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# PLAINS GUARDIAN

VOLUME 52 No. 01      *Serving the Kansas Army and Air National Guard, Kansas Emergency Management, Kansas Homeland Security and Civil Air Patrol*      FEBRUARY 2009

## Embedded Training Team receives hero's welcome home

**By Staff Sgt. Mark Hanson  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

Over the past several years the Kansas National Guard has seen its fair share of deployments. With men and women now serving in nearly every operational environment, deployment ceremonies are becoming routine events. Fortunately, for every deploying unit, there is a long-awaited return ceremony for another unit.

Fifteen Kansas National Guardsmen were welcomed home by friends, family and honored guests on Friday, Jan. 2, after a 12-month deployment in Afghanistan. The small group of Soldiers who made up the Embedded Training Team #4 (Team Azadi), were commended and congratulated on their tireless service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom at the Kansas National Guard Armory in Manhattan, Kan.

"Each member of this team had taken initiative on multiple occasions to be self-initiated in combat operations in their line of duty," said Maj. Robert Wood, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry, who commanded the team.

Team Azadi deployed in January 2008 after receiving mobilization training at Fort Riley and Hohenfels, Germany. Under Wood's command, the team served as military advisers, mentoring Afghan Security Forces in a number of combat and administrative tasks. This particular training team was constructed on a voluntary basis. Soldiers were drawn from several units across the state, including Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas; 69th Troop Command; 1st Battalion, 161st Artillery; 1st Battalion, 635th Armor; Detachment 2, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 178th Field Artillery; 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry and 714th Maintenance Company.

Wood said that the real success of their mission was due to the tremendous support his troops received from home.

"Separation is extremely difficult for everybody, but with the incredible support, it makes even the most difficult situations bearable," Wood said.

Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, also thanked the families for their un-

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**Maj. Robert Wood (center), commander of Embedded Training Team #4, Team Azadi, returns the state flag flown by the unit over Kansas headquarters in Afghanistan to Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Traynor)**

## 1st Battalion, 635th Armor inactivated, merges with 137th Infantry Battalion

**By Spc. Jessica Rohr  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

The 1st Battalion, 635th Armor was inactivated on Dec. 6, 2008, merging with the 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry as part of the Kansas National Guard's reorganization plan. The inactivation ceremony took place at the Kansas National Guard Armory in Manhattan, Kan.

The restructuring and reorganization is

designed to make Kansas Forces more mobile and tactical in response to missions at home and overseas.

Lt. Col. Howard E. Wheeler, commander of the 1st Battalion, 635th Armor, said this merge was both inevitable and justifiable for future operations in the Kansas Guard.

"The world that we live in requires a military and Army that is capable of operating in a perpetual state of conflict," said Wheeler. "The 1st Battalion, 635th Armor answered the call to meet the demands of this operational environment. Today, we reorganize two of the finest organizations I know into a formation that is the cutting edge and teeth of our Army."

This is not the first inactivation for the battalion. After World War II, the 1st Battalion, 635th Armor was part of the military draw-down, but was reactivated in 1976. In addition to their involvement in World War II, the battalion also served in several deployments including Kosovo, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The unit also served domestically in several disaster situations. For example, in June 2007 the battalion provided security forces for residents of Manhattan shortly after an F4 tornado destroyed parts of the town.

In addition to earning the Army Superior Unit Award during its mission in Kosovo, the unit also retains the honor of being distinguished with the French Croix de Guerre with Palm—World War II Streamer embroidered Normandy and was cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for actions in the Ardennes.

As the ceremony came to a close the unit colors of the 1st Battalion, 635th Armor were slowly cased, representing a final chapter in a 67-year-old commitment to the Kansas Army National Guard. The two units, now locked in formation, will be

(Continued on Page 2)

## Reading program builds bridges with Iraqi students

**By Master Sgt. Carl Mar  
287th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs**

COB ADDER, Iraq – Relationships are built one step at a time. For 287th Sustainment Brigade Civilian Military Operations (CMO), that process might be best described as one word at a time. That was the objective of their "Read Iraq" program -- teaching English to Iraqi students by reading to them at Al Ashyabb School in Muthanna province on Jan. 12.

The "Read Iraq" program is a CMO project which places volunteer Soldiers, assisted by interpreters, in Iraqi school rooms to read children's stories. The students are learning English as a second language. The

children learn how to pronounce words correctly and about Western culture.

"Al Ashyabb is the first school to take advantage of the program in southern Iraq," said Sgt. 1st Class Alexander Parker, 287th CMO operations sergeant.

"We performed a practice run at the Al Habib school two weeks earlier and from that experience learned that we needed to choose readers that have a natural knack for reading to children. The ability to use body language to suggest meaning of the words is as important as the ability to read clearly," said Lt. Col. Clint Moyer, 287th CMO chief.

(Continued on Page 6)



**Sgt. Teresa Perrin, a patient administrator for the 287th Brigade Surgeon staff, puts on a sad face while reading a children's story in English for students at Al Ashyabb school on Jan. 12, while interpreter Mansour looks on with amusement. (Photo by Master Sgt. Carl Mar)**

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# Edson awarded two Bronze Stars for actions in Afghanistan

By Maj. Mike Wallace  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Kansas National Guardsman, Maj. Gregory Edson, Topeka, was awarded two Bronze Stars, one with “V” Device (valor) for his actions in a recent deployment to Afghanistan. Edson deployed with an embedded training team as the weapon’s company and battalion executive officer/training officer mentor for the 2nd Kandak, 2nd Brigade 205th Corps, Afghan National Army.

Edson distinguished himself during many engagements with the enemy and specifically for continuing to fight after being wounded by enemy actions in December 2007, for which he received a Purple Heart. He also distinguished himself through his efforts to improve the capabilities of the Afghan National Police force in his area by getting them better equipment and improving their operational relation-

ships with the local Afghan National Army unit and other Coalition Forces.

Edson enlisted in the Kansas National Guard on Sept. 11, 1992, as an armor crewman. He served five years as an enlisted soldier and was promoted to the rank of sergeant. He completed Officer Candidate School in 1997 at Fort Benning, Ga., and was commissioned in the Armor Corps. He served with the 1st Battalion, 635th Armor Regiment as a tank platoon leader, company executive officer, heavy mortar platoon leader, battalion staff officer and tank company commander. He served as an infantry company commander in Kosovo from January 2005 to February 2006.

Edson is a graduate of the Armor Officer Basic Course, Armor Captain’s Career Course and the Combined Arms Exercise. In addition to the Bronze Stars, his awards include a Combat Action Badge and the Meritorious Service Medal.



Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, pins a Bronze Star medal on Maj. Greg Edson. Edson received the award for actions taken in Afghanistan. (Photo by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

## Armor battalion inactivated

Continued from Page 1

known as the 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry (Combined Arms Battalion).

Lt. Col. Anthony V. Mohatt, commander of the 2-137th Infantry, said, “We are proud to celebrate the history of both regiments as we move forward with a brighter history that will be formed.”

