



**New armory
opens at
Pittsburg
State2**



**Honor Guard
strives for
perfection in
duty7**



**Recruits get
up close look
at NASCAR
race16**

PLAINS GUARDIAN

VOLUME 51 No. 5 *Serving the Kansas Army and Air National Guard, Kansas Emergency Management, Kansas Homeland Security and Civil Air Patrol* DECEMBER 2008

1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery receives heroes' welcome

By Stephen D. Larson

Approximately 260 Kansas National Guardsmen of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery were welcomed home from their deployment to Iraq during a ceremony on Oct. 18 at the Bob Brown Expo Hall, Century II, Wichita.

At the beginning of his invocation, Chaplain (Col.) Don Davidson summed up the feelings of many in the crowd of family and friends: "Thank you, O God, for bringing these Soldiers home. Thank you, dear God, for bringing them home safe."

"These Soldiers have fought hard for their country and it is great to have them back in Kansas," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the Adjutant General. "Their bravery and sacrifice is to be commended along with the sacrifices their family, friends and employers have made in their absence."

"America is the home of the free because it's also the home of the brave," said Bunting, pointing to the Soldiers, "and the finest and bravest Soldiers you will ever see are standing in front of you in this formation."

Bunting emphasized the unit's long and proud history, noting "No battalion, no unit in the Kansas National Guard has served longer with more distinction in this current combat theater than anybody who has a One-Six-One in their battery or battalion... If they say One-Six One, they're the best."

Then came the words everyone longed to hear: "One-Six-One," said Bunting, "dismissed!"

The 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas National Guard deployed in late November 2007 to Fort Bliss, Texas, for pre-mobilization training prior to going to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi

"No battalion, no unit in the Kansas National Guard has served longer with more distinction in this current combat theater than anybody who has a One-Six-One in their battery or battalion... If they say One-Six One, they're the best."

*Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting,
the adjutant general*

Freedom in January 2008. Their mission in Iraq included force protection and convoy escorts for combat logistics patrols. They provided more than 95,000 collective hours of perimeter security and conducted more than 100 combat logistics patrols. The unit also trained with their Iraqi Army counterparts.

The unit consisted of Soldiers from



The long-awaited moment arrives as members of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery march into Bob Brown Expo Hall at Century II in Wichita. (Photo by Sharon Watson)

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Wichita; Battery A, Dodge City; Battery C, Kingman; and the 1161st Forward

Support Company, Hutchinson, as well as other units from around the state.

(Continued on Page 12)

287th Sustainment Brigade honored at September deployment ceremony in Salina

By Stephen D. Larson

Soldiers of the 287th Sustainment Brigade, Kansas National Guard, were honored at a deployment ceremony on Friday, Sept. 26, as they prepared to deploy for a one-year mission in Iraq.

The ceremony took place at the Masonic Center in Salina with family and friends in attendance. Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, were present to express their pride and offer best wishes to the Soldiers.

"Logistics is a critical responsibility for any successful military operation," said Bunting. "Without a good logistical operation, the troops in the field don't get what

they need to do their jobs. These are the Soldiers that keep our military moving and taking care of business. We simply can't get along without them."

"Governor, I validated this unit two days ago," said Bunting. "These are the finest Soldiers you will ever see, they are ready to go."

"Not a day goes by in the six years that I have been governor that I haven't reflected on how proud I am to be your commander in chief," said Sebelius, "how glad I am to know that when our state needs you, you'll always answer the call."

"Now the 287th is responding to a call from citizens halfway around the globe,"

she continued. "They're calling on our help as they struggle to build a democracy out of the rubble of a dictatorship."

"Each of you is a hero, not only to your own family and friends and to those who have the privilege of knowing you, but to the countless citizens of this great state who you proudly serve."

"We are going to create a new chapter in history when we go," said Col. Robert Schmitt, brigade commander. "This brigade headquarters will be the first brigade headquarters from Kansas to deploy and do a traditional mission. We will go do what sustainment brigades are meant to do."

"When we get to Iraq, we will have the responsibility for logistics from the border in Kuwait to all the way south of Baghdad..." said Schmitt. "These 300 Soldiers out here... will be providing logistics to over 30,000 coalition forces."

"Myself and all the leaders of this organization pledge and are committed to taking care of these fine Soldiers and bringing them all home safe."

"Soldiers of the 287th, what we are doing is going to be historic, noble and future generations will all remember us and thank you for your service to your country," Schmitt concluded. "Let us go forth and let us fulfill our brigade motto: 'Sustain the Victor'."

Schmitt's charge to the Soldiers was answered by a resounding "Hooah!"

The 287th Sustainment Brigade, headquartered in Wichita, is made up of the 169th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, headquartered in Olathe; the 891st Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Iola; and the 287th Special Troops Battalion, headquartered in Hays, as well as subordinate units in each battalion.

(Continued on Page 2)



Soldiers of the 287th Sustainment Brigade, surrounded by friends and family, stand at attention during a deployment ceremony in their honor at the Salina Masonic Center. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Traynor)

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New facility provides space for Soldiers and students

By 1st Lt. Jonathan Mack
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

For the first time in Kansas history, a Kansas Army National Guard armory has been constructed on a state university campus. The momentous event took almost 10 years to become a reality and on Sept. 27

members of the Kansas Army National Guard, Pittsburg State University and state leaders, including Governor Kathleen Sebelius and Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, attended the dedication ceremony for the new Pittsburg State Recreation Center/Kansas Army National

Guard armory. The completed facility will provide services that were not available before to the students of Pittsburg State, the Pittsburg State ROTC students and members of the Kansas Army National Guard.

The armory, located at 2001 S. Rouse, is the new home of the 772nd Mobility Augmentation Company, which was previously located at 1506 N. Walnut in Pittsburg. The new armory provides a more secure bullpen for storing vehicles, a weapons training simulator, new offices and work stations for all the unit Soldiers to utilize for training and mission exercises.

Capt. Drew Polen, commander of the 772nd, said, “We in the 772nd MAC are incredibly proud and appreciative that we could be the first unit in the state of Kansas to utilize such an incredible facility.”

According to Polen, the new facility will also provide the 772nd with a far more modern working environment that parallels

“It’s a win, win, win, for all the organizations.”
Gov. Kathleen Sebelius

many of the best National Guard armories across the country.

The new armory leads the state in terms of size, technological innovation and groundbreaking architectural design.

“I would like this facility to be a model for future armories across Kansas,” said Bunting.

The facility combines three different organizations creating a new dynamic of diversity and unity.

“It’s a win, win, win, for all the organizations,” said Sebelius. “This is a great asset to the Kansas Army National Guard, the university and the students.”



Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, join members of the Kansas National Guard and Pittsburg State administration and student body to cut the ribbon, officially opening the new facility. (Photo by Sharon Watson)



The new Pittsburg State Recreation Center/Kansas Army National Guard armory is the first such joint use facility at any university in Kansas. (Photo by Jane Welch)

287th Sustainment Brigade

Continued from Page 1

Approximately 260 Soldiers of the unit deployed to their mobilization station at Fort Lewis, Wash., for additional training

before going to Iraq. Their mission in Iraq is to provide logistical support for U.S. and Coalition forces in their assigned area of operations.



Members of the Patriot Guard Riders were on hand to ensure a patriotic send-off for the Soldiers of the 287th Sustainment Brigade. (Photo by Jane Welch)



The new facility includes a state-of-the-art gym area for use by both students and National Guard members. (Photo by Sharon Watson)

Committment, loyalty see Soldiers through to completion of mission

By Staff Sgt Tim Traynor

Approximately 130 National Guardsmen of the 1161st Forward Support Company, Hutchinson, were welcomed home from their deployment to Iraq during a ceremony on Friday, Oct. 10 at the Hutchinson Sports Arena in Hutchinson.

“It’s great to have these Soldiers back home,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the Adjutant General. “I’m proud of their hard work and dedication during this deployment and I’m grateful for the support their families and friends provided them throughout their time away.”

“Our mission was not always glamorous in Iraq, but two steadfast values remained: commitment to duty and loyalty to one

another. The 1161st answered the nation’s call with pride,” said Maj. Adam Krein, company commander.

The 1161st FSC deployed as part of the Kansas National Guard’s 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery. The unit deployed in late November 2007 to Fort Bliss, Texas, for pre-mobilization training prior to going to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in January 2008. Their mission in Iraq included force protection and convoy escorts for combat logistics patrols. They provided more than 95,000 collective hours of perimeter security and conducted over 100 combat logistics patrols. The unit also conducted joint training with their Iraqi Army counterparts.



Soldiers of the 1161st Forward Support Company stand proudly in formation at the welcome home ceremony in their honor on Oct. 10. (Photo by Jane Welch)

New Kansas Lottery games to benefit veterans, museum

In advance of Veterans Day, the Kansas Lottery unveiled two new Veterans Benefit games that will provide direct funding for programs benefiting Kansas veterans.

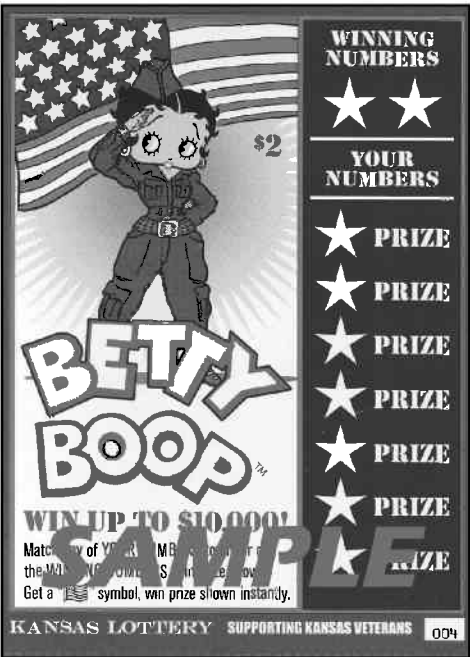
Ed Van Patten, Kansas Lottery executive director, and Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general and commander of the Kansas National Guard, introduced the new lottery games Nov. 6 at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, located at Forbes Field in Topeka. The museum is one of the entities that will receive monies generated from the sale of Veterans Benefit games.

The \$2 Betty Boop game features the iconic cartoon character dressed in military garb. Alternating tickets show Betty Boop in two different scenes. In one scene she is dressed in a sailor's outfit; in the other, she's wearing a Soldier's uniform.

"Because of its novelty and collectability, we think the Betty Boop game will be an instant hit with our players," said Van Patten. "We encourage Kansans who are 18 and over to show support for our Kansas military veterans by purchasing these tickets at their favorite lottery retailer."

The second ticket launched by the Kansas Lottery is a \$1 Military Mascots game featuring six different scenes. The mascots featured include the Army Mule, the Coast Guard Bear, the Air Force Eagle, the Marine Corps Bulldog and the Navy Goat.

"This year's Legislature provided that 30 percent of the profits from the games would go to the Museum of the Kansas National Guard through June 30, 2010," said Bunting. "This will provide much-needed funding to expand the space and offerings at the museum, which stands as a powerful symbol of the great contributions made by the men and women of the



Betty Boop \$2 tickets are one of two new Kansas Lottery scratch-off games that will benefit Kansas military veterans.

Kansas National Guard through history."

In addition to the 30 percent that the museum will receive, 40 percent of the net profits from the games go to Kansas National Guard Education Assistance Act Scholarships and 30 percent will benefit the Kansas Veterans' Home in Winfield, the Kansas Soldiers' Home at Fort Dodge and the Veterans Cemetery System.

Since the legislation authorizing Veterans Benefit games was passed in 2003, the Kansas Lottery has transferred nearly \$4 million from sale of the games. Initially, the games were sold only from May to November. In May 2008, sales of Veterans Benefit games were expanded to year round.

Transition Assistance Advisor helps Reserve veterans

Members of the National Guard and Reserve hold a unique place in the veteran population. A serving Reserve Component member who has previously served in a combat zone or contingency operations area, such as Iraq, Afghanistan, or Kosovo, is eligible for some veterans' benefits at the same time as he or she is eligible for some military benefits.

The U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs recognized the importance of benefits for the Reserve Component member and family, and created a mechanism to bring members and benefits together. The Transition Assistance Advisor at each state's National Guard headquarters is the person responsible for teaching, guiding, and advocating Reserve Component members to full use of veterans' and military benefits.

Transition Assistance Advisors work for the National Guard, but serve all Reserve Component members, veterans, families, and Active Duty members on request. Some of the areas in which the Transition Assistance Advisor works with other National Guard support services are:

- Warrior Transition (health care and rehabilitation) and Community Based Healthcare for Wounded Warriors
- Education Programs
- Deployment Cycle Support
- State Family Programs
- Substance Abuse
- Suicide Prevention



D.C. Hannah

- Leadership Training
- Retention

The Transition Assistance Advisor in Kansas works in cooperation with federal, state, local and service agencies, including:

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs
- Federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Labor
- State agencies, such as the Kansas Department of Commerce and Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
- Veterans service organizations, such as the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Community organizations and committees
- Private social service organizations
- Churches and charities

It is important to note that the Transition Assistance Advisor is not a veterans' service officer, like the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs service officer. The Transition Assistance Advisor does not file claims on the veteran's behalf.

In Kansas, the Transition Assistance Advisor is D.C. Hannah. Hannah is a veteran, a member of the American Legion and American Legion Riders and the National Captain of the Patriot Guard Riders. His office is located at the Kansas National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters in Topeka. He may be reached at:

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Melhaff is new commander of 250th Forward Support Company



(From the left) Capt. Luke Foster and Capt. Daniel Melhaff listen to Lt. Col. John Rueger, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, during a change of command ceremony for the 250th Forward Support Company. At right is Pfc. Brandon Bichsel, holding the company guidon. (Photo by Pfc. Lori Hudson, UPAR)

By Pfc. Lori Hudson, UPAR

Sept. 14, 2008, marked the last day of September drill for the 250th Forward Support Company based in Ottawa, Kan. It was also the end of Training Year 2008 and the end of the tenure of Capt. Luke Foster as commander of the 250th FSC. Foster relinquished his position to Capt. Daniel Melhaff, formerly with the 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. Lt. Col. John Rueger, commander, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, presided over the ceremony and both commanders spoke to the Soldiers during final formation for the drill weekend.

