the Combat Infantryman’s Badge and the Bronze Star.

Johnson started his career in 1967 when he enlisted in the Nebraska National Guard, where he spent the first 36 years of his military career. He received his commission in 1976 through the Nebraska Army National Guard Officer Candidate School, Camp Ashland, Neb. He now resides in Basehor, Kan., with his wife of 39 years, Janet. They have three daughters and four grandchildren.



# Military police get live fire training on .50 caliber machine guns

By Sgt. Michael Mathewson, UPAR

From their prepared positions, the gunners kept sustained machine gun fire on the targets in front of them. As quickly as the machine guns emptied their ammo box, the loaders fed yet another belt from a new box. Spent brass and links piled up around the guns. The firing continued throughout the morning and into the afternoon. As gunners and their loaders expended allotted ammunition, new crews moved up to take their place. The crews changed the barrels periodically to keep them from overheating. No matter how many targets fell, more appeared to take their place. It was Sunday, July 15 and a 35th Military Police detachment was on Fort Riley’s Capt. George H. Fleck machine gun range 7.

The detachment is comprised of Soldiers from the 35th Military Police Company, Kansas Army National Guard. Assigned to the 97th MP Battalion, the detachment’s original mission is to provide law enforcement backfill for a forward deployed military police company. The requirement has become more critical with further deployment of units from the 97th MP Battalion. The detachment mans multiple stations with multiple shifts. Most Soldiers work

five days on and two days off. With the support of the battalion headquarters, the 35th MP detachment leadership had planned and resourced a break from the unit’s law enforcement activities.

Maj. Norm Jennings, the detachment commander, said, “With all that is going on in the world, we needed to keep our warrior skills up to date.”

For two weeks, starting July 9, the detachment conducted its Warrior Training while the 300th MP Company covered the law enforcement mission.

The M2 .50 caliber machine gun range, conducted by 1st t. Daniel Weidner, was just part of the detachment’s training.

Weidner said, “The range is to familiarize the Soldiers with the weapon.”

The M2s were tripod-mounted and locked down using a traverse and elevation mechanism. Soldiers adjusted their aim by raising or lowering the muzzle with the elevation wheel. Movements left or right are made by moving the T&E along the traversing bar. Soldiers started by firing single rounds to get the range to targets. They adjusted the T&E mechanism to lock the gun on target. Once on target, the gunners used the T&E mechanism to lock the gun and start firing three to five



Changing the barrel and adjusting the spacing between it and the receiver is one of the tasks gun crews must complete to qualify on the .50 caliber machine gun. (Photo by Sgt. Michael Mathewson, UPAR)

round bursts. After hitting one target they adjusted the T&E to fire at the next one. The Soldiers fired at pop up targets ranging from 400 meters out to 1,000 meters in distance. Each Soldier fired a total of 200 rounds of the large caliber bullets.

When a new gunner came forward they carried two ammo boxes, each containing 100 rounds. With each new firing order, the gunners changed the guns barrels under the supervision of an instructor. The M2 machine gun is a very effective and reliable weapon, but its design is over 90 years old. Therefore, unlike more modern weapons that have quick change barrels, the M2 firers must measure and, if necessary, adjust the spacing between the barrel and the receiver group. The head spacing, as well as the timing of rounds feeding into the weapon, is measured with a tool called the head space and timing gauge. This is the origin of the phrase used to point out a Soldier’s mistake, “check your head space and timing.” This is a skill that the gunner must have for the safe operation of the M2.

Sgt. 1st Class Darryl Watkins, detachment noncommissioned officer in charge, said that the unit trained extensively for this

range. Training included classroom instruction with hands-on assembly and disassembly, immediate action drills, head space and timing adjusting and function checks. The unit also made use of the Engagement Skills Trainer weapons simulator.

Spc. Jennifer Wilkins said “This is a lot of fun. We have already fired our 9 mm pistols and ran a land navigation course. Saturday we used the weapons simulator. It was great to be able to fire at multiple targets. In the simulator we were able to not only fire the .50 cal, but also the M249 SAW and M240 machine gun.”

Master Sgt. Billy Counts, acting command sergeant major of the 97th MP Battalion, visited the range and spoke to the Soldiers about their training. Counts praised the detachment on its professionalism and the way the Soldiers jumped to support the mission. However, much of the conversation was on the 4.5 mile run the unit conducted earlier in the week.

Spc. Toshia Barbb said, “I don’t know how you can run uphill the whole way and end up back where you started.” Following their two weeks of warrior training, the detachment, refreshed from the training, will resume their law enforcement mission.



Firing in short three to five second bursts, gunners fired at pop-up targets set at ranges from 400 to 1,000 meters. Each Soldiers fired 200 rounds during the training exercise. (Photo by Sgt. Michael Mathewson, UPAR)

# Kansas horse Soldiers “die with their boots on”

By Maj. Lisa Mullinax and Staff Sgt. Emily Alley

The Kansas National Guard’s Mounted Color Guard recently returned from a battle in hostile territory. It was hot. It was bloody. It had few survivors.

It also happened over 131 years ago.

The Adjutant General’s Mounted Color Guard was invited to participate in the reenactment of the Battle of the Little Bighorn, on the Crow Indian Reservation near Harding, Mont. Members included Maj. Lisa Mullinax, 287th Sustainment Brigade, Wichita; and Master Sgt. Brian Willard, Master Sgt. Shawn Willard, Master Sgt. Rich Smith, and Staff Sgt. Lindsay Trevino, all of the 190th Air Refueling Wing, Topeka.

“They got to do this on horseback and actually feel and experience what it was like to go into battle on a hot day after riding a long distance,” said Sgt. Maj. John Doran, U.S. Cavalry School main coordinator and instructor.