The 2-137th, headquartered in Kansas City, Kan., is also no stranger to change as the needs of the Kansas National Guard evolve with each conflict. The 2-137th began as a volunteer militia and later, in 1885, became part of the Kansas Army National Guard. Along with battles on the

frontier, the 2-137th was involved in the Philippine Insurrection, Word War I, World War II and Global War on Terrorism: Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“This is the way we fight now. It needs to be this way. It is a smart move on the Army’s part and a smart move for the state of Kansas,” said 1st Sgt. Steve Harmon, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry (Combined Arms). “If we have to cross organize and cross level for battle, we might as well do it now, so that we train as we fight. Why wait till the fight happens to start training together?”



Lt. Col. Howard Wheeler and Sgt. Maj. Timothy Tiemissen furl the colors of the 1st Battalion, 635th Armor during an inactivation ceremony for the battalion on Dec. 6, 2008, in Manhattan. (Photo by Spc. Jessica Rohr, 105th MPAD)

# 287th Sustainment Soldier receives full U.S. citizenship

By Master Sgt. Carl Mar

On Nov. 5 at Fort Lewis, Wash., Sgt. Ivan Sanchez, a native of Puerto Rico and a unit supply specialist for the 287th Sustainment Brigade, pledged his allegiance to the United States of America. In doing so he became an American citizen — for the second time.

Residents of Puerto Rico and other American territories such as Guam are considered U.S. citizens and already enjoy all the rights and privileges of citizenship except one. Although territorial citizens can hold primary elections, they cannot vote for a president.

“Maybe on paper it’s not a big difference, but it means a lot to me,” said Sanchez. His hope, like many other people also seeking American citizenship, is that it will open doors of opportunity in the future.

“You don’t need to be a citizen to serve on a deployment, but in my situation I wanted to go to Iraq with the 287th as a supply specialist. This job requires a security clearance. Being that I wasn’t born in the 50 states, I couldn’t get a clearance before now,” he said.

Sanchez began his citizenship efforts in April 2007. The approval process, which typically extends to several years, was accelerated when he transferred to the 287th and was notified that he would deploy.

He will deploy with the 287th now, but he’s also looking forward to a time after his deployment ends. He hopes to return to Iraq as a civilian contractor with Kellogg, Brown and Root and work alongside his sister Cristina Sanchez, who is a senior logistics coordinator for the company at Talil Air Force Base, Iraq, the same location where he will be stationed. The jobs which he wants to fill, he said, would also require a security clearance.

It was Cristina who motivated him to move to Kansas from Puerto Rico in 2001. She was a member of the Kansas National Guard then and persuaded him to join for the employment opportunities. He did and became a full-time maintenance technician at the Mobilization and Training Equipment Site at Fort Riley.

Sanchez, 27, can claim citizenship to several countries. He was born in Mexico, where his father, a Dominican Republic diplomat, was serving at the time.

“My parents left two months later,” he said. “I’ve never been back there, but because that is where I was born I could be a citizen of Mexico.”



Sgt. Ivan Sanchez can claim citizenship in three nations, but it is his U.S. citizenship of which he is the most proud. (Photo by Master Sgt. Carl Mar)

*“Maybe on paper it’s not a big difference, but it means a lot to me.”*  
*Sgt. Ivan Sanchez*

Since his parents are both Dominicans, he can also claim Dominican citizenship. However, after his father left Mexico he moved to Puerto Rico for a similiar diplomat posting and, after retirement, decided to live there permanently with his family.

“Puerto Rico is where I grew up. That’s where my family lives and I never left there until I came to Kansas,” said Sanchez. “The culture is different from other Latin countries. It’s the culture I identify with and that is why I chose to be Puerto Rican.”

“But I don’t fight or go to war for the sake of Puerto Rico. Having the American flag on my right shoulder means something now. It feels heavy — I mean, I can feel it. This is the flag I would die for.”

“I really feel now what it means to be an American Soldier,” he said.

Sanchez and his wife, Yuseika Santini, live in Junction City, Kan. They have two sons; Bryan, 11, and Ian, 9.

## Sebelius appoints Small to Commission on Veterans Affairs

Governor Kathleen Sebelius has appointed retired Brig. Gen. Jonathan Small to the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs.

“Jon has been a dedicated public servant and excellent leader for the state of Kansas,” Sebelius said. “I am thankful for his willingness to serve on this important commission.”

Small, Topeka, served as assistant adjutant general for the Kansas Army National Guard from 1999-2008, serving also as the commander of the Land Component for the Joint Force Headquarters in Kansas.

Prior to his service in the Kansas National Guard, Small served as Assistant Kansas Attorney General and Deputy Kansas Attorney General while serving in



Retired Brig Gen. Jonathan Small

the United States Army Reserve. Now retired, Small has owned a law practice in Topeka for more than 25 years.

Small’s military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal and Army Service Ribbon.

Small’s military education includes the Field Artillery School Advance Course, Command and General Staff College, the Judge Advocate General School’s Basic and Advance Courses and the U.S. Army War College. He received his bachelor’s degree from Kansas State University and his juris doctorate from Washburn University School of Law.

Small’s appointment to serve on the commission will expire in 2011.

The KCVA provides Kansas veterans, their relatives and other eligible dependents with information, advice, direction and assistance through the coordination of programs and services in the fields of education, health, vocational guidance and placement and economic security.



## Dr. Pepper Snapple Group presents check to Kansas National Guard Foundation

Last summer, the Dr. Pepper Snapple Group set aside a portion of its proceeds in June and July to support the Kansas National Guard Foundation.

On Dec. 17, the Dr. Pepper Snapple Group presented a check to the foundation totaling \$10,695. The presentation took place at the Topeka Hy-Vee store, 29th and Wanamaker Road. Members of the Kansas National Guard Foundation board and of the Kansas Guard were present at the event.

“This was a great opportunity for us to give back to those men and women and their families who do so much for their country,” said Eric Rogers, branch manager with the Dr. Pepper Snapple Group for Topeka and Manhattan. “We were thrilled with the response to the promotion and thank Kansans for stepping up to support the Guard.”

“We appreciate Dr. Pepper Snapple Group’s decision to help our Soldiers, Airmen, their families and the Guard communities,” said Michele Henry, board president of the Kansas National Guard Foundation. “We also want to thank the community members who supported us by purchasing the products in this promotion.”

The month-long promotion ran from mid-June to mid-July. For every case of product sold, Dr. Pepper Snapple Group, based in Topeka, kept a portion of the proceeds for the foundation. Through this, the promotion raised \$8,301. Participating stores included Hy-Vee, some Wal-Mart locations and several smaller stores including Apple Mart and Thriftway. Some locations offered an option to purchase a card for a dollar donation toward the foundation. This part of the promotion raised \$2,394.

