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PLAINS GUARDIAN

VOLUME 51 No. 4 *Serving the Kansas Army and Air National Guard, Kansas Emergency Management, Kansas Homeland Security and Civil Air Patrol* SEPTEMBER 2008

Brig. Gen. Jonathan Small retires after 29 years of Guard service

By Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD
Brig. Gen. Jonathan P. Small was honored Sunday, Aug. 10, 2008, at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard during the change of command ceremony where Small turned over his command of the Land Component for the Joint Force Headquarters-Kansas, and the role of assistant adjutant general-Army, for the Kansas Army National Guard to Brig. Gen. John E. Davoren.
In Small's farewell address, he commented on the incredible change the Kansas National Guard has undergone in the last 10 years.

"It has been an honor for me to watch how absolutely marvelous the Guard members perform their jobs with such enthusiasm and energy, where the Guard just keeps getting better," Small said. "For 153 years, Kansas Guard members have proven that they are part of the culture of this state. No one else can say that they've done more for Kansas than the Kansas National Guard."
"The Kansas National Guard is at its zenith of our capabilities, reflected by the fact that this is the first time in history that we have so many veterans that have willingly served their state and country. It has been a privilege and a life experience to be part of it. It's all because of what you have all done for me, the Guard and the State of Kansas."

Born in Kingman, June 6, 1947, to



Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, presents the Legion of Merit to Brig. Gen. Jonathan P. Small for his nearly 30 years of outstanding service to the Kansas National Guard. Small also received the Kansas National Guard Medal of Excellence. (Photo by Spc. Jessica Rohr, 105th MPAD)

Edward Herbert and Agnes Ellen (Stone) Small, he grew up in what he calls a normal childhood of the time. He married Georgia Ann (Rickard) Small on Aug. 10, 1968. Georgia thought that the timing for the

change of command ceremony was fitting, since it was centered on the nearly 40 years of his "marriage" to the military and marked their own 40th wedding anniversary.
Small assumed his command on July 1, 1999, after a long and full career, revolving around the judge advocate general and field artillery branches in the Army. He was commissioned a second lieutenant through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Kansas State University on June 1, 1969. He was promoted to first lieutenant in September 1972 and entered the Officer Basic Course at the Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Okla., graduating that December. From December 1972 to March 1979, Small was in the United States Army Reserve. Since becoming a member of the Kansas Army National Guard in March 1979, he has served in a number of positions at the State Area Command headquarters, including operations and training officer, executive officer, civil-military operations officer, staff judge advocate, judge advocate and senior military judge.
Small became the staff judge advocate in June 1990 for headquarters, State Area
(Continued on Page 14)

Kansas Soldiers rush to the aid of post-Gustav Louisiana

By Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th MPAD
Members of the Kansas National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry recently deployed to Louisiana in support of recovery efforts after Hurricane Gustav ripped through the state, leaving a wake of destruction in its path and rendering hundreds of thousands without power, water and other basic necessities for days.

While the immediate need for support was not as great as that of Hurricane Katrina, when the state was slammed with a category five hurricane, the need was still present and when Kansas Soldiers hit the ground in Alexandria, La., they immediately went to work in an effort to relieve the already tired and weary aid workers who had been on site for several days.
(Continued on Page 10)



Hundreds of bags of ice were unloaded daily at the Pineville, La., area point of distribution. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th MPAD)

Hundreds pay respects to fallen Kansas National Guardsman



Spc. Shanelle Smith (left) and State Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Rodina salute in honor of Spc. Ronald Schmidt, who died in Iraq serving with the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)
By Cristina Janney, Newton Kansan
Dozens of American flags whipped in the wind Wednesday as the Patriot Guard lined Anderson Street and the Grace Community Church parking lot to honor fallen Soldier Spc. Ronald Schmidt of Newton.
Schmidt, 18, was killed Aug. 3 in Iraq when the humvee in which he was a gunner rolled. The other Soldiers in the humvee received minor injuries.
An estimated 300 members of the Patriot Guard were on hand for the funeral Wednesday, as well as hundreds more family, friends and members of the Kansas National Guard.
Gov. Kathleen Sebelius attended along with Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general.
Pictures of the young Guardsman, grinning in school pictures and stoic as the bright-eyed Soldier, were shown on two large screens at the front of the chapel as the church filled with mourners.
Schmidt, who graduated from Newton High School in 2007, was remembered as being loving, ornery and always ready for a challenge in a statement from his mother, Andrea Schmidt, which was read by National Guard Chaplain John Potter.
Potter described Schmidt as a man of great dedication and intensity. He was so
(Continued on Page 2)

Tafanelli takes helm of 69th Troop Command



Col. Lee Tafanelli accepts the battalion colors of 69th Troop Command from Brig. Gen. Jonathan Small, signifying his assumption of command. (Photo by Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR)

By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR

From the time of the Continental Army to the present, the Army has developed many traditions. Over the past 233 years, the times and technology have evolved many of these traditions, with some becoming extinct. However, on July 12, the 69th Troop Command conducted a traditional event that Gen. George Washington would have recognized. On that rainy Saturday morning, Col. Victor J. Braden relinquished command of the 69th Troop Command to Col. Lee E. Tafanelli.

The 69th Troop Command provides brigade command and control for the majority of the combat forces within the Kansas Army National Guard. The 69th TC subordinate units consists of the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation; 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry; 1st Battalion, 635th Armor and the 35th Military Police Company.

Soldiers from these units traveled from across Kansas to honor their outgoing commander and welcome their incoming commander.

The change of command was conducted on the drill floor of the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Topeka. The ceremony began in the time-honored tradition and in the presence of their families, honored guests and well wishers. The command group moved forward, facing the assembled formation of Soldiers standing behind their respective battalion's colors. The 69th Troop Command's Command Sgt. Maj. James J. Moberly brought forward the 69th Troop Command colors. As the command's senior noncommissioned officer and traditional custodian of the unit's colors, Moberly passed the colors to Braden, who then passed them to Brig. Gen. (Continued on Page 18)

Soldiers conduct service in memory of battle buddy

By Sgt. Sarah B. Patterson

The Soldiers of Battery A and Battery C, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas National Guard, stood together in silence to honor a fallen comrade at Forward Operating Base Grizzly, Iraq, on Aug. 5.

Their battle buddy and friend, Spc. Ronald A. "Ronnie" Schmidt, 18, a crew-serve weapons gunner with Battery C, died Aug. 3 from injuries sustained on Aug. 2 when his vehicle overturned while on an area security patrol in the Diyala Providence.

Schmidt was awarded a Bronze Star, Iraqi Campaign Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Overseas Service Bar and Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M device.

Schmidt joined the Kansas National Guard on Jan. 27, 2007, during his senior year at Newton High School. After graduating in May 2007, he went to Basic

Combat Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and then to Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sill, Okla. Schmidt received his mobilization orders to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on his last day of Advanced Individual Training.

After the memorial ceremony, Soldiers dedicated the newly built gym annex in memory of Schmidt for his energy and enthusiasm for life.

The new facility houses all the cardio workout equipment, a rock-climbing wall and a special area dedicated for abdominal workouts and yoga classes.

The new facility does credit to Schmidt, a Soldier who maintained his physical fitness out of passion for wrestling.

Schmidt is survived by his mother, Andrea Maria Schmidt, of Newton, and his uncle Paul Schmidt, of Goddard.



Soldiers of Battery A and Battery C, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas National Guard, offer a final salute to honor their fallen comrade, battle buddy and friend, Spc. Ronald Schmidt. (Photo by Sgt. Sarah B. Patterson)

Hundreds pay respects to fallen Kansas National Guardsman

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involved in working on his car, his friend Larry Nuehring found him asleep on the floor of his garage, Potter said.

Potter told a story related to him by family members of Ronnie's attempt to ride his BMX bike up American Flag Hill. He shifted and struggled to try to get up the hill, but he could not make it. Not defeated by the challenge, the next year, he came back and conquered the mountain.

"Ronnie stood out as an incredible example. Just as he blazed a trail up American Mountain, he has been a shin-

ing light and example to us," Potter said.

In a prepared statement, Schmidt's uncle Paul Schmidt of Goddard thanked the community for the outpouring of affection.

"The family of Spc. Ronald A. Schmidt would like to thank everyone who attended today to honor Ronnie and also everyone of you who have reached out to them in their great time of sorrow," Paul Schmidt said in the statement. "There are no words to tell you how much it means to them."

Schmidt was a member of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery.

His unit was providing security missions in Iraq. They protected base camps and reacted to attacks.

His unit is scheduled to return to Kansas in October. The Patriot Guard escorted the funeral procession to the gravesite in Eureka.

Residents in the towns of El Dorado and Eureka lined the procession route, cheering the fallen Soldier.

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Members of the Kansas National Guard Military Funeral Honors Team fold the flag that covered the casket of Spc. Ronald Schmidt. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)



Brig. Gen. Jonathan Small, commander of the Kansas National Guard, accepts the flag to be presented to the family of Spc. Ronald Schmidt from 1st Lt. Paul Dake. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)

Waiting to go on



Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose, director of Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas, waits for her introduction to take the stage at Whitson Elementary School in Topeka Sept. 17. Rose spoke to the assembled students, staff and parents during a patriotic assembly for Constitution Day. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Traynor)

Hannah named Kansas National Guard Warrant Officer of the Year

By Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD
At the Kansas National Guard Joint Conference on Saturday, April 12, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sandra Hannah was named the 2008 Chief Warrant Officer of the Year for Kansas. Hannah is the classification specialist for the Human Resources office at Joint Forces Headquarters in Topeka.

Presenting the award was Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, the adjutant general; Brig. Gen. Jonathan P. Small, assistant adjutant general - Army and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, and Brig. Gen. Deborah S. Rose, director of the Joint Force Headquarters, Kansas National Guard with Maj. Gen. Wayne Pierson, 35th Division commander, assisting.

“Chief Warrant Officer Hannah is a very special volunteer. Her active participation in her community, her promotion of the Kansas National Guard, the National Guard Association of Kansas and the values of the Citizen Soldier are reflected in all she does and were very instrumental in her selection as Warrant Officer of the Year,” said Bunting.

She is a member of the Patriot Guard, the American Legion, the Parents Prom Committee and is a musician for her

church. She was one of the hosts of the Warrant Officer’s Protection Association hospitality room, arranged the warrant officer luncheon and helped arrange guest speakers during the conference. She actively engages people in the community to educate them on the National Guard at every opportunity—even volunteering to transfer to the 287th Sustainment Brigade, preparing for deployment to Iraq.

The objective of the award is to provide recognition for outstanding leadership, loyalty, initiative and public service displayed by a warrant officer. It is also used to motivate in such a way that those serving under them will emulate their actions and perform their duties to the best of their abilities.

Additionally, it is used to encourage involvement in programs, organizations, roles and project development which provide direct benefit to Kansas Soldiers and Airmen, and which directly benefit the professional development of the officer; and to promote good public relations and understanding between the National Guard and the community through community involvement which emphasizes and promotes the ideals of the Kansas National Guard and Citizen Soldier concept.



(From the left) Brig. Gen. Deborah S. Rose, director, Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas, and Brig. Gen. Jonathan P. Small, assistant adjutant general - Army and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, assisted presenting the 2008 Army National Guard Warrant Officer of the Year for Kansas award to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sandra Hannah. Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, the adjutant general, was the presenter, with Maj. Gen. Wayne Pierson, commander of the 35th Infantry Division, assisting. (Photo by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD)

Three graduate from Warrant Officer Candidate School

By Chief Warrant Officer 4 Rosanna Morrow

On Aug. 2, 2008, at the Indianapolis War Memorial, three members of the Kansas Army National Guard were appointed to the rank of warrant officer. Warrant Officer One Mark Baxa, Warrant Officer One Stacy Burns and Warrant Officer One Abra Cloyd successfully completed the Reserve Component Warrant Officer Candidate School. Gaining special recognition, Baxa was one of five out of 109 Candidates who received the physical fitness award for exceeding 300 points on the class physical fitness test.

The current iteration of the 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. Kansas candidates attended this phase at the Kansas

Regional Training Site in Salina. The final two-week resident Phase III conducted at Camp Atterbury, Ind., brought all the warrant officer candidates together. The most recent class concluded with 109 Army National Guard and U.S. Army reserve Soldiers from all over the nation being appointed to warrant officer one. The three Kansas soldiers who graduated Aug. 2 began Phase II in 2007 at the Salina RTI along with three other candidates from Oklahoma. This occasion marked the second time members of the Kansas Army National Guard graduated from the Reserve Component Warrant Officer Candidate School program, which was established in 2005. For more information regarding the Warrant Officer program in Kansas, contact Warrant Officer One Jack Hancock, 785-861-3967 or send email to jack.hancock@us.army.mil



The Kansas National Guard recently added three newly minted warrant officers to its ranks (from the left) Warrant Officer One Stacy Burns, Warrant Officer One Abra N. Cloyd and Warrant Officer One Mark A. Baxa. (Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Rosanna Morrow)

Headquarters staff officers complete training course

By Lt. Col. Rick Peat, JFHQ PAO
Leaders from the Joint Forces Headquarters and 35th Division completed the Joint Staff Training Course in August. The course provided students with training on core Joint Mission Essential Tasks in standing up and operating a Joint Task Force and later transitioning operations to civilian organizations.

The course consisted of three face-to-face instructional sessions held on weekends and approximately 25 online training modules that students worked on their own. Six instructors from the National Guard Bureau, based out of the U.S. Northern Command, gave the training over a six-month period.

More than 25 Air and Army Guard personnel, including the entire Joint Forces Headquarters staff and select members of the 35th Division staff, took part in the course.

“The students and staff have been very active and involved,” said instructor Gary Moore. “Their experience with natural disaster is impressive and added a lot to the class discussions.”

Academic material in JSTC was reinforced with practical exercises dealing with ice storm, flooding and pandemic flu. The class also conducted case studies of the Oklahoma City bombing response and the JTF stood up for the G8 economic summit in Savannah, Ga., during 2004.

“Participating in the JSTC helped me to better understand the processes division used for deployments to Bosnia and Katrina,” said Lt. Col. Mike Dennis, an operations officer from 35th Division. “Understanding the processes of bringing

together all military, other government, and non-governmental entities to achieve mutually desired effects is paramount in both state and overseas operations. We gained a much greater understanding of how to plan for and conduct the transition of the operation to civilian authorities.”

NGB set a goal to train the Joint Staffs of each state by the year 2010. By having 35th Division personnel trained in addition to the joint staff, Kansas has exceeded this goal. A related NGB goal is to have two Joint Task Force commanders trained and certified in each state. Kansas now has four officers trained to be JTF commanders.

The chief of the JSTC training team, Air Guard Lt. Col. Sheree Cole, said NGB’s goal is driven by the increased interdependence required between the states, federal agencies and other organizations as a result of 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina.

“The states each have their own institutional knowledge and processes that served them well in the pre-9/11 world,” said Cole. “But the paradigm has changed and some standardization is required for better interoperability. Training on the Incident Command System and the JSTC is making a huge difference in multi-state, joint, and combined responses to more recent emergencies.”

Col. Eric Peck, JFHQ chief of staff, said the JSTC dovetailed well into the JFHQ Pandemic Flu exercise held in July. “Lessons learned will be followed up and reinforced next year when Kansas participates in the regional Vigilant Guard exercise which will include all states in Federal Emergency Management Agency Region VII.”

A lot has happened this year and we're not done yet

By Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting

Just when we thought we might get through this year without any more significant disasters, September brought flooding to Kansas and hurricanes to Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas resulting in deployments of our Incident Management Teams and National Guardsmen.



Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting

But somehow disasters have a way of bringing out the best in Kansans and that is exactly what happened this time. The Incident Management Teams that the state sent to the Gulf Coast were a huge success in the state emergency operations centers in Mississippi and Louisiana following Hurricane Gustav. They provided their expertise from recent Kansas disasters as well as from their day-to-day work in emergency response and received high praise from the local and state officials there. Since our state's incident management teams were formed in early 2007 they have deployed to the Greensburg tornado response, Coffeyville flooding, the ice

storm in late 2007, and this year to Iowa, Mississippi and Louisiana. When the emergency responders are impacted by a disaster or need to take time away for the demands of the response, these teams provide the necessary support to the operations. We now have more than 150 people trained for these response teams statewide with more being trained for future needs. We are also working on a similar concept for regional urban search and rescue teams. Kansas had more than 600 Guardsmen in Louisiana and 20 in Texas to help with Hurricane Gustav and Ike. Our missions included command and control, security, distribution of food and water, and air transport of emergency responders during which they rescued several individuals in Texas. Our Guardsmen also received praise for their work and I'm proud of them for the work they did, and also of the fact that many even ask to do these missions. Not long after we completed our U.S. missions, more than 260 Soldiers with the 287th Sustainment Brigade left for Fort Lewis, Wash., to deploy to Iraq soon for a logistics mission. I want to take a moment to again thank the families and friends of these Soldiers for their support while these men and women accept the very difficult challenges of war. They will thrive with your help and therefore, you are a critical part of what we do to keep Kansas and the

nation safer in our global missions. We are striving to improve our support of families and their Guardsmen to ensure a healthy future for all involved. As the Adjutant General's Department manages the issues of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Kansas Army and Air Guard, and the ongoing challenges of Homeland Security, the department has been revising its strategic plan to look ahead five more years. We know the budget didn't look good even prior to the recent market challenges and bailout discussions, so it's important we stay ever vigilant and continue looking at our plans to ensure they are in line with the realities of our future. If we plan well now, we will be able to accomplish more successes like the first ever Kansas National Guard armory built on a university campus and dedicated in a historic moment on Sept. 27. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Pittsburg State University Student Recreation Center/Kansas National Guard Armory marked the realization of a dream come true for Dr. Tom Bryant, president at Pittsburg State, and Dr. James AuBuchon, who has since retired from the university leadership. I appreciate their hard work and the support of Gov. Kathleen Sebelius on this project. Around the state, we have other armories that are joint partners with communities and we hope to continue to increase these kinds of partnerships. In Wichita, one of the armories is shared with the city, the South Armory in Topeka is shared with the U.S. Marine Corps

Reserve, and negotiations are underway with the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kan., to develop an armory the local government could share with the Kansas Guard and provide space for 35th Division staff. A new partnership we developed this year involved the Kansas State Fair where for the first time ever we held our Kansas Preparedness Day event. We brought equipment from the many state and local agencies that respond to disasters and despite the cloudy, cool weather, had a great turn out there. We knew the State Fair would provide the opportunity for more people from all across Kansas to get information about preparing an emergency kit with food, water and medicines, and about having a family plan in times when no communication lines are available. I want to thank everyone who helped make the event a success and hope to see you next year at the Kansas State Fair. And finally, I want to say a very special thank you to Brig. Gen. Jonathan Small, a good friend, mentor and leader who recently retired from the Kansas Army National Guard after nearly 40 years of military service. He brought significant positive changes to the organization, shaped the future of many young people under his command and is an example of all the good one can do for themselves and others when they join the Kansas Guard. I am proud of his service, his dedication, his success and most of all proud to call him friend. Congratulations Gen. Small on a job well done.