Foster came to the 250th on March 14, 2006. He was the first commander of the 250th since its inception in 2006. The 250th took over the Ottawa armory after the deactivation of the 1st Battalion, 127th Field Artillery. Foster built the new unit from the ground up, overseeing the growth and making positive strides to help the unit grow to where it is today, a place where Soldiers work together with a sense of cohesion and structure that makes the 250th the family type environment it is.

"It's been an honor to have been the commander of a unit with such good people as that of the 250th, watching the unit come together and work as one the way

they do," said Foster.

Foster is well-known among Soldiers for always insisting on a good work ethic. He encouraged them to not only practice integrity on drill weekend, but every day in their civilian lives. His last words of advice at the final formation were, "Do the right thing at the right time and in the right uniform, even when no one is looking."

Melhaff takes command of the 250th just as the unit begins its ramp-up for a mission in Egypt during Training Year 2009. At the 169th, he was the operations officer in the Support Operations Section during the previous nine months before coming to the 250th FSC. He worked full time for the director of Logistics as a logistics management specialist. Melhaff has been married for six years and he and his wife are expecting their first child at the end of January 2009. Although it will be difficult to leave his family, Melhaff said at the ceremony that he "looks forward to leading his unit to Egypt and wherever his assignment with the 250th takes him."

As with any door that closes, one opens with new beginnings, more opportunities, and many chances to strive for more and reach for even higher goals than before. Such is the case for the 250th.

It's back(pack) to school time



The 190th Air Refueling Wing, Kansas National Guard, served as one of the major sponsors for the Community Action's annual Back to School Fair held on Aug. 2 at the Kansas ExpoCentre in Topeka. The 190th ARW assisted with the assembly and delivery of the backpacks and provided the pens, folders and notebooks inserted into the backpacks. More than 3,000 people attended the event. They provided backpacks and school supplies to more than 1,500 school children. (Photo provided)

2008 brought many changes and challenges

By Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting
 The Adjutant General

The upcoming holidays make this a special time of year, especially if we take the time to focus on the most important aspects of our lives like our family, friends, faith and future. As Americans, we have so much to be thankful for, most of all our freedom. I want to say a special thank you to the men and women of the Kansas National Guard who fight and serve and sacrifice for those freedoms and to the many public safety and emergency responders who ensure Kansans stay safe year round and recover quickly when disaster hits. To those of you spending the holidays far away from home, please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers and what you are doing will live on in the freedoms of future generations.



Maj. Gen.
 Tod M. Bunting

It was a great honor to welcome home the members of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery and the 1161st Forward Support Company recently. To have these troops home for the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays means so much and we are extremely proud of their accomplishments. At the same time, the members of the 287th Sustainment Brigade will spend this holiday season in Iraq and the Embedded Training Team # 4 won't return home from

Soldier to Soldier

Change is constant

By Command Sgt. Maj. Glenn Peterson

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the leadership of the Kansas National Guard for having the confidence in my abilities by offering me the position of command sergeant major of the Joint Force Headquarters Kansas – Land Component. I have the tough task of filling the shoes of Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth and maintaining the high standards that he has set. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family as he prepares for a rotation to Iraq.



Command Sgt. Maj.
 Glenn Peterson

I am very humbled by the chance to work for the Soldiers of the Kansas National Guard and provide them the support that they deserve as members of a great organization.

Afghanistan until January, so please keep them all in your thoughts and prayers.

Recently, we celebrated Veterans Day and many of our Kansas Guardsmen participated in events across the state. We should take every opportunity possible to become well-known in our own community and to speak at local events and to civic organizations. In doing so, we provide a name and a face to the many missions the military is known for worldwide and also domestically when disaster strikes.

We've accomplished so much this year with the many successful deployments around the world. We've also helped California battle wildfires and Texas and Louisiana with hurricane response. Our Incident Management Teams, staffed with volunteer emergency management personnel from across Kansas, provided support within Kansas for tornado recovery in Chapman and Manhattan. They also deployed to help Iowa during its massive summer flooding and to Louisiana and Georgia during the hurricane season.

This year, two major initiatives have successfully been launched and a third is now underway, all of which are unique to Kansas, placing our state in the forefront for education and training capabilities and care of our military troops.

The Eisenhower Center for Homeland Security Studies in Topeka opened and has taught numerous classes to government, military and private sector staff around the state, including continuity of operations planning and disaster preparedness/homeland security issues. It has partnered with numerous government agencies, educational institutions, nongovernmental organiza-

One thing that I have learned in my 30 plus years of serving is that change is constant. All of the changes over the years have improved our readiness and the quality of life for our Soldiers. The vision for the future of our organization that our leadership has set into motion will only provide the best for our Soldiers and the citizens of Kansas for years to come.

Throughout my military career one thing that has not changed and has remained constant is the support that we receive from family and friends. I have had the opportunity to see firsthand the support and the sacrifices that the families have made while their Soldiers are deployed.

It takes a special individual to balance the commitments of family, civilian employment and a military career. This type of individual is who we have filling our formations in the Guard, showing the strength and courage to complete the mission.

I want to close in thanking the families for providing the support to our Soldiers and the sacrifices that you make, so that we can continue to provide the support to our fellow Kansans and the nation.

and private industry partners. The Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center in Salina is being developed as an elite training facility in the state for government, military and private sector to prepare for disasters. Its first completed training venue features a railcar disaster and provides hazmat training for fire, police and other emergency responders. Additional training venues are being added. The third initiative is the Resiliency Center in Topeka which will provide new and additional support to the troops who are preparing to deploy, are deployed and have returned from deployment, as well as their families. The concept developed from researching Israeli troops and has support and involvement from trainers throughout the U.S. and around the world. We were part of another first this year when we opened a National Guard armory at Pittsburg State University. This has only been done in a few other states and we are pleased to have had the support of Governor Kathleen Sebelius and the leadership at Pittsburg State to make it possible. Students and Guard members will benefit from the partnership, as will all of Kansas. In the spring, we held the first Business and Industry Forum to look at ways we can partner with the private sector to improve our disaster response capabilities. We plan to make this an annual event and hope to expand our many partnerships and develop more innovative ways to keep Kansans safe before, during and after a disaster. The Air Wings have both gone through some transitions this year and each have new commanders. The 184th's intel mission continues to draw interest from afar and the work being done there has worldwide significance. In addition, the 184th has a new Air Support Operations Squadron now forming in Salina, where a groundbreaking for the

new headquarters building was held earlier this year. The 190th Air Refueling Wing has transitioned to the KC-135R model tankers, finally retiring all of the KC-135Es. Additional changes are expected for Army and Air Guard units across the nation in the coming years and our agency will be continuously looking at what missions are best for Kansas to ensure we are doing relevant and strategic missions in our ever changing world. Another significant change we've made this year is the reorganization of the department to separate Kansas Division of Emergency Management and Kansas Homeland Security. With the many threats our nation and state face today and the significant number of disasters Kansas has been working in recent years, it became clear we needed to put a stronger emphasis on homeland security and strengthen the emergency management operations. We will now be able to focus our efforts more strategically and be in a better position to respond to emergency management needs and homeland security threats. To improve our agency's overall response capabilities and strategic focus, this year we have moved forward with the further development of our Strategic Plan, which looks ahead to 2014, and with the development of our agency's Continuity of Operations Plans to better prepare us to sustain operations in a sustained crisis. With the budget crisis that faces the state and nation, we know there are tough times ahead for government and individuals. We will need to think strategically and creatively to deal with the problems this brings us. Together, we will make it through the difficult days ahead and be stronger for it. May all of you have a safe and happy holiday season and an amazing year ahead.

Time for year-end housekeeping

By Command Chief Warrant Officer 5
 Mark Jensen

I wanted to take a moment and wish all of you a safe and joyous holiday season. As we approach the New Year, I would ask that each of you take a moment and review your individual personal file in the Personnel section to ensure all that you have accomplished and all of your success is properly documented in your records.



Command Chief
 Warrant Officer 5
 Mark Jensen

The New Year brings a Selective Retention Board in the middle of January for those with 20 years of service. We

must individually ensure we are evaluated on this board for all that we have accomplished. Documents in our file that reflect our ability to meet standards such as AFPT, height and weight, etc., must be present and current in our files. It's the time of year to do some housekeeping on our records and validate that they reflect who we are and what we do. All of you should be exceedingly proud of the job you do for our state and nation. You reflect the best of what America is. You make up the one percent of our citizenry who display the courage and dedication to put on the uniform of America's military and stand tall and immovable in the face of adversity and challenge. I'm proud to serve with you and look forward to yet another year of success and accomplishment in the Kansas National Guard. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Letter to the Editor Thanks from Louisiana

On behalf of the citizens of our grateful community, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the men and women of the 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry for their assistance to the community of Krotz Springs, La., and the surrounding rural area in the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav in September. Their hard work and compassion for the folks here will be long remembered. They not only gave us security and comfort with their physical presence, but also were excellent at lifting the spirits of a suffering community. Unfortunately, we were not well prepared for the long duration without ability to get food and water. We had experienced hurricanes many times in the past, but none affecting us for so long and as adversely as this one. Had it not been for these great Soldiers, I'm not sure how we would have managed. Again, thank you, and please convey our message to the wonderful Soldiers who assisted us in our need.

Ruth Reed
 Krotz Springs, La.

PLAINS GUARDIAN

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<http://www.Kansas.gov/ksadjutantgeneral/Library/PlainsGuardiancurrentissue.pdf>
 For change of address, contact Jane Welch.



Ask the TAG



Military IDs for dependents available at multiple locations

Where and how do I obtain military identification cards for my dependents?

There are several sites across Kansas where military identification cards are issued. Hours/days of operation vary so you should call these offices prior to going to the site.

The following guidelines are offered to ensure that your identification card can be issued quickly:

- The sponsor has to be with the dependants in order for identification cards to be issued.
 - o The only exception is that the dependants have a POA or a DD 1172 filled out and signed by the sponsor in clock 90 and Section IV filled out by either a DEERS issuing facility and/or the unit full timer.
- Each person must have two forms of identification (one identification must have a picture).
 - o For the primary - acceptable forms of identification are military identification, driver's license, college identification and passport.
 - o For the secondary - acceptable forms of identification are social security card and/or birth certificate or other state issued identification.

If you were discharged from the military after 2000 and still have an active AKO (Army Knowledge Online)account you should be able to retrieve your records from iPERMs (Personnel Electronic Records Management System)using the following link - <https://statepermsompf.hoffman.army.mil>

Locations where military identifications are issued:

- 174th Maintenance Kansas National

- Guard, Hays, (785)623.6421
 - 184th Intelligence Wing, Kansas National Guard, Wichita, (316)759-7431
 - 235th Regional Training Site, Kansas National Guard, Salina, (785)822-6612
 - 287th Sustainment Brigade, Kansas National Guard, Wichita, (316)681-6200
 - 635th Regional Support Group, Kansas National Guard, Hutchinson, (620)728-4200; (620)728-4206
 - 891st Engineer Battalion Kansas National Guard, Iola, (620)365-4035
 - 326th Regional Support Command, Kansas City, (913)334-4230, ext. 4326
 - Armed Forces Reserve Center, Kansas National Guard, Topeka Hours of operation – Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. (785)861-3971; (785)861-3983
 - Fort Leavenworth Hours of operation – Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Second Wednesday of the month – 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Last I.D. card issued at 4 p.m. (913)684-4452; (913)684-4453
 - Fort Riley. By appointment only, (785)239-3654
 - Marine Corps GS Ammunition Platoon, Topeka. By appointment only. (785)862-0923 extension 270
 - McConnell Air Force Base, Wichita, (316)759-5332
- ** ** *
- 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.*

Chaplain's Corner

Reading the newspaper is hazardous to your health

By Chaplain (Col.) Don Davidson

I admit that I am a newspaper addict. Every morning I look forward to one or two newspapers and a cup (okay, two cups) of coffee. I like to know what is going on in the world and lately there has been anything but joy.

Everyone will be or already has been affected by the downturn in our economy. We are all forced to weigh each financial decision carefully and with the holidays approaching those decisions become more and more difficult. Our emotional responses and our financial realities can be at war with each other, and that debate is a spiritual issue.

Financial decisions are spiritual decisions. Our Creator God gives us everything we need and loves us so much to set us free to make our own choices. Thus what we do with what God has given us is spiritual. When we spend our resources unwisely, or impulsively we cheat ourselves out of the life we have been given. Here are a couple of questions that might help in this season of buying:

Our Creator God gives us everything we need and loves us so much to set us free to make our own choices. Thus what we do with what God has given us is spiritual.

- a) Do I need it or do I want it?
 - b) Will the purchase help all the members of my family?
 - c) Is this a healthy choice (physical, emotional, financial)?
 - d) Does this choice honor my faith and my values?
- I hope we all celebrate this wonderful season. I hope we honor our faith by attending religious services and gathering our families for prayer. I hope we make good financial choices that keep us living in a spirit of gratitude and personal thanksgiving.

Program gives welcome makeover to Soldier's home



Volunteers with the Greater Kansas City chapter of the Association of the United States Army paint columns outside the home of Kansas National Guardsman Staff Sgt. Sean Resare. They assisted many other volunteers in giving Resare's home a makeover as part of an "Operation Soldier Assist" project. (Photo by Col. Joe Wheeler)

By Capt. Steve Wasko
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

More than 50 home remodeling professionals and volunteers, gathered on Oct. 4, 2008, to make repairs and renovations to Staff Sgt. Sean Resare's Leavenworth home as part of this year's "Operation Soldier Assist" project.

Operation Soldier Assist is a non-profit national organization that recognizes and supports U.S veterans by lobbying for additional compensation for the hardships that befall deployed troops and their families. In a collaborative community project, members of the Kansas City National Association of the Remodeling Industry and the Greater Kansas City chapter of the Association of the United States Army gathered at the Resare home to help make a difference.