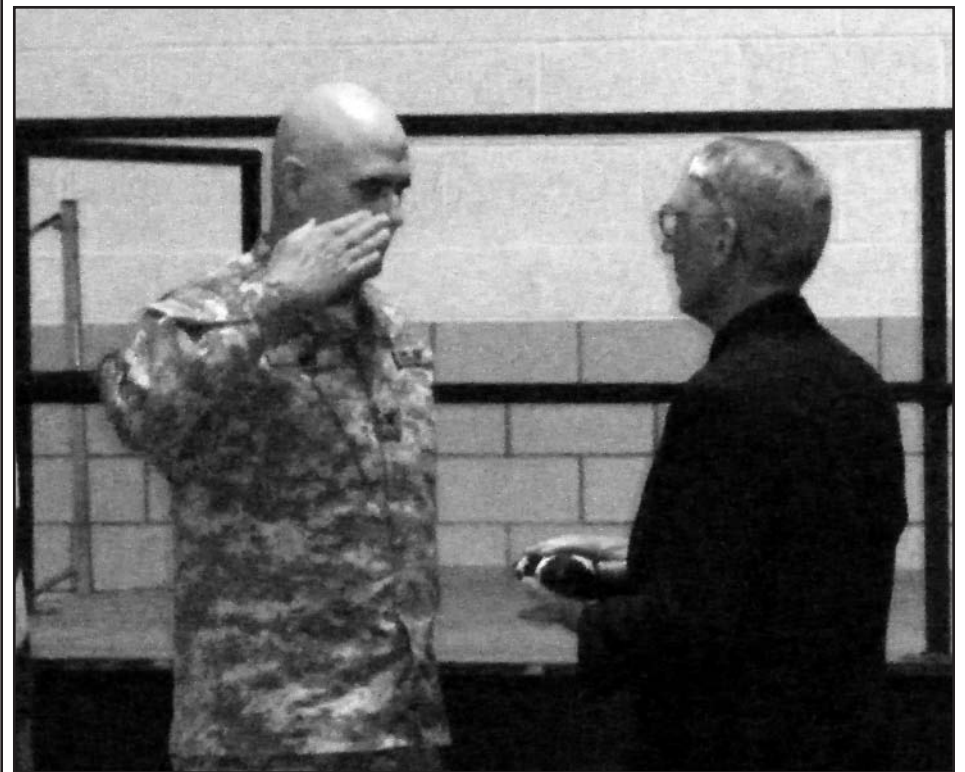
Funds donated to the Kansas National Guard Foundation, Inc. provide financial support for programs aimed at helping Guard members, their families and their communities in dealing with various aspects of military deployments. These include camps for children of Guard members, community meetings and trainings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

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



Michele Henry (right), board president of the Kansas National Guard Foundation, accepts a check for \$10,695 from Eric Rogers, branch manager of the Dr. Pepper Snapple Group. The money was raised through a summertime promotion at area stores that sell Dr. Pepper/Snapple products. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Traynor)

## Armory returned to city



Col. Cliff Silsby, the director of Facilities Engineering for the Kansas National Guard, turned the keys to the Mankato armory over to Mayor Don Kester. A brief ceremony, attended by approximately 30 members of the community, was conducted Jan. 15, 2009, to officially turn the armory over to the city of Mankato. The armory, built in 1958, is named after former Mankato resident and Kansas Guardsman Brig. Gen. Wint Smith, who commanded the 635th Tank Destroyer Regiment during WWII. The armory has been the home of Detachment 1, 995th Maintenance Company. The armory will be used as city offices for Mankato. (Photo by Sgt. 1st David Carron, 995th Maintenance Company)

## Murdock is new consultant for Military OneSource

Hello, my name is Bonnie Murdock and I’m the Military OneSource Consultant for Kansas under the Joint Family Support Assistance Program. I retired from the U.S. Army Medical Department in 1999 after 24 years of Active and Reserve service in Korea, Maryland, Colorado, Texas and Germany. My spouse of 30 years is a Kansas native who retired from active service in 2004; he is about to be “re-greened” for return to active duty at Munson Army Health Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. As a Kansas “bride,” military retiree and military spouse, I am truly proud and honored to be associated with the Kansas National Guard.



Bonnie Murdock

I work in the Family Programs Office under Workforce Support, Joint Force Headquarters. Alongside the vigorous soldier and family support programs of the Kansas National Guard, my job is to extend those resources and to connect military families to each other and to supportive military and community resources. The Joint Family Support Assistance Program and Military OneSource are especially focused on families that do not have ready access to support services.

As your Military OneSource Consultant, I am ready to offer presentations at military and community functions on the many resources offered through Military OneSource. I am glad to assist service members and families, commands and community

agencies with resources and information on issues which military families face. Common issues include managing personal finances; tax preparation and filing; coping with separation and reunion; parenting; and becoming “suddenly military;” but service members and their families may contact Military OneSource for any specific, unique, or personal issue. By calling the toll-free number (1-800-342-9647) or going to [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com), service members and families can receive immediate, personal and confidential support 24/7. Appropriate, face-to-face counseling in the local community, free of charge, can also be arranged simply by contacting Military OneSource.

I can also help advertise programs that help service members and families through a new, web-based directory. If you represent a local, non-profit organization that offers support services (such as legal, financial, and child care) to Kansas military members and families, or you know of such an organization, please contact me. I can ensure that your services are listed in MySTATE on MilitaryHOMEFRONT, the Department of Defense’s Web site for family policy.

Please don’t hesitate to call with any questions, appointment requests, comments or referrals you may have at 913-424-3038, or to e-mail me at [bonnie.murdock@militaryonesource.com](mailto:bonnie.murdock@militaryonesource.com). You are welcome to share my contact information with any community agencies, counterparts, commands, family programs assistants, family readiness groups or volunteers that you feel may benefit. I hope to meet many of you in person, and I look forward to working with the Kansas Guard in support of Kansas military families in the coming weeks and months.

## “Home Safe, Drive Safe, Stay Safe” initiative seeks to save veterans’ lives

By D.C. Hannah  
Transition Assistance Advisor

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among Americans aged 15 through 44. Many of our nation’s newest veterans are in this age group. More young veterans die from motor vehicle crashes than from suicide.

Crashes are also the leading cause of death among veterans in the early years after they return from combat deployment. This was true of veterans who served in Vietnam and in the first Gulf War, and is proving to be true among veterans now returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

To reverse this trend, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Transportation are partnering in a new driving safety initiative, called “Home Safe, Drive Safe, Stay Safe,” to educate veterans and their families on ways motor vehicle deaths can be avoided. VA will help the Department of Transportation spread the word about two major safety initiatives: “Drunk Driving. Over The Limit. Under Arrest,” designed to reduce impaired driving, and “Click it or Ticket,” designed to encourage seat belt use.

The three agencies will also jointly work with researchers to better understand what can be done to prevent vehicle fatalities following deployments. Every VA hospital will appoint a Safe Driving Coordinator to educate patients and VA staff about the issue and to distribute Department of Transportation and Department of Defense materials and posters. The coordinator will also conduct a Safe Driving Rally for patients, their families and the community this year. In addition, VA medical staff will be educated about the potential of high-

dose, long-acting sleep medications that raise the risk of automobile and motorcycle accidents and encouraged to seek alternatives to these medications whenever possible.