Soldier to Soldier

Is your mission complete?

By Command Sgt. Maj. Tim Newton

It was late August 2005. I had a few months left on my enlistment and I was going to retire. Why not? I had just received my 20 year letter, I finished the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy in June, and I had over three years time in grade as a sergeant major, ensuring that I could retire at that grade. I had a decent job with excellent benefits, no reenlistment bonus for someone over 20 years, I wasn't going to go back to college and I had achieved all my goals in the military. I really didn't need the National Guard for anything. Mission complete, that's what I thought. Then on Aug. 28, 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast. I remembered being glued to the cable news watching all the devastation as it happened. I also remembered sitting at home wishing that I could do something to help out. That evening my wife and I wrote out a check to the American Red Cross and dropped it in the mail, but still I wished that I could do more. The next day I received a call from my supervisor, Lt. Col. Michael Dennis. He informed me that the 35th Division Headquarters had been activated to serve as command and control in New Orleans. I asked him how long the mission was going to be. He said anywhere from 60 to 90 days.

I showed up the next morning and explained to the personnel sergeant major that I had only a few months on my enlistment. I asked her if I would have to extend to be able to go down to New Orleans. She told me that I would need to extend. That morning I extended for another year. Needless to say, we did not spend 90 days down there or even 60. We were back in Kansas by mid-October, so I really did not even need to extend for that year. No regrets, I would just spend another year in the Kansas Army National Guard and retire in the fall of 2006. In the summer of 2006, I spent about a week in the Northeast around Boston and New York City with my wife, brother and sister-in-law and my nephew. It was the next to last day before we returned home and we decided to spend the day in New York City. It was early Sunday morning; the drive into Manhattan was a breeze. It was picture perfect weather and no traffic at 7:30 in the morning. I drove down the west side of Manhattan to Vesey Street and parked right across the street from the historic St. Paul's Chapel. St. Paul's Chapel was established in 1766 and President George Washington worshiped there during the first two years of his presidency. St Paul's Chapel is also located right across the street from the

(Continued on Page 6)

An end of summer wrap-up

By Command Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mark Jensen

Well, summer is almost gone. The kids are back in school and Soldiers keep on soldiering. Hope you all had a great summer and found some time to share with your family and friends. Congratulations are in order for Warrant Officer 1 Mark Baxa, Warrant Officer 1 Stacy Burns and Warrant Officer 1 Abra Cloyd. They completed the Reserve Component Warrant Officer Candidate School in August and were appointed as the newest warrant officers in Kansas. I know they will enhance the professionalism of the warrant officer corps. I wanted to give you a heads up on the probability of a mandatory Warrant



Command Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mark Jensen

Officer Professional Development seminar sometime in November or December this year. I will confirm the location, date and time as soon as available. All warrant officers in the Kansas Army National Guard will be required to attend. The Adjutant General has promoted such activities for the officers and noncommissioned officers at least twice a year with the program expanded and funded for the warrant officer corps. My intent will be to have this independent warrant officer professional development with the second one involving our participation in the scheduled officer professional development at the annual National Guard Association of Kansas event. I thank each of you for your service and all the special efforts you have made this year in the recruitment and accession of new warrant officers in Kansas. As always, we continue to make a difference and set the example. Please contact me with any questions or problems you might identify that require the attention of the senior leadership and the Adjutant General.

Letter to the Editor

Band concert something to write about

I wish to express my appreciation for the fine concert given by the 35th Infantry Division Band this evening, Thursday, July 24, 2008, at the Ottawa Municipal Auditorium in Ottawa, Kan. My wife, granddaughter, and I enjoyed it immensely. I write a freelance column now and then for the Ottawa Herald, our local newspaper, and am a part-time reporter for the radio station KOFO here in Ottawa. I was not specifically assigned to report on the concert for either of those entities, but went to the concert anyway, as I expected to enjoy it.

And I did. Returning home, I wrote a column for the paper and a brief news report for the radio station. I'm sending you a copy of each report. I hope you'll share them, and my thanks, with the band. After the concert, with all the patriotic music, I almost felt like enlisting again, but 67 is probably a little old for that. Got any openings for generals? Thank you again. Dave Hartmann See Hartmann's review on Page 20

PLAINS GUARDIAN

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For change of address, contact Jane Welch.



Ask the TAG



Title 10 duty has tax benefits

During an overseas tour of duty, what entitlements do I have for property tax exemption for my vehicle(s)?

Along with numerous other entitlements for serving your country, state law allows our Guard members who are on Title 10 active duty orders to have up to two vehicles exempt from property taxes.

This is in effect from the Federal Soldier’s and Sailor’s Civil Relief Act. The act states that as long as the “soldier is stationed in the state and claims Kansas as their permanent residence then they can have up to two motor vehicles registered and not pay property taxes. Or if a soldier is a Kansas resident and they are deployed to another state and their motor vehicle is in another state then they do not have to pay property tax on up to two motor vehicles.”

The crucial part is that the individual

must be on Title 10 versus state Title 32 orders. When a deployment is on the horizon, this entitlement can save our Guard members a great deal of money and help relieve undue financial stress.

While on the topic of entitlements to our Guard members, I would like to take this time to remind all our members that you are eligible for free hunting and fishing licenses. For more information and to download the application, follow this link: <http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/Hunting/Applications-and-Fees>

*** ** *

Send your question(s) by email to Tagquestions@us.army.mil or by mail to the Adjutant General’s Public Affairs Office, Att: Sharon Watson, 2722 S. Topeka Blvd., Room 108, Topeka KS 66611. Questions may be submitted anonymously.

Kansas Lottery supports veterans with special Instant Scratch Tickets

The Kansas Lottery is supporting Kansas military veterans with the sale of special instant games that provide direct funding for Kansas Veterans’ programs, Kansas National Guard scholarships, and the Museum of the Kansas National Guard. As of June 30, 2008, the Lottery has generated more than \$3.8 million in net profits from sales of these games.

The Kansas Legislature approved legislation to allow profits from sales of Veterans Benefit lottery tickets to go directly to veterans programs in 2003. This year, House Bill 2923 authorized the Lottery to sell Veterans Benefit tickets year-round and also changed the way net profits will be distributed to the following:

- 40 percent to Kansas National Guard Educational Assistance Act scholarships
- 30 percent to Kansas Veterans’ Home, Kansas Soldiers’ Home, Veterans Cemetery System
- 30 percent to the Museum of the Kansas National Guard

Veterans Benefit tickets currently on sale at Lottery retailers throughout the state of Kansas are a \$2 scratch ticket called Veterans Celebration and two \$1 scratch tickets, Veterans Bucks and Veterans Cash. Players can win top cash prizes of \$10,000 on the \$2 ticket, or up to \$5,000 on each of the \$1 tickets.

The Kansas Lottery plans to launch additional Veterans Benefit games later this year, including a Betty Boop ticket, showing the iconic cartoon character in military garb.

“We expect the Betty Boop ticket to sell especially well because of its novelty and

The Kansas Lottery plans to launch additional Veterans Benefit games later this year, including a Betty Boop ticket, showing the iconic cartoon character in military garb.

collectability,” said Ed Van Petten, executive director of the Kansas Lottery. “We are grateful for the support our players show all of our Veterans Benefit games. The Lottery is especially proud that the revenue generated from the sale of these tickets stays right here in Kansas to benefit our Kansas Veterans.”

The amount of revenue transferred since the inception of the Veterans Benefit games is as follows:

Lottery Transfers from Veterans Benefit Games	
Fiscal Year 2004	\$632,695
Fiscal Year 2005	\$701,164
Fiscal Year 2006	\$717,851
Fiscal Year 2007	\$914,094
Fiscal Year 2008	\$889,596
Total	\$3,855,400

The Kansas Lottery currently has approximately 1,800 certified retailer locations selling Kansas Lottery products. Players must be 18 to purchase tickets. For more information on Kansas Lottery games, or to join the Kansas Lottery Players Club, visit the Lottery’s website at www.kslottery.com.

State needs envisioned during Strategic Planning Session

By Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

The 2008 Joint Planning Session, held on Sept. 10, 2008 at the 190th Air Refueling Wing in Topeka accomplished the Kansas adjutant general’s desires to begin transforming Kansas state organizations to become “full spectrum” and develop into joint capable agencies.

Not only is Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting the adjutant general of Kansas, he is also the director of Kansas Homeland Security and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. He acknowledges the need for all State departments to work together smoothly so that Kansas can assist its citizens when the need arises.

Bunting said his vision of the Kansas National Guard was to be a respected and honored agency unmatched in providing emergency response, recovery, safety and security to the people of Kansas and our nation, anytime, anywhere and under any conditions.

“Gone are the days when we should worry about a potential departmental conflict when a National Guard truck is hauling generators from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management to a town that has no power,” Bunting said. “We shouldn’t be concerned that, if cases where Kansas people’s lives are at risk that the Kansas Army National Guard Soldier is using Kansas Air Force equipment to accomplish missions. In case of an emergency, we shouldn’t be concerned about whose money is paying for the security of Kansas citizens—what we should be concerned about, is that the citizen is being kept safe, and assistance is being given to those citizens when they need it, where they need it, and as they need it.”

Bunting’s four strategic priorities for the strategic planning session are to increase domestic support capabilities for the State and the Nation; enhance the Adjutant General’s Department to remain a relevant organization; enhance the readiness of personnel, equipment and facilities; and add value to Kansas communities.

He pointed out that 80 percent of infrastructure in Kansas is privately owned and operated while governmental agencies



Both military and civilian employees of the Adjutant General’s Department took part in the 2008 Joint Planning Session, held Sept. 10 in Topeka. (Photo by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD)

operate the rest. “We have to work together, so if we need to assist a private company after an emergency and aid them in delivering needed services or security to our citizens, we will,” Bunting pointed out, referring to the Guard’s help in providing the town of Greensburg with a portable hospital for the Greensburg hospital staff to conduct emergency medical assistance.

“If the Kansas Highway Patrol needs help directing traffic after a natural disaster, they can call on the National Guard for assistance or, if the Kansas Bureau of Investigation has information that is pertinent to a threat to Kansas citizens, then that information will be disseminated to whatever department or agency that needs it.”

“The Kansas National Guard is no longer isolated as Army or Air Force, we are a joint entity. In case of an emergency in Kansas, we are here to assist those State agencies while they fulfill their missions. Not only does the National Guard meet its challenges as a global full-spectrum capability organization, we have to be prepared for any future emergency that may arise,” Bunting said.

Employers honored for their support of the National Guard

By Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

The City of Olathe, Kan., was honored with the top employer award, the Pro Patria Award, at the 54th annual banquet of the National Guard Association of Kansas, held in Topeka on Saturday, April 12.

Employers that have gone above and beyond the requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act within the district, state, territory and commonwealths during the last calendar year are nominated, and the Above and Beyond Awards are awarded, but only one employer can earn the Pro Patria Award. That award is intended to honor the most outstanding employer of the year. Accepting on the City of Olathe’s behalf was Mary Chesser and Anita Dickey.

Presenting the awards to the employers was the Adjutant General of the State of Kansas, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting. “The support shown by the City of Olathe to their citizen Soldiers is beyond commendable,” said Bunting. “As one looks at the city’s policy handbook, it stands out that exemplary support of the Guard and Reserve members is among their top goals.”

Olathe has provided pay differential, continued insurance for Soldiers and their families, sent care packages and phone cards to deployed Soldiers and given much support to all the veterans in the Olathe area.

For the Above and Beyond Awards, Jerry Rempe and Phil Posten accepted the

award for Data Center, Inc. The company supported U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Lt. Col. Jay Krail during his numerous periods of active duty, annual training and during his drills.

Sheriff Ken Badsy of the Decatur County Sheriff’s Office accepted the award for the department. Also present was Lee Franklin from the City of Oberlin; Maj. Ross Finlay and Command Sgt. Maj. Randy Schultz of the Nebraska Army National Guard. Their award was for the support they gave one of their deputies, Sgt. Randall McHugh, during his deployments in Germany, Iraq and Hurricane Katrina.

The Principal Financial Group of Overland Park, earned an award and was accepted by Paula Zelmer with her daughter, Sgt. Wendy Cook, who just returned from her last deployment. Sgt. 1st Class Don Recker recommended Principal for the award based on the support he received during his year-long deployment to Iraq.

Wal-Mart #6035 of Ottawa, Kan., earned an award for its support to Staff Sgt. Kelly Meyers of the Kansas Army National Guard during his three deployments. Accepting the award was Kelly Meyers.

Other companies who earned the prestigious award, but could not attend the banquet were: Arrowhead Lumber, LLC of Topeka; Farrar Corporation of Norwich; Frontier El Dorado Refining Company, El Dorado and Kansas Castings, Belle Plaine.

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Exercise tests plans for distribution of Strategic National Stockpile

By Spc. Jessica Rohr, 105th MPAD

Kansas National Guard members, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment along with Kansas Highway Patrol and selected county health officials, collaborated on an exercise dealing with distribution of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) recently. This exercise stems from Gov. Kathleen Sebelius’ directive for State officials to prepare for a worst-case scenario if a pandemic influenza virus were to appear in Kansas.

The pandemic influenza scenario dealt with the World Health Organization letting KDHE know that there was a pandemic flu outbreak spreading from person to person, and was beginning to spread across Kansas. The Kansas National Guard could then be activated to assist KDHE with the efforts of handling the distribution of medical supplies needed at hospitals due to the outbreak.

Under the scenario, the SNS would consist of needed medical supplies if such an event occurred, but for the exercise, the

SNS was simulated by pallets loaded with generic medical supplies, such as rubber gloves, bandages and surgical masks. Kansas Highway Patrol troopers, trained for civil unrest scenarios, were charged with security of the SNS while KDHE officials oversaw the packing and distribution of the supplies. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen were tasked with the logistics and transportation of the supply pallets to the cities of Medicine Lodge, El Dorado, Westmoreland, Hiawatha, Atchison, Holton, Oskaloosa, New Century and Leavenworth.

Trooper Hillary Alters was providing security of the SNS during the exercise.

“Our purpose for this exercise is to protect the shipment and keep people away that should not be here,” said Alters. “In the event of a true pandemic or anything like that there is going to be a lot of civil unrest and a lot of people are going to want to get to the supplies.”

“We are going to control access to the



Pallets of “vaccine” and other supplies are unloaded during a Strategic National Stockpile exercise in July. (Photo by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD)

emergency supply, whatever it may be,” added Trooper Ray Ramirez.

Tom Langer, KDHE rear house manager of the Regional Stockpile Warehouse for the exercise, supervised the exercise.

“My job is to coordinate the receipt of the medical supplies that have come in from the Center for Disease Control that are allocated to our state and have those redistributed, packaged and shipped to the county health departments across the state for implementation to the general population,” said Langer. “We are looking for areas that operate smoothly so we can maintain that level efficiently and we are looking for those areas that have deficiencies so we can identify what those are, take corrective measures and be better prepared in the event of a real emergency.”

Butler County Health Department was one of many county health departments that took part in this exercise. Administrator of Butler County Health Department and registered nurse, Carol Borger, affirmed, “Supplies came to the

health department, including personal protective gear ranging from shoe covers, gowns, masks, gloves, Band-Aids and alcohol. The Butler County Sheriff’s Office arrived in order to provide security before being able to unload the medical supplies.”

In each exercise throughout the state, multiple agencies have been able to participate and have gained great insight. All parties involved thought it was a wonderful partnering of a lot of different entities that are important players in our state. There were civilian state work forces from KDHE, state troopers that provided off-base security and the Kansas National Guard, which helped with the logistics by unloading trucks, reloading, pulling orders and serving as drivers and security on-base. The drivers on the road will deliver the supplies to the health departments.

“We could not have accomplished this as a singular state agency,” said Langer. “This is a collaborative effort that brings in all of the partners, and it is a quite an undertaking. One group alone could not do this.”

Officer Candidate School turns out another class of officers

Around this time each year the Kansas Army National Guard welcomes new Officers to their ranks from the Officer Candidate School at the Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina, Kan. This year’s ceremony on August 23 graduated 13 cadets.

The Kansas Army National Guard Officer Candidate School, the ninth such in the United States, was chartered by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau commencing in September 1956. It started with a curriculum of 172 hours and was conducted at the Topeka Armory on 12 weekends during the year.

Over time, the curriculum and location of the school changed to meet the training needed to become an officer. There are now 54 Army National Guard Officer Candidate Schools in operation throughout

the United States and its territories. With this year’s ceremony, the Kansas Regional Training Institute has successfully graduated more than 1,400 candidates.

“I did the traditional route of OCS at KSRTI,” said 2nd Lt. Janine Peltz, Company E, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation. “I chose this route because it allowed me to continue to go to Emporia State University to get my bachelor’s degree in science and education to teach PE and health at the same time. My family helped support me and get me through the tough times during training.”

Graduating candidate 2nd Lt. Danette Harris of the 778th Transportation Company expressed her eagerness to begin her officer duties.