Resare was a squad leader on his second deployment with 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry, Kansas National Guard, when he was injured in Iraq in February 2006. He served there from November 2005 to November 2006, participating in more than 400 combat missions. In late February 2006, Resare, along with Sgt. Jesse Davila, a fellow Kansas National Guard Soldier from Greensburg, Kan., and Dan Kuhlmeier, a civilian special agent for investigations with the U.S. Air Force, from Philadelphia, were on a patrol in Baghdad when their vehicle was destroyed by an improvised explosive device. Davila and Kuhlmeier were killed and Resare suffered a concussion and multiple shrapnel wounds. Resare was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" device and the Purple Heart for his actions during the incident.

"I am convinced that had Sean not been there on that fateful day more would have perished," said Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Hester, battalion command sergeant major, who was Resare's first sergeant in Iraq. "His decisiveness, his maturity, his care served as both a calming factor in the heat of the battle and as a motivational factor to his troopers."

The project came about through the efforts of Gulf War veteran Scott Balantine, owner of Lifestyles Custom Home Remodelers in Stanley, Kan., and chairman of the board of KCNARI. As the wars in the Middle East progressed, Balantine began to explore ways in which he could

use his talents to help returning Soldiers. Balantine pitched his renovation idea to AUSA and soon after the AUSA board began searching for potential candidates.

According to Diana Boeger, executive vice president of AUSA, it was through Hester's efforts that brought Resare to her attention. She said Hester's passionate advocacy made selecting Resare for this year's project an obvious choice.

"When I hear the word 'honor' I naturally think of Staff Sgt. Resare," said Hester, who was told about Operation Soldier Assist by State Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Rodina. "If ever an honorable man walked, it is him."

Resare said he agreed to participate in Operation Soldier Assist for one reason: To honor Davila and Kuhlmeier by providing a platform to tell their story. "I think about Jesse and Dan every day," he said, adding that his purpose was to raise awareness about them.

"AUSA wanted it to be about him (Resare) and he still was adamant that it was about Jesse, Dan and his troopers," said Hester.

A ceremony at the end of the day unveiled two oak trees that were planted in Resare's front yard and gave everybody a chance to reflect.

"These trees are a symbol of strength and endurance," said Debby Allmon, chairman of the Kansas City chapter of NARI, and are a living memorial to Davila and Kuhlmeier, serving as a constant reminder of their sacrifice.

During the ceremony, Allmon also announced that \$550 had been raised for a memorial to Davila and Kuhlmeier that was unveiled on Veterans Day at Liberty Memorial in Kansas City.

Resare and his wife, Kim, have three children. Their oldest daughter, Candice, serves with the U.S. Army Reserve's 309th Psychological Operations Battalion and has herself deployed to Iraq. Their son, Jon, is a junior at Leavenworth High School and is in the Junior ROTC program there. Jessica, their younger daughter, is 10 years old and in the fifth grade.

Resare described the day as a humbling experience. "If I deserve this, all of us deserve this," he said during the ceremony. "I wish there were words other than thank you, but there aren't."

"History does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or the timid."
Dwight D. Eisenhower

Department reorganizes, emphasizes homeland security

By Stephen D. Larson

A reorganization within the Adjutant General’s Department will now allow the agency to put a stronger emphasis on homeland security and at the same time strengthen the agency’s emergency management operations.

Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas Adjutant General, announced the changes today.

Bill Chornyak, currently deputy director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM), will become deputy director of Homeland Security, a reorganized division within the Adjutant General’s Department. He will oversee Homeland Security planning, programs and exercises and work extensively with the department’s partners in the private sector, as well as at the county and state level and at the federal level with the Department of Homeland Security.

Angee Morgan, currently senior plans officer with KDEM, will become the new deputy director of KDEM. She will oversee all aspects of the division, including response and recovery operations of disasters, emergency management planning and hazard mitigation, and work closely with nongovernmental agencies, county and state partners and at the federal level. Morgan will also work extensively with FEMA.

Chornyak will advise the adjutant general on overall strategic planning for Kansas

Homeland Security and operational issues with an emphasis on critical infrastructure programs, anti-terrorism training and the healthy and prepared schools initiative. He will be the liaison with all levels of law enforcement and will coordinate business and community partnerships, as well as collaborate on training and exercises at Crisis City, educational initiatives at the Eisenhower Center for Homeland Security Studies, and collaborate with the Kansas Fusion Center. New federal grant requirements for the state will also require the division to address counter improvised explosive device (IED) training in Kansas.

“We live in a challenging time in which homeland security must always be in the forefront of our operations and this reorganization will help us more strategically focus our efforts there,” said Bunting. “At the same time, with these changes we’ll strengthen our emergency management system in which we are currently working on 11 federal disaster declarations.”

“Bill has an extensive background in



Bill Chornyak



Angee Morgan

law enforcement and security in both the public and private sectors, including the FBI and the U.S. State Department,” Bunting said. “Angee is well known across the nation for her expertise in all

facets of emergency management. When other states need help, they’ve been known to ask for Angee by name.”

Morgan will advise the adjutant general on the four primary focus areas of emergency management: Preparedness, Response, Recovery and Mitigation. She will oversee statewide training and exercise programs, serve as the primary point of contact for all county emergency managers and advise and assist the Kansas Commission on Emergency Planning and Response (CEPR). The CEPR is currently chaired by Jack Taylor, Fire Chief of Emporia and comprised of 26 representatives of government agencies, public and private entities.

Chornyak’s position is the only new position in the reorganization and is funded through the U.S. Department of

Homeland Security. Three current KDEM staff, whose roles have focused primarily on homeland security initiatives since 2005, will comprise the staff of the new division. Homeland Security funding remained at nearly the same level for FY08 from FY07, but in the three previous years federal funds had been reduced 50 percent each year. Overall, Homeland Security staffing in Kansas was reduced by three people last year due to budget restrictions and focus on new programs.

The state’s seven Homeland Security Regional Coordinators, who serve as liaisons to counties in their respective regions, focus primarily on disaster planning and response, were retitled as Emergency Management Regional Coordinators earlier this year to reflect their primary emphasis on emergency management issues.

“This restructuring of our department allows us to continue to move two critical areas of the agency from tactical and operational levels to more strategic levels putting us in a better position to respond to homeland security threats and emergency management needs in the future,” Bunting said. “Bill and Angee will work closely on overall department programs but they will now be able to primarily focus on their respective division.”

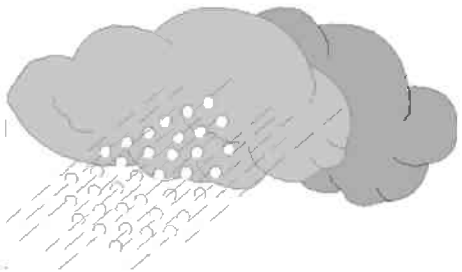
The changes took effect Nov. 1.

Winter is coming! The time to prepare home, car is now

As winter approaches it is a good time to think about preparing your family for the cold months ahead. Last year several winter storms swept through Kansas leaving thousands of residents without power and water.

The Kansas Division of Emergency Management urges all Kansans to have a family plan and an emergency kit, including food, water, medications, extra clothing, flashlights and batteries, a battery-operated NOAA weather radio and other necessities, before any potential winter storm should hit.

“Kansans have seen plenty of challenging weather conditions,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, director of Kansas Division of Emergency Management and the adjutant general of Kansas. “With potential power outages, it’s critical that everyone have an emergency kit in their home. You may not be able to travel to a store and you may be without water or heat for several days, so having what you need in advance could be the difference between life and death.”



Before Winter Storms and Extreme Cold

Add the following supplies to your disaster supplies kit:

- Rock salt to melt ice on walkways
- Sand to improve traction
- Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment.

Prepare your home and family

- Prepare for possible isolation in your home by having sufficient heating fuel; regular fuel sources may be cut off.
- Have extra blankets on hand.
- Ensure that each member of your household has a warm coat, gloves or mittens, hat, and water-resistant boots.
- Winterize your home to extend the life of your fuel supply by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.



- Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing.
- Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them.
- Learn how to shut off water valves (in case a pipe bursts).
- Be prepared to help elderly or disabled friends, neighbors or employees.

After a storm you may not have either natural gas or electric heat for your home, you can keep warm by closing off rooms you don’t need and use only safe sources of heat, like wood and other fuel-burning stoves.

Other guidelines to follow are:

- Stay inside.
- When using an alternate heat source, such as a fireplace, wood stove, or a space heater, practice fire safeguards and properly ventilate.
- Eat and drink. Food provides the body with energy for producing its own heat. Keep the body replenished with fluids to prevent dehydration.
- Wear layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing. Dress in several layers of lightweight clothing, and wear a cap -- most of your body heat is lost through your head.
- If your electricity goes off, keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to maintain the cold temperature.
- Be prepared for an emergency by having items on hand that don’t require refrigeration and can be eaten cold or heated on the outdoor grill.
- Shelf-stable food, boxed or canned milk, water, and canned goods should be part of a planned emergency food supply. Make sure you have ready-to-

use baby formula for infants and pet food. Be sure to keep a hand-held can opener for an emergency.

- Do not place food from the refrigerator or freezer out in the snow. Frozen food can thaw if it is exposed to the sun’s rays even when the temperature is very cold. Refrigerated food may become too warm and foodborne bacteria could grow.
- Rather than putting the food outside, consider taking advantage of the cold temperatures by making ice. Fill buckets, empty milk cartons or cans with water and leave them outside to freeze. Then put the homemade ice in your refrigerator, freezer, or coolers.

Prepare your car

- Check or have a mechanic check the following items on your car:
 - o Antifreeze levels
 - o Battery and ignition system
 - o Brakes
 - o Oil
 - o Exhaust system
 - o Fuel and air filters
 - o Heater and defroster



- o Lights and flashing hazard lights.
 - o Windshield wiper equipment
- Install good winter tires. Make sure the tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions.
- Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season.
- Place a winter emergency kit in each car that includes:
 - o a shovel
 - o windshield scraper, small broom
 - o flashlight
 - o battery powered radio; extra batteries
 - o water, snack foods
 - o matches
 - o extra hats, socks and mittens
 - o First aid kit with pocket knife
 - o Necessary medications
 - o blanket(s)
 - o tow chain or rope
 - o road salt and sand

- o booster cables
- o emergency flares
- o fluorescent distress flag

Dress for the Weather

- Wear several layers of loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.
- Wear mittens, which are warmer than gloves, and a hat.
- Cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs.

If you are driving

Road travel is discouraged during storm situations, but if you must travel, make sure your vehicle’s fuel tank is full.

Arrange your travel plans so you can leave well ahead of the storm front and keep an emergency kit in your car.

- Drive only if it is absolutely necessary. If you must drive, consider the following:
 - o Travel in the day, don’t travel alone, and keep others informed of your schedule.
 - o Stay on main roads.
- If a blizzard traps you in the car:
 - o Pull off the highway. Turn on hazard lights and hang a distress flag from the radio antenna or window.
 - o Remain in your vehicle where rescuers are most likely to find you. Do not set out on foot unless you can see a building close by where you know you can take shelter.
 - o Run the engine and heater about 10 minutes each hour to keep warm. When the engine is running, open a downwind window slightly for ventilation and periodically clear snow from the exhaust pipe.
 - o Exercise to maintain body heat, but avoid overexertion.
 - o Take turns sleeping. One person should be awake at all times to look for rescue crews.
 - o Drink fluids.
 - o Don’t waste battery power. Balance electrical energy needs - the use of lights, heat, and radio - with supply.
 - o Turn on the inside light at night so work crews or rescuers can see you.
 - o If stranded in a remote area, stomp large block letters in an open area spelling out HELP or SOS and line with rocks or tree limbs to attract

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Military Funeral Honors Team: “It has to be about more than yourself”

By Staff Sgt. Tim Traynor

Three volleys of shots ring out in the otherwise still, silent air. Each brings an immediate, thundering, reminder of the sacrifice the fallen service member paid to protect and serve their country. Tears of sadness are mixed with tears of pride and remembrance for their duty. This is just one aspect of how the Kansas National Guard Military Funeral Honors Team helps pay tribute to the Soldier’s service.

On any given day the call can come in to honor one of our country’s heroes. That is why the Joint Force Headquarters drill floor is often found with the Military Funeral Honors Team practicing their ceremonies with precision to ensure the fallen and their families see their legacy rested in perfection. No movement overlooked. No snapped, regimented fold of the flag made without the greatest respect and attention to detail.

“This is a lifestyle,” said Spc. Jerry Doby, Military Funeral Honors Team coordinator. The call has come in with as short as two hours notice for a ceremony. Honor Guard members are ready at a moment’s notice to respond to the call to pay respect to their fellow service members and their families.

What our honor guard offers today is based on our country’s battle for freedom. The Revolutionary War created the architecture for what our service members have refined to give every Soldier, Seaman, Marine and Airman the utmost respect for their sacrifice to their country. Each conflict has led to improved means of honoring our fallen heroes and the Honor Guard is here to ensure that their honorable duty is remembered forever.

“Honors Team members take great pride in representing whatever branch of service they are from. We represent the best of our service and we want to let the families know how proud we are to have shared a legacy with their loved ones,” said Doby.

For Honors Team member Sgt. Max Joye this is his way of giving back to those who gave so much to us. “It’s the last chance Soldiers have to pay tribute to what the individual has done for us and our country,” said Joye.

Despite humid, hot summers and bitterly cold winters, the Military Funeral Honors Team will be there to serve their fallen comrades and their families. Their service is steadfast. Inclement weather would not have stopped their fellow Soldier from their duty, nor will it ever come between the Honors Team and their honorable service.

“Negative 25 degrees, rain, heat--if the family is there, we’re there,” said Doby.

Doby’s career choice is fueled with a personal and professional passion. Doby’s father retired from the Air Force and upon his passing, there was hardly any military representation at his funeral. For Doby, this was the beginning of a new chapter in his career. After taking a 20 year break in service, Doby joined the Kansas Army National Guard and has spearheaded the Military Funeral Honors Team since 2007.