Here are some simple rules to reduce the risk of becoming involved in a crash:

- If you are planning to drink alcohol with friends, designate a sober driver before going out and give that person your keys;
- If you’re impaired, call a taxi, use mass transit or call a sober friend or family member to get you home safely;
- Use your community’s Sober Rides program;
- Promptly report drunk drivers you see on the roadways to law enforcement;
- Wear your seat belt while in a car or use a helmet and protective gear when on a motorcycle as these are your best defenses against an impaired driver;
- And remember, if you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

For more information, visit the VA’s new Safe Driving Web site at [www.safedriving.va.gov](http://www.safedriving.va.gov), see the Safe Driving Coordinator at your nearest VA hospital, or contact your Transition Assistance Advisor. In Topeka, contact:

D.C. Hannah  
Transition Assistance Advisor  
JFHQ-KS  
2722 SW Topeka Blvd., Room 104  
Topeka, KS 66611  
(785) 274-1129  
[dc.hannah@us.army.mil](mailto:dc.hannah@us.army.mil)



# New challenges, new missions for our agency

By Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting  
The Adjutant General

This spring the Kansas Adjutant General’s Department is unveiling the Resiliency Center, a new training program to strengthen Guard members and their families to better handle life challenges. The concept for the Resiliency Center was developed as a result of the deployment challenges of troops and their families, some of whom have experienced multiple deployments since 2003. This program will enhance the readiness of Guardsmen and their families by providing tools and techniques in advance of challenges. In addition, the training program will support first responders who must respond to multiple disasters across our state and nation such as the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and in Oklahoma City, as well as deadly natural disasters like the Greensburg tornado.

The first portion of the training, scheduled to begin in March, is focused on military leaders. It will teach them how to assess, strengthen and transition themselves, their troops, and their families through the difficulties that can accompany being deployed. The majority of the training is newly developed by mental health clinicians in the U.S. who have worked with Kansas National Guard members following their deployments. The course also



Maj. Gen.  
Tod M. Bunting

will include aspects of training presented to Israeli troops and NATO training, and be supported by a web site featuring military members and resiliency issues. Additional details about the program will be announced in late March and April.

Being better prepared is the key to success for our Guardsmen and first responders in their missions and to improve overall preparedness. Kansas recently participated in a pilot training program called Integrated Emergency Management Course. It is typically taught at the FEMA Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Md. As part of the pilot, FEMA taught the program in Kansas. It provided our state the benefit of evaluating our State Emergency Operations Center during a difficult disaster scenario to see what improvements could be made. The training revealed many successful processes in place and some additional areas where changes may be beneficial.

This month, Kansas was honored with a visit from Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano. Having served as governor of Arizona, she can relate to the challenges we face in Kansas concerning disaster response and state budget shortages. Napolitano witnessed a big event in Greensburg seeing the town’s only grocery store open following the May 4, 2007 tornado. The town is making significant progress with many homes now rebuilt. Much work remains, but federal and state support continues and we keep working closely with the town through their ongoing recovery process.

Two exciting missions for the Kansas National Guard happen over the next few months. Approximately 180 soldiers from

the 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment (Combined Arms) are training in Saudi Arabia for three weeks in late February and early March to take part in Friendship One, a bilateral exercise. This is the first time such an exercise has been conducted between the U.S. military and the Royal Saudi Land Forces and the first time since 1991 the U.S. and Saudi military have taken part in a large-scale military exercise together. In addition, our Agribusiness Development Team will soon leave for Afghanistan where the approximately 60 Army and Air Guardsmen will work with local Afghani farmers to help them improve food production capabilities. They have been training at the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center in Salina. We will host a deployment ceremony for these troops March 11 in Topeka.

As expected, the Kansas legislative session is focusing a lot of attention on our state’s challenging budget situation. It’s too early to say what kind of impact any cuts will have on the Adjutant General’s Department, however, we have been asked to review possible areas where we may have to reduce the budget. We will work closely with the legislature and the governor’s office throughout the session to ensure our agency is able to maintain its public safety mission of being the emergency responders to the emergency responders across our state when their resources are overwhelmed.

This spring, the Adjutant General’s Department will host the second annual Business and Industry forum in Salina, Kan. This year the focus will be to bring together leaders from the agricultural and chemical industries to improve disaster preparedness and to discuss the impact foreign animal disease could have if it ap-

peared in the state. The event is planned for May 20 and 21 and will help prepare those agencies involved in the Vigilant Guard exercise in June which will involve a foreign animal disease scenario.

It’s almost spring and we must be ready for severe weather. Last year Kansas had a record-breaking 187 tornadoes resulting in four deaths and millions of dollars in property damage. Flash flooding is also a significant concern for Kansans in the spring. It’s time for each of us to check our family emergency kits in our homes and cars, and ensure all of the supplies we need are there including bottled water, non-perishable foods and prescriptions. Make sure your family knows where you’ll be if phone lines are down and roadways are impassable. And if you haven’t purchased a weather alert radio, now is the time to do it.

In closing, we have several people in the department to congratulate including a new general officer. Kansas received authorization to fill the general officer position from National Guard Bureau in October following a recent study looking at distribution of positions based on joint capabilities. Col. Norm Steen was promoted to brigadier general and takes over as the new commander of the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center. Lt. Col. J.J. Jordan became the deputy commander of the GPJRTC, Col. John Andrew became the deputy commander of the Kansas Army Guard, and Brandt Haehn became senior plans officer with Kansas Division of Emergency Management. I’d also like to welcome new employees Jonathan York hired as the KDEM Response and Recovery Chief and Natalie Davis hired as the Communications Unit Chief. Congratulations to each of you.

## Soldier to Soldier

# A simple path to success

By Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Cullen  
169th CSSB

The headline reads “Liberal, Kansas, Soldier Accepts Promotion to Sergeant E5 in Kansas City, Kansas.” You’ve got to be kidding. Did this really happen? Well, it’s not as far-fetched as you might think. The Soldier who checks the block on the 4100 (Enlisted Promotion Point Worksheet) indicating he or she is willing to take a promotion within my battalion, is facing this possibility.

As a command sergeant major for 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, I spend a considerable amount of time dealing with promotions. I recently received a call from a family member wanting to know why his “significant other” wasn’t getting promoted. I boiled it down to a simple cookbook recipe for success: be where you’re supposed to be, when you’re supposed to be there and be prepared to accomplish the mission. This might sound a bit simplistic, but many things have been accomplished by doing the obvious.

When a soldier recently asked how I became a command sergeant major, I answered, “I consistently showed up on time for drill.” While this might not be all I did, it’s certainly the first step to designing a road map to success. Setting a goal and figuring out what specific steps are needed is fundamental to anything we accomplish in life. This includes buying a car or a house, starting a business, getting an education or getting promoted in the Kansas National Guard. Your 4100 plays a critical role. One problem I frequently confront is how this seemingly simple document gets filled out. The 4100 is normally sent to units during



Command Sgt. Maj.  
Patrick Cullen

September every year and shows a snapshot of what is in a Soldier’s file. More importantly, it indicates whether a soldier is willing to take a promotion within the unit or elsewhere in the state. Checking the appropriate blocks is significant. More issues arise in this area than any other because the Soldier does not check the intended block.

You are the person who can best take care of your career. The competition begins when you begin looking for your first set of sergeant stripes. Do you know how to navigate through the Army Knowledge Online Web site to check your Interactive Personal Electronic Record Management System records? Everything pertaining to future promotions needs to be posted accurately in your file. Does everything in your file actually belong to you? Occasionally a record gets misfiled. Is everything in your file accurate? When turning in documents such as school transcripts and Military School Academic Evaluation Report, you need to ask for a verification showing it was actually loaded into the Interactive Personal Electronic Record Management System. A batch number is issued whenever a document is loaded into the system. This is your proof that documents have been loaded.