“I wanted to become an officer because I

(Continued on Page 8)

Three inducted into Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame

By Spc. Jessica Rohr, 105th MPAD

The Kansas Army National Guard Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame induction ceremony was held on Aug. 23 to recognize outstanding military leaders. Graduates of the OCS program who are accepted into this time-honored tradition are those who have contributed significant achievements in their line of duty. The prominent military leaders who have been selected to be inducted into the 2008 Kansas Army National Guard Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame are: retired Col. Henry M. Martin, retired Col. Neil Johnson and retired Col. David E. Purtee.



Retired Col. Henry Martin



Retired Col. Neil Johnson



Retired Col. David Purtee

tance of actual education military and civilian,” said Johnson. “When I got out of college, a bachelor’s degree was fine. The reality today though is if you want to do any sort of profession you are going to need a master’s. They need the education and it is so important in the military to have that. It is also important to our nation. It is very important to have a forward looking military in our nation.”

“I was thinking about what the Guard had

meant to me, when I found out I was being inducted in the OCS Hall of Fame, besides a sense of serving in the military obligation,” said Purtee. “My training in the National Guard really helped in the work I have done in the past 30 years. My Guard experience and the school that the Guard sent me to got me my first job and they helped me retain more responsibility. My military experience really contributed to that.”

Is your mission complete?

Continued from Page 4

World Trade Center site. During the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, amazingly, the church was untouched by the devastation of the collapse of the twin towers and served as a rest and refuge for recovery workers following the attack.

After spending some time around the church and its cemetery, I walked across the street over to the World Trade Center site. As I peered down into the site I reflected on all those who lost their lives on that day: the passengers on American Airlines Flight 11, United Airline Flight 175, workers at the World Trade Center, the 340 firefighters and 60 police officers. All total, 2,750 died that day at the World Trade Center. Also, not to forget the 37 passengers and seven crew members on Flight 93 and the 180 who lost their lives at the Pentagon. All total, 2,974 lives lost.

My feelings at that time were anger and sorrow for what happened to our country. Also, I still had my sense of pride for being an American and living in the greatest country in the world. I knew right there and then that my mission was not complete. I wanted to do my part to ensure that something like this would never happen again. That is why when I returned to Kansas later that week I went into 35th Division Headquarters and reenlisted for six years.

For me, it was two events that changed my course and career in the Kansas Army National Guard. Since then, I made command sergeant major both at the battalion and brigade level and I will be deploying

to Iraq with the 287th Sustainment Brigade as their command sergeant major in the fall. I have absolutely no regrets on the decisions that I made regarding my military career.

As I stated in my first paragraph, “I really didn’t need the National Guard for anything,” which is true, I personally do not need the National Guard, but the Guard, Kansas, and the United States needs me and other Soldiers like yourself. Our mission is not complete.

In the past five years, Kansas National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have been called to duty for numerous emergencies in our state. We have deployed thousands of Soldiers to places like Iraq, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Africa to name a few, plus homeland security missions such as the U.S./Mexico border and base security. Our mission is far from being completed.

In closing, in today’s society, many people may wonder if they have made a difference in our world. If you ever served in the military, you don’t have to wonder. For those of you have served six years, 10 years, 20 years or 35 years and have gotten out or retired, thank you for your service and dedication to our state and country. For those of you who are contemplating on getting out, please ask yourself, “Is my mission complete?”

The world we live in is still a dangerous place and Kansas and the United States needs dedicated and qualified Soldiers like you to ensure the safety and welfare of our families and future.

Police officers, deputies juggle military duties and law enforcement careers

By Stan Finger, The Wichita Eagle

For dozens of local law enforcement officers, one uniform is not enough. Besides working for the Wichita Police Department or the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, they serve in a branch of the U.S. military.

"I just went from one uniform to another," said Terence James, who is a patrol officer for the Wichita Police Department and a sergeant first class in the Army National Guard.

About 46 police officers and 20 deputies or detention deputies from the sheriff's office serve in the Reserves or National Guard, according to the law enforcement agencies.

The reasons for juggling two demanding professions vary from person to person, but one common theme emerges: service.

"Some of the service aspect of being in the military is paying back your country for what it has given you -- the freedoms we're given, the society that we're allowed to live in," said Capt. Joe Dessenberger, commander of the Patrol West Bureau and a member of the Air National Guard.

"I don't think there's anybody that doesn't come onto the Police Department without the thought that they're coming in to do good for the community and help the community out and serve people," said Dessenberger, who has been a police officer for 18 years. "That's the mentality we all come in with."

As corny as it may sound to some, Wichita police Detective Robert Stone said, "patriotism has a lot to do with it for those of us who are in it."

When he entered the service 24 years ago, he said, "it was the whole, 'pay for my college and have a good time' thing.

"But it just kind of grows on you," said Stone, 43, a member of the Army Reserve who works for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force at the Wichita/Sedgwick County Exploited and Missing Child Unit.

"There's a lot of hassles and headaches, of course, but there's a lot of good people, a lot of good training, a lot of good opportunities."

Commendations while on-duty

At least two local officers have been commended for actions while on duty:



During the week, these Soldiers and Airmen exchange the uniforms they wear here for those of law enforcement officers in Wichita and Sedgwick County. (Photo by Stan Finger, Wichita Eagle)

James was awarded the department's Bronze Wreath of Merit in 2006 for his work on a case in Wichita while he was deployed to Iraq.

James used a webcam to lead officers to a house where a woman had been beaten by an ex-boyfriend. She had been reluctant to report the crime to police.

Her husband, who was serving with James in Iraq, showed his wife's injuries via webcam to James, who then notified police in Wichita.

Officers talked to the woman, who implicated the ex-boyfriend. He is now serving jail time, James said.

The second officer to be honored is Brad Carver, 35, a pilot for the air section of the Police Department.

He was awarded the Bronze Star for leading hundreds of convoys from Camp Bucca in Iraq to Kuwait while deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom with the Air National Guard from April to September 2007.

"I'm proud to say I lost nobody," Carver said.

That's not to say there weren't close calls: Convoys were hit by four improvised explosive devices while making the trips of roughly 50 miles each way.

"That's where training and experience and common sense come into play," Carver said. "If something doesn't look right, you investigate it. You don't just drive through it and hope."

Deployments

Deployments can tax the law enforcement agencies -- 20 sheriff's officers applied for deployment leave last year, for example, and at least 10 police officers have been deployed annually in recent years.

"We have to be able to communicate with the city really well, so when there's a deployment they can keep the streets covered," said Lt. Joe Schroeder, who works at the Wichita/Sedgwick County Law Enforcement Training Center and also is a member of the Air National Guard.

Many police officers come to law enforcement after spending time in the military. Carver came at it from the other direction.

"I've always wanted to be a cop, but they won't let you go to the academy until you're 21," he said. He went into the Air Force after high school, thinking, "Why not get four years of experience in the meantime?"

He left the Air Force after completing

his enlistment so he could join the Police Department, Carver said, but his time in the service prepared him well.

"They call it military bearing -- you don't lose your composure, you're always professional," he said. "That helped me a lot when dealing with people in difficult situations."

The two professions share a sobering reality, Carver said: "You go out the door not knowing if you're coming back."

Camaraderie

Aguiniga De La Torre, 35, said the sense of structure and camaraderie in the Police Department reminded him of his time in the Marines, and much of what he learned in the military has served him well since becoming a police officer.

"The military formed me to be a leader," De La Torre said. "At one point, you're going to be in that situation. It's a matter of applying what you learn... to the best of your ability with the tools that you've been given."

While the Marines are typically asked to complete a mission even if it means a situation escalates into combat, he said, police officers are taught to strive to use the minimum amount of force necessary to resolve situations.

"We're there to prevent escalation," said De La Torre, who has been with the Police Department since 2003 and has served in the Air National Guard for the past three years.

Schroeder went into the military when he was 17, was eventually discharged and became a police officer nearly 20 years ago.

"I missed the camaraderie," said Schroeder. "I enjoyed the demands, the structured lifestyle, the travel."

When a tornado hit Haysville and south Wichita in May 1999, Schroeder was ordered to provide security at the National Guard armory at Seneca and I-235. It rekindled his interest in the military, and he joined the Air National Guard.

"The Police Department and the military tend to attract people who are service-oriented," he said. "It's got to be something you want to do."

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Getting the equipment back home is a mission in itself

By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR

On May 23, the 35th Military Police Company returned to Kansas from Iraq to a hero's welcome. However, the Soldiers' homecoming did not complete their return from deployment. Much of the unit's equipment and Soldiers' personal gear followed them in land/sea containers.

The containers did not travel as fast as the Soldiers and they arrived at Fort Bliss, Texas, at different times. As the Soldiers completed their mobilization at Fort Bliss, their equipment also had to go through there. By the first week of July, all of the containers were finally together in Texas.

On July 22, a team of Army National Guard logistic specialists flew to Fort Bliss. The team consisted of Staff Sgt. Ralph Caples of the 35th MP Company and representing the 69th Troop Command's logistics' section, Sgt. 1st Class Mike Osborne. Representing the Kansas Army National Guard were Master Sgt. Robert Bottoms and Sgt. Rick Sepulveda. Because of his rank and experience, Bottoms served as the group's leader.

Their mission, in the heat of the Southwest Texas summer, was to unload, inventory and prepare the equipment for shipment back to Kansas. They were able to complete their tasks within the three days they were allowed. Although they had the use of a 10,000 pound tactical fork lift much of the work was done by hand. Sepulveda's ability to operate the fork lift greatly expedited the unloading. It took

much of Wednesday to unload the first container and move the equipment to an ammunition bunker. The bunker, no longer used for ammunition storage, is now used for secure storage of sensitive items. On Thursday, Bottom and Caples spent the day inventorying and banding equipment

for shipment, while Osborne and Sepulveda unloaded the second container. The support activity at Fort Bliss arranged for the sensitive items to be shipped to Fort Riley. There, National Guard maintenance teams will inspect and as needed, repair and conduct any modifications to



Master Sgt. Robert Bottom (left), with the assistance of Staff Sgt. Ralph Caples (center) and Sgt. 1st Class Michael Osborne (right), directs a 10,000 pound tactical forklift hauling a pallet of equipment from a steel transport container at Fort Bliss, Texas, the mobilization station for the 35th Military Police Company. (Photo by Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR)

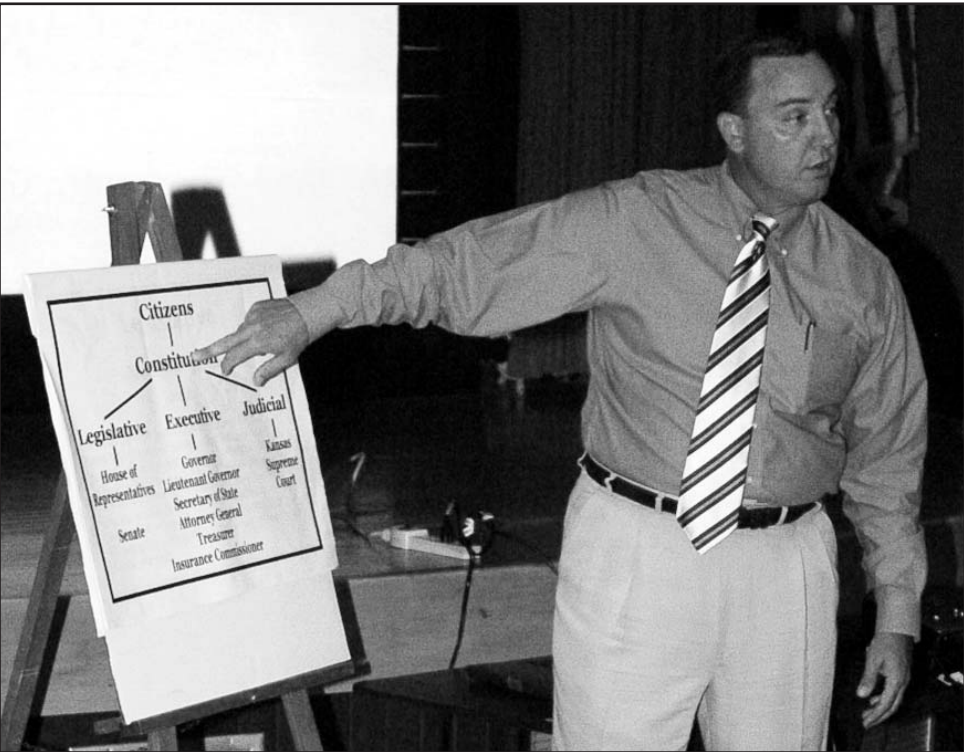
“It was a lot of work, but I am glad that everything came off as planned.”
Sgt. 1st Class Mike Osborne,
69th Troop Command
Logistics Section

the sensitive items. Getting started before sunrise on Friday, the team was able to empty the two containers of personal gear into a tractor trailer by noon. Caples arranged for the personal gear to be shipped directly to the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Topeka. “I am glad that we were able to get everything done in a safe and timely manner,” said Bottom.

“It was a lot of work, but I am glad that everything came off as planned,” said Osborne. “The heat took its toll on us, but we stayed hydrated and made it through.”

The trailer with the personal gear arrived on the following Monday. Once again, the duffel bags and footlockers were removed by hand. A chain of Soldiers off-loaded the gear, filling the unit's storage area. Over the next few weeks, the Soldiers will check in with the unit and claim their unaccompanied baggage, baggage they have not seen in over three months.

International Officers learn of Kansas history, government



Kansas Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh explains to the International Officers how the three branches of government are balanced in the United States and Kansas. (Photo by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD)

By Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

Sixty-five military officers from 62 nations visited Topeka Friday, July 18, to learn about state government and the state judicial system. The international officers are enrolled in a year-long course of study at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth.

“It’s always a privilege to visit with these officers while they’re here,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the Adjutant General of Kansas. “They’re bright, motivated and enthusiastic about learning. Someday, they will hold key leadership positions in their own nations and this is our opportunity to show them how we do things here and to start building long-lasting relationships with them.”

The day’s activities began when Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose, director of Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas, Kansas National Guard, gave the officers an overview of the Kansas National Guard’s history and current structure. Then, Kansas Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh spoke to the officers about Kansas government.

Both speakers piqued a deep interest in the international officers. Rose clarified that the National Guard Soldiers/Airmen worked for the State, and that the governor was the commander-in chief. She also explained what roles the National Guard takes in support of civilian authorities when a disaster occurs in the state.

Thornburgh clarified how Kansas State government works, the hierarchy of the state government and the election process. Many of the students were very interested in the democratic process that Kansas and the United States practice.

Later, the officers took a tour of the Statehouse and listened to a presentation on the Kansas court system by the Honorable Lawton R. Nuss, justice of the Kansas Supreme Court. They then travelled to the Kansas Museum of History where they were served lunch and saw a presentation on Native Americans, followed by a tour of the museum.

This year marks the 48th annual visit to Topeka and the 114th year that international officers have been attending the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. Since 1894, more than 7,032 officers from 153 different countries have come for training. International students weren’t allowed to graduate the course until the class of 1908.

Over the years, many of these students have gone on to key positions in their countries. Twenty-six have become heads of state, including three currently serving in Bahrain, Indonesia and Singapore. More than 600 have become ministers, ambassadors, representatives or chiefs of staff for their military and nearly 50 percent have become general officers in the armies of the world.

100 Years of partnership with Mexico

By Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

The year was 1908, and the first international graduates of the Command and General Staff College took their diplomas and returned to their country with a better understanding of how their country and America, could inter-relate and work together. The two graduates were from Mexico, and now, exactly 100 years later, Mexico has again sent another promising officer and is celebrating a “Century of Leaders in Learning.”

Maj. Roberto Carranza says that it is a great honor for him to be chosen by his government to attend the school. “This training is of the highest quality,” he said. “I am learning much about



Maj. Roberto Carranza

American and world-wide culture.”

Carranza mingles with fellow students from 62 other countries from five continents. The school is a year-long study of civilian customs and military issues. Many of the international officers bring their families with them to live in Kansas for the year of school. Carranza says it is one of the best opportunities to learn.

“My son attends an American school, of course, and there are orientation courses for my wife and son where they learn a lot,” he said.

His family was excited to come to America, and note the differences of living in Fort Leavenworth to his hometown of Mexico City. “Leavenworth is a quiet place,” said Carranza. “Mexico City is quite noisy, and has so many traffic jams. Leavenworth is a nice, safe place to live.”

With a smile, Carranza added at the end, “And the most fun my wife, son and I are having is shopping in the American shopping centers — they are really quite impressive.”

Marilyn Dowse named Kansas National Guard “Spouse of the Year”

By Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

Years of dedicated duty, endless hours of freely given help and an endless stream of devotion to her spouse and his career in the Kansas Army National Guard resulted in a most “surprising” award to Marilyn Dowse during the 2008 Kansas National Guard Joint State Conference in Topeka on Saturday, April 12, 2008.

Marilyn is the wife of retired Col. Malen “Butch” Dowse, Kansas Army National Guard. They have been married 44 years and her dedication to the Guard and her spouse has always been there.

“Marilyn has given freely countless hours of service and dedication to the National Guard Association of Kansas,” said Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, the adjutant general. “She is always the first person to offer a helping hand and she is many times the last person to leave when called upon. I think she is the most deserving person to be honored with this award this year.”

“I really feel very humbled being named the Spouse of the Year,” said Marilyn. “There are so many other spouses in the Kansas National Guard that I feel work and give so much more. I just do what I do and never really think about any rewards. I like doing what I do.”

Butch says otherwise. “I might be kind of biased,” he said, “but the truth is, she works everyday for the National Guard and she really thinks a great deal of everyone of our Soldiers and Airmen in the Guard.”

Marilyn admits that there were trying times, especially with two small boys, raising them while Butch was gone so much because of his full time job, trips for his job and his commitment to the Guard. Then when Butch became a full time employee with the Guard, where he was still very busy, traveling and working late at night, she had even more on her hands.

Marilyn and Butch met while she was a senior in high school working summer and evenings at her uncle’s Tastee Freeze in

Sublette, a little town out in western Kansas. Butch was from Copeland 10 miles east of Sublette. He was working for a Phillips 66 gas station in Sublette close to where she worked. He would come by every day at lunchtime and Marilyn learned just what he liked and had it ready for him. They were married Aug. 14, 1964, in Sublette and celebrated their 44th anniversary this year.