Now, the Kansas National Guard Military Funeral Honors Team is ranked third in the nation among the National Guard Honor Guard and has been awarded the privilege of being in charge of all the national cemeteries in the state. This comes from what Doby says is holding Kansas National Guard Military Funeral Honors Team to the standards of those set



Sgt. Max Joye, Spc. Jerry Doby and Staff Sgt. Jason Lane stand silently during a snowstorm at funeral services for a Kansas veteran. Weather is no deterrent to members of the Military Funeral Honors Team as they fulfill their obligation to those who have given so much for their country. (Photo by Dave Mathias)

by the Arlington National Cemetery Honor Guard (Old Guard).

Kansas has five Soldiers who have attended the National Honor Guard School taught by “Old Guard” instructors. These Soldiers, after passing the “train-the-trainer” course, instruct other Kansas National Guard Soldiers in the art of rendering military funeral honors at the Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina during an intense 40-hour State Certification Course. Graduates are awarded a certificate and earn the right to wear the Honor Guard Tab, as well as participate in the performance of military funeral honors here in Kansas.

The Kansas National Guard Military Funeral Honor Team is held “way above the Army standards,” said Doby. “There are 109 inspection points on our dress blues,” said Doby, and in the one-week-course held to train future Honor Guard Soldiers, he aims to have them succeed in every one of them. Preparations for new dress blues uniforms take approximately 20 hours to get them to standard. Maintenance after each day’s work can take about four to five hours, with up to one hour for each sleeve of the blues jacket. No detail is too small and the tolerance for error in placement of awards, badges, etc., is only 2/32 of an inch. Soldiers fail the uniform inspection if they have more than three errors (gigs) out of the 109 inspection areas which include, proper tailoring of the uniform, condition of ribbons, brass, shoes and tie tack to mention a few.

“Don’t come in thinking it’s a cake-walk; it’s a full-time job,” said Joye.

“The demand can be excruciatingly painful,” said Doby. “It has to be about more than yourself; this is not a gentleman’s course.”

Military Funeral Honors Team members are not only on stage at the cemetery, they are watched by Soldiers at their units, by their leadership and by other Soldiers they happen to meet who see the Tab. Like other special skill tabs, the Honor Guard Tab is earned, not given and the high stan-

dard of appearance and conduct is never set aside, no matter the situation.

At an event, Honor Guard Soldiers are watched from the time they enter the area to the moment they leave, even eye blinks are observed and often commented on by family members after the service. In public, the dress blue uniform makes a striking appearance, especially since many have

never seen the Army dress blue uniform outside of television. This makes the Soldier wearing the uniform and the Tab a conversation piece. The State’s Honor Guard Course helps prepare them to present an above-standard military bearing, teaches them to remain calm and focused even when under close scrutiny, so they can always perform with as near perfect precision as is humanly possible.

The hours are long, the standards far exceed the regulations and everything else must be put aside when the call comes in. Though for the Kansas National Guard Honor Guard, nothing comes close to paying their and their country’s respects to the fallen heroes and their families. Currently, the Honor Guard performs more than 20 military funerals each month, as well as fulfilling several public event requests.

Regardless of the high standard of requirements Joye said, “it increases the pride in wearing the uniform and it made me a better Soldier.”

The rendering of Military Funeral Honors is a way to show the nation’s deepest gratitude to those who, in time of war and peace, have faithfully defended our way of life and country.

“This ceremonial paying of respect is the final demonstration a grateful Nation can provide to veterans and their families,” said Doby.

The Kansas National Guard Military Funeral Honors Program is comprised of various National Guard members and units throughout Kansas. For further information regarding their duty, provided services and/or becoming a member, you may contact Spc. Jerry Doby at (785) 274-1036 or by e-mail at jerry.doby@us.army.mil.



The time-honored tradition of folding the flag is conducted with precision and solemnity befitting the honors due to a military veteran. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)



Members of the Kansas National Guard Honor Guard prepare to render a rifle salute. (Photo by Dave Mathias)

Prepare for winter weather

Continued from Page 6

the attention of rescue personnel. Additional information for preparing for winter weather is available through your county emergency management office or at the following websites:

- Kansas Division of Emergency Management - <http://www.ksready.gov/winter.shtml>
- U.S. Department Homeland Security - www.ready.gov

- Kansas Division of Emergency Management - <http://www.ksready.gov/winter.shtml>
- FEMA - http://www.fema.gov/hazard/winter/wi_before.shtm
- American Red Cross - http://www.redcross.org/services/prepare/0,1082,0_239_,00.html
- U.S. Department of Agricultural Food Safety and Inspection Service - <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

What a year!



The 137th Transportation Company delivers a generator to Oskaloosa to provide power to critical systems in the aftermath of a blizzard that began in late December 2007 and continued into January 2008. Sixty-six counties were named in a disaster declaration signed by Governor Kathleen Sebelius and damages topped \$170 million. A number of Kansas National Guard units were called out to clear debris, augment security, provide power and provide other support for civil authorities in the affected counties.



Construction on Crisis City, a joint-use training facility for civilian first responders, law enforcement and military personnel, got underway with the creation of a rail-road disaster venue. Other training areas will include a collapsed wall building, a rubble pile for search and rescue training, a modular “city” for urban counterterrorist and law enforcement training and more. Crisis City, located at the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center in Salina, is the first of several regional training centers proposed for construction across the state.



In April, the Fourth Annual Veteran's Memorial Bass Tournament was held at Coffey County Lake in honor of all Kansas Guardsmen who have given their lives in service to their country.



Ground was broken in March for a facility for the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron, a new unit of the 184th Intelligence Wing.

Deployments

- Embedded Training Team #4Afghanistan
- 102nd Military History DetachmentAfghanistan
- 287th Sustainment BrigadeIraq

Homecomings

- 731st Transportation CompanyIraq
- Embedded Training Team #3Afghanistan
- Detachment 37th Operational Support - AviationIraq
- 35th Military Police CompanyIraq
- 35th DivisionKosovo
- 1161st Forward Support CompanyIraq
- 1st Battalion, 161st Field ArtilleryIraq

Thank you all for your service
to your state and nation!



Spc. Ronald A. Schmidt

Brig. Gen. Jonathan Small, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard (left) and State Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Rodina honor the memory of Spc. Ronald A. Schmidt, who was killed in a vehicle accident while serving in Iraq with the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery.





Kids Camp participants march to their next session. Kids Camp is a fun and educational team-building experience held annually in Salina for children of Kansas National Guard members.



Members of the Kansas National Guard were called to give support to civil authorities when a severe storm system moved through Northeast Kansas. A tornado estimated to be a half mile wide cut a wide swath of destruction through the town of Chapman (above); another tornado skipped through Manhattan. The storms left two people dead, injured several, caused millions of dollars in damages and disrupted power over several counties.



Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting (left) and Maj. Dave Young (right) answer questions during the opening of the Eisenhower Center for Homeland Security Studies at the Nickell Armory in Topeka. The center offers training to business, industry, government and the private sector on homeland security, emergency management and other issues.



The 190th Air Refueling Wing, Topeka, replaced the last of its KC-135E Stratotankers with newer “R” model jets. The retirement of the “E” models was announced in March. The older aircraft, which were manufactured in the 1950s and last overhauled in the 1980s, have exhausted their functional lifespan.



Brig. Gen. John Davoren (left center) accepts the flag of command of the Kansas Army National Guard from Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general. Davoren was named to replace Brig. Gen. Jonathan Small (right), who retired from the Kansas National Guard after nearly 40 years of military service.



In addition to emergency response in Kansas, the Kansas National Guard was called on to give domestic assistance in California to battle wildfires (above). Kansas Guardsmen were also called to assist with emergency response and recovery operations along the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

Kansas training facilities drawing national attention

By Maj. Mike Wallace
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The quality facilities located at the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center in Salina, Kan., is beginning to draw national attention, and recently spotlighted top A-10 Thunderbolt crews from around the world for competition and camaraderie.

Hawgsmoke 2008 wrapped up a successful run at Salina on Oct. 17, 2008. The facility was chosen to host the event since the host unit, the 442nd Fighter Wing, an Air Force Reserve unit from Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., won the competition in 2006.

The reason Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center was chosen as the area to have the competition was that Whiteman lacks the space to park 30 or more A-10's without impeding the mission of the B-2 bomber, whose home base is also at Whiteman. Secondly, the range at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., is not large enough to handle the drops the bombing competition employs, thus making Smoky Hill Weapons Range, the largest and busiest range in the Air National Guard, and only a four hour drive from Whiteman, an obvious choice to host Hawgsmoke.

A total of 30 A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft with their pilots, maintenance crewmen, and support personnel totaling around 500 took part in the three day exercise that culminated in a bombing and gunnery competition at Smoky Hill Weapons Range, which is part of the developing Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center. This is not the first time a competi-

tion has been held at Smoky Hills Weapons Range. B-52 and B-1 bombers, F-16 fighters, AH-64 helicopters and other aircraft have used the range with units that stretch from New York to Texas, Georgia to South Dakota and Colorado.

The commander for the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center is Col. Randy Roebuck who oversees the operations and the ongoing development of the facility. He admits he is proud to be part of the developing training center.

"The GPJRTC is ideally located in the United States to be used by the Air Force and the Army for joint training," says Roebuck. "Take, for instance, this Hawgsmoke competition. Kansas has the largest and busiest range in the Air National Guard; we have state of the art electronic counter measures that are used for realistic air combat training."

"We can conduct joint Army-Air training—with unmanned aerial systems, so the air crews can directly interact with on-the-ground Soldiers and not have to 'simulate' the necessary coordination, information flow and timing that true combat mandates," Roebuck points out. "So, the ranges we have aren't just for the Air Force, we also have separate ranges for Army training. This type of training will save lives for those Soldiers and Airmen that are forced into combat situations."

Because Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting the adjutant general, has encouraged more joint training, the training available at the center is not just for military use. Civilian

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Firefighters train in South Dakota



Firefighters with the 190th Air Refueling Wing douse flames during a training exercise at Ellis Air Force Base, S. D. (Photo by Ray Beaumont)

By Staff Sgt. Emily Alley
190th ARW Public Affairs

Flashback 30 years ago. On one end of the runway lies the burned-out skeleton of an old aircraft. A fuel truck pulls to a halt nearby and begins pumping jet fuel across the naked runway. With a spark, the whole area blazes.

That was fire training. It's enough to make the EPA blush.

Modern fire training is cleaner and only takes place in a few locations throughout the United States. The fuel that isn't burned is filtered and the entire process is approved by the EPA, said Ray Beaumont, of the 190th Air Refueling Wing fire department.

"They have a way to capture the fuel and filter it," said Deputy Fire Chief Senior Master Sgt. Pat Moore. "They don't just dump it on the ground and light it on fire."

In July, the 190th ARW fire department trained at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. Every year, the fire department deploys and fights live fires. Usually, they are rela-

tively controllable propane blazes, but once every three years, including their most recent training, they engage a genuine jet fuel, fossil fuel, fire.

"Honestly, they're both hot," said Senior Airman Josh Bowser, a firefighter with the 190th ARW. "But propane is more controllable."

Fossil fuels are also more accurate, since training is designed to prepare the fire department for the nightmare of an aircraft crash. Beaumont estimates that a crash would spill about 30,000 gallons of fuel, although he notes that prevention at the 190th ARW is excellent. He adds that in his 23 years at Forbes Field there has never been an incident.

During training, each team of three to four firefighters extinguish several hundred gallons; if they dealt with a genuine crash, they would need help.

"Community firefighters are working with us," said Beaumont. "If something happens, we'd need their support."

A crash would involve the entire Topeka

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A-10 Thunderbolt II jets wing into the sky during the annual international "Hawgsmoke" competition, held this year at the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center in Salina, Kan. (Photo by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD)

EB-57 rolls off to its final resting place at museum

By Master Sgt. Bill Gilliland

A little piece of 190th Air Refueling Wing history made its way down the taxiway on Forbes Field one last time on Aug. 6, 2008, when aircraft number 52-1526, an EB-57, made its way from the 190th's ramp to the Museum of the Kansas National Guard.

It was just over 30 years earlier that this same jet rolled down the taxiway. That was in April 1978 when the 190th was about to become an air refueling group. It was under its own power as it was being transferred to the Vermont Air National Guard's 158th Defense Systems Evaluation Group to serve its final days as part of Air Force inventory. The EB designation meant that the jet employed electronic countermeasures to test U.S. air defenses.

Sometime early in 2001, Master Sgt. Kevin Drewelow ran across some old 190th aircraft as part of an Internet search and took the idea of bringing one back to Forbes to Col Mike O'Toole, then Maintenance Group commander, who gave the idea the green light. After some inquiries, it was discovered that a former 190th Defense Systems Evaluation Group jet, EB-57 #52-1526, was available at Beale Air Force Base in California. How it had gotten from Vermont to Beale seems to be forgotten; even official Air Force records shed no light on its final flight. Early efforts to get the old jet back to Forbes fell short and it seemed that the idea might not fly.

In 2005, Master Sgt. Alan Laub, inspired

in part by some of the stories about the B-57s told by the wing's senior members, led the effort to recover the former 190th jet. A group of dedicated Coyotes spent many hours getting the jet disassembled and transported back to Forbes from its last location at Beale.

Getting it here was no easy task, since the jet had to be disassembled into four main parts—the fuselage, both wings and the tail assembly—and all of the pieces were oversized. Laub had the right experience and, by building a set of special jigs mounted on semi trucks, he made the long trip from California to Kansas.

Over the next several years, Laub with an able assist from the phase dock and other groups of equally dedicated members, spent more long hours getting the old jet back to something like it was in its flying days. Avionics recreated the instrument panel, others did the painting and even some of the units' retirees helped to reassemble the jet and get it into shape for its final duty, to inform the public about the 190th and its heritage. It was dedicated during the June 2007 drill as part of the unit's 50th Anniversary celebration.