First-line leaders should be checking their Soldiers’ Interactive Personal Electronic Record Management System files at least once a year. Historically, this has been done during a Soldier’s birth month by the full-time unit noncommissioned officer. First-line leaders should be checking the files with their Soldiers throughout the year.

The goal of the Enlisted Personnel Promotion System is to instill as much fairness in the system as possible. We want to enable the individual Soldier to maintain control of his or her career by making thoughtful choices. The Soldier who follows a simple but clear plan will get promoted.

Keep it simple. Make a plan. And have the discipline to follow through to success.

## Warrant officer recruiting going well

By Command Chief Warrant Officer 5  
Mark Jensen

I want to bring you all up to date on Warrant Officer Accessions so far in Fiscal Year 2009. We have pinned seven warrant officers since October and have one pre-termination packet in the Personnel Office. We have four packets that have been approved by the propensity with an additional five awaiting federal recognition boards.

There are currently two warrant officer candidates in school with another two commissioned officer to warrant officer conversions being actioned. This makes



Command Chief  
Warrant Officer 5  
Mark Jensen

21 warrant officers that should be pinned, as well as an additional 12 pre-determination packets that look very good. These should be successfully processed and the candidates viable before the end of the fiscal year.

With any luck, this will all result in an accession of 33 warrant officers this year, based solely on those currently in process. This is a success story which is greatly attributable to the efforts of our new full time Warrant Officer Recruiter Chief Warrant Officer 2 Billie Hancock.

I want to thank all of you who have provided leads and mentored soldiers to consider the warrant officer program. Your dedication to the warrant officer corps will ensure the success of the corps in Kansas for years to come. Each of us can be proud of the warrant officer heritage and tradition of excellence in Kansas, knowing this legacy will continue through the tireless efforts of the young men and women entering our warrant officer corps.

# PLAINS GUARDIAN

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<b>Editor</b> Sharon Watson	Administrative Assistant Jane Welch	785-274-1190
<b>Production/Graphics/Writer</b> Stephen D. Larson	FAX	785-274-1622
<b>Production Assistant</b> Jane Welch	e-mail: jane.e.welch1@us.army.mil	

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# Ask the TAG



## Military OneSource offers one-stop shopping for services

*I understand from deployment and re-deployment briefings that Military One Source is a resource we can use, but what exactly does the program offer for Guard and Reserve members?*

Military OneSource is a one-stop resource for military members and their families. Take a look at the list below. Military OneSource offers a myriad of services to aid servicemembers and their families with the various complexities of life. With deployments, redeployments and other life events, a little extra help can go a long way to ensure everyone involved has the tools they need to tackle any situation. Military OneSource also provides TroopTube, a medium for video sharing for service members and their family and friends.

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- Education
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*Send your question(s) by email to [Tagquestions@us.army.mil](mailto: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.*

## STARBASE receives funding

By Staff Sgt. Tim Traynor  
Public Affairs Office

Since 1993, Kansas STARBASE has worked with more than 42,000 Kansas children in grades four through six, teaching and inspiring them to greater interest in math, science, engineering and technology. The Kansas STARBASE program is the largest in the U.S. with locations in Wichita, Topeka, Salina and Kansas City, Kan.

Recent Congressional funding of the program was not enough to support all 60 STARBASE academies across the nation. However, the Department of Defense was able to secure additional funding which, in addition to some cost-saving measures, provided the necessary funds to support all STARBASE academies at their 2008 levels.

Jeff Gabriel, executive director of the Kansas program, was recently notified by the National Guard Bureau that all four

Kansas STARBASE locations will be funded through 2009 with all current staff remaining on board.

"This is great news for the youth of Kansas," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general. "STARBASE is a program that works, firing up interest in math, science, engineering and technology in the next generation of engineers, scientists, astronauts and a host of other professions that are key to keeping our nation strong. These students are the leaders of tomorrow and STARBASE is a program that not only makes them enthusiastic about science, it also instills confidence and leaderships skills. We're sincerely grateful to the Department of Defense for providing funding to keep this great program going for our Kansas kids."

For information about Kansas STARBASE, go online to [www.kansasstarbase.org](http://www.kansasstarbase.org).

## Some advice: Don't be 'That Guy'

By Staff Sgt. Tim Traynor  
Public Affairs Office

Ever wake up the next morning after a night of drinking only to realize you may not remember it or are faced with the consequences and have no idea how everything happened? Odds are you may have been "That Guy."

"That Guy" is a Department of Defense program aimed at helping service members curb excessive alcohol use, along with the embarrassing and possibly dangerous behavior associated with it. Toilet surfing and backyard boxing may seem like great ideas after a few drinks, but who wants to wake up to a broken toilet that's flooded your bathroom or look in the mirror to find missing teeth and a swollen knot on your forehead?

So what are some things that may point to becoming "That Guy?"

- Binge drinking (five or more drinks on the same occasion)
- Finding out you drunk-dialed someone
- Finding alcohol as the only means to release stress, or calm the nerves
- Drinking until passing out or vomiting
- Finding or sending pictures/video of under the influence behavior, possibly



on the Internet

- Friends, family and co-workers approaching you about your drinking habits.

If any of the above characteristics describe you or someone you know, it may be time to develop a strategy to avoid being "That Guy." There are several options to help anyone wishing to cut down on "That Guy" behavior. Military OneSource is a free resource provided to all service members and their immediate family. Along with Alcoholics Anonymous, there is Al-Anon/Alateen that provides support for the family of individuals seeking a change in their alcohol consumption.

For more information on the That Guy program, go to [www.ThatGuy.com](http://www.ThatGuy.com).

## Steen promoted to brigadier general in Kansas National Guard

Col. Norman E. Steen was pinned with one star during a special ceremony on Saturday, Feb. 7, signifying his promotion to brigadier general in the Kansas Army National Guard. The promotion took place at Nickell Armory, Topeka.

Kansas received authorization from National Guard Bureau to fill a general officer position following a recent study looking at distribution of positions based on joint capabilities.

With this promotion, Steen assumed command of the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center in Salina. The training center is the flagship of several proposed centers across the state that will provide training facilities for joint military and civilian emergency response agencies, including fire, law enforcement, medical, hazardous material and others.

"I am pleased General Steen has agreed to take the reins of the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center," said Maj. Gen. Bunting, the adjutant general. "Norman has the extensive command experience needed to handle the management of this training center that will serve the military, public and private sectors."

Steen has more than 30 years of commissioned military service, receiving his commission as second lieutenant in June 1978. He served with the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, U.S. Army, from January 1979 to March 1984. During that time, Steen served as rifle platoon leader, weapons platoon leader, assistant battalion personnel officer, anti-armor platoon leader and heavy mortar platoon leader. He became company commander for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion,



Brig. Gen. Norman E. Steen

16th Infantry at Fort Riley in October 1982 and was later named Training Management Control System officer at the same post.