Marilyn’s favorite memories of the National Guard experience is when she and Butch took their camper to Guernsey, Wyo., during annual training and camped out for two weeks with their boys.

“It was fun for us, but work for Dad,” she said. “There were other spouses and kids there, so the boys had kids to play with. We got to see Dad over the weekend. Sometimes we went to see sites around the area or just stayed at the campground, fished, walked, rode bicycles, hiked or just relaxed.”

So how did Marilyn begin working at the National Guard Museum in Topeka? According to her, it was when Joy Meyer decided to retire from the National Guard Insurance program. She wanted to turn the program over to someone she knew would take care of the Soldiers. She said how about “Team Dowse?”

Butch was the executive director of the association and this would add more work. So Marilyn just jumped in to help set the files up in the office and decided that, if she was going to see much of him, she would just be a right hand person and be there wherever she could help if need be. She now helps with the mobilizations that the units have had through the years and goes with Butch to visit the units.

“The family still wonders about us and why we stay so involved with the Kansas National Guard,” said Marilyn. “I guess it’s in our blood by now. If he is going to devote so much to the Guard I had better join with him or be left behind. The Guard has become our family and we help each other.”



(From left) Brig. Gen. Deborah S. Rose and Brig. Gen. Jonathan P. Small assisted presenting the 2008 National Guard Association of Kansas Spouse of the Year award to Marilyn Dowse, wife of retired Col. Malen ‘Butch’ Dowse. The Adjutant General of Kansas, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting was the presenter, with Maj. Gen. Wayne Pierson assisting. (Photo by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD)

Officer Candidate School turns out another class of officers

Continued from Page 6

had an experience in Iraq where we had gone through a couple different lieutenants,” said Harris, “and I just felt that Soldiers should have a leader that they can trust and feel that would lead them in the right direction. With the training I felt I could do that.”

Each cadet has declared the road traveled to become an officer a tough one. 2nd Lt. David Atkins, Detachment 1, 170th Maintenance said, “Everyone wants to be there. The motivation of everybody else is what keeps you going.”

Each cadet endured and is now proudly wearing the rank of a commissioned officer in the Kansas Army National Guard.

Graduates of OCS Class 52 and 2008-501 included Macavin K. Apsley, El Dorado; David W. Atkins, Hays; Adam L. Berry, Lafayette; Danette D. Harris, Wichita; James L. Horesky Jr., Hays; Stephen E. Osborne, Topeka; Janine K. Peltz, Emporia; Adam R. Potts, Lancaster; Jon T. Ross, Topeka; James V. Ruffin, Kansas City, Mo.; Jerry C. Simons III, Junction City; Daniel R. Smith, Topeka and Tyler J. Wamsley, Manhattan.

Guard helicopter crews join battle against California wild fires

By Capt. Al Bosco

With the California fires mostly under control, the aircrews supporting the massive fire fighting operation can finally begin to breathe.

At the height of the air mission, more than two dozen aircraft from as many as 14 states, as far away as New York, were assigned to Joint Task Force Sentinel. Aircrews endured the stifling heat and smoke, flying continuous fire suppression missions and dropping nearly 4 million gallons of water on the flames that have scorched more than 900,000 acres, or an area roughly-equivalent to the size of Rhode Island.

According to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Randy Kirkland, a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot from the Alabama National Guard, the mission has been tough, yet rewarding.

“We’ve had to push the envelope with our aircraft due to the altitudes, tempera-

tures and weight we’re dealing with,” he said. “We don’t normally have to push this hard when we’re supporting missions [in Alabama], which mostly consist of passenger transport, but the training we got when we arrived at Mather Field prepared us for this mission, and we’ve done it safely every time.”

Other crew members echoed Kirkland’s feelings.

“It was hectic at first,” said Spc. John Schultz, a crew chief with the unit. “We were mainly concerned with looking out for other aircraft, but our fire manager was extremely helpful allowing us to stay focused.”

“Everyone settled in quickly,” said Sgt. Jim Irby, who is also a crew chief. “When we got here and were briefed, we weren’t expecting to get a mission right away, but 30 minutes later we were in the air and dropping water on the fires.”



Once over the target area, the Kansas Guardsmen release their 660 gallons of water payload. (Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Justin Powers)



Painted with bright pink markings for better visibility to ground crews, a Kansas National Guard Black Hawk helicopter tows a collapsible water bucket to the site of wildfire containment efforts in California. (Photo by Capt. Patrik Goss)

Kirkland said the first mission, in which the crew made seven drops to protect communication towers on a hillside from being overrun by the flames, was a success.

Sgt. 1st Class Rick Baldwin, a Black Hawk crew member from the Kansas National Guard, whose crew made 30 drops since arriving July 17, also commented on the differences in fighting fires in California.

“The terrain here is totally different, so it gets busy with many aircraft operating in the same small area,” Baldwin said.

“We knew what we were doing on the bucket, but it’s still challenging, so the crew is definitely more alert.”

To watch these aircraft drop water oversimplifies what’s going on inside the aircraft. They perform the maneuvers with grace and precision, but the crewmembers are quick to point out it is much harder

than it looks.

“It’s a little unnerving at first,” Baldwin said. “The hardest part is picking out where we need to drop. We don’t want to waste any water hitting the wrong spot, so we’re constantly communicating with our fire manager and people on the ground.”

But despite the challenges, the Guard effort, working with state, federal and civil authorities, has been remarkable and seamless, something Rob Van Warmer, California Fire Diablo Battalion chief and incident manager at Chico, credits to the effort’s success.

“The Guard has been fantastic, from the aircrews to the troops on the ground,” Van Warmer said. “This is a joint effort and it’s worked out really well. The Guard has helped us to identify things that will make our operation better going forward.”

Aerial “bucket brigade” fights fires 660 gallons at a time

By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR

The bucket brigade is a time-honored firefighting technique. During their annual training, Company C, 171st General Support Aviation Battalion practiced an aerial form of the bucket brigade.

The crew trained with the 660-gallon Bambi Bucket®, a collapsible bucket carried under the aircraft. The UH 60 Black Hawk hovers, then lowers the bucket into a water source. The bucket is then flown to the location of the fire. There the water is released as a heavy downpour. The process is then repeated as needed.

Pomona Lake, south of Topeka, was the

site of this day’s training. While Sgt. Joseph Frederick, served as the ground safety from a boat launch. 1st Lt. Kevin Kennedy and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Matt Jessop piloted the UH 60 Black Hawk over the lake. With the aircraft just a few minutes out, Frederick ensured that two sport fishermen, who were launching their boat, had cleared the training area. During the training, a local resident and his dog came by to watch the training. He said that he lived nearby had heard the helicopter on several occasions. He just wanted to see what was going on. He told Frederick that he was very impressed with what the

National Guard was doing.

Jessop said “Working the bucket is really a team effort. Crew coordination is the key. Visibility is limited by the water spray and the bucket is below us. We are totally dependent on the interaction with the crew chiefs. They are our eyes.”

“As a flight Medic, this is not something that we would normally do,” said Staff Sgt. Jennifer Burpo. “This was the first time I worked the Bambi Bucket®. It was a lot of fun.” Staff Sgt J.T. Smith, Sgt. Bradley Millikan and Sgt. Heidi Stotler also took their turns directing the filling of the bucket.

“Full, the bucket is around 5,000 pounds,” said Kennedy. “That is about the same weight of a HMMWV. When lifting the bucket, the aircraft is very sluggish. The bucket does not easily come out of the water. It is like hitting the gas on an old car, then waiting for something to happen.”

“In comparison, when we lift a HMMWV, it just jumps off the ground,” he added.

The crew made several training runs dipping the bucket into the lake. This allowed for different combinations of pilots and crew chiefs to team together during the difficult

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UH-60 Black Hawk crews scoop up 660 gallons of water at a time, then... (Photo by Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR)



...dump it on its target. Recently, Kansas Guard crews assisted with fighting wildfires in California. (See story above) (Photo by Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR)

“Red Ball Express” speeds supplies to Kansas Guardsmen

By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR
In the early days of railroading, the tracks for trains carrying important or critical items were marked by a red ball hung on the signal towers. This gave the Red Ball Express clear unrestricted high speed use of the track. The Army used the term Red Ball Express for the resupply of Patton’s Third Army, as it raced across France. It was a 24-hour-a-day, seven days a week operation. It took supplies directly from the beach to the Soldiers without passing through the normal supply staging areas.

On Sept. 6, 69th Troop Command sent its own version of the Red Ball Express to carry replacements and critical items to the Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers supporting the Hurricane Gustav relief mission. At the direction of 69th TC executive officer Lt. Col. Howard Wheeler, the Logistic Staff, Maj. Monte Weathers and Sgt. 1st Class Mike Osborne, planned for equipment and personnel to be sent forward. On Sept. 6, Staff Sgt. Frederick Herrick picked up a van from Topeka and headed to Kansas City. There, he joined with 2nd Lt. David Hartel, Pfc. Christopher Tony and Pvt. Jeremiah Horn. Fully loaded, the group left with everything that the Soldiers in Louisiana needed. At 9 a.m., the Red Ball headed west on I-70. As part of Hartel’s mission, he was to conduct a reconnaissance of the routes they would travel. Taking turns driving and navigating, Hartel and Herrick evalu-

ated the nature of the roads, marking exits and fuel and rest stops. This information was passed back to Capt. Edward Ziembinski and 1st Lt. Michael Bethea in the 69th Troop Commands Tactical Operations Center. Maj. Paul Waters used this information in planning for the deployed Soldiers’ return convoys. After passing through St Louis, Mo.; Memphis, Tenn.; Jacksonville and Vicksburg, Miss. and Monroe, La., the Red Ball arrived at the Louisiana National Guard’s Camp Beauregard, Alexandria, La. The time was 1:20 a.m., Sept. 7. Less than nine hours later, the Red Ball was back on the road. Sgts. Tony Miller and Brian Unzicker had replaced Tony and Horn. They both had pressing personal reasons requiring their immediate return to Kansas. This time, the van took a westerly course through Shreveport, La., Dallas, Texas, Oklahoma City, Okla., then on to Wichita, Lawrence and Kansas City. As the van sped through Texas, Miller spoke of his missions in Louisiana. “We worked from about sunrise until sunset,” said Miller. “We were on POD (Point of Distribution) missions. That means we were passing out Meals-Ready-to-Eat, bottled water and ice to everyone that needed it. The FEMA personnel on site told us how much each car would receive and then we would fill the order.” The van dropped Miller at his home station in Wichita and Unzicker was dropped



“The Red Ball Express” is loaded with supplies for Kansas Guardsmen serving in Louisiana in support of Hurricane Gustav relief operations. (Photo by Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR)
off in Lawrence. The Red Ball’s mission was completed at 1 a.m. Sept. 8 when the van arrived back at the Kansas City armory. Although the Red Ball’s mission had been successfully completed, Herrick still had to return the van to Topeka before he continued on to his home in Emporia. Although a minor event in the 69th Troop Command’s support of Hurricane Gustav, the Red Ball delivered important equipment needed by the Soldiers in Louisiana and valuable information that will be used to plan the return of the rest of the Soldiers from Louisiana. They also returned two Soldiers whose presence was needed by their families.

Kansas Soldiers rush to the aid of post-Gustav Louisiana

Continued from Page 1
Moving into the Alexandria suburb of Pineville, members of Company A, 2-137th Infantry and 635th Armor began aiding in the distribution of ice, water, food and tarps to grateful residents. Kansas Guardsmen quickly spread from the staging point in Alexandria to points across the state rendering aid where needed. Point of distribution sites spread from Alexandria to the further reaches of Baton Rouge and New Orleans and even to its southern most regions at Golden Acres. Across the state, the most immediate needs were for clean drinking water after power was lost to most community water supplies, ice to keep cold what little food was still salvageable, food to replace what was lost and tarps to patch damaged roofs. “When the hurricane came through it knocked out all our water wells and knocked out all the power to the water wells so our water went down,” said Allen Bernheisel, Pineville chief of emergency management. “Then, there was so much widespread damage from downed transmission lines that the city is still probably

50 percent without power.” While most power had been restored, there were some regions that continued to be without power and water, like Golden Acres, where Kansas Soldiers distributed multiple truckloads of ice, water and meals ready to eat. Further north, in Baton Rouge, Soldiers provided security for a point of distribution that serviced some 500 people an hour, distributing emergency food stamps and rations. At one point, the line stretched around the block and back up a neighboring street. In Innus, a small berg south of Baton Rouge, “First Kansas” Soldiers worked in the soaring heat and humidity to distribute necessities to people throughout the parish and some neighboring parishes. “Without these boys here,” said Marvin Losavio, Pointe Coupee Parish fire chief, “we wouldn’t have had the manpower to get this done.” Of the 2,600 people affected by Hurricane Gustav in Pointe Coupee Parish, Losavio said he has serviced all of those and more. By his best estimate, the point



Soldiers of the Kansas National Guard’s Company A, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry assist Pineville, La., firefighters in unloading pallets of bottled water to be distributed to victims of Hurricane Gustav. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke)
of distribution has serviced three to four thousand people with the excess coming from neighboring parishes. “Our water system is still under a boiling order,” Losavio said. “When our wells went down, two thirds of this whole area was without drinking water and electricity. With the number of elderly we have in this area, without these guys, it could have been devastating. We could have lost a lot of people.” Like so many others throughout the state, Losavio was grateful to have the assistance he needed to take care of the people in his parish. “We sure are grateful to the people of Kansas for allowing their men to come down here and help us out,” he said. “Now that we have got to know them, we love them and want to thank the people of Kansas for allowing them to help us.”



Guardsmen loaded the ice, water and other essentials into residents’ cars in a well-oiled assembly line fashion. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke)

Bunting named national NGAUS chair

The adjutant general of Kansas is the new chairman of the National Guard Association of the United States. Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting was elected at the 130th NGAUS Conference and Exhibition in Baltimore. “Here in Kansas, we know we’ve got the best adjutant general,” said Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, “and now the rest of the country knows it, too. I am so proud of this honor for Tod, the men and women of the Guard, and for our entire state. “This is a great opportunity for Major General Bunting to share his expertise, insight and leadership with his colleagues across the country. He brings a tremendous amount of experience, as the Kansas National Guard soldiers and airmen have served here at home with tornadoes and flooding, in California with wildfires, and in Louisiana and Texas with hurricanes.” “In addition to the 500 members currently deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan we’ve had Kansas guardsmen and women on missions this year in Kosovo, the Horn of Africa, Armenia, Guam, Germany and along our border to Mexico,” said Sebelius.

Kansas mechanics ensure soldiers can accomplish mission

By Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke

As Kansas Soldiers spread across Louisiana in response to Hurricane Gustav, the mechanics of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry from Wichita, Kan., ensured the vehicles required to accomplish aid missions were ready to move at a moment's notice.

The aid mission wasn't the only thing on their mind, however. They kept a close eye on what was developing with Hurricane Ike. With so many Kansas Soldiers spread over such a large area and the potential of Hurricane Ike threatening to move inland in the gulf region, having available vehicles to move troops and supplies was imperative.

"These guys are pretty much the heartbeat of this mission," said Sgt. 1st Class Ed Crane, acting first sergeant of Headquarters and Headquarters Company. "We have to accomplish the movement mission. If things are broken, we can't move and everything falls apart."

Having accomplished more than 70 maintenance or repair jobs since departing Kansas on Sept. 2, the mechanics section

was very busy. They changed lights, fuel pumps, brakes and near countless other jobs that faded into memory as the next mechanical casualty came in.

"We have to keep this equipment moving," said Wichita resident Sgt. Sovoeung Pok as he wired up the new seals on the grease boot of a five ton truck. "On this job, I have to fix a tear in the grease boot on this wheel or the grease leaks out and we burn out the hub. It's an easy job, but it has to be done so we can be ready to move at a moment's notice. We never know when we are going to have to go."

"Taking care of these vehicles is really a matter of pride," said Staff Sgt. Robert Thomas, battalion recovery sergeant. "We have only had to recover four vehicles because, when something needs to be done, we get it done. It doesn't matter if we have to work all night. We have to be ready to move when it is time to go."

"We count on these guys to keep us going," said Crane. "We never know when we are going to have to jump. If we don't get it done, we are pretty much dead in the water."



Sgt. Sovoeung Pok, a mechanic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry, replaces the grease boot on a five ton truck. Pok deployed to Louisiana in support of relief efforts after Hurricane Gustav ravaged the state, leaving scores without power and water. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th MPAD)

35th Infantry Division supports hurricane Tactical Operation Center

By Maj. Angela Halverson

Fifty-two Soldiers from the 35th Division Headquarters from Fort Leavenworth, Kan., returned home Sept. 13 from their deployment to Louisiana Sept. 2, 2008, in support of Hurricane Gustav relief efforts.

The 35th Division mobilized several sections to Louisiana including personnel from the intelligence, information operations, contracting, civil military operations

and judge advocate general shops.

They also integrated key people into the personnel, operations, supply, future planners and public affairs offices that the Louisiana National Guard already had in place as a part of Joint Task Force Pelican, the command and control task force for hurricane relief efforts.

The combined force created and maintained a Tactical Operations Center in Carville, La., that served as the hub of mil-

itary operations supporting hurricane relief efforts in the state.

Sgt. Kimberly M. Allen, from the personnel shop said being mobilized as a Tactical Operations Center (TOC) is about supporting other Soldiers on the ground.

"If you can help the Soldier, and the Soldier is the one that's helping the mission, then you support the mission," Allen said.

Soldiers in the TOC assisted in bringing aid to the residents of Louisiana by setting up of points of distribution sites where residents hit hardest by Gustav could pick up free water, food, ice, blankets and tarps. The operations also included the mobilization of security forces to prevent looting and the dispatch of buses to move evacuees in and out of the hurricane zone.

Lt. Col. Thomas W. Burke, the executive officer for the forward deployed element of the 35th, said the division Soldiers did what they could to help coordinate the distribution efforts around the state. He said overall the mobilization went well.

"I think it went great. I think we were able to help out and help the Louisiana National Guard provide a lot of support to all the different civilians that were out there providing missions and helping them get ice, food, and water and tarps out to everybody," Burke said. "Of course, our particular mission we had here was not in the direct distribution, but in helping to coordinate all those different locations."