One last task remained—getting #52-1526 to the Museum of the Kansas National Guard. Again, Laub was the leader of a small group of Kansas Coyotes, who made the trek with the old jet down the taxiway one last time. But the taxiway was the easy part. Once off the taxiway,

(Continued on Page 13)



Jet #52-1526, an EB-57 aircraft formerly based at Forbes Field, Topeka, makes its final taxi down the runway on its way to the Museum of the Kansas National Guard farther south in the Forbes Field complex. (Photo by Master Sgt. Allen Pickert, 190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs)

Legislator shares stories of deployment to Iraq

By Maj. Mike Wallace
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Kansas State Representative Lee Tavanelli (R-District 47) was the guest speaker for El Dorado citizens on Oct. 21, 2008, to answer their questions on his past deployment in Southwest Asia. He was invited to speak by Kansas State Representative John C. Grange (R-District 75), who is the representative for the El Dorado area.

“Since 2004, Kansas had deployed more than 1,800 Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers in seven deployments,” said Tavanelli, who is also a colonel in the Kansas National Guard, serving as commander of the 69th Troop Command Task Force, a brigade-sized task force consisting of infantry, armor, aviation, military police and engineer units with more than 1,200 Soldiers assigned.

Tavanelli was commander of the 891st Engineer Combat Battalion in 2005 when the unit deployed for a year to Iraq. His unit provided engineer support in Abu Ghraib prison where the unit set up detention facilities. The engineers also constructed Forward Operating Bases and re-enforced them to protect Soldiers from attack.

“We had a lot of jobs there,” said Tavanelli. “There were a lot of things we had to construct or excavate that here, in the States, you wouldn’t ever have done.” For instance, they conducted multiple mass grave site exhumations where bodies had been buried in the war between Iraq and Iran, and graves resulting from terroristic “cleansing” that had occurred in the area.

The unit used to construct camps during the daylight hours, but some of their civilian contract concrete truck drivers were being abducted by terrorists and shot, so they began constructing and pouring concrete at night.



“I also can’t imagine having to wear this in 140-degree heat, it would kill me,” said Jonetta Reinert as she tried on the personal protective gear of 1st Lt. Michael Bethea. (Photo by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD)

Kansas training facilities

Continued from Page 10
entities are expected to use the facilities, too. First responders, FEMA, fire, law and homeland security agencies of all levels are now beginning to use the amenities at the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center, making the facility unique.
Crisis City is being developed to train emergency responders to help train civilian and military personnel to better respond to disaster contingencies. Occupying 40 acres, Crisis City will be fully operational in 2009. Using a \$12 million donation of equipment from the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern-Santa Fe railroads, the derailment setup is just one of 10 disaster project sites, two of which include a multiple story and rubble pile rescue training area.
For instance, nowhere else can responders take realistic training for emergencies such as a train derailment, a collapsed



Col. Lee Tavanelli accepts a freedom coin from the El Dorado chapter of the Patriot Guard. State Rep John C. Grange (at podium) had invited Tavanelli to speak at the El Dorado Civic Center. (Photo by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD)

crete at night.
Then there was just clearing the way for transportation. The Main Supply Routes shoulder clearing and improvement forced the unit to clear any vegetation or obstacles from roads that could hide explosive devices. The unit had to do routine mine scanning. This was an important issue, since the unit had two Soldiers killed in direct results of improvised weapons.

On the Syrian border, combat outposts were built to control illegal weapons and other contraband coming into Iraq. However, according to Tavanelli, there were many good things in the tour.

Tavanelli said that the humanitarian assistance missions were every Soldier’s favorite task to complete. “All of our Soldiers enjoyed this. They were providing basic medical care, and supported the local schools to promote education for all the people,” he said. “There are good things going on in Iraq and bad things. A Soldier didn’t have to go very far to see them.”

When El Dorado citizens asked Tavanelli what they could do for the military members overseas, Tavanelli said, “since the Revolutionary War, Soldiers love to get mail and packages. They want to hear that their families are doing okay back home. The Midwest, and Kansas in general, has been very generous. Just keep up supporting your military and let them know how much you appreciate them. That is what they need.”

“These Soldiers in my deployment believed in what they were doing, and they made a difference. The WWII generation was the greatest generation—put any doubts aside—but I have to say the next (this) generation is the next ‘greatest’,” Tavanelli said.

building, or a flooded town, for example. With Crisis City, the responders, be they military or civilian, can now practice in a realistic environment for numerous disaster contingencies.

The center is not only good for the Kansas Guard, it is good for the economy of Kansas, too. More than \$10 million has been put into the Salina economy recently by the construction of new ranges and hiring of nearly 200 new people to run facilities and programs. There are still other future projects that will still pump at least another \$9 million into the area with more construction and equipment bought locally.

“We are creating something that has never existed before,” said Roebuck. “And we’re not done yet. This center can be the training center for the country, training all entities how to handle any emergency in the civilian and military worlds.”

MLRS battery holds Change of Command ceremony in Salina

By Sgt. 1st Class Steve Ahlstedt, UPAR
Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 130th FA

During a ceremony held in Salina, Kan., on Nov. 16, 2008, Lt. Col. John W. Rueger passed the guidon of Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery from Capt. Brian L. Williams to Capt. Steven J. Schneider as Schneider took over as commander of Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery.

Williams served as commander for almost three years. “Command is the most rewarding, but challenging job I have had, including my first job working for a farmer in high school. I’ve enjoyed the experience and will miss the Soldiers that have been a part of my life for the last 32 months,” said Williams. “I was lucky to have the best Soldiers in the Guard and know that Captain Schneider will excel with the outstanding core of NCOs currently in Charlie

Battery.”
Williams was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for his excellent service and most notably his increase in unit strength. The unit also provided Williams with a saber and a framed guidon signed by every member of the unit.
Schneider comes to the battery as the former battalion logistics.

“I look forward to commanding one of the finest units in the state of Kansas and anticipate great things from the unit as they transition to our mission in the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt next year,” said Schneider.

There are 85 Soldiers currently assigned or attached to the Multiple Launch Rocket System unit and they will continue to train for their upcoming peacekeeping mission for the Multinational Force Observers in the Sinai Peninsula.



1st Sgt. Michael W. Haeffele prepares to hand the unit guidon off to Capt. Brian Williams as Lt. Col John Rueger and Capt. Steven Schneider stand fast. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steve Ahlstedt, UPAR)

Agribusiness Development Team will deploy to Afghanistan

One of the things the United States is known for is its military might, but a group of Kansas National Guardsmen will soon be demonstrating there is more to the National Guard as they deploy in February 2009 to show the people of Afghanistan how to do something Kansans are known for: farming.

A joint Kansas Army and Air National Guard team of approximately 60 personnel will go to Afghanistan next year as an Agribusiness Development Team (ADT). The team, comprised of personnel with backgrounds and expertise in various aspects of the agribusiness field, will work in conjunction with the Provincial Reconstruction Team, USAID, USDA, the Department of State and other agencies in Afghanistan’s Laghman Province.

Their year-long mission is to assist in building capabilities for increased agricultural production, training and services, and improving the safety of food and other agricultural products that are produced and distributed to the Afghan people. They will also assist in the development of sustainable agriculture and other related enterprises that will increase the economic well-being of the Afghan people.

The Kansas National Guard will be performing this mission in partnership with Kansas State University over a three year period to build continuity and relationships with local and regional Afghan individuals and leaders.

“This is an incredible mission for our Guard members who are again stepping

up to serve,” said Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. “And on this mission they are teaching the people of Afghanistan something that will benefit them and their families for years to come.”

“Most people know the National Guard as defenders of freedom, but we’re also builders,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general. “Sometimes, we build physical things, like roads and bridges, but in this case we’re helping to rebuild a society. These Kansas Guardsmen will assist the people of Afghanistan to develop and improve their agricultural production and storage, making life a little better for everyone.”

“This is a unique opportunity for members of the Agribusiness Development Team to employ both their military and civilian skills in Afghanistan and for the people who need our assistance,” said Col. Eric Peck, commander of the first Kansas ADT. “All members of the ADT are training hard to meet the mission requirements from a military perspective. We are also working with our Kansas State University partners to develop a cultural and agricultural training program that will benefit all three of the Kansas-lead teams.”

Four teams, including the one from the Kansas National Guard, will be deployed over a 12-month period.

Information about the program and its goals can be found at http://www.army.mil/aps/08/information_papers/other/ARNG_Agribusiness_Development_Team.html.

Scouts serve as the eyes and ears of the Adjutant General

By Staff Sgt. Tim Traynor

Whether it’s a natural disaster, a chemical spill, or any other disaster, the Kansas National Guard Scout Program is in place to respond in our state’s time of need. In addition, National Guard scouts are an important addition in assuring lead time for National Guard assets to be gathered and disseminated as quickly and effectively as possible to areas affected by a disaster.

The scouts serve as the “eyes and ears” of the adjutant general, providing up-to-date and accurate feedback to the Joint Operations Command Center on how the disaster response is progressing and anticipating the needs of the community for state assistance.

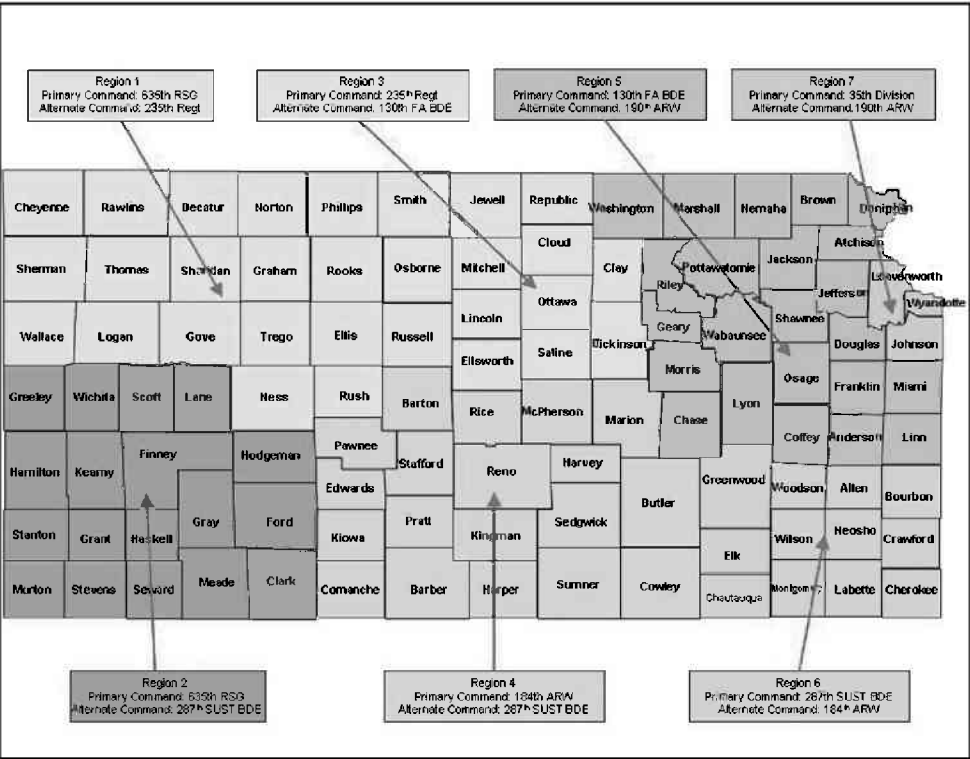
“With the unpredictability of disasters, scouts are an invaluable asset to ensure the timely and effective allocation of disaster response resources,” said, Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general. “They are a prime example of what it means to be a Citizen Soldier.”

The National Guard Scout Program was created in an effort to improve the responsiveness and effectiveness of the Kansas National Guard during disasters by ensuring that Guard members meet county elected leaders, first responders and emergency managers prior to a disaster.

Now, more than ever, new National Guard scouts are needed. Since Sept. 11, 2001 the need to deploy troops throughout the world has put a strain on the Scout Program. Now Guard and other military retirees are playing a major role in continuing their support to their Guard family. Right now the Scouts Program is comprised of 120 volunteers while the goal is to have 210 volunteers in the near future.

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 3 Valerie Suddock is part of the Scout Program. “It’s a pretty good feeling, because everyone has a story to tell,” said Suddock.

Though not responding to Greensburg as a scout, but with the 891st Engineering Battalion, Suddock said the stories people shared with her were amazing. One Greensburg resident even went so far as to call her attention to his house that had been blown into the middle of the street; under which he had placed a pair of “ruby



The Kansas National Guard Scout Program, which falls under the directorate of Military Assistance to Civil Authorities, is organized into seven regions across the state.

red slippers,” after the owner’s disabled son had been in the living room at the time of the house’s flight and came out nearly unscathed.

“I feel privileged to witness the strength of the human spirit while performing the role of a scout and would highly recommend becoming a scout to anyone,” said Suddock.

Suddock said she doesn’t mind having to be ready to drop what she’s doing, because she’s helping the community.

The other goal of the program is to ensure our fellow service members are able to continue to serve their neighbors, state and country even after leaving their uniformed service.

“The Guard retirees especially don’t know how to stop being a part of the [Guard] family,” said Lt. Col. Les Gellhaus, director of military support. “It’s an opportunity for our prior service members to get back in the action of the National Guard.”

“Kansas National Guard members never truly retire. I tell all our retirees it’s not retirement pay they’re getting, it’s retainer

pay,” said Bunting.

“Being a scout gives me personal gratification in knowing I took the opportunity to help those in my own town and/or surrounding communities. Quite often a scout inadvertently ends up helping those they may work with, often see at the store or in church or may have grown up with,” said Suddock.

Fellow scout member, retired Command Sergeant Maj. George Stevens, said part of the rewarding experience for being a scout is building a sense of community.

Stevens took part in the damage and needs assessment following the Greensburg tornado and surveyed the incredible force of the storm’s path from a helicopter. With his five years of being a scout he highly recommends the program to anyone who enjoys helping out and wanting to try something different.