Steen joined the Kansas Army National Guard in June 1984 and was assigned as tactical intelligence officer for the 1st Battalion, 635th Armor in Manhattan. He stayed with the battalion through September 1988, serving as personnel officer and logistics officer. He transferred to the 35th Infantry Division, Fort Leavenworth, in October 1988, where he served as aid to the commanding general and secretary to the general staff.

Steen joined the 2nd Battalion, 635th Armor in Salina in July 1990 as executive officer. He was named operations officer for the battalion in February 1991. Steen returned to the 35th Infantry Division in August 1992 as public affairs officer.

Steen became operations officer at Headquarters, State Area Command in September 1995 and was inspector general for the 35th Infantry Division from June 1996 to January 1998. He served as Supply Management officer at Headquarters, State Area Command from January 1998 until he assumed command of 1st battalion, 635th Armor in July of that same year.

In January 2001, Steen became training officer at Headquarters, State Area Command and was named deputy chief of staff, intelligence, at Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas in May 2002. He assumed command of the 235th Regiment, Kansas Regional Training Institute in September 2004.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of merit, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the Expert Infantryman Badge and Parachutist Badge.

Steen was born in Sioux Falls, S.D., and

(Continued on Page 11)

## Leadership changes announced for Kansas Army National Guard

Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, recently announced changes in the leadership of the Kansas National Guard, effective Monday, Feb. 16.

Col. John Andrew was named deputy commander of the Kansas Army National Guard. His role will be to assist Brig. Gen. John Davoren, assistant adjutant general – Army and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, in directing the training and operations of the Kansas Army National Guard. Andrew took on the role of Kansas Army National Guard Chief of Staff last November.

Andrew succeeds Col. David J. Wheeler,

who will now serve as Joint Chief of Staff for the Kansas National Guard. Wheeler will assist Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose, commander of the Joint Forces, in accomplishing the missions of Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas.

Wheeler replaces Col. Eric Peck, who is preparing for deployment to Afghanistan as commander of an Agribusiness Development Team that will assist Afghan farmers in developing agribusiness ventures.

Col. Alan Soldan, State Aviation Officer, assumed Andrew's former duties as the Kansas National Guard operations officer and Joint Staff operations director.

## Personnel changes made as department reorganizes

Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas Adjutant General, announced a reorganization within the Adjutant General's Department that will allow the agency to put a stronger emphasis on homeland security and at the same time strengthen the agency's emergency management operations.

Bill Chornyak, deputy director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, was named 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, senior plans officer with KDEM, became 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 non governmental agencies, county and state partners and at the federal level.

Brandt Haehn has been promoted within the department to senior plans officer. Haehn was formerly an emergency planner with KDEM.

Jonathan York joins KDEM as Response and Recovery Chief, a position previously known as the Operations Officer. York's previous position was as emergency manager for Marshall County.

Natalie Davis has been hired as Communications Unit leader for KDEM. Davis has 20 years experience in emergency medical services and was the fiscal agent for the Southwest regional Homeland Security Council.



# 287th Civil Affairs renew an old friendship with Iraqi village

By Master Sgt. Carl Mar  
287th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

Four years is a long time for friends to not see each other. Attitudes can change in that time and that was a concern of the 287th Sustainment Brigade Civil Military Operations team when they visited the village of Al Habib in Muthanna Province, Dec. 23. The trip’s primary purpose was to conduct an assessment of the community’s water pump for possible replacement, but the end result was to renew old ties.

Two weeks earlier, Lt. Col. Clint Moyer, 287th chief of Civil Affairs, was attending a key leaders meeting between area shaykhs and his unit’s command staff when he met Shaykh Al Habeb of the Al-Ghizi Tribe. In their dialogue, Moyer learned that Coalition Forces had built a road through the shaykh’s village and remodeled the village school. However, those projects concluded in the fall of 2004 and no one in the area had seen Coalition Forces since then.

“Shaykh Al Habeb also said that the village water pump was in dire need of replacement and asked for our assistance,” said Moyer.

The 287th Sustainment Brigade, an Army National Guard unit based in Wichita, Kan., had recently taken over sustainment operations in southern Iraq from the 7th Sustainment Brigade, which returned home to Fort Eustis, Va., a few days before Christmas. The 287th Civil Affairs



Lt. Col. Clint Moyer, Chief of Civil Affairs for the 287th Sustainment Brigade, (center left) listens as Shaykh Al Habeb (center right) describes the water problems of his village during a tour of the community, Dec. 23. (Photo by Master Sgt. Carl Mar)

team had yet to go out independently on a mission. Al Habeb presented the team several opportunities why it would be a good first mission.

“It’s a place where no Coalition Forces had been for a while and conducting a site survey of their pump offered us a chance to re-establish relations with the people. The

Al Saafy elementary school there was a bonus. It gave us an opportunity to try out our ‘Read Iraq’ program,” said Sgt. 1st Class Alexander Parker, 287th Civil Affairs operations sergeant.

The program, explained Parker, utilizes Soldier volunteers to read familiar children’s stories to Iraqi school children learning English as a second language. The children learn from English speakers how to enunciate words correctly and gain insight into Western culture.

Arriving late morning into the village, the Civil Affairs team and its security team easily found the pump and conducted an assessment of its condition. Little of the original green paint remained; most parts were rusted dark brown and leakage was evident around its base. Afterwards, Shaykh Al Habeb and village elders

greeted the team members and invited them inside a nearby community building for hot tea.

About a dozen men, a few quieting young children at their side, listened intently as Al Habeb engaged Moyer in discussion. He retold the history of how Coalition Forces had helped his village in the past, then spoke about the needs of the village today – help with their water pump and help in obtaining jobs for some of the village men who were unemployed.

“We had a good relationship with the Soldiers in the past and we would like to build that same relationship with you,” said Al Habeb. “I understand that this goal requires work and cannot happen immediately. But I hope we will achieve this goal.”

After the meeting, the shaykh provided Moyer and his team a walking tour of the village while pointing out major features of the village, including the one canal of brown water which is their primary source of water. The tour ended at the remodeled Al Saafy school house -- a yellow brick building with four classrooms accommodating 103 students and 12 teachers.

Al Habeb and Moyer visited the school principal, Kundaier Chasseb Hashim, and asked his permission for visitors to enter into the classrooms. Would he allow the Americans to read books in English and give small gifts to the teachers and students? Permission was given and for the next hour American Soldiers held the attention of every child in the school.

As the Soldiers gave the lessons and the children were laughing loudly, Al Habeb conversed with some of the unoccupied Soldiers. “Have you visited here before, do you like our country? Maybe someday, when you are not a Soldier, you will come back?” he asked with a smile. The delight on his face indicated that he was happy to see again the presence of Coalition Soldiers in his village.

## Brigade continues partnership with Al Amal School for the Deaf and Mute

By Sgt. Heather Wright  
287th Sustainment Brigade

Soldiers from the 287th Sustainment Brigade and the 3rd Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment brought smiles and hope to the Al Amal School for the Deaf and Mute in the city of Ar Rumaythah.

Lt. Col. Clint Moyer, chief of the 287th Sustainment Brigade Civilian Military Operations, and Lt. Col. Richard White, audiologist and 287th Medical Operations director, spearheaded the Jan. 14 visit. The trip followed up on the “Operation Voice of Hope” audiology exams, held on Dec. 10, which the Kansas-based Sustainers provided for 17 deaf Al Amal students.