"It was a smooth integration, we were glad to have them. They assisted greatly in helping us maintain control of a possibly devastating situation."

*Capt. Justin Gwynn,
415th Military Intelligence
Battalion,
Louisiana National Guard*

Burke said although the extra personnel arrived after the hurricane hit, they were fully integrated into Louisiana National Guard's operations.

"The Louisiana National Guard did a great job of being able to integrate us in, but at the time when we arrived, of course, they were in the thick of things just trying to execute missions and everything," Burke said.

Capt. Justin A. Gwynn, the commanding officer for Company A, 415th Military Intelligence Battalion, Louisiana National Guard, based in Carville, La., and the battle captain for Joint Task Force Pelican, said the integration was smooth from their perspective as well.

"It was a smooth integration, we were glad to have them," Gwynn said. "They

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Personnel, equipment head south to assist with hurricane relief



The Incident Response Vehicle sits outside the Regional Support Activity in Port Barre, La. The IRV and its crew of six Kansas Guardsmen mobilized to Louisiana to serve as the communications hub for Hurricane Gustav relief efforts. (Photo by Pfc. Sherridan M. Franklin)

By Pfc. Sherridan M. Franklin

Six members of the Kansas National Guard deployed to Port Barre, La., with the Incident Response Vehicle Sept. 2, 2008, to provide round-the clock communications support for storm ravaged areas of Louisiana following Hurricane Gustav.

The Incident Response Vehicle is a mobile communications vehicle that serves as a communication network for National Guard units and civilian first responders following a natural disaster that knocks out power and communication in an area.

Tech. Sgt. Scott C. Tanos of the 190th Communications Flight, Topeka, Kan., was the noncommissioned officer in charge of the IRV's mission in Louisiana. He described the Incident Response Vehicle as a full-spectrum vehicle with the capability

to connect National Guard members in a forward deployed area with a network in a distant location. The Incident Response Vehicle can provide teleconferencing, Army and civilian internet, wireless public and military satellite, a self-contained network and a Internet protocol telephone system for Guardsmen and civilian emergency responders.

The Incident Response Vehicle expands much like a recreational vehicle and comes equipped with its own generator that can sustain communications operations for up to a week before it needs to be refueled.

Sgt. Georgia S. Schafer, Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas, a computer technician in the Incident Response Vehicle, said the vehicle's mission is essential to maintaining

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Maj. Robert Arteaga, (left) 35th Division Information Operations section, works with Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Mark Paxton in the Communications shop of the Tactical Operations Center on Sept. 3, 2008, in support of Hurricane Gustav relief efforts. (Photo by Maj. Angela Halvorson)

Black Hawk crews deploy to assist with Hurricane Ike relief



A Kansas National Guard Black Hawk helicopter flies over the Texas coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike. Capt. Patrik Goss said the the damage was comparable to what happened in Greensburg, Kan. “Just total destruction.” (Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Douglas Hoover)

By Sharon Watson

Three UH-60 Black Hawks from the Kansas Army National Guard’s 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation and Company C, 1st Battalion, 171st General Support Aviation Battalion flew to San Angelo, Texas, in support of relief operations related to Hurricane Ike. Upon arrival in Texas the three Black Hawks were integrated into the Aviation Task Force 171, which comprised of approximately 10 Black Hawks, eight UH-1 Hueys and five CH-47 Chinooks.

The 20 soldiers deployed Sept. 12 after a one-day weather-related delay. Initially, they were planning to travel to Camp Robinson, Ark., to stage there for response. However, weather prevented the trip as Camp Robinson was projected to be impacted by Hurricane Ike.

After the Kansas troops arrived in San Angelo they moved on to Victoria, Texas, near Houston where they carried out their missions for the next several days. Severe weather prevented the pilots from flying Sept. 14, however, on Sept. 15, the Kansas crews were involved in the rescue of five people including an elderly couple who used a mirror to get the pilot’s attention from the ground. They also rescued five

dogs and transported in excess of 60 emergency responders throughout the day. Capt. Patrik Goss, the commander, and one of the pilots flying missions on Sept. 16 said crews were involved in picking up 65 people engaged in emergency response and their equipment and transporting them to another area. The missions were around Galveston Island, Bolivar Peninsula and Crystal Beach.

"I would compare Galveston Island and Bolivar Peninsula to Greensburg," Goss said. "Just total destruction. Galveston still has some areas where it’s livable, but not much."

Sept. 18 the crew went on a mission to Corpus Christi and Houston to pick up equipment needed to repair helicopters within the Task Force.

Returning to Kansas at approximately 8:30 p.m. on Sept. 19, the helicopter crews were greeted by cameras from local television stations anxious to hear a few details of the mission.

“We saw a lot of destruction, a lot of devastated people,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Brandy Nichols. “There was water where water shouldn’t have been and houses were gone where they should have been. It was eye-opening.”

State hosts Emergency Preparedness Day at State Fair in Hutchinson

Local and state officials urged Kansans to develop an emergency kit and a family plan during “Kansas Preparedness Month.” Gov. Kathleen Sebelius signed a proclamation declaring September as Kansas Preparedness Month to encourage everyone to focus on how best to prepare themselves for a disaster.

“We’ve had a disaster declaration in every Kansas county over the past couple years, so we know firsthand that emergencies happen no matter where you live,” said Sebelius. “I encourage Kansans to plan ahead and make sure their families are prepared should disaster strike.”

To kick off the month, Kansas Emergency Preparedness Day was held on Sept. 8 at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson. State and local agencies, first responders and private organizations braved cool and blustery weather to offer a variety of materials to the public encouraging emergency preparedness and presenting ideas on how to make sure your family, home and business is prepared for a disaster.

Participants included the Adjutant General’s Department/Kansas National Guard, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Animal Health Department, Kansas Association of Broadcasters, Citizen Corps, Kansas Civil Air Patrol, Kansas Department of Health and Environment,

American Red Cross, Kansas Highway Patrol, Hutchinson Fire Department, Hutchinson Police Department, Kansas Division of Emergency Management with their Community Emergency Response Team trailer, Reno County Emergency Management, Reno County Sheriff’s Department, Salvation Army, Kansas Department of Transportation, FEMA, FBI Local Chapter of Retired Agents and Kansas Homeland Security.

A news conference stressing the importance of emergency preparedness in the home, community and the workplace was held at the event featuring Bunting, along with Roderick Bremby, Secretary of Kansas Department of Health and Environment; Lt. Col. Robert Ladner, with the Kansas Highway Patrol and Bill Guy, Reno County emergency manager.

Emergency Preparedness Day is an annual event, but this was the first time the Kansas State Fair was chosen as the venue.

“We always try to reach as many people as we can during this event,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general and director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. “The Kansas State Fair attracts people from all over the state and even from other states. It seemed like a good fit and we were pleased with the turn-out, despite the unseasonable weather that day.”



Backed by representatives of state and local first response agencies, Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, reminds people attending the Kansas State Fair of the importance of being prepared for all kinds of natural and man-made disasters. (Photo by Jane Welch)

250th Forward Support Company holds second annual picnic

By Pfc. Lori Hudson, UPAR

It could not have been a more perfect day on Sunday, July 13, for the Soldiers and their families of the 250th Forward Support Company in Ottawa, as they enjoyed barbecue, games and even a dunk tank at their second annual picnic. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5901, which has adopted the 250th as part of the Adopt-a-Unit program, sponsored the event at Forrest Park in Ottawa. The VFW provided food for the 250th, as well as participated in the games provided by the unit for the event.

Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Stubbs, readiness noncommissioned officer and senior food operations sergeant for the 250th, organized the event and led the games, making it fun for both the kids and the adults who attended. He worked with the Past Commander Joe Arnold and Post Commander Gary Ross of the VFW, who assisted with arranging the picnic through Capt. Luke Foster. The kids, both young and young at heart enjoyed Dizzy Bat Races, took swings at the piñata and jumped in the Moon Walk. The most fun seemed to have been when everyone got to take their shot at dunking the 250th and VFW commanders and the

250th first sergeant in the dunk tank. There seemed to be an endless lineup for this unique opportunity.

Foster presented awards to Soldiers of the 250th FSC. Among the recipients were: Staff Sgt. Bradley Cole, Emporia, who received an award for 20 years of service in the Kansas Army National Guard. Army Commendation Medals were presented to Sgt. 1st Class Keith Peine, Garnett; Staff Sgt. Paul Decker, Helper; Staff Sgt. Julie Hoefler, Overland Park; Staff Sgt. David Curry, Pomona and Pfc. Shawn Smith, Olathe.

1st Sgt. Mike Guyett served up food to his Soldiers and has already begun the planning process for next year’s picnic. The 250th Company (-) and its detachments each held their own respective picnics this year, but he would like for the entire unit to come together next year so “our whole family can enjoy the event together.”

Joe Arnold, Gary Ross, Jesse Gunnels, Paul Kah and Earl Crawley of the VFW cooked burgers and hot dogs. Numerous Volunteers of the VFW helped make the event a success.

“This is the first time the VFW has hosted this type of event and the first chance for them to get involved in the community and the Kansas Army National Guard,” said Arnold. The event was extra special to him because he and Foster were deployed together in Kosovo where Foster was

executive officer for the unit during the time Arnold was there. “It’s kind of a cool thing that Captain Foster was the one who took care of our Soldiers during that deployment and now I had the chance to take care of him and his Soldiers.”



1st Sgt. Mike Guyett serves food to his Soldiers and their families during the 250th Forward Support Company picnic on July 13. (Photo by Pfc. Lori Hudson, UPAR)

Annual training helps engineer Soldiers get “better every day”

By Sgt. Eric Lawrence, UPAR

“Better every day. Our goal is to improve our operations every day,” said Capt. Chris Carter, commander of the 242nd Engineer Company based out of Coffeyville and Winfield, Kan. That goal has carried over to the attitudes of the Soldiers in the 242nd as they work to make improvements to the Kansas Army National Guard Regional Training Center in Salina.

This year the 242nd Engineer Company has been tasked to aid in the completion of several projects around the training center during their annual training. These projects include replacing multiple culverts and building a motor vehicle storage compound near the range complex. The training center will be able to provide better training opportunities once these improvements are completed.

While the Soldiers in the 242nd enjoy performing their jobs as engineers, they continue to train as they fight. Along with the improvements to the training center, Soldiers of the 242nd Engineer Company were able to receive training designed to simulate situations encountered in Iraq or Afghanistan.

“This is an excellent opportunity for us

to train in both realistic theater situations as well as training for our jobs as horizontal engineers,” said Carter.

This year during their annual training, Soldiers of the 242nd Engineer Company received training in several critical areas. Soldiers received training on weapons qualification, medical evacuation and driver’s safety. Daily convoy operations were conducted in a manner consistent with current theater convoy operations. Soldiers were also given an opportunity to utilize state of the art training on the center’s Virtual Convoy Operations Trainer. The training allowed Soldiers to enter a virtual theater of operations and conduct convoy operations in a safe and controlled environment.

“This is a great way to receive some excellent training while having a good time,” said Sgt. Daniel Shipley.

Working with the staff at the training center offered the members of the 242nd Engineer Company the opportunity to receive valuable training while continuing to improve the training facility. The “better every day” attitude continues to serve not only the members of the 242nd, but also the thousands of Soldiers who train annually at the center.



Soldiers of the 242nd Engineer Company work on a culvert project at the Kansas Regional Training Center in Salina during the unit’s annual training. Sgt. 1st Class Warren Wood (dark hardhat) supervises hydraulic excavator operator, Spc. Kenneth Ruppel and (counter-clockwise, from the right) Sgt. Rickey Beerbower, Spc. Andrew Scott and Spc. Robert Allison. (Photo by Capt. Sean Linn, UPAR)

Soldier Readiness Processing prepares Soldiers for deployment

By Spc. Jessica Rohr, 105th MPAD

The 287th Sustainment Brigade will be deploying to Iraq soon to provide assistance in Operation Iraqi Freedom, but before any unit can deploy, each Soldier in the unit must run through Soldier Readiness Processing. While SRP ensures that in-processing Soldiers meet the readiness criteria for deployment, it also functions as a reliable source for identifying deficiencies within a unit.

The SRP puts Soldiers through a rigorous system that checks for up-to-date legal and personnel documents, provides a medical evaluation and supplies the Soldier with essential equipment for their deployment. This ensures that Soldiers and their family members will not have medical, personnel, financial or legal problems during the deployment.

Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Hall, supervisor of Administrative SRP, Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas, said, “Our purpose is to get all the unit members that are possibly deploying to come in one location. On

average, we handle 125 Soldiers a day.”

The personnel office individually leads each Soldier through a review of their personnel records. Soldiers have the opportunity to update information on marital status, sign-up for TRICARE health insurance and Service Group Life Insurance policies, establish Basic Housing Allowance and create a direct deposit pay.

These may seem like small items now, but when they are wrong in the system it can cause a number of problems down the road for deployed Soldiers and their family members back home. After everything has been corrected and the Soldier has been approved for a deployment, he is issued the equipment needed to make the mission overseas successful.

Hall says that planning for a Soldier Readiness Processing is just as important as actually going through one. Having all of your personal records in order will help the process of going through an SRP.

“Each Soldier needs to bring personal documents including marriage licenses,



Sgt. 1st Class John Kilpatrick of 287th Sustainment Brigade sat down bravely to get his lab work done for Soldier Readiness Processing by medic Spc. Jeremy Burgess of the Kansas National Guard Medical Detachment. (Photo by Spc. Jessica Rohr, 105th MPAD)

birth certificates, financial documents, mortgage or rental agreements and social security numbers of family members for administrative use,” said Hall. “On the medical side, Soldiers will need to bring in documents pertaining to any medical visits or procedures that they have had since their last SRP, including dental and shot records.”

Within the legal department, Judge Advocate General officers make sure that each Soldier has all of his legal documents in order. This can include drafting a will and power of attorney or any other personal civil legal problem a Soldier may have, helping with creditors and reviewing leases.

By seeing the JAG during an SRP, Soldiers can be sure that the correctly appointed person can legally handle things back home in their absence. The Judge Advocate General Corps can assist in a wide range of legal services free of charge at any time.

Medical personnel thoroughly ensure each Soldier is healthy and clear of any medical conditions that may bring complications during a deployment. Soldiers receive hearing tests, dental screenings, and any vaccinations that may be required for their area of deployment.

Spc. Jeremy Burgess and Staff Sgt. Gabriel Bailey assisted at the lab station for the 287th Sustainment Brigade’s med-

ical SRP.

“We do regular medical readiness type missions, like periodical health assessments which every Soldier does,” said Bailey. “On top of that, we’ll also do Soldier Readiness Preparations for units that are deploying. So we’ll usually see the unit going through SRP a couple of times before they head down range.”

“The first time, they are going through everything trying to get glasses, hearing exams, dental and HIV testing,” said Bailey. “Then, like today, what we are doing is going back over things, scrubbing out the final few things they need to get done. That way when they get to their mobilization site it is a smoother transition for them and they have more stuff completed.”

Although Soldier Readiness Processing can seem tedious and methodical, it can go by quickly and easily if you have the proper paper work on hand. Having all your paper work done correctly will make the deployment go by smoothly for both you and your family. It is much easier to find and fix problems at home station rather than having to solve them from thousands of miles away. Without the effort of the many Soldiers staffing Soldier Readiness Preparations when called, Kansas Army National Guard units would not be able to have their Soldiers ready for deployment.



Spc. Cassandra Miller (right) and Sgt. James Dowis answered questions to update their logistical information during a Soldier Readiness Processing for the 287th Sustainment Brigade. (Photo by Spc. Jessica Rohr, 105th MPAD)

Aerial “bucket brigade”

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maneuver. The bucket was then flown over a vacant field, where the water was released. The bucket would only be deployed at the direction of the governor of Kansas in sup-

port of civil authorities. This training would most likely come into use combating large grass fires. Less likely, but equally effective, would be using the bucket to drown an out of control building fire.

Being a general’s wife was furthest thing from Georgia’s mind

By Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

Being a general’s wife was the furthest thing from Georgia Ann Rickard’s mind when she, the daughter of Laurel H. and Mary Jean Rickard of Medicine Lodge, married Jonathan P. Small on Aug. 10, 1968. At the time, he was a college student, working his way through Kansas State University and still nearly a year away from his commission as an Army officer.

Georgia’s profession is that of a teacher. She had always wanted to be a teacher, since her family already had many teachers in it. She expected her new husband to become a lawyer and together, with sound professions, they’d raise a family. Of course, the family they got was much larger than expected—nearly 6,000 Kansas Army National Guard members.

Over the years, she stood by her husband through the intricate twists and turns of being an Army officer while juggling her 37 years as a teacher (she teaches second through fifth grade reading—and enjoys every minute of it) and fondly remembers past experiences and friends over the last 40 years.

Brig. Gen. Small was a judge advocate general and a field artillery officer and spent many years executing his duties in both branches.

“Even though I always felt he loved the artillery branch a little more,” Georgia says. “I always preferred him in the JAG Corps. I always felt he was safer there—but he always loved to be around the big guns.”

“The National Guard took a lot of his time,” said Georgia, “but we always made sure that our family wouldn’t suffer because of it.”

Georgia’s eyes twinkle with fond memories as she reflects on past Christmases where she and her husband would take their son, Arron and their daughter, Jennifer, to Minnesota on skiing outings. They would stay in a cabin that was just a rock’s throw from Canada and enjoy the deep snow—and each other. The cabin had no television or phone, but they would cement their family bonds tighter by participating in family activities such as reading, skiing and playing board games.

Camping trips took place in the summer. The purpose of the camping trips was to “get away” from the military and legal business that constantly demanded much



Mrs. Georgia Small and her husband retired Brig. Gen. Jonathan P. Small take a couple of moments in front of one of the flower beds in their backyard. (Photo by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD)

of her husband’s time.

“We just had to get out somewhere where we just couldn’t be reached by most people,” Georgia said. “It was family time and by never forgetting the family, our family readily accepted all the time, effort and duties that Jonathan had in the Army.”