During the 2007 Greensburg tornado, the National Guard Scout Program was crucial to the effective planning and implementa-

tion of relief efforts. Due to their work, resources including manpower, fuel amounts, security, and damage assessments were evaluated in streamline fashion.

“The effectiveness of the scouts is a direct reflection of their training and the working relationship between the Joint Operations Center and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management,” said Angee Morgan, deputy director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management.

In addition to assessment, scouts are an incredible means to ensure important aspects of disasters are not overlooked. As mentioned before, they are the eyes and ears, and may have onsite knowledge of something that could be overlooked by agencies not physically present.

What does the program entail? There is required training for each volunteer: Incident Command System and National Incident Management System. In addition to traditional class settings, online training is available, allowing future scouts who may be several hours from the nearest training site the opportunity to stay current with the requirements.

To access the online material, go to <https://www.ks.ng.mil/> and put your cursor over the “KKO Menu” option on the left side of the screen and click on the “Scout Program” option. This portal allows individuals to apply to be scouts, go through and track training and print off forms should they be activated as a scout.

Once completed, and the individual passes a comprehensive test, scouts are eligible for the program. Provided there is an actual emergency that scouts are asked to investigate, they are put on state active duty orders, reimbursed mileage and meals. If calls for the incident exceed allotted personal cell phone plans, those costs are covered, too.

For more information regarding the National Guard Scout Program, their missions, requirements, and/or becoming a member, you may contact Lt. Col. Les Gellhaus at: (785) 274 1117 or by e-mail at lester.t.gellhaus@us.army.mil.

1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery

Continued from Page 1

Earlier, on Oct. 10, approximately 130 Kansas Guardsmen with the 1161st Forward Support Company, Hutchinson,

who served with the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery in Iraq, were welcomed home during a ceremony in Hutchinson. (See story on Page 2)



“This is all I want.” Brecana Crump, 5, cuddles up with daddy, Sgt. Bobby L. Crump, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, glad that he’s home at last. (Photo by Sharon Watson)

Program gives school supplies, hope to Iraqi and Afghani children

What began as a simple plea from a Soldier for school supplies for Afghan school children has grown into a program that has expanded the educational opportunities for more than 200,000 students in Iraq and Afghanistan. And now, the Kansas National Guard has lent its support to the Manhattan, Kan., based Help Us Learn...Give Us Hope program.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, joined with representatives of the Help Us Learn organization on Friday, Nov. 14 to kick off a drive to collect backpacks and school supplies for children in Iraq and Afghanistan. The supplies will be shipped to Kansas Guardsmen and other Soldiers serving in those nations to distribute them to local school children. Since the program began, about 37,000 pounds of supplies have been collected and 25,000 shipped.

“Any time you can help children learn, you’ve broadened their opportunities to have a better life,” said Sebelius. “School supplies that, for us, cost little and seem so ordinary will make a world of difference for these children.”

“Programs like these are one of the best tools we have in the War on Terrorism,” said Bunting. “It shows Iraqi and Afghan people that we’re not the enemy, but friends who want to help them build a better future for themselves and their children.”

With the Kansas National Guard’s upcoming deployment of its 60-member Agri-business Development Team in the Laghman Province of Afghanistan, along with other Kansas military in the area, Help Us Learn...Give Us Hope expects to reach another 200,000 students.

“This effort gives our superb Soldiers another means to win the hearts and minds of the people of Iraq and Afghanistan and it allows people here at home to engage directly in this process,” said retired Col. Gary LaGrange, president and CEO of the Help Us Learn organization. “We are reducing incidents and helping to bring about the stability and order that we seek.”

Brig. Gen. Perry Wiggins, commanding general of Fort Riley, also participated in the event. Help Us Learn has collected and shipped tons of items for Big Red One Soldiers to distribute in Iraq.

Kansans are asked to donate pens, pencils, notebooks and a host of other school items, backpacks, book bags, small toys, toothbrushes and toothpaste and other items. To donate, drop off or send items to Help Us Learn...Give Us Hope, 4816 Lakewood Ridge, Manhattan, KS 66503. For more information, call Gary LaGrange at 785-537-7493 or go to www.helpuslearngiveushope.org. Any cash donations will be used to offset the cost of shipping the items to the units in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Three inducted into Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame

By Maj. Mike Wallace
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Museum of the Kansas National Guard inducted three exemplary National Guard members into the Hall of Fame on Sunday, Nov. 2, 2008, at the Ramada Inn in downtown Topeka, Kan.

The first 2008 Guardsman honored was Col. Paul A. Cannady, who was inducted posthumously. His award was accepted by his granddaughters, Nancy Horner and Cathy Brueton.

Cannady was born in 1895 and enlisted in the First Kansas Infantry, Kansas National Guard, while in high school. In 1915 he was discharged as an enlisted member and was commissioned as a first lieutenant.

In June 1916, his unit was mustered into federal service to serve on the Mexican border, then mustered out in October 1916. In August 1917, he again entered federal service with the 137th Infantry as part of the 35th Infantry Division, which was preparing to go to war. While in France in 1918, he was given command of the 139th Infantry Regiment. At the end of the war, he returned to the Kansas National Guard and the 114th Cavalry Regiment.

Following graduation from Kansas State College, he became a military instructor at Haskell Indian School in Lawrence from 1919 until 1931, where he helped form Company D (Machine Gun), 137th Infantry Regiment in 1921 and later Troop C, 114th Cavalry, both all Native American units.

When he left Haskell, he became the state superintendent of the Boys Industrial School of Topeka, where he fought for changes to inefficiency and politics that were institutionalized at the school.

In 1935, he resigned from the Boys Industrial School and went to work in the civilian market. During this time, he was promoted to full colonel and assumed command of the 114th Cavalry, 24th Cavalry Division. In the late 1940s, he was mobilized as the commander of the 127th Field Artillery prior to becoming the commander of the 195th Field Artillery Group, at Fort Ord, Calif. He became ill during a field training exercise in the desert and died July 21, 1944. The commanding general of Camp Roberts, Calif. said “He died a Soldier’s death as much as those now dying on the battlefield.”

The second inductee was retired Col. Malen “Butch” Dowse. He and his wife, Marilyn, accepted the award and said they always felt the National Guard was their close family. Dowse said he believes that every Guard member in Kansas is a true hero.

Dowse was born on March 2, 1942, in Dodge City, Kan. His family moved to Grand Junction, Colo., where he graduat-



Col. Paul A. Cannady

ed high school and joined the Colorado National Guard in January 1960. He moved back to Kansas and transferred to Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery in 1962.

Dowse, graduated from Kansas National Guard Officer Candidate School in June 1966 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the field artillery. He served many staff positions within the battalion and as headquarters battery commander. He became a full-time Guardsman in July 1979 and was appointed battalion commander in 1983. In 1985, he was transferred to the 130th Field Artillery Brigade in Hutchinson as executive officer.

In 1991, Dowse transferred to the Kansas State Area Command as military personnel officer and in 1994 as director of maintenance, the position from which he retired in December 1997.

Upon retirement, he became the executive director of the National Guard Association of Kansas. He served in this position until December 2005. In 1999, he became the insurance administrator for the association and remains in that role.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (third award), Army Commendation and Achievement Medals, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (sixth award) National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal (third award), Army Service Medal and the Kansas Medal of Excellence.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Alfred E. Link was the final inductee.

Link enlisted in the Headquarters Battery, 195th Field Artillery Group in Iola, Kan., on Dec. 15, 1948, where he served as a field wireman, wire team chief and communications chief.



Retired Col. Butch Dowse

The 195th Field Artillery Group was redesignated and reorganized on May 1, 1959, as the 195th Engineer Group. Link served as the construction foreman and the group’s operations sergeant. On May 1, 1962, he was promoted to first sergeant of Headquarter and Headquarters Company and served in that position until Sept. 15, 1965, when he was promoted to sergeant major of the group. He served in that position until the 195th Engineer Group was reorganized as the 3rd Battalion, 137th Infantry.

Link served as the sergeant major with the 3rd Battalion, 137th Infantry until August 1969, at which time the Army added the rank of command sergeant major. Link had the honor of becoming the first command sergeant major in the Kansas National Guard. He served in that position until his retirement in 1970.

He reenlisted in the National Guard and on July 31, 1972, he assumed the duties as the full-time operations, training, and readiness specialist with the 3rd Battalion, 137th Infantry.

In 1976, the battalion was reorganized as the 891st Engineer Battalion. At that time, he became the battalion operations sergeant and served in that position and as the fulltime operations, training and readiness sergeant until retirement in 1990.

His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with three Hourglass Devices and many other awards, including the Citizen Soldier Award for Outstanding Achievement in 1965.



Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Alfred Link

Stinson is new chief of Workforce Support at JFHQ

By Staff Sgt. Tim Traynor

Maj. Robert Stinson is the new chief of Workforce Support for Joint Force Headquarters, Kansas National Guard.

Having recently returned from a deployment to Iraq, Stinson said he accepted the position to ensure the care and well-being of Kansas National Guardsmen and women.



Maj. Robert Stinson

Stinson’s own recent reintegration experience from Soldier to Citizen Soldier gives him a keen sense of urgency to the needs of his fellow Guard members. Stinson’s plans include increased efforts to reach service members and their families, ensuring increased participation in the training events offered by the State Family Programs Office, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and Transition Assistant Advisor, Yellow Ribbon Program and Resiliency Program.

“My biggest challenge at this time is transitioning from being a commander to a husband and dad. I believe that if I don’t get this right, then all other challenges will be much more difficult to overcome,” said

Stinson. “I need to apply and utilize the resources and tools this program offers. In order to be effective I must believe that the tools we are offering are effective and needed and I do.”

Stinson’s new mission is to gather and oversee the dissemination of information to assist Soldiers and their families. To do this, Stinson said he must coordinate with several different programs to ensure service delivery and access to the many services offered through Family Programs, Transition Assistant Advisor and Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Stinson started his military career in 1986 as an active duty enlisted member and later transferred to the National Guard. His military career has taken him on three deployments, spanning from Desert Storm to Operation Iraqi Freedom. He finished his command of the 35th Military Police on Nov. 7, 2008.

Stinson’s awards include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with silver oak leaf cluster, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal with bronze service star, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal with bronze service star, and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M device and bronze hour glass.

up and unhooking, twisting and turning, the plane finished its final journey, with only a few minor scratches, to a place of honor at the showcase of Kansas National Guard history.

Department, Shawnee County Fire Districts 2 and 3, Rossville Fire Department, and Silver Lake Fire Department.

“I like getting the outside firefighters involved,” said Beaumont. “As firefighters, we work together as often as we can.”

Jet makes final move to museum

Continued from Page 10
there were several fences, light poles, ditches, signs and various other obstacles in the way. But with an assist from the 190th Civil Engineering, lots of hooking

Firefighters train in South Dakota

Continued from Page 10
community, especially since it would probably occur outside the base.

“These civilians are going to be the first ones there,” added Beaumont.

He included Mission Township Fire Department, Shawnee Heights Fire

Bunting elected chairman of National Guard Association of the United States

Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting was elected as chairman of the National Guard Association of the United States at the 130th NGAUS Conference and Exhibition in Baltimore. Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, the adjutant general of Indiana, passed the gavel to Bunting at the conference’s final session.

“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,” said Sebelius. “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.”



Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general, addresses the 130th conference of the National Guard Association of the United States after accepting the association’s chairmanship gavel from outgoing chair Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger (left), adjutant general of Indiana. (Photo by Michelle Henry)


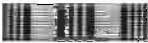
Awards and Decorations


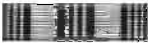
KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
Legion of Merit

Col. Avon C. Coffman II, Med Det, Lenexa Col. Walter H. Frederick III, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Meritorious Service Medal

Col. Victor Braden, 69th TC, Topeka, with three oak leaf clusters Col. Jason Showman, Med Det, Lenexa, with one oak leaf cluster Lt. Col. Barry Adams, 1st Bn, 235th Regt, Salina, with one oak leaf cluster Lt. Col. Barry Taylor, 169th CSSB, Olathe, with one oak leaf cluster Lt. Col. Howard Wheeler, 69th TC, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster Lt. Col. Christopher Zielke, HQ, 235th Regt, Salina, with one oak leaf cluster Capt. James Dresbach, Med Det, Lenexa Chief Warrant Officer 4 Larry Werneke, HHC (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Romans, HQ, 235th Regt, Salina, with three oak leaf cluster Command Sgt. Maj. John Ryan, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita, with one oak leaf cluster 1st Sgt. Joseph Lawyer, HHB, 1st Bn, 127th FA, Ottawa Master Sgt. Dennis Mahan, 287th STB, Hays Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Nelson, 2nd Bn, 235th Regt, Salina Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Snook, HHD, 635th SG, Hays, with two oak leaf clusters Staff Sgt. Chris English, 170th Maint Co, Norton Sgt. Maj. Emmet Tibbets, Training Site Det, Salina
Army Commendation Medal

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ross England, JFHQKS-LC, Topeka Sgt. 1st Class Richard Haney, Rec & Ret, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters Sgt. 1st Class Nancy White Rec & Ret, Topeka Staff Sgt. John Jones, 35th ID Band, Olathe Staff Sgt. Daniel Wright, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan Sgt. Aaron Jones, 35th ID Band, Olathe Spec. Jerry Doby, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Spec. Michelle Mitchell, DDR, Topeka
Army Achievement Medal

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Ball, 35th ID Band, Olathe Sgt. 1st Class David Carlson, 35th ID Band, Olathe Sgt. 1st Class Todd Hollis, 35th ID Band, Olathe Spec. Jesse Tiemissen, HHC(-), 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City
Army National Guard Chief's 54 Badge
Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Kirk, Rec & Ret, Topeka

KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD
Meritorious Service Medal