“We wanted to touch base with the students and parents that we conducted exams on, see what the conditions were in the school and see what else we could do to help,” Moyer said.

Parents and children excitedly surrounded White as he walked through a gate into the school courtyard. They were eager to learn if they would receive hearing aids after their recent exams.

“We’re looking at various funding sources for hearing aids and hope to have

them within the next three months or so,” said White.

One of the unique challenges White faces is finding hearing aids that will not interfere with the girls’ head coverings.

“Most of these girls’ hearing loss is significant enough to rate behind-the-ear hearing aids,” White explained. “Unfortunately, the scarves they wear would create interference and feedback. We’re looking at hearing aids they can wear at their waists with wires that attach to ear molds they can wear under their headscarves.”

In addition to the 17 girls, there are also 22 hearing-impaired boys who need hearing exams. White intends to conduct exams on the boys when a colleague from another base visits with more sophisticated audiology equipment.

“The equipment we have at Adder is very basic. I would like to test the boys with the new equipment for more accurate results,” he said.

After initial greetings, Al Amal teachers gave the group a tour of the facility. The classrooms were full of smiling students happy to see the visiting Americans.

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## Reading program building bridges

Continued from Page 1

“Many Soldiers volunteered to do the reading, but we chose the ones that showed they could bond with the children. They appeared comfortable while reading and they used their hands and facial expressions to support what they were saying,” he said.

It was no surprise then that the two Soldiers reading at Al Ashyabb school that day were members of large families.

Spc. Cassandra Miller, 20, brigade supply specialist from Newton, Kan., has four brothers and three sisters, four of whom are younger than her. She joined the Kansas Army National Guard while a senior at Newton High School and, after graduation, worked as an administrative clerk for the Kansas National Guard recruiting command.

On Monday, she read to a class of 20 children, ranging in age from 4 to 11. Individually, the children had been learning English from one to four years.

“I read to them from two books, one about training a pet dog and another one about farm animals,” she said. “The kids appeared to know a lot of the animal names and were happy to join in when I growled ‘grrrrr’ and barked ‘arf! arf!’”

“After reading, we wrote the English and Arabic alphabets on the chalk board and sounded out each letter. Then the children wanted me to write down my name in English, which I did, but in single letters. They asked me to write it again, but the next time in cursive. When I did that, they ‘oohed’ and ‘aahed’ and said that it was beautiful. They said the cursive form of English looked more like their Arabic form of writing.”

“They also knew how to tell me their names and ages in English. Two children knew English well enough we could understand one another with only a little help from the interpreter,” she said.

The reading was a heart-warming event for her. “When the kids told me that they

loved me, I wanted to cry,” said Miller. “I loved doing the reading so much, I want to do it again.”

Sgt. Teresa Perrin, 37, is a patient administrator for the 287th Brigade Surgeon staff and is from Junction City, Kan. She is in Iraq with her husband Staff Sgt. McKindree Perrin, who is a member of the 287th Brigade Personal Security Detachment. She has three daughters from a previous marriage, ages 11, 16, and 19, and works as a Guard technician in civilian life at Fort Riley.

“The 14 or 15 kids were a tough crowd,” said Perrin. “They were first and second graders and hadn’t started learning English yet. By the looks on their faces I could tell they were probably thinking ‘Who’s this crazy lady?’ But overall I think it was a good experience for all of us.”

“We had fun. In my first book I read to them about animals on a farm. I’d say the animal’s name and then they’d repeat it first in English, then in Arabic. If they said it right, I’d give them a lollipop.”

“My second book was about a fox trying to steal grapes. The fox story was probably the best received. That’s because the children found similarities about it to a popular Iraqi story about a fox which goes on a religious journey.”

“The last lesson I gave was about Kansas. I brought out pictures of things which represent our state – a buffalo, sunflowers, cows and a tornado. The tornado got them really excited,” said Perrin.

Reflecting later on her classroom presentation, Perrin said, “I loved it. I thought it was a tremendously awesome experience. It feels good to give something back to the Iraqi people, and I want to go on more missions. I’m going to ask if I can go again.”

Al Ashyabb school was built with the assistance of the 7th Sustainment Brigade and opened in November 2008. The 287th Sustainment Brigade continues to assist the school.



Lt. Col. Richard White, audiologist and 287th SB Medical Operations, greets students at the Al Amal School for the Deaf and Mute Jan.14, 2009. (Photo by Spc. David Emerson)



# Civil Air Patrol conducts Mission Pilot training

**By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR**  
On Dec. 6, 2008, Civil Air Patrol conducted Mission Pilot training at Topeka’s Philip Billard Municipal Airport. These volunteers came from Topeka, Salina and Wichita to attend the one-day classroom training.

Retired Lt. Col. Mike Madden, commander of CAP Eagle Squadron Topeka Composite, explained that any CAP member may elect to become a CAP pilot. He stated that the member must be at least 17 years of age and hold current and valid FAA ratings. Additionally, they must pass written and flight checks for the aircraft they are flying. Madden said “Once they have qualified as a pilot they can fly CAP aircraft on training flights, shuttling aircraft from one location to another. However, they cannot fly on official Air Force missions, such as, search and rescue.”

To become a mission pilot requires additional training. A mission pilot trainee must be at least 18 and have at least 175 hours of pilot-in-command time. A mission pilot trainee must also attend the type of ground training that was conducted in Topeka. They then must pass a mission pilot flight check ride conducted by a qualified evaluator.

To be a mission pilot, a pilot must have logged at least 200 hours as pilot in command and 50 of those hours must be cross country. To remain a mission pilot an individual must recertify by going through this training annually.

A Cessna 182 belonging to the Topeka squadron was available to perform check rides, although, most went back to their own squadrons to conduct their check rides. There they would use their squadron’s aircraft and flight evaluator. Some of the subjects covered were crew resource management, navigation, electronic and map and terrain orientation and the current electronic equipment used in search operations.

Capt. Lynn Haltom conducted a class on crew resource management. She pointed out that, although the mission pilot leads the mission, they cannot do everything themselves. The pilot must rely on the other members for successful conduct of search and rescue missions. On board the aircraft are the mission pilot, the observer and scanner. The mission pilot commands the mission. The pilot flies the aircraft, getting it to where it needs to be and speaking to the Air Traffic Control network. The observer, sitting in the right front, assists in navigating and uses the Civil Air Patrol radio net to speak to the base station and ground teams. The scanner, often a Cadet, sits in the back seat, assisting in the visual search and documenting the aircraft search pattern.

In addition to search and rescue missions, mission pilots provide air support for disaster relief, transporting blood and live tissue to critical care sites. Also, when requested from a higher headquarters, they fly counterdrug and homeland security missions.