Georgia points out she wasn’t always a general’s wife; after all, she was a second lieutenant’s wife first. Learning all the nuances necessary for an officer’s wife was easy for her, she said. After all, she

had great mentors.

“Judy Tinch, Carol Vonderschmidt, Nadine Tice, Kathy Rueger, Pam Parry and many others really helped,” she said. “We have really bonded with these people and their families and have formed friend-

Brig. Gen. Jonathan Small

Continued from Page 1
Command, Kansas Army National Guard, a position he held until becoming the deputy commander of State Area Command in October 1998. He held the position of Kansas Judge Advocate General under appointment of Gov. Joan Finney from May 1984 until May 1999. He was selected in the spring of 1999 for promotion to brigadier general by Gov. Bill Graves and thereafter promoted to brigadier general in July 2000. Gov. Kathleen Sebelius appointed Small to the position of acting adjutant general in October 2003, in which he served until January 2004.

Small’s military education includes the Field Artillery School Advance Course, Command and General Staff College, the Judge Advocate General School’s Basic and Advance Courses and the U.S. Army War College. His civilian education includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Kansas State University in 1969 and a Juris Doctorate degree in 1972 from Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, Kan.

His military awards include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Service Ribbon and Kansas National Guard Medal of Excellence.

Small has owned a private law practice in Topeka for more than 25 years. He was Assistant Kansas Attorney General from 1973-1978 and Deputy Kansas Attorney General from 1978-1979. He is a member

ships that will last forever.”

“Being married to Jonathan has been a great experience,” said Georgia. “I’ve enjoyed meeting people and forming such close friendships. We’ve always had great support by the Guard members and their families.”

She admits that being a Guard member’s wife can have a down side, but she likes to just think about all the good experiences she’s shared with her husband. One of her favorite memories is when Jonathan graduated from the U.S. Army War College.

“He was doing so much work that I was relieved that he was finally done with all those studies and I could have my husband back, but I am still so proud of him and his accomplishments by graduating that school.”

There were small trips she could take with him while he attended official duties. She enjoyed going with him when he attended the Judge Advocate School.

“He might not have had a good time because he was in classes all the time,” said Georgia, “but I loved the areas we got to see, such as Reno, Nev., and Charlottesville, Va.”

Small is just as proud of his wife as she is of him. “You know,” said Small, “she is a great ambassador for the National Guard with our state legislators. She will host suppers and other social functions and when the legislators attend, she won’t hesitate to let them know how well the Guard members and their families are doing on their missions, and what benefits and issues they need resolved.”

Georgia’s husband may be retired from military life, but she has no plans on retiring from her teaching, after all, the school year has just started. She feels it is paramount to keep working with ‘her kids.’

“With all the modern problems children face today, the fact that parental support has plummeted over the years, there are more discipline problems. The children just need a good role model and they will usually follow the role model and become great people.”

“It has been an honor for me to watch how absolutely marvelous the Guard members perform their jobs with such enthusiasm and energy, where the Guard just keeps getting better.”

Brig. Gen. Jonathan Small

of the Kansas and American Bar Associations and the National Association of Bond Lawyers. He is also a member of the American Legion, National Guard Association of the United States and Kansas and the Association of the United States Army.

Small has served as a member and president of the Kansas National Guard Disabilities Board for several years, and has been a member of the Kansas Military Board since May 1984. He is licensed to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the United States Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit, the Kansas Supreme Court and various other Federal and State courts and tribunals. He presently serves on the Board of Directors of the Railroad Heritage, Incorporated (Great Overland Station), and the Board of Directors as a Vice President of the Jayhawk Area Regional Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Small and his wife live in Topeka. Their son, Arron, and his wife, Cathy, live in Mission, Kan.. Their daughter, Jennifer, and her husband, Seth, live in Columbia, Mo., with their daughter, Maia.

“The General” of the Statehouse

By Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

Brig. Gen. Jonathan P. Small may be retired from duty in the Kansas Army National Guard, but legislators and lobbyists at the Kansas Statehouse still refer to him as “The General.” The title wasn’t given just because of his military rank, but also because of his great ability to take issues to the governing bodies of Kansas.

Small was the Assistant Kansas Attorney General from 1973-1978 and the Chief Deputy Kansas Attorney General from 1978-1979. In his private law practice, he represents influential businesses and clients that have issues brought before the Kansas lawmakers on a regular basis.

Kansas Representative Dr. David Crum acknowledges Small’s skills when he has business with Kansas lawmakers.

“General Small is very helpful by pro-

viding information on important issues. He is very supportive on issues with veterans and always pushed for their rights and benefits, and I’ve always found it enjoyable to work with him,” said Crum.

Kansas State Senator Peggy Palmer says that Small is well respected by all the legislators in the Kansas government.

“He always has all of his facts and information complete, and you can always take him at his word,” said Palmer. “I’ve always been amazed on how much of a workload he always has. He works in so many arenas and really has the respect and admiration of all of us on Capitol Hill.”

Even though Small is now retired from the Kansas Army National Guard, he still plans on lobbying for veteran issues and benefits for the Kansas Guard.

LOYALTY ★ DUTY ★ RESPECT ★ SELFLESS SERVICE ★ HONOR ★ INTEGRITY ★ PERSONAL COURAGE

LOYALTY ★ DUTY ★ RESPECT ★ SELFLESS SERVICE ★ HONOR ★ INTEGRITY ★ PERSONAL COURAGE

Kansans trained as Incident Management Team members

By Sharon Watson

In late 2006, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) asked for individuals with emergency response experience to consider volunteering to be on regional Incident Management Teams.

Just a few months later as these IMTs were about to receive notices for training, they instead received a call to go help the town of Greensburg devastated by a tornado. They stepped into the various jobs local officials could no longer fill due to the impact on their families and homes and carried out their IMT duties as if they were serving in their own community.

Despite deployments of IMTs to two more significant disasters in Kansas in 2007 (flooding and an ice storm) and to another in 2008 (tornados/flooding), all of those who volunteered for IMT duty have now gone through a week-long training course to prepare them for their next response.

Bill Brubaker, Northeast Kansas Emergency Response Regional Coordinator, with KDEM, developed the training and traveled the state to provide it ensuring each regions’ participants didn’t have to go far to receive it.

“The Greensburg tornado was the first time we deployed a complete incident management team in Kansas, and since then we’ve sent partial teams out around the state,” Brubaker said.

Each time the teams deploy, many lessons are learned about how to improve things for the next team that goes out.

“In an after action report following the response to the tornado in Chapman, we were told the IMT process was seamless, so we are improving the situation for the team member and the county receiving our help,” Brubaker noted.

Individuals from the Kansas Incident Management Teams were requested and sent to Mississippi and Louisiana to help

with the response to Hurricane Gustav. Two six-person teams served in the Louisiana Emergency Operations Center and a five-member team served in Mississippi’s Emergency Operations Center. These individuals were sent as part of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact which is an agreement between states allowing them to provide resources to one another during a disaster.

“We received tremendous praise for the work our teams did in Louisiana and Mississippi,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Director of KDEM and Kansas adjutant general. “These individuals have plenty of experience in dealing with disasters especially since several of them have worked the response to the Greensburg and Chapman tornados, flooding and ice storms. So we weren’t surprised when we heard they were doing a great job in helping out with the Gulf Coast response.”

Brubaker noted that the individuals who went to Louisiana saw their mission change when they arrived at the Emergency Operations Center.

“Change of mission on arrival by the incident leadership is not unusual and the members adapted to the new missions very well as they were reassigned to various duties in the EOC,” Brubaker said.

Kansas currently has incident management teams trained in each region of the state. There are 11 teams of nine people including three teams each in the southwest and south central regions, one in the northwest, two teams each in the north central, southeast and metro region. In addition there are two full teams in the northeast region.

The teams are made up of individuals from emergency services including police, fire and emergency management as well as public works, hospitals, public health, administrative and finance roles and



Cpl. Tom McNeal (center), a Topeka police officer, talks with Liz Zamora, a reporter for KTKA TV 49, Topeka, in the Louisiana Emergency Operations Center. McNeal was a member of an Incident Management Team from Kansas that deployed to Louisiana to assist with response and recovery operations from Hurricane Gustav. (Photo by Sharon Watson)

include private companies along with public sector.

In addition, about 25 people across the state are awaiting the six day Command and General Staff training class.

“All of the teams are interchangeable,” Brubaker said.

Kansas is one of only a few states with local and state incident management teams.

Most states have an All Hazards team, which is federally deployable, position specific, and tend to be for one jurisdiction, usually with fire-based skills.

And next year, Kansas will be adding one of these teams as well. It will consist

of 25 to 100 people who can be tasked by the federal government to deploy through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact process between states.

An Incident Management Team Working Group meets regularly to address issues such as standard operating procedures, training and deployments. This group is chaired by Matt Mercer, Southwest Kansas Emergency Management Regional Coordinator.

To become a part of an IMT in Kansas, please go to http://www.ksready.gov/PDF/IMT_Complete_Application_Form_Instructions.pdf.

Hazard mitigation planning may soon begin in your community

By Brad Moeller

With the severe storms occurring throughout the state in the last two years, planning has begun on what communities can do to create a safer environment for their citizens. Last year, the state legislature provided funding to match a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to offer the majority of counties in Kansas the opportunity to obtain a Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Hazard Mitigation Planning documents all hazards that a community faces and considers the amount of risk and vulnerability that each may incur to the community. Then plans are made to eliminate or reduce the impact such hazards may have. These plans may include projects such as school safe rooms or acquisition of properties located within areas that have repetitive flood problems.

Within the plan, the community must list all hazards that can potentially affect the community; assess the risk that each hazard poses; and note which localities of the community are most vulnerable to these hazards. Once these tasks are complete, the community must devise a list of goals, objectives and actions to be taken by each jurisdiction within the plan. Goals are broad and long-term in nature. Objectives are more specific and measurable. Actions are the tangible physical measures taken to alleviate a particular hazard.

Once the plan is complete, it is sent to the Kansas Division of Emergency Management Mitigation Office, where it is reviewed and then forwarded to FEMA. FEMA will assess the plan and approve it or ask for revisions. When the plan has final approval from FEMA, it must then be adopted by all primary jurisdiction authorities.



The state of Kansas has provided funds to match FEMA grants that encourage communities to develop a Hazard Mitigation Plan. Such plans list hazards that can potentially strike a community, such as this flooding that hit Osawatomie and numerous other towns last year, and develop ways to minimize the impact these disasters will have on the community. (Photo by Sgt. Gilbert Gonzales, 105th MPAD)

After adoption, the jurisdiction may then apply for grants from FEMA. These grants include: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants, Flood Mitigation Assistance Grants and Severe Repetitive Loss Grants. At present, the state is utilizing the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which will fund a 75 percent federal share while the jurisdiction pays the remaining 25 percent for mitigation projects. Eligible projects include: acquisition and demolition, elevation or relocation of flooded or flood-prone structures; community, school and public facilities storm shelters; power line upgrades; critical facilities protection; and

other initiatives as provided by FEMA regulations.

Wichita, for example, has 36 functional safe rooms in school buildings. Two additional safe rooms are under construction and should be completed this fall. According to Randy Duncan, director of Sedgwick County Emergency Management, the rooms were constructed in several different configurations.

“Some were built as multi-purpose rooms, which posed a challenge in dealing with relatively large, unsupported roof spans,” said Duncan. “Others were built as classrooms and have windows, which was another challenge to the design. In

the case of windows, the rooms were fitted with metal shutters equipped with six securing points— three hinges and three latches/locking mechanisms.”

Duncan said that, in addition to the Wichita School District (U.S.D. 259), the Haysville School District (U.S.D. 261) has five safe rooms in their school system and there is at least one private school in Sedgwick County that also has a safe room. U.S.D. 259 funded the construction of their safe rooms with a post disaster mitigation grant received in the aftermath of the May 3, 1999, Haysville/South Wichita tornado. U.S.D. 261 utilized funding from the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant competitive program to build their five safe rooms, as did the private school.

“It’s obvious to me that the school systems who have taken advantage of the opportunities—both pre and post disaster (mitigation) funding—have significantly improved the safety of the children who attend school in the buildings where the safe rooms are located,” said Duncan. “I also know this is a topic that nearly all of our school systems in the county are thinking about.”

All communities in Kansas are encouraged to obtain a Hazard Mitigation Plan, however it is not mandatory. At this time, 11 Kansas counties and two cities have Hazard Mitigation Plans, 86 jurisdictions have planning grants for obtaining a plan and 14 counties are either in the process of obtaining a planning grant or have expressed no intention of obtaining a plan.

For more information concerning Hazard Mitigation, please contact Brad Moeller, Hazard Mitigation Planner at (785) 274-1840, or e-mail brad.moeller@tag.ks.gov, or go to FEMA’s website at www.fema.gov.

High frequency radios keep helicopter crews in touch



Sgt. Justin Kaub (foreground) and Sgt. Shane Keene, Company A, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation, watch the indicators on a high frequency radio during an instruction course in the use of the equipment. (Photo by Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR)

By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR
Army National Guard helicopter assets are based in Topeka and Salina. To maintain their flight operations, the Black Hawk crews use FM (Frequency Modulation) and UHF (Ultra High Frequency) radios. These radios work well as long as the Blacks Hawks remain within line of sight of each other. When flying at several thousand feet, line of sight can be 40 or 50 miles. However, what happens when the aircraft are operating in the far southwestern part of Kansas or in another state fighting wildfires?

The use of high frequency radios resolves these problems. By the nature of the way that the high frequency waves react with the atmosphere allow for a planning range of more than 1,000 miles. From July 15-17, flight, maintenance and flight operation personnel of 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation (Assault) and 1st Battalion, 171st Combat Support Aviation received instruction on high frequency radios. The instruction was conducted by Jason C. Swafford of Advanced Systems, a contractor for the Communications and Electronic Command's Product Manager Aviation Mission Equipment Office. Instruction covered both the airborne and ground based high frequency radios.

The Kansas National Guard's Black Hawks have had the high frequency radios

installed for about four years. The ground stations will soon be in place, allowing for improved statewide communications. To many soldiers, the high frequency radios were new equipment.

The 1-108th made use of their aircrafts high frequency radios during their tour in Iraq. However, knowledge of this equipment is perishable and even the veterans took something away from the class.

"I wish that we would have had this class prior to being deployed," said Spc. David Kearney. "It took us sometime in country to learn how to use it and now I see that there are some features that we did not even know about."

"I was impressed about the danger warning of the antenna," said Spc. Jennifer Liskey. "The radio put out so much power that one has to be clear of it when transmitting."

"As well as voice, radios also have a text message feature," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Matt Jessop. "The crew can type in a message or preset up to 20 text messages, such as, inbound request fuel."

"With the onboard GPS, the aircraft can relay its position in latitude and longitude or in military map coordinates," said Jessop.

Once both airborne and ground radios are in place, the Kansas Army National Guard aviation support to the citizens of Kansas will be greatly enhanced.

Personnel, equipment head south

Continued from Page 11
the communications necessary to run the Regional Supply Area in Point Barre. More than 130 Kansas soldiers from the 169th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, Olathe, Kan., supported the RSA.

The RSA is a hub for the receipt of food, water, ice and tarps coming in to Louisiana from other states for distribution to the hardest hit areas of the state. Without the IRV, the RSA would be unable to communicate with agencies shipping food in and with the units in the communities that need the supplies.

"The communication is really important," Schafer said. "They [the RSA] track requests for equipment, generators, and other items across the state."

Schafer said the communication tools the vehicle provides are vital to getting the people of Louisiana the help they need to recover and rebuild.

"They [the RSA] went from one computer and a bunch of cell phones and we expanded their capabilities by giving them 15 computers with internet access and landline phones," Tanos said.

Although the Incident Response Vehicle has been deployed to other natural disasters, such as the Greensburg, Kan., tornado in 2007 and the Chapman, Kan., tornado in 2008, this mission is the first time the vehicle has left its home at Forbes Field in Topeka to deploy out of the state.

Approximately 7,000 Louisiana Guardsmen have been joined by more than 5,300 Guardsmen from 26 states to help the people of Louisiana following Hurricane Gustav. Immediately following landfall of Hurricane Gustav on Sept. 1, the Guardsmen have been clearing debris, transporting and distributing food, water and ice, and helping Louisianans return their lives to normal.

The Guard is uniquely suited like no other entity in the Department of Defense to provide this type of life-saving support to states ravaged by natural disasters. No other organization has the Guard's combination of size, skills, training and experience, dispersion across the nation, command and communications infrastructure, and the legal flexibility to support civil authorities at a moment's notice.

Skeet shoot promotes teamwork

By Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD
A skeet shoot competition for National Guard members, their families, friends and co-workers to help promote team building, comradeship and skills was held at Topeka's Ravenwood Lodge on April 11, a day before the 2008 Joint State Conference for the National Guard of Kansas.

The shooters, comprising of nine teams, braved the dreary, cloudy, cold and windy Friday to test their skeet shooting skills where they brought spontaneous energy to the gathering. All participants acknowledged the weather was the biggest challenge.

Army Guard husband and wife team members, 1st Lt. Chris and Stacy Sanders say that even though they hit barely half of their targets, they had fun. Stacy, who is the Family Readiness Group leader for the rear detachment of the 731st Maintenance Battalion, spent most of the day learning skeet shooting etiquette, even though she passed hunter's safety last year and they both shoot on private land at home.

"The 'rabbit' spot was the toughest," she said, referring to one of the 11 lanes that simulate various game conditions that are designed to simulate hunting, 'but I loved the 'lakeshots'."

"Skeet shooting is better than golf," said her husband. "I can hit a target after it has left my area." 1st Lt. Sanders said that shooting is such an important issue with him and his wife, that he bought her a shotgun for their anniversary and a handgun for Christmas.

Half of the competition was made up of female shooters and teams, and one veteran shooter was Capt. Molly Gillock, who works in the Army Guard in the director of Facilities and Engineering section, says the course was very good, but the weather

could have been the reason she didn't hit all her targets.

"If it wasn't for the wind, I could have hit all 50 targets," she said laughingly amidst cajoling from her teammates.