The troop had the rare opportunity to ride on horseback through the pristine, rolling hills that span the several miles of historic battlefield and learn about each of the turning points and significant events that led up to the actual battle. Since the land is mostly kept as an Indian reservation, non-tribe members are generally not permitted in the area. This was the first time in years that horses were able to walk on the federal side of the battlefield.

There was also the rare occurrence at the ceremony, sponsored by the Little Bighorn Park Service, and that was an appearance by the great-grandsons of General Custer and Sitting Bull. Each spoke of the lessons learned from the battle and how we all must focus on peace.

The reenactment was sponsored by the Crow Real Bird family and highlighted major events of the Native American people. For the cavalry, major events included a treaty signing and several battles, culminating in the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Members of the KSNG Mounted Color Guard enjoyed participating in the historic battle, even though it meant they “died” three times over the weekend.

Participating in the reenactment gave the members intense riding experience. There were pistols and carbines being shot off, as well as hollering and marking targets. Horses were loped through the river as well as up and down steep terrain. “Their role has been to enhance the reenactment and their training,” said Capt. Keith Herrin, U.S. Cavalry School instructor. “They learn better control in varying conditions. You improve under the duress.”

Members of the Mounted Color Guard enjoy representing the Kansas National Guard and interacting with the public. When the public sees the troopers and horses in their Indian Wars uniforms and tack, it brings back a piece of Kansas’ his-



The Kansas National Guard Mounted Color Guard took part in a re-enactment Battle of the Little Big Horn in Montana. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Emily Alley)

tory. In addition, “Little kids love the horses,” said Willard.

Mullinax, Mounted Color Guard commander, said she would like to continue participating in such events. She would also like the unit to become involved in more traditional military events, such as

battalion and brigade level change of command ceremonies. Other members of the unit that could not attend are Sgt. 1st Class Howard Williams and Spc. Russ McCall, 1161st Fire Support Company and Spc. Tye Robertson, 137th Transportaton Company.



# 35th Division Soldiers deploy for duty in Kosovo

**By Sgt. 1st Class Michael Melloy**

Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, 35th Infantry Division commander, honored the more than 200 Soldiers deploying overseas in ceremony at Harney Gymnasium at Fort Leavenworth on July 20.

The Soldiers from the 35th Infantry Division at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. are headed to Kosovo to replace the 29th Infantry Division as the command and control element for Multinational Task Force East (MNTF-E), the United States-led task force that includes soldiers from Armenia, Greece, Lithuania, Poland and the Ukraine.

The 35th Division Soldiers had been conducting pre-deployment training at Camp Atterbury, Ind., for several weeks, but returned to Fort Leavenworth for the ceremony. They left Camp Atterbury for Kosovo in September for the one-year mission.

The 35th Infantry Division band sent the division Soldiers off with a patriotic musical salute. Representatives of the Patriot Guard provided a tunnel of American flags to greet the Soldiers and family members as they walked to the main entrance of the gym.

There was an air of excitement and camaraderie mixed with the sadness of goodbyes to family and friends as the division Soldiers from Kansas, Missouri and Illinois prepared to depart. For many of the Soldiers this is their second deployment to the Balkan region with the 35th Division. Division Soldiers deployed to Bosnia in 2003.

Brig. Gen. John E. Davoren assumed command of the Task Force, supported by Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Cochran, the task force's senior non-commissioned officer. Davoren received a military service flag from the Patriot Guard.



Brig. Gen. John Davoren, commander of the 35th Division, receives a banner from members of the Patriot Guard. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Michael Melloy)

## Welcome home, 714th!



Soldiers of the 714th Security Forces are greeted on the tarmac as they return home from a year-long deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Photo by Col. Joe Wheeler)

## VFW hosts picnic for families of 35th Infantry Division

**By Sgt. John L. Zimmer III**

The George Edward White Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 56 in Leavenworth, Kan., hosted a picnic on June 3 for the Soldiers and families of the 35th Infantry Division gearing up for a 13-month deployment to Kosovo.

VFW Post 56 held the picnic at the Old Potter School, midway between Leavenworth and Atchison, Kan., along U.S. Highway 73. According to John Arnold, VFW Post 56 chairman for military assistance, the VFW hosted the event to let the Soldiers of the division know what their commitment means to the community.

“When I found out the 35th was deploying we wanted to show our appreciation and support for the families of the division and let them know we fully support everything they are called to do,” said Arnold.

Arnold presented VFW certificates of appreciation to Sgt. Maj. Ronny Crump, Col. Thomas Johnson, and Sgt. Maj. Keith White for their commitment to taking care of troops during past deployments. Crump

deployed to Bosnia in 2003 and Iraq in 2005. Johnson deployed to Bosnia in 2002 and Iraq in 2006. White deployed to Bosnia in 2003 and Iraq in 2005.

A special guest at the event was Congresswoman Nancy Boyda. Boyda is the Kansas 2nd Congressional District Representative and part of her constituency includes the area around the 35th Division's headquarters on Fort Leavenworth.

“We heard the event was going to be for a couple of reasons,” said Boyda. “We wanted to be here to see the 35th off for their deployment and to be here to support the families. I also believe this is a good way to honor the VFW during their 75th birthday.”

According to Spc. John Walker, the event was good for the morale of the Soldiers getting ready to deploy and for their families.

“I am glad to see that she (Boyda) came to support us before our deployment,” Walker said. “Plus, the event had some great food.”

# NEVER LET YOUR BUDDY FIGHT alone

Be Willing to Listen

Not all Wounds are Visible

Prevent Suicide.

It is your responsibility to get help for a fellow Soldier

Talk to your Chaplain or a Behavioral Health Professional or Call Military OneSource 1-800-342-9647

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