Col. Christopher Stratmann, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Lt. Col. Andrew Baden, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Lt. Col. Mark Collins, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Lt. Col. Ruston Curtis, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Lt. Col. Kyle Garrison, 190th ARW, Topeka Lt. Col. Craig Hansen, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Lt. Col. Miki Rende, 190th ARW, Topeka Maj. Bradley Hinkle, 190th ARW, Topeka Maj. Phillip Stadler, 190th ARW, Topeka
Kansas Air National Guard
Brig. Gen. Jonathan Small, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Col. Avon Coffman II, KSARNG Med Det, Lenexa Col. James Trafton, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Capt. James Dresbach, KSARNG Med Det, Lenexa Chief Warrant Officer 4 Nicky Hay, FSC(-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Iverson, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Chief Warrant Officer 3 Charles Skelton, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Sgt. Maj. Emmet Tibbets, Training Site Det, Salina Master Sgt. Ricky Elder, HHB, 130th FA Bde, Topeka Master Sgt. Richard Kelley, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth Master Sgt. Mickie Watts, HHC, 35th Inf Div, Fort Leavenworth Sgt. 1st Class William Alexander, Btry B (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Sgt. 1st Class Doretha Bighems, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Bryson, Co B, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Junction City Sgt. 1st Class William Cooper, Det 2, 778th Trans Co, Wichita Sgt. 1st Class Michael Melloy, HHC, 35th Inf Div, Fort Leavenworth Sgt. 1st Class Philip Montoya, HHC, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita Sgt. 1st Class Patricia Peay, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. 1st Class Bradford Puff, Co E (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka Sgt. 1st Class Edmond Thorne, Co B (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Salina Staff Sgt. Joseph Becerra, 2137th Support Co (Forward) Junction City Staff Sgt. Clinton Brownell, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan Staff Sgt. Bradley Cole, Det 3, 250th FSC, Sabetha Staff Sgt. Ralph Cooper, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Staff Sgt. Ray Crook, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Staff Sgt. Robert Gilliland, Det 2, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Atchison Staff Sgt. Herbert Hall, Det 3, 250th FSC, Sabetha Staff Sgt. Ross Hawk, HHD, 635th SG, Hutchinson Staff Sgt. Hayden McElroy, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Staff Sgt. Duane Sample, Det 3, 170th Maint Co, Russell Staff Sgt. Keith Smith, Co B (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Salina
Kansas Air National Guard
Lt. Col. Thomas Ames, 184th IW, Wichita Lt. Col. Bradley Bockus, 184th IW, Wichita Lt. Col. Ruston O. Curtis, 190th ARW, Topeka Lt. Col. Joel Erskin, 184th IW, Wichita Lt. Col. Craig Hansen, 190th ARW, Topeka Lt. Col. Pamela Simonitsch, 184th IW, Wichita Chief Master Sgt. Willard Morris, 184th IW, Wichita Chief Master Sgt. Johnny Skelton, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Master Sgt. Robert Collins, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Master Sgt. Ronald Haskins, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Master Sgt. Evan Oaks, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Mark Adwell, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Larry J Brodzin, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Aaron Carpenter, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Craig Davis, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Glen Fondaw, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Keith R. Fulton, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Steve Hamel, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Lois Hodges, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Brian Kinderknecht, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Alan Lewis, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Stephen Mann, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Lee E. Perry, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Kimberly Teer, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Dean Tuinstra, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Tracy Unruh, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Nancy Wells, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Kevin Boddy, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Alan Davis, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Darin Frazier, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Stephen Navrotsky, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Samuel Redden, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Charles J. Williams, 190th ARW, Topeka
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Retirements

Kansas Army National Guard
Brig. Gen. Jonathan Small, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Col. Avon Coffman II, KSARNG Med Det, Lenexa Col. James Trafton, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Capt. James Dresbach, KSARNG Med Det, Lenexa Chief Warrant Officer 4 Nicky Hay, FSC(-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Iverson, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Chief Warrant Officer 3 Charles Skelton, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Sgt. Maj. Emmet Tibbets, Training Site Det, Salina Master Sgt. Ricky Elder, HHB, 130th FA Bde, Topeka Master Sgt. Richard Kelley, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth Master Sgt. Mickie Watts, HHC, 35th Inf Div, Fort Leavenworth Sgt. 1st Class William Alexander, Btry B (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Sgt. 1st Class Doretha Bighems, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Bryson, Co B, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Junction City Sgt. 1st Class William Cooper, Det 2, 778th Trans Co, Wichita Sgt. 1st Class Michael Melloy, HHC, 35th Inf Div, Fort Leavenworth Sgt. 1st Class Philip Montoya, HHC, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita Sgt. 1st Class Patricia Peay, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. 1st Class Bradford Puff, Co E (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka Sgt. 1st Class Edmond Thorne, Co B (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Salina Staff Sgt. Joseph Becerra, 2137th Support Co (Forward) Junction City Staff Sgt. Clinton Brownell, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan Staff Sgt. Bradley Cole, Det 3, 250th FSC, Sabetha Staff Sgt. Ralph Cooper, Det 1, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Staff Sgt. Ray Crook, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Staff Sgt. Robert Gilliland, Det 2, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Atchison Staff Sgt. Herbert Hall, Det 3, 250th FSC, Sabetha Staff Sgt. Ross Hawk, HHD, 635th SG, Hutchinson Staff Sgt. Hayden McElroy, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Staff Sgt. Duane Sample, Det 3, 170th Maint Co, Russell Staff Sgt. Keith Smith, Co B (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Salina

Capt. Julia Burns, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Capt. James Wehrli, 190th ARW, Topeka 1st Lt. Kimberly Marling, 190th ARW, Topeka Chief Master Sgt. John Kimball, 190th ARW, Topeka, with fourth oak leaf cluster Senior Master Sgt. Newell Applegate, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Senior Master Sgt. Charles Copeland, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Fox, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Master Sgt. Keith Fulton, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Senior Master Sgt. Tracy Marshall, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Senior Master Sgt. Richard Meador, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Master Sgt. Lee Perry, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Senior Master Sgt. Edmund Weatherford, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Mark Adwell, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Michael Collins, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Alan Davis, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Janet Dunn, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Joel Erskins, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Master Sgt. Glen Fondaw Jr., 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Master Sgt. Tamara Goodrum, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Stephen Hamel, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Master Sgt. Stephen Harsha, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Lloyd Hatfield, 184th IW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster Master Sgt. Lois Hodges, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Mark Mertel, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Gene Meyer, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Chad Nicholas, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Kristina Perkins, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Twonett Ross, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Master Sgt. Charles Williams, 190th ARW, Topeka Tech. Sgt. Robert Honea, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Airman Jarod Zoglmann, 190th ARW, Topeka
Air Force Commendation Medal

Col. Kerry Taylor, 190th ARW, Topeka Lt. Col. Mark Collins, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Lt. Col. Joel Darbro, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Lt. Col. Miki Rende, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Capt. Joseph Blubaugh, 190th ARW, Topeka Chief Master Sgt. Danny Roush, 190th ARW, Topeka, with silver oak leaf cluster and two oak leaf clusters Senior Master Sgt. Scott Humphrey, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Master Sgt. Randolph Johnson, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Susan Ahlstedt, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Aaron Carpenter, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Master Sgt. Earl Flower, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Aaron Grunden, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Shelby Kaba, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Eric Montgomery, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Kent Shore, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Thomas Vandersluis, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Regis Walsh, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Brian Wohletz, 190th ARW, Topeka Tech. Sgt. Carren Christianson, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Christopher Reese, 190th ARW, Topeka Tech. Sgt. Judy Reynolds, 190th ARW, Topeka Tech. Sgt. Michael Schmitt, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Justina Call, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Warren Ingram, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Airman Mitzi Merkel, 190th ARW, Topeka
Air Force Achievement Medal

Col. Derek Rogers, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Lt. Col. Anthony DeJesus, 190th ARW, Topeka Maj. Marcus Adinolfi 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak

Air Force Commendation Medal

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Air Force Achievement Medal

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Staff Sgt. Milton Waite, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Sgt. Stanton Beckett, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. Stacey Dawson, Det 1, 772nd Eng Co, Fort Scott Sgt. David McDonald, Det 1, HSC, 891st Eng Bn, Sgt. Joe Navarro, Btry A (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Sgt. Everett Smith Jr., 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. Christopher Terronez, HHC, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita Sgt. Marc Willbern, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Cpl. Charles Foltz, HHC, 35th Inf Div, Fort Leavenworth Spec. Jerry Cox Jr., Det 1, 137th Trans, Topeka Spec. Kenneth Johnson, Co E (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka Spec. William Owens IV, Det 2, 250th FSC, Clay Center Spec. Jerry Treaster, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spec. Martin Turner, Det 2, 250th FSC, Clay Center
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leaf cluster Maj. Chris Ioder, 190th ARW, Topeka Capt. Nathaniel Berroth, 190th ARW, Topeka 2nd Lt. David Bailey, 190th ARW, Topeka 2nd Lt. Marci Solander, 190th ARW, Topeka Chief Master Sgt. Leslie Money, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Montgomery, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Appenfeller, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Bullington, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Senior Master Sgt. Mickel Coffin, 190th ARW, Topeka, with silver oak leaf cluster Senior Master Sgt. Kent Davis, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Senior Master Sgt. Ronald Gray, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Johnson, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Senior Master Sgt. Wendy Mulanax, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Senior Master Sgt. Martin Tennison, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Zachary Bottenberg, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Roger Brooker, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. James Copeland, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Perry Crabtree, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Kevin Drewelow, 190th ARW, Topeka, with fourth oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Shad England, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. James Foresman, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Joseph Getsinger, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Sean Gillespie, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Joseph Ginzel, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Jody Hatley, 190th ARW, Topeka, with fourth oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Eldon Jackson, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Jill Jantz, 190th ARW, Topeka, with fourth oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Mark Jantz, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Jason Junghans, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Alan Laub, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Cindy Locey, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Jeffrey Lockhart, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Daniel Mangiaracino, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Richard Masters, 190th ARW, Topeka, with fourth oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Mark Mulanax, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Dustin Pippin, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Robert Sage, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Richard Schwartz, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Lewis Shedd, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Matthew Small, 190th ARW, Topeka, with fourth oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Marvin Stadler, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Christopher Givens, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Tammy Wellsswitzer, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Brian Wockenfuss, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Douglas Zenger, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. John Zobel, 190th ARW, Topeka, with silver oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Justin Billet, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Nathaniel Brown, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Christen, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Brian Dodds, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Shawn Dodds, 190th ARW, Topeka, with fourth oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Michael Dymnioski, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Jay Ellis, 190th ARW, Topeka, with fourth oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Josh Falk, 190th ARW, Topeka Tech. Sgt. Christopher Givens, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Nathan Handley, 190th ARW, Topeka Tech. Sgt. Charles Harman, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. William Haug, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Lacretria Hawkins, 190th ARW, Topeka Tech. Sgt. Michael Hummer, 190th ARW, Topeka Tech. Sgt. Richard Lacount, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Dennis Lane, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Casey Lang, 190th ARW, Topeka Tech. Sgt. Maggie Large, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Leona Legg, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Robert McDaniel, 190th ARW, Topeka Tech. Sgt. Mark Moulden, 190th ARW, Topeka Tech. Sgt. Andrew Nelson, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Robert Ogan, 190th ARW, Topeka Tech. Sgt. Jason Parker, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Jason Piper, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak

We Remember...

LeRoy D. Brungardt
LeRoy Brungardt, 70, died May 17, 2008.

“No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.”
Calvin Coolidge

PLAINS GUARDIAN • DECEMBER 2008

leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. David Powelson, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Ron Rindt, 190th ARW, Topeka Tech. Sgt. Bradley Roberts, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Michael Schmitt, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Craig Schouboe, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Travis Schuler, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Randall Shull, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Cade Sisson, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Jared Sisson, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Ellisha Smith, 190th ARW, Topeka Tech. Sgt. Joshua Smith, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Vic Vinson, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Dustin Ward, 190th ARW, Topeka Tech. Sgt. Dorothy Westergren, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Stephen Wodtke, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Lonnie Woodman, 190th ARW, Topeka Tech. Sgt. William Wulfkuhle, 190th ARW, Topeka, with fourth oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Daniel Wurtz, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Tech. Sgt. Steven Zimmerman, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Edgar Aldrine, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Joshua Anderson, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Ryan Bearce, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. David Benton, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Staff Sgt. Stacy Boddington, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Adam Boeckman, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Clinton Brown, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Corlis, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Staff Sgt. Crystal Crews, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Brian Deters, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Joshua Gorski, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Staff Sgt. Jacob Haag, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Staff Sgt. Joshua Hill, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Thomas Hopper, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Lea Horton, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Brandon Hossain, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Staff Sgt. Warren Ingram, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Stella Johnston, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Sean Kesler, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Staff Sgt. Michael Kline, 190th ARW, Topeka, with second oak leaf cluster Staff Sgt. Lonyse Lewis, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Jayson Massey, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Staff Sgt. Kevin Maynor, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Staff Sgt. Justin Meier, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Staff Sgt. Ryan Miller, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Robert Morris, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Staff Sgt. Jason Mullen, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Cortney Prezel, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. David Salinas, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Staff Sgt. Daniel Snider, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Renee Snyder, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Joshua Stuchlik, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Wendy Taylor, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Justin Tompkins, 190th ARW, Topeka, with third oak leaf cluster Staff Sgt. Ashley Tremblay, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Gregory Wadsworth, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Staff Sgt. Michael Weaver, 190th ARW, Topeka Staff Sgt. Benjamin Webb, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Staff Sgt. James Whisenhunt, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Airman Matthew Aldrine, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Airman Andrew Appellhanz, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Airman John Barnes, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Airman Thomas Bontrager, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Airman Luke Broxterman, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Airman Olivia Kennedy, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Airman Jacob Lang, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Airman Justin McDaniel, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Airman Michael Mitchell, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Airman Melanie Nelson, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Airman Steven Parker, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Airman Brian Rapplean, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Airman Austin Reed, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Airman Christopher Sabes, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Airman Jason Schell, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Airman Jason Sebring, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Airman Daniel Springer, 190th ARW, Topeka, with first oak leaf cluster Senior Airman Brandon Terhune, 190th ARW, Topeka Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Austin, 190th ARW, Topeka Airman 1st Class Christopher Berroth, 190th ARW, Topeka Airman 1st Class Matthew Copeland, 190th ARW, Topeka Airman 1st Class Jennifer Lord, 190th ARW, Topeka Airman 1st Class Kenneth Seel, 190th ARW, Topeka Airman 1st Class Nathan Taylor, 190th ARW, Topeka
Kansas National Guard Achievement Ribbon


Master Sgt. Michael Balevre, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Jarrod Delong, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Thomas Gattis, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. William Gardenhire, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Phillip Lipke, 184th IW, Wichita Staff Sgt. John Herman, 184th IW, Wichita Staff Sgt. Joshua Newlin, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Airman James Lewis, 184th IW, Wichita

He was born April 9, 1938 in Hays, Kan.
Brungardt was a member of the Kansas Army National Guard where he was a senior welder assigned to the 995th Ordnance Company, Hays.