Kansas Air Guard member Tech. Sgt. Collin Kelley of Forbes Field, participated for the first time, even though he has been shooting since he was 17 years old. The Iraqi Freedom veteran and airman for 10 years says that he plans on making the event a yearly outing, and hopes he can compete in it again before and after his upcoming deployment to Kosovo.

The event was sponsored by 23-year veteran, and 635th Regional Support Group commander, Col. Michael Dittamo, who has been attending the event for five years. He has been shooting since 1965, and shared his knowledge with the newcomers of clay pigeon shooting.

"Shooting a shotgun is a lot different than a rifle, you have to lead your target, take into account windage, know your spread pattern, gun to target time—lots of stuff. Real conditions, like the rain and wind we've had today, affect real life shooting in the same way," he said.

All nine teams and their members agree with Dittamo. One team member, Sgt. 1st Class Randy Rice says, "If you can't shoot in the wind, you might as well not shoot in Kansas."

Cash prizes were awarded to the first, second and third place teams, and individual shooters. The winners were:

- 1st Place individual - Kevin Jacobson
- 2nd Place individual - Jay Gfeller
- 3rd Place individual - Max Nuss
- 1st Place Team - Margarita Gang
- 2nd Place team - Wannabes
- 3rd Place Team - Margarita Chicks

Tactical Operations Center

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assisted greatly in helping us maintain control of a possibly devastating situation."

Lt. Col. Stephen D. Williams, the 35th ID Information Operations officer, said the division's presence helped fill in where the Louisiana Guard was stretched thin.

"I think it has been beneficial because I think what we added was some depth to them," Williams said. "They were really stretched personnel-wise in the headquarters and having enough people to be able to do day time operations and night time operations [was a challenge]."



Sgt. 1st Class George McMahon from the 35th Infantry Division's contracting office helped set up contracts for food and water supplies as a part of Hurricane Gustav relief efforts Sept. 3, 2008. (Photo by Maj. Angela Halvorson)

There were several Soldiers deployed in support of Hurricane Gustav who were also in Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina. The 35th sent Soldiers to support relief and security efforts after Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast region in 2005.

Burke said the Louisiana National Guard learned many lessons following Katrina that they were able to use during Gustav.

"We certainly think that the Louisiana National Guard has done a great job in being able to respond," Burke said. "We definitely see that they have implemented a lot of the lessons learned from the previ-

ous hurricane that they worked through. I think overall they did an outstanding job."

35th Division commander Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson commended the Soldiers who deployed to Louisiana during his brief remarks to welcome the Soldiers home.

"When I visited there, I was consistently told by their leadership that we went above and beyond what they had asked for," Pierson said. "They told me over and over again that I had sent them the very best the division has to offer. You really made an impression down there. You showed them you were professional Soldiers and that you had a lot to offer in an operation like this."

"I am proud of each and every one you and you should be proud of yourselves."

After Pierson's remarks the Soldiers were released from duty and were able to return to their families.

Scout platoons are eyes and ears of battalion commanders

By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR

In unarmored HMMWVs armed with .50 cal machine guns, the scouts fan out in front of the Armor battalion. Their mission is to gather intelligence on the battlefield in front of the Armor battalion for the battalion commander.

“The Armor battalion may be the spearhead, but the scouts are the tip,” said 1st Lt. Christopher Coco. Coco commanded the scouts during the 1st Battalion, 635th Armor’s annual training. During the two weeks of training, the scouts conducted nearly around-the-clock operations.

“This AT was the first training with the combined scout platoons from both the Armor and Infantry battalions,” said Coco.

Coyote receives national recognition

By 1st Lt. Joe Blubaugh

The manager of the 190th Air Refueling Wing Ground Safety Program is the latest Coyote to be recognized at the national level for outstanding achievement. Chief Master Sgt. Dena Swisher was recently awarded the Air National Guard Director of Safety Outstanding Safety Achievement Award, commonly referred to as the Safety Heisman.

The prestigious award recognizes a field unit individual for outstanding ANG safety program management contributions or achievements during the fiscal year. It is the top award given in the safety field in the ANG. The award is open to officers, enlisted personnel and civilian employees assigned or detailed to an ANG field unit.

"I was pleasantly surprised and very humbled to receive this prestigious award," said Swisher.

The award is selected by the ANG Director of Safety with consultation from the ANG Safety Staff. The Director considers special accomplishments in all areas of mishap prevention, applicability of mishap prevention value outside the individual unit of assignment and community involvement or service. Special consideration is given to mishap prevention execution that crosses disciplines, functional areas, major commands, services or nations.

The award was presented to Swisher by the Director of the ANG, Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley at the ANG 2008 Leadership Summit. Swisher was surprised by the

Later this year, the Armor and Infantry battalions will merge into the battalion-sized Heavy Tactical Combat Force. Although armor and infantry have different traditions, the scouts carry the same Military Occupation Specialty and have the same mission.

“The scouts move ahead of the battalion as the eyes and ears of the commander,” said Staff Sgt. Tom Elliot. “We do this by conducting screening, zone and route reconnaissance.”

While the 635th tankers fired at Fort Riley’s Tank Gunnery Range 18, the scouts had their own range.

“We usually receive our mission after our evening meal,” said Elliot. “We start



A scout platoon gets practice firing their .50-caliber machine gun. (Photo by Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR)

our mission planning and pre-mission checks. After breakfast we work out our mission on the sand table so that everyone understands what we will be doing.”

“We then conduct rehearsals before moving out to the training area,” Coco said.

“Our mission is to find out what is in front of the battalion,” said Elliot, “what the terrain is like, where the enemy is located, his numbers and equipment and, if possible, weak points that the commander can exploit. If we get into a fight that we cannot get out of then we are really doing something wrong.”

Although, the scouts have an array of weapons, ranging from .50 cal machine guns to Squad Automatic Weapons to M16 and a variety of grenades, a scout’s most important weapon is his radio.

With the radio, the scouts keep in con-

tact with higher command, passing on the information they collect. If they run into trouble they call in support from friendly forces. This support may be direct fire from the battalion’s tanks or Bradley Fighting Vehicles or indirect fire from the battalion’s mortars, attached artillery or fixed or rotary wing close air support.

Spc. Michael Aberu, a wheeled vehicle maintenance specialist with the 635th said, “I volunteered for training with the scouts. Although, I have spent much of the training operating out of the Forward Operating Base that we set up. There I am part on the Quick Reaction Force and rear security.”

“Based on this annual training, the two scout platoons should merge well,” said Coco. “This is a good sign that the new battalion will come together into an amazing fighting force.”

Civil engineers rock Rainbow State with completion of wellness center

By Capt Alyson Stockton

A lot of people wonder why the 184th Civil Engineer Squadron gets so many great temporary duty assignments. Other Civil Engineer squadrons wonder what makes them so special.

Chief Master Sgt. Elmer Logue is happy to answer: They work hard and produce excellent results, so people ask for them by name. The 32 Airmen from the 184th CES who traveled to Helemano Plantation on Oahu, Hawaii, in July were no exception.

While there, they put to bed a project that had been eight years in the making: a wellness center for mentally challenged residents. Though it was no small task, the Jayhawks made short work of the 20,000

square foot-facility. They hung sheetrock and doors, finished painting inside and out, installed wiring and even put in bathrooms. The competencies of the workers covered everything that completion required, including the kitchen sink.

The squadron was requested by name by Air National Guard Installations and Mission Support Directorate because of their reputation for doing hard work with no excuses.

“After eight years, these people wanted their building finished. That’s why they called us,” said Logue, who went out a week early with Tech. Sgt. Alan Davis to make electrical repairs. “They wanted it finished and we finished it.”



The 184th Civil Engineer Squadron deployed to Oahu, Hawaii, for annual training in July. While there, they completed an 20,000 square-foot wellness center for mentally-challenged Hawaiians. (Photo provided)

People, technology blend into happy day for 177th Airman

By Capt. Alyson Stockton

It’s not often that a story features new-age technology and good old fashioned family values.

Tech. Sgt. Joel Unger has one of those stories.

The 177th Information Aggressor Squadron network warfare operations technician left for his first deployment to Ali al Saleim Air Base in January, knowing there was a chance he might miss his daughter’s high school graduation in May. When that chance turned into a guarantee, his Air Force family came through for his biological family.

Thanks to a new information system called Defense Connect Online (DCO), some very proficient Airmen in the 184th Communications Squadron and a little “can-do” Jayhawk spirit, Unger was “virtually” present at the Remington High School graduation ceremony on May 11.

Unger said while he doubted whether the network operators would approve this endeavor, he never doubted whether his wingmen back home could pull it off.

“Something that’s never been done before, Jayhawks always pull through,” he said.

How did it work? 184th CS commander 1st Lt. Dan Rogers had a vision for blending technology. Since DCO has an

audio delay, he figured they could use DCO and a webcam for video and a DSN conference call for the audio. Senior Airman Mike Clark of the 184th Communications Squadron wired the school to extend its existing phone lines, Master Sgt. Rich Longberg and Tech. Sgt. Bob Wilson of the 177th IAS and Chief Master Sgt. David Wilson of the 299th Network Operations Security Squadron handled network issues and Remington’s IT director lent his cooperation and expertise, as well. As a result, the audio and video synced perfectly and Unger even got some one-on-one interaction with his daughter.

“DCO is a great tool, and luckily—we know now—it works,” Rogers said. “The best part is we can do this anywhere.”


The Communication Squadron now has two mobility kits complete with laptops and webcams to support deployed unit members. They can be checked out through Chief Master Sgt. Brian Norris or Rogers.

The Jayhawk family came through for this 18-year legacy member of the 184th who says he grew up in this unit, but as for his deployed family? They packed into the video teleconference room in Kuwait to watch the graduation as if it were the last game of the World Series.

Awards and Decorations

Kansas Army National Guard

Bronze Star Medal



Maj. Robert Stinson Jr., 35th MP Co, Topeka
Capt. Eric Mabie, 35th MP Co, Topeka
1st Lt. Michael Duerr, 35th MP Co, Topeka
1st Sgt. Robert Istas, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Buchhorn, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Gary Poff, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Meritorious Service Medal



Capt. Lonnie Brungardt, 1077th Med Det, Olathe
Command Sgt. Maj. James Moberly, 69th TC, Topeka
1st Sgt. Michael Peterson, Co C, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita
1st Sgt. William Quaney, 778th Trans Co, Kansas City
Master Sgt. Cheryl Chance, HHD, 635th RSG, Hutchinson
Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Stubbs, HHC, 169th CSSB, Olathe
Staff Sgt. Gregory Schmeltz, Co B, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita

Joint Service Commendation Medal



Spc. Justin Novak, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Army Commendation Medal




Capt. Philip Morris, 35th MP Co, Topeka
1st Lt. Michael Bethea, 35th MP Co, Topeka
1st Lt. Brian Flint, 35th MP Co, Topeka
1st Lt. Edwin Stremel, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Johnathan Keck, JFHQ-KS LC, Topeka, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Master Sgt. John Conover, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Aniello Burr, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Cole, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Jason Eaves, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Marc Graves, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Judson Jones, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Sylvania King, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Recardo Moreno, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Ostermann, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Michael Barber, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Michael Boulanger, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Harry Chesney, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Staff Sgt. John Jones, 35th ID Band, Olathe
Staff Sgt. Raymond Jowers, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Daniel Mitchell, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Richard Myers, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Osbaldo Ochoa, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Michael Ricke, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Thomas Strouse II, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Dean Swanson, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Coy Anderson, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Sgt. Nicole Bell, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Nathan Blair, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Travis Blaisdell, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Mark Breuning, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Stewart Buttel, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Brian Carman, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Glenn Carter, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Terry Clark 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Jeffrey Delfrate, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Erik Dimmer, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Matthew Dobbs, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Jeremy Duehring, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Steven Ehler, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Timothy Geier, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Matthew Gerbitz, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Jennifer Gold, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Nakia Hearlson, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Michael Hogg, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Michael Jeanson, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Aaron Jones, 35th ID Band, Olathe
Sgt. Joseph Kean, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Scott Ledoux, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Kevin Linscheid, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Christopher Mason, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Steven McCord, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Kristopher McDonald, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Nathaniel Meyerson, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Justin Miser, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Joshua Moore, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. David Mundy Jr., 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Brandon Ohmie, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Scott Steppe, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Derek Upchurch, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Timothy Vandruff, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Chad Willcutt, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Robert Williams, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Ryan Allerheiligen, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Scott Baetheke, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Jesus Baquero, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. James Bartee, Jr., 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Brian Bartlett, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Shane Boden, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Robert Breinig, Jr., 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Melissa Buckentine, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Brian Cannon, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Anthony Carter, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Shane Clarke, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Shane Cobb, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Thomas Cummings, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Kyle Derousseau, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Jerry Doby, HHC (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka
Spc. James Ediger, Jr., 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Joseph Fox III, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Nolan Gibson, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Lee Harmon, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. John Harrison, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Joshua Hoyt, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Mitchel Hupe, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Ty Hysten, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Jeremy Johnson, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Lyndsey Johnson, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Gerald Jones, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Joshua Karmann, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Spc. Jeffrey Karraker, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Royce Kilgore, Jr., 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Todd Klein, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Clinton Leonard, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Darrell Love, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Jacob Maley, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Michael McGarity, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Brad McGregor, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Michelle Mitchell, Cd Special Ops Grp, Topeka
Spc. Patrick Moran, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Robert Nelson, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Eric Peterson, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Russell Reiff, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Dylan Richardson, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Michael Russell, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Kristina Santos, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Adam Schuetz, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Michael Stephens, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Rufina Sumayah, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Michael Taylor, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Anthony Thornton, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Joeseeph Warren, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Hannah Watkins, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Dennis Witmer, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Nicholas Worthen, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Pfc. Chad Barnes, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Pfc. Garrett Boyd, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Pfc. Nolan Rummel, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Pfc. Kimberly Wright, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Pvt. 1 William Gilliam, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Army Achievement Medal



Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Moyer, HHD, 635th SG, Hutchinson
Sgt. 1st Class Tye Robertson, HHD, 635th SG, Hutchinson
Staff Sgt. Charles Craig, 137th Trans Co, Olathe
Staff Sgt. Jason Williamson, Co B, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Wichita
Sgt. Cesar Blanco, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Christopher Daugherty, Det 1, 226 Eng Co, Pittsburg
Sgt. Jonathan Fairchild, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Timothy Hill, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Jason Lane, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola
Sgt. Brent Pellett, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Andrea Sladky, 35th ID Band, Olathe
Spc. Nathaniel Blaney, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Jessie Boyd, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Lynn Buck, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Clinton Donkers, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Dustin Duncan, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Kevin Fischer, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Nathaniel Fox, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Matthew Massey, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Matthew Paul, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Joshua Pope, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Christopher Pruett, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Chase Taylor, Det 1, Co A, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City
Pfc. Kristopher Edson, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Pfc. Brandon Harbert, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Pfc. Charles Riley, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Pfc. Shanell Smith, 35th ID Band, Olathe
Pvt. 2 Kyle Simmons, Co A (-), 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Lawrence

Certificate of Appreciation

Lt. Col. Norman Childs, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Leon Dupuis, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Joseph Cole, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Joseph Johnson, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Shawn Lehotta, 35th MP Co, Topeka

We Remember...


Retired Maj. James A. Chambers
Retired Maj. James A. Chambers, 63, died April 10, 2008.
He was born June 9, 1944 in Watonga, Okla.
Chambers was a member of the Kansas Army National Guard where he was a combat engineer officer assigned to Headquarters, State Area Command, Kansas Army National Guard, Topeka.
He retired with over 28 years of service.

Retired Sgt. Edward H. Small
Retired Sgt. Edward H. Small, 89, died April 20, 2008.
He was born Oct. 24, 1918, in Portland, Maine.

Sgt. Thomas Meade, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Richard Myers, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. Gerardo Santiagonieves, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. James Hallagin, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Arthur Jones, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. William Kearney, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. Jonathan Palmer, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. William Ravenstein, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Spc. John Willard, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Pvt. 2 Christopher Cates, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Pvt. 2 Shawn Gibbons, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Kansas Air National Guard

Meritorious Service Medal



Lt. Col. Oliver Bergeron, 184th IW, Wichita
Lt. Col. Joseph Jabara, 184th IW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Lt. Col. David Lind, 184th IW, Wichita, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Chief Master Sgt. Sidney Baldwin, 184th IW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Aldrich, 184th IW, Wichita
Senior Master Sgt. William Angstadt, 184th IW, Wichita
Senior Master Sgt. John Foster III, 184th IW, Wichita
Senior Master Sgt. Evan Oaks, 184th IW, Wichita
Senior Master Sgt. Brian Siefert, 184th IW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Master Sgt. Lana Burghart, 184th IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. Craig Davis, 184th IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. Thomas Gattis, 184th IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. Alan Lewis, 184th IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. Tony White, 184th IW, Wichita

Air Force Commendation Medal



Capt. Sherry Barnes, 184th IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. Basil Pepperd, 184th IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. David Perez, 184th IW, Wichita
Tech. Sgt. Crystal Cox, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Tech. Sgt. Mary Douglass, 184th IW, Wichita, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Tech. Sgt. Michael Ragan, 184th IW, Wichita
Tech. Sgt. Robert Wilson, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Senior Airman Matthew Siler, 184th IW, Wichita

Air Force Achievement Medal



Master Sgt. Chad Johnson, 184th IW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Ryan Davidson, 184th IW, Wichita
Staff Sgt. Matthew Foltz, 184th IW, Wichita
Staff Sgt. Mark Hobson, 184th IW, Wichita
Staff Sgt. Randall Kober, 184th IW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Peter Welling, 184th IW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Senior Airman Jared Halderson, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Senior Airman James Lewis, 184th IW, Wichita
Senior Airman Jeffrey Nixon, 184th IW, Wichita
Senior Airman Matthew Williams, 184th IW, Wichita

Small was a member of the Kansas Army National Guard where he was an administrative specialist assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Kansas Army National Guard, Topeka. He is the father of retired Brig. Gen. Jonathan P. Small.
He retired with over 22 years of service.

Retired Lt. Col. Bill Macey
Retired Lt. Col. Bill Macey, 74, died May 8, 2008.
He was born Sept. 25, 1933.
Macey was a member of the Kansas Army National Guard where he was an aviation officer assigned to Headquarters, State Area Command, Kansas Army National Guard, Topeka.
He retired with over 36 years of service.

Staiert retires with honors

By Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD
Col. Robert J. Staiert, Topeka, Kan., returned home from a year-long deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, capping his career before his retirement.
Staiert was the commander of the 635th Regional Support Group, headquartered in Hutchinson. The unit was the backbone of the 377th Theater Support Group which ran operations in Southwest Asia.
Staiert’s position for the 377th TSC was the chief of staff. He had to be concerned daily with security of forces; convoy operations; overseeing all the actions of the 377th TSC staff and subordinate command staffs; local civilian relations; coordinating and assisting foreign militaries in the area; naval/air/land operations in the area and working with the leaders of those foreign nations. For his exemplary performance, Staiert was awarded the Bronze Star.



Col. Robert Staiert

“Without Colonel Staiert and his performance as chief of staff, the job we faced in managing over 150,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guard and Airmen would have been a much harder task,” said 377th TSC commander, Maj. Gen. Thomas D. Robinson.
When Staiert returned from the deployment, he decided to retire with over 37 years of service. Upon his retirement, he was awarded the Legion of Merit by Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general.
The award was for his many years of service and for the duties he performed as the deputy chief of staff for logistics for the Kansas Army National Guard.
His other awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with seven oak leaf clusters, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and numerous other awards.
Staiert is married to Linda, and they have two children, a daughter, Angie, and a son, Staff Sgt. John Staiert.

Tafanelli takes helm of 69th Troop Command

Continued from Page 2
Jonathan P. Small, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard. With that act, Braden surrendered his command. Small then entrusted the colors to Tafanelli. By accepting the colors Tafanelli assumed the command of the Troop Command. To complete the ceremony Tafanelli returned the colors to Moberly.
Following the formal change of command, Braden was presented the Army Meritorious Service Medal for his superb leadership during the tenure of his com-

mand. On leaving command, Braden will assume a position on the Joint Forces Headquarters Command Staff as the operations officer. Following remarks from Small, Braden and Tafanelli the ceremony was concluded.
Activities then moved from the drill floor out into the AFRC’s lobby. There, the outgoing and incoming commanders, along with their families, cut their respective cakes. Refreshments were served to those waiting to confer their wishes to both officers.

Retirements

Kansas Army National Guard

Col. Robert Bloomquist, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Col. Walter Frederick II, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Capt. Lonnie Brungardt, 995th Maint Co (-), Smith Center
Capt. Randy Matthews, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita
Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Tritsch, HHC, 287th Sustainment Battalion, Wichita
Sgt. Maj. James Brown, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth
Sgt. Maj. Micheal Hedrick, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
1st Sgt. Stuart Speice, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City
Master Sgt. Cheryl Chance, HHD, 635th SG, Hutchinson
Sgt. 1st Class Bradford Caudill, HHC, 287th Sustainment Battalion, Wichita
Sgt. 1st Class Steven Coup, RTS-Maint, Salina
Sgt. 1st Class Mark Pows, 35th ID Band, Olathe
Sgt. 1st Class Lyle Smith, HHC, 287th Sustainment Battalion, Wichita
Sgt. 1st Class Mark Suddock, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola
Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Waggoner, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Alvin Bender, Det 1, 1161st FSC, Pratt
Staff Sgt. Barrie Gnagy, Co A, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Michael Hsu, Det 1, 1161st FSC, Pratt
Staff Sgt. Michael Jackson, Det 1, Co C, 1st Bn, 171st Avn, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Kent Kirkham, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman
Staff Sgt. Keith Kraushaar, Co E (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Carol Lock, Det 1, 137th Trans Co, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Vincent Lundin, Det 1, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Holton
Staff Sgt. Stephen Mitchell, Btry A (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Marysville
Staff Sgt. Edwin Robinson Jr., HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan

Kansas Air National Guard

Lt. Col. Michael Meyer, 190th ARW, Topeka
Lt. Col. Roger Paden, 190th ARW, Topeka
Chief Master Sgt. Larry Aldridge, 190th ARW, Topeka
Chief Master Sgt. John Kimball, 190th ARW, Topeka
Chief Master Sgt. Gene Mohr, 184th IW, Wichita
Chief Master Sgt. Gary Montgomery, 190th ARW, Topeka
Chief Master Sgt. Nancy Stout, 190th ARW, Topeka
Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Fox, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Jerry Atkinson, 184th IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. Sandra Bearden, 184th IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. Brian Custer, 184th IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. Janet Dunn, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Kim Eck, 184th IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. Stephen Harsha, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Gale Kieffer, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Deborah Kill, 184th IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. Homero Salinas, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Barry Weiner, 184th IW, Wichita
Master Sgt. Michael Wise, 190th ARW, Topeka
Tech. Sgt. Janet Billbe, 190th ARW, Topeka
Tech. Sgt. Jerry Dickinson, 190th ARW, Topeka
Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Ellis, 190th ARW, Topeka
Tech. Sgt. Barbara King, 184th IW, Wichita
Staff Sgt. Gerald McKinney, 190th ARW, Topeka

Artillery battalion shows public, dignitaries the power of MLRS

By Pfc. Lori Hudson, UPAR

On Sept. 13, members of the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery of the Kansas Army National Guard conducted a Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) “Live Fire” exercise at Fort Riley, Kan.

There was a significant turnout as nearly 400 observers, including state figures, military personnel, employers, families and other civic leaders from Kansas communities came to witness the event. Among the spectators were Congresswoman Nancy Boyda and State Representatives Vernon Swanson and Elaine Bowers.

“It turned out to be a great day to bring all of our guests out to Fort Riley and display the capabilities of our equipment,” said Lt. Col. John Rueger, battalion commander. “I feel good about our guests leaving with a better understanding of what their Soldier does during the weekend and the importance of their training.”

Before the exercise, Rueger awarded retired 1st Sgt. Joseph Lawyer the Meritorious Service Medal for his achievements during his service from May 29, 1992, to Sept. 28, 2007.

The Family Readiness Group, which supports Soldiers’ families during deploy-

ment, had an area set up with an inflatable obstacle course, a duck pond, and bubble makers for the kids, and handed out bottled water to the observers.

The Venturers, a youth organization from Ottawa, and Soldiers who have enlisted but have not yet gone through basic training, were also at the event.

Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Stubbs and Sgt. Brandon Seibel from the 250th Forward Support Company based in Ottawa served more than 600 hotdogs and accompaniments to all in attendance. After feeding the crowd, they had a unique perspective of the event from their Mobile Kitchen Trailer.

“I had never seen the MLRS rocket fire in my 23 years in the military and it was the coolest thing I’ve ever seen, especially when they did the ‘three-pack’,” said Stubbs. A three-pack is when three rockets are fired simultaneously. “The brightness of the rockets in the middle of the daytime was just awesome. If the daytime fire was that cool, a night fire would have been just unbelievable.”

It was an unforgettable spectacle with the combination of huge plumes of smoke when they were fired, the trails they left as they ascended and the unmistakable roar of



Flame and smoke, accompanied by a good deal of noise, marked each rocket launch during the live fire exercise conducted by the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery. (Photo by Glenn Helm)

the rockets as they rose skyward.

The capabilities of the M270 MLRS system make it one of the most versatile field artillery systems available in the Army’s inventory. Its range, mobility, and lethality allow it to execute the full spectrum of fire support, providing close support to maneuver units, protecting the force with counter fire, and attacking operational targets for a division or corps.

MLRS units are positioned far forward and use their “shoot-and-scoot” capability to improve survivability. Forward position-

ing is critical to accomplish the battalion’s deep fire missions in support of the maneuver commander. The M270 fires several types of munitions with ranges varying from 32 to 300 km.

The M26 rocket is the basic rocket for the MLRS. The M270 has the capability to launch 12 rockets in less than 60 seconds at up to six aim points. Each rocket dispenses 644 M77 dual-purpose improved conventional munitions. The armed submunitions detonate on impact and can penetrate up to four inches of armor.



Three rockets launched at once, a “three-pack” in field artillery terms, was an impressive site. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Traynor)



Nearly 400 people turned out to watch the exercise, include state officials, military personnel, families and friends. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Traynor)

Ammo Sections provide the bang and BOOM for tank crews

By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR

The 1st Battalion, 635th Armor tankers shot their first tank gunnery in almost five years. They could not have done so without rounds for their .50-caliber and two 7.62mm machine guns and their 120mm main gun. Keeping the crews supplied is the job of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company ammunition handling section.

Ensuring that the tank crews can rearm quickly and return to the firing line is the job of Staff Sgt. Michael Swisher. Swisher arranged the ammunition handling area with two HEMTT cargo vehicles end to end as his work area. This allowed the M1A1 Abrams to pull along one side while loaded HEMTT’s wait on the other.

“The crews pull up to the first HEMTT and unload their dunnage (spent shell casing),” explained Swisher. “They upload small arms ammunition, 7.62 and Caliber .50 and SABOT main gun rounds. They then move up to the second HEMTT where they load HEAT (High Explosive Anti Tank) rounds.”

“The unit drew 107,000 rounds of 7.62 and 54,000 rounds of cal .50 and 1,000 rounds of SABOT and HEAT rounds,” said Swisher. “In addition to what we drew for tank gunnery, we have 11,700 M16 rounds and 10,000 SAW (Squad Automatic Weapon) rounds for use by the Military Police and the Scout Platoon.”

Sgt. Robert Patrick, 2nd Battalion, 137th

Infantry, was the loading dock foreman.

“This is a whole new experience for me,” said Patrick, who was a dismounted infantryman prior to this annual training. “I am used to riding in the back of my Bradley, then dismounting with my squad.”

Patrick was keeping count on ammunition issued to each tank for each table the tank is to shoot. “Once the tank comes back, the crew unloads their spent rounds and then I clear their hand receipt and issue them a new one for the rounds that they are loading,” Patrick said.

Pfc. Christopher Pigg is the HHC’s nuclear, chemical and biological specialist. For this annual training, his job was issuing small arms ammunition to the tank crews.

“The good thing about annual training is seeing the tanks firing,” said Pigg. “The bad is working in the noon day heat.”

Spc. Tim Corbin was issuing the 70 plus pound SABOT and HEAT rounds. Each one had to be hand loaded from the HEMTT to the loader inside the Abrams.

Corbin said “I am enjoying working with the Infantry and would steal them away for the section.”

Pfc. Gregory Michel, a combat engineer with the 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry, was storing away the empty 7.62 and cal .50 ammo cans and tank round aft caps.

“I volunteered for this annual training with the 635th and then I will go right into



Spc. Tim Corbin takes an Armor Piercing Fin Stabilized Discarding Sabot round from its case on board the HEMMT cargo vehicle, preparing to transfer it to an M1A1 Abrams tank. (Photo by Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR)

annual training with my unit,” said Michel.

Acting 1st Battalion, 635th Armor Command Sgt. Maj. Tim Tiemissen said, “I am both professionally and personally grateful for the willingness, dedication and

service of these fine Soldiers. Without their assistance, our mission would have been, at best, very difficult to accomplish. Their assistance was invaluable to the overall success of our AT.”

State, federal agencies take part in pandemic flu exercise

By Spc. Jessica Rohr, 105th MPAD

The Kansas National Guard Joint Staff conducted a four-day Pandemic Flu exercise that included participants from federal and Kansas government offices. The exercise, Prairie Shield 2008, was held during the week of July 21-24 in Topeka, Kan., in support of Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius’ directive for state officials to prepare for a worst-case scenario if the pandemic influenza virus were to appear in Kansas.

Prairie Shield 2008 began with two days of briefings dealing with historical data and what each of the state’s civilian agencies and National Guard commands assigned tasks are if such an event were to occur in the state. The following two days of Prairie Shield centered on a staff exercise.

Speakers from several agencies covered an array of subjects within the pandemic flu spectrum. Federal offices represented included the FEMA, the Department of Homeland Security, United States Northern Command and the Health and Human Services. Kansas state officials included those from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Division of Emergency Management and the Kansas Highway Patrol. Other departments, such as the Louisiana National Guard and spectators from various other states, came to see how the exercise would help educate participants.

The goal of the exercise was to promote communication between different governmental departments and Kansas National Guard staff. Through the practical exercise, both Guard and government officials identified what deficiencies may need to be addressed and eliminated overlapping tasks to become more efficient during a real emergency.

The Kansas National Guard regularly

tests its roles and capabilities in supporting Kansas civil authorities. Until now, the Kansas National Guard has always participated with interagency partners to validate existing plans, but this is the first time that the Kansas National Guard Joint Staff has sponsored such an exercise. Col. Jose Davis, exercise director, said, “History tells us it is not a question of if there will be another pandemic, but when. We must be prepared to be able to support our citizens, communities and civilian authorities.”

Senior analyst for Camber Corporation, retired Col. Dan Cameron, facilitated the exercise. Cameron has participated in the construction and execution of numerous Homeland Security exercises at United States Northern Command and for a number of exercises in other states.

Cameron believed the Kansas Pandemic exercise to be one of the best he had ever been involved with.

“This was a really great exercise for a number of reasons,” said Cameron. “I attribute the success to senior leader buy-in and participation, meaningful participation by interagency partners and a lot of hard work by the Kansas J5/7 (Plans and Exercise) shop, Colonel Davis and the team he assembled.”

During the exercise, the Joint Staff and the interagency participants gained a better understanding on how such an exercise would mandate good interagency development and cooperation.

Michael McNulty, operations director for the Center for Public Health Preparedness within the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, was one of the many state officials participating in the event. During his lecture on what families can do to be prepared



Dan Hay (left), Kansas Division of Emergency Management; Col. Eric Peck, Chief of the Kansas National Guard Joint Staff and Capt. Ray Gonzalez, Kansas Highway Patrol, discuss the roles of each agency that would incur if a pandemic influenza were to appear in Kansas. (Photo by Spc. Jessica Rohr, 105th MPAD)

McNulty said, “Civilians can prepare... (by) getting together a family preparedness kit, being prepared to be on your own for a minimum of about seven days and thinking about medications, which is very difficult because a lot of prescribers and pharmacists don’t allow for stockpiling for very long. So, looking to try and do that, have enough food and water and be able to be down in your own home and take care of yourself and own family for an extended period of time.”

“This exercise increased and helped

emphasize the mutual partnerships between my agency, the National Guard, Kansas Emergency Management, Highway Patrol, Department of Transportation, and the rest of the players in the state,” said McNulty. “In the end, we all need to be prepared for such a scenario.”

For further information about pandemic flu and Kansas plans for such an emergency, please visit www.kdheks.gov or www.PandemicFlu.gov. For information on preparing for any emergency, go to www.ksready.gov.

Armory reunion set for November

Anyone who has ever been stationed at – or is currently stationed at – or has any ties to the Kansas City, Kan., Kansas National Guard armor is invited to the armory’s annual reunion on Friday, Nov. 7.

The reunion will start at 6 p.m. at the armory, 100 S. 20th Street in Kansas City. Food and drinks will be available. Events will include presentations, memorials and tours of the facility, as well as visits with

old friends.

To attend, please contact retired Sgt. Maj. Steve Gfeller at 816-729-0247; e-mail stephen.gfeller@us.army.mil. You will receive the official notification letter and sign up information as the event gets closer.

Gfeller urges everyone to send him contact information even if you are unable to attend this year. You will be put on a contact list for 2009.

“Powerful music powerfully played”

By Dave Hartmann

On Thursday evening, the Ottawa Municipal Auditorium resounded to the tones of powerful music powerfully played. The Kansas Army National Guard presented the 35th Infantry Division Band in concert.

With a huge American Flag as backdrop, OMA’s stage was crowded with highly talented musicians — more than 60 of them — as they presented a variety of concert standards, patriotic music, and jazz favorites.

1st Sgt. Mark Hecht, of Burlingame, Kan., introduced the band’s commander and conductor of the band, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Stephen Patterson. Hecht went on to introduce each number the band played, giving a bit of the tune’s history in the process.

The concert led off with Spc. Demetree Gaines, of Lyons, Kan., singing our National Anthem. This was followed with “Midway March” by John Williams and “American Overture for Band” by Joseph Wilcox Jenkins.

Sgt. Aaron Jones, of Gardner, Kan., playing the clarinet, was featured on “Clarinet Concerto” by Artie Shaw.

A song called “American Anthem,” containing the repeated phrase, “America, America, I gave my best to you,” was beautifully sung by Sgt. Rebecca Harris of Shawnee, Kan.

Next came “Synergy March” by Robert Johnson, followed by “Where the Stars and Stripes and Eagles Fly,” a patriotic and moving song sung by Spc. Daniel Bergman of Lawrence. The band then gave us “Big Band Spectacular,” by Jack Bullock, an arrangement literally packed with Big Band tunes.

During the playing of “Old Soldiers

Never Die,” by Charles R. Campbell, the band sang the words: “Old Soldiers never die. . . they just fade away.” Staff Sgt. Joseph Worthington, of Cummings, Kan., narrated “Duty, Honor, Country,” a speech by Gen. Douglas MacArthur which had been set to music.

Hecht recognized former members of the band who were in the audience, and asked them to stand briefly. Following this, the band played the songs of all five branches of the Armed Forces, requesting that veterans of each service, Coast Guard, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Army, would stand while the song of their branch of service was played.

For the finale, retired Staff Sgt. Jack Moore narrated “America the Beautiful,” with words that began: “I was born July 4th, 1776. My birth certificate is the Declaration of Independance.” The narration was extremely moving and the audience gave Moore and the band a standing ovation.

Our local area was represented in the band by Sgt. Brian Kane of Ottawa; Sgt. 1st Class Mark Powis of Garnett and two members from Lawrence.

After the performance, my granddaughter, Athena, who accompanied my wife and me, asked Patterson and a couple of the musicians if she could have a closer look at their instruments. They were more than willing to oblige and told Athena a bit about each instrument.

To my mind, there are few better ways to spend a relaxing evening than to listen to a live performance of rousing and well-played music. This was such an evening. My sincere thanks to the band, to Ottawa Music who sponsored the event, and to Shonda Stitt of the Ottawa Municipal Auditorium.

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