“No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.”
Calvin Coolidge

Moments of time captured in Army Aviation scrapbooks

By Jane Welch

History. Webster’s defines it as “A chronological, often explanatory or commentarial record of events, as of the life or development of a people or institution.” Over the years, history has been collected and stored in many ways, such as newspapers, books, letters, etc. But Karen Beem didn’t want to just collect history, she wanted to make it come alive and jump off the page. And she did it all with scrapbooking.

Karen has been the secretary at the Army Aviation Support Facility #2 in Salina, Kan., since July 1988. She did her first scrapbook in 2002 as a Christmas gift to her daughters to record the ancestry on both sides of their family. Even though the project took her a year, she found that she really enjoyed it.

When the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation deployed to Bosnia in 2002, Karen found that she had a lot of extra time on her hands at work, so she started bringing her scrapbooking to work with her. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jim Oliver, who was the administrative officer of the unit at that time, admired her work on the scrapbook and wondered if she would be willing to do

something similar with the history of the facility. She agreed and thus began her next big project, which has lasted over five years. Although Karen started it as a one-woman project, it soon grew into a team effort. She started the project using photos and newspaper clippings that she had saved over the years along with a binder that retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Mike Crow and his wife, Priscilla, had put together.

Once people in the facility saw what she was doing, they began bringing her photos, unit patches and other historical documents they had collected to contribute to the book. Karen’s daughter, Susanne, even helped with the project by finding a scrapbooking website that sells military paper and embellishments, which has added a special flair to the books.

Lt. Col. Dave Leger, facility commander of AASF#2, thinks that Karen has done a great job with the scrapbooks.

“She has given us a window into the history of the facility and of the unit,” he said. “I think she has done a fantastic job and it is neat because it lets you see what went on during our entire history.”

Karen has literally received thousands of



Karen Beem shows off the scrapbooks she has completed that contain the history of the Kansas National Guard’s Army Aviation Support Facility #2 in Salina. (Photo by Jane Welch)

photos and spends a lot of time sorting through them. She selects photos she feels represent the Soldiers at work and at play, their living facilities, the countries where they deployed and the problems they faced.

When asked how many hours she has spent on the books she said, “I really can’t give a good estimate. I’ve been working on them when I have spare time at work for the last five years, as well as spending quite a number of hours at home in sorting and trimming pictures.”

To date Karen has completed four books and is currently finishing number five. Book six is going to be dedicated to the unit’s deployment to Iraq. She is hoping to complete book seven before she retires in December 2008.

“Karen has found a unique way to capture the history of the facility,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Doug Hoover. Hoover joined the facility in November 2005 and then deployed to Iraq with the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation in April 2006. “It is difficult for a person to set aside the time to do a project like this and she has done very well. When Karen retires and walks out the door we are going to miss her terribly, for sure.”

In doing the scrapbooks, it has been interesting for Karen to see the changing of faces as personnel came and left the facility. But even though the progression of the facility was interesting, the one thing that has most touched her heart was the men and women there.

“I experienced a greater appreciation for the men and women who man the facility and put their lives on the line for me, my family and this country,” said Karen. “I’ve

watched them and their families make tremendous sacrifices to train and defend our country. It is very humbling to see people willingly give what these people give for others.”

Most people would get bored or feel overwhelmed by such a project, but Karen has kept it fresh by trying to match pictures to just the right colored background or trying to arrange the pictures on a page to show them to their best advantage. Her most rewarding part of the project is seeing others look through the books and enjoy their walk down memory lane.

“Karen put a lot of thought into what is relevant and what is not relevant,” said Sgt. 1st Class Richard Bowman, flight operations specialist for AASF#2, who has worked at the facility since 1986. “She did a good job of capturing the history.”

Scrapbooking isn’t Karen’s only hobby. She and her husband, Jim, will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary in March 2009. She enjoys spending time with her daughters, Marilyn and Susanne, and their husbands, Dan and Chuck; and spoiling her granddaughters, Sara, age 13, and Linnea, age 2.

Karen and her husband enjoy doing building projects together. “Although I’ve pounded a lot of nails and set a lot of screws, my main job has been the ‘go-for,’ which is very similar to my job here at the facility... making things run smoothly,” said Karen.

And as for the scrapbooking, she said, “I guess I just want this whole project to be an honor to the men and women represented. Hopefully, I’m just the tool to help bring them that honor.”



The scrapbooks show the history of the Army Aviation Support Facility #2 through pictures of the individuals who worked there through the years. (Photo by Jane Welch)

Tibbetts completes 37 years of service



Sgt. Maj. John Ryan (left), presents a certificate to Sgt. Maj. Emmett Tibbetts at Tibbet’s retirement. (Photo by Master Sgt. Susan J. Brown, UPAR)

By Master Sgt. Susan J. Brown, UPAR
Sgt. Maj. Emmet B. Tibbetts, Berryton, Kan., retired from the Kansas Army National Guard on July 20, 2008, with more than 37 years of military service. He also retired in November 2007 from the technician force with more than 27 years of service as a federal civilian. During the ceremony, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.
Tibbetts began his military career in 1970, when he enlisted in the Army. His last assignment, which he held since January 2001, was with Training Site Detachment

in Salina, Kan., where he was operations sergeant major. Previous assignments included first sergeant of the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation from 1990 to 2001.
Attending the retirement ceremony were Col. Robert E. Windham, 235th Regiment commander, Lt. Col. Kevin R. Schenker, Training Site Detachment commander and Sgt. Maj. John Ryan, 235th Regiment, as well as members of the Training Site Detachment.
Tibbet’s plans include working on lowering his golf score, fishing and honey-do projects assigned by his wife, Donna.

The first and the last



Chief Warrant Officer Nick Hay wishes good luck to Pfc. Brandon Bell. Hay attended his last drill on Aug. 2, 2008, closing out a 40 year military career. Bell attended his first drill with Forward Support Company, 891st Engineer Battalion on the same weekend. (Photo by capt. Sean Linn, UPAR)

Recruits get rare behind-the-scenes racing tour



National Guard Bureau Staff Sgt. Francisco Golon briefed RSP Warriors and guests of safety and rules, before giving a tour of the garage and pits at the Kansas Speedway. (Photo by Spc. Jessica Rohr, 105th MPAD)



As RSP Warriors and guests were getting a tour of the garage and pits at the Kansas Speedway by the National Guard Bureau, they got an up close view of the #88 National Guard car as the pit crew was moving it from the garage to its place in line for the race. (Photo by Spc. Jessica Rohr)

By Spc. Jessica Rohr, 105th MPAD

Nine newly recruited Soldiers from the Kansas Army National Guard Recruit Sustainment Program were selected to attend the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series at the Kansas Speedway on Sept. 28. The recruits, sometimes called RSP Warriors, were invited by the National Guard Bureau to experience a day of racing, an insider’s tour of the race pit and a chance to meet with race car driver Dale Earnhardt Jr.

During every Sprint Cup Series race the National Guard Bureau teams up with the local state recruiting offices to give new recruits the chance to experience something truly unforgettable. The RSP Warriors and a few privileged fans were selected to receive an all-inclusive V.I.P pass to the National Guard’s fully loaded and secluded bus, located on the infield of the race track. Once there, they would be graciously catered to and later able to watch the race from a prime vantage point atop the bus roof.

Before the race began, however, the group received a guided tour of the garage and pit areas. The tour took them through the #88 National Guard/Amp maintenance trailer, where they were allowed to see all the gear and spare parts, as well as meet some of the maintenance crew members. The visit gave the young Warriors a rare behind-the-scenes view that not many are permitted to witness. One RSP Warrior, Monte Arzate, was amazed at the opportunity they were being given.

“Knowing that I am experiencing something that not all get to is exciting. I would

have never guessed that I would be doing this because I enlisted into the Kansas National Guard,” said Arzate.

But the best experience was yet to come. Between all the sights and tours, the Warriors got a one-on-one meet ‘n greet with Dale Earnhardt Jr. Earnhardt, the five-time consecutive winner of the NASCAR’s Most Popular Driver Award and current driver of the #88 National Guard sponsored Chevy, sat down and discussed his passions for driving, his expectations for the day’s race and why he enjoys working with the National Guard.

“It has been a very good relationship with the Guard for me,” said Earnhardt. “The marketing crew for the National Guard is more ‘blue-collar’ than Corporate America and so it’s a whole lot easier to communicate what we want from each other. I get to work with everyday people, rather than someone that has no clue about racing.”

In doing all of this, the Guard’s recruiting command staff hopes that the RSP troops will spread the word to their friends and family members about the amazing experiences the Guard has given them. Staff Sgt. Francisco Golon of the National Guard Bureau NASCAR Team explained, “This is their first idea of the National Guard and it makes them more apt to tell others about what is going on and what the National Guard is all about.”

This once-in-a-lifetime experience for nine Warriors from the Kansas Army National Guard Recruit Sustainment Program is sure to be with them forever.

Reeve retires from 35th Division

By Lt. Col. Rex Johnson
35th Divison Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Stewart A. Reeve retired effective Oct. 15, 2008, after 36 years of military service.

Reeve recently served as the deputy commanding general of the 35th Infantry Division in Fort Leavworth, Kan., a position that he has held since 2004. During his tour, he has had the opportunity to take part in three international missions, as well as Hurricane Katrina relief operations in 2005.

“It has been phenomenal being able to wear the uniform of the U.S. Army and being affiliated with people who do,” said Reeve.

During his service, Reeve had gained the respect and admiration of other Soldiers. He was seen as a leader to both his Soldiers and his commanding officers.

“General Reeve was a confidant of mine, one that I always depended on to make the right decision,” said Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, 35th Division commander. “He was helpful in setting up an environment to make our Soldiers successful. We will miss him. We are better off having had him in our ranks.”

During his career, Reeve had participated in training in Norway, Honduras, Poland, Ukraine and Japan. He commented that some of the most memorable experiences have been training exercises with our international allies.

“As a lieutenant colonel I had the opportunity to be one of the first folks, at least as far as I could tell, to go to Poland in 1997 and work on an exercise called Brave



Brig. Gen. Stewart A. Reeve

Eagle,” said Reeve. “They were just making the transition in 1997 from the old Soviet Union, the old communist bloc, to becoming part of the western world.”

“Here it is 30 years later and we are now allies working on a new problem,” Reeves added. “Don’t be surprised if in the next 20 years, people who were your ‘enemies’ today are your allies tomorrow.”

Reeve also had the opportunity to work in multinational environments while serving with the 35th. He took part in two Yama Sakura exercises with Japan, as well as Tiger Balm with Singapore.

Reeve began his career on active duty in 1972 after graduating from the University of Illinois. He was encouraged by his father, a noncommissioned officer during World War II, to enter the ROTC program. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant on active duty, serving at Fort Carson, Colo.

He initially planned to serve a few years on active duty and then get out of the service. However, after serving for three years, Reeve decided he wanted to continue his military career part time. So he decided to become a part-time Soldier.

Reeve joined an Army Reserve Special Forces unit out of Arlington Heights, Ill., after he left active duty. Just over a year later, Reeve transferred to the Illinois National Guard.

Reeve and his wife, Lela, live in Springfield, Ill. They have two sons, ages 33 and 31. The oldest lives in Nashville, where he and his wife are expecting a daughter in February. This will be the first grandchild for the Reeves. The younger son is a computer programmer in St. Louis.

When asked what he will do with his spare time now that he does not have a Guard commitment, Reeve said that he plans to pursue a master’s degree. He is also looking to become licensed as a nursing home administrator.

Flag returned to Greensburg

By Maj. DeAnn Barr
184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

Nearly 18 months after recovering a flag from the rubble left in the wake of the May 2006 catastrophic tornado, members of the Kansas Air National Guard presented the restored Old Glory to town leaders in a Veteran’s Day Ceremony on Nov. 11, 2008, at Greensburg High School.

Attended by the entire 200-person student body of Greensburg, Gene West, chairman of the Kiowa County Commission, accepted the flag on behalf of the community.

“That is one thing we don’t have much of here any more, is part of our past,” said West. “We are very pleased to have part of our history returned to us, to have it become part of our future. It’s really important to us.”

In the days surrounding the disaster, many members of the 184th Intelligence Wing, Kansas National Guard, worked in Greensburg providing relief efforts to the town of 1,400 which was destroyed by an

EF-5 tornado.

A local man approached a 184th Guardsmen with a flag he had picked out of the rubble, and asked the Guard to tend to it.

Senior Master Sgt. Bill Angstadt said they took the flag back to base, had it washed and mended, then folded into a display case. To him it seemed fitting to return the flag to the community during the Veteran’s Day ceremony.

“I hope returning the flag helps bring closure to the disaster for this town,” said Master Sgt. James Helms, an Honor Guard member who participated in the presentation ceremony.

“Hope can come out of bad things and that flag, based on what it stands for, brings hope,” said Helms.

The flag will find a permanent home on the walls of the new Court House once reconstruction is complete, said West.

“It’s awesome,” said Peter Blanton, a Greensburg physical education instructor. “It’s our community coming back together.”



Gene West, chairman of the Kiowa County Commission accepts a flag recovered from the Greensburg tornado. (Photo by Maj. DeAnn Barr)