Capt. Lynn Haltom, Kansas Civil Air Patrol, conducts a class on crew resource management at a Mission Pilot training event. (Photo by Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR)

## Soldier’s efforts lead to law

**By Staff Sgt. James M. Grosdidier  
35th Division Public Information Staff**

While all Soldiers take an oath to defend the Constitution, the ultimate law of the land, few have the opportunity to help create law. Spc. Christopher Vedder, a broadcast specialist assigned to the 35th Division headquarters, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., recently did just that. Actions by Vedder, Kansas City, Mo., helped spur the passage of House Bill 1678 through the Missouri General Assembly last year. It was signed into law by Governor Matt Blunt on June 11, 2008. Among its many provisions, the bill ensures that service men and women cannot have the terms of their child custody arrangements changed because of military service.

According to Vedder, he contacted his Missouri state representative, Jason Holsman (D-District 45) because of stories he had heard about service members losing custody of their children because of deployments. “I had heard about a Marine who had lost visitation rights while he was de-

ployed in Iraq,” Vedder said. “I did some investigating on the internet and found that there were hundreds of instances of Soldiers and Sailors losing custody rights during overseas deployments. I felt something had to be done.” Holsman say that Vedder’s action undoubtedly helped benefit hundreds of Missouri service members. Kansas has also passed a similar law—Senate Bill 2621—that protects Kansas service members in similar circumstances. “Specialist Vedder brought to my attention the fact that many of our servicemen and women faced the possibility of losing custody of their children while deployed,” Holsman said. “Mr. Vedder was instrumental in helping to enact new legislation to protect soldiers.” “What Specialist Vedder did was outstanding,” said Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, commander of the 35th Division. “A lot of people—even senior leaders—identify problems, but they don’t always take actions. Specialist Vedder took the time to take action. That has made all the difference.”

# Program connects Soldiers, families for the holidays

Members of the Kansas National Guard currently stationed in Iraq had a chance to exchange holiday greetings with family members on the phone and let fellow Kansans listen in. The families of seven Soldiers with the 287th Sustainment Brigade, who deployed to Iraq this past fall, were invited to KLWN 1320 AM radio in Lawrence to appear on the Jeremy Taylor Show. Their Soldiers joined them from Iraq via telephone, as did several special in-studio guests: Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the Kansas Adjutant General; Guard Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Jenkins and Chuck Bredahl with Kansas Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. “We really appreciate the opportunity KLWN radio gave our Kansas Guard members and their families by having

these Soldiers on the air with their loved ones and letting them talk about their deployment so others can better understand the role of Guard members in Iraq and at home,” said Bunting. The program ran Dec. 25 from 8 to 11 a.m. and was rebroadcast the next day at the same time. It was also available on the station’s Internet site, www.klwn.com. Approximately 260 Kansas Guardsmen of the 287th Sustainment Brigade are conducting logistical support for U.S. and Coalition forces in their assigned area of operations for Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 287th, headquartered in Wichita, is also made up of the 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Olathe; the 891st Engineer Battalion, Iola; and the 287th Special Troop Battalion, Hays, as well as subordinate units in each battalion.



Maj. Cheryl Whelan visits with her family from Iraq during a special radio program on KLWN in Lawrence. Whelan is a member of the 287th Sustainment Brigade, currently serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

## Brigade continues partnership

**Continued from Page 6**  
“Our generator has been broken for a while now,” said Heyem Shakir Saleh, director of the deaf and mute program. “We’ve had other visitors that said they would fix it, but they never did. God willing, it will happen soon.” The teachers face many limitations. “We need to provide the children with a reason to stay in school. School supplies, coats, clothing -- anything you can provide would help us do that,” said Saleh. The school is in need of basic supplies, in addition to visual aid equipment in the classrooms, a needed asset for the special needs students. In addition to providing supplies and equipment, Moyer intends to partner with the Iraqi teaching staff to update their teaching skills with a week-long conference. “We haven’t had any training or teaching updates for several years,” Saleh said. Moyer, a special education teacher for the Sedgwick County Special Education Cooperative in Kansas, has a contact back in Kansas who is working to create training and visual aids for the Al Amal staff. Al Amal also has a program for the

physically and mentally impaired which includes 15 girls and 20 boys. During the visit, desperate parents sought the attention of the Soldiers present, begging them to help their children. They showed the visiting group their children’s twisted limbs and anxiously relayed stories of seizures and other various physical and mental issues. Moyer explained to Mohamad Muhsen, director of Al Amal’s Physically and Mentally Disabled Program, that White specialized in audiology and was unable to make any diagnosis outside his specialty. Muhsen appeared disappointed, but understood. Moyer assured Muhsen he would bring the children’s needs to the attention of the Muthanna Provincial Reconstruction Team and COB Adder’s medical team. He also intends to include their five teachers with those from the deaf and mute program in a teachers’ conference organized by the 287th Civilian Military Operations to be held in February. At the end of the classroom tour, Soldiers passed out toys to the children and school supplies provided by the 3rd Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment to the teachers, all of which were gratefully accepted.

## Embedded Training Team #4

**Continued from Page 1**  
wavering support, adding that they are an important element in sustaining future missions of the Kansas National Guard. “The fact that we get a little choked up when we think about our family is appropriate, because it’s actually the reason we do what we do,” said Bunting.

Overall, the ceremony may not have been as large and extravagant as some brigade-sized elements would have, but the general atmosphere was still very much the same. Friends, family members, spouses and children were all elated to see their loved ones home safe and proud to give them a hero’s welcome.



# 184th Medical Group enables force readiness during exercise in South Korea

**By Capt. Alyson Stockton**  
**184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs**  
Readiness is a cornerstone in today’s military, and a recent 184th Medical Group deployment contributed to the war worthiness of two total force entities.

A group of 39 medical and support personnel traveled to Gim Hae Air Base, a U.S. Air Force contingency field in South Korea, to inventory war readiness materials on behalf of the 51st Medical Group at Osan Air Base.

This was a win-win situation for both Pacific Air Forces and the Air National Guard, as the Guard was once again ready to fulfill active-duty shortfalls. Since Pacific Air Forces needed personnel to accomplish the inventory and the 184th needed funding to accomplish realistic training, the two joined forces with mutually beneficial results.

“This is just another example of what we can achieve when we work together as a total force,” said Maj. Billy Garst, the 184th medical administration officer.

The 184th Jaydocs gained experience in setting up the Expeditionary Medical Support (EMEDS) system, which consists of six tents. Those six tents yield crucial capabilities, including an operating room, emer-

gency room, command and control area, dental, intensive care unit and a pharmacy and logistics area. Additionally, there is a ward with a capacity of three, 10 or 25 patients, depending on the configuration. An EMEDS system with 10 patients required about 20 personnel to staff. Only about 40 total units in the Air Force and the Air National Guard have an EMEDS capability.

A field training exercise to develop readiness skills added to the realism of the experience. Tech. Sgt. Joshua Wiser, medical readiness, planned the exercise with injects that tested readiness skills across the spectrum of career specialties. Tech. Sgt. Cindy Willis made up key players to represent common battlefield injuries including burns, bullet wounds, implanted shrapnel and dehydration.

The first full day in-country, the group attacked the tent setup task, finishing ahead of schedule and thus setting the tone for the rest of the trip. All setup, tear-down, and inventories were accomplished rapidly and thoroughly, leaving time to experience Korean culture.

“This is a group of exceptionally hard-working individuals who really make my job as their commander easier because of their self-discipline,” said Lt. Col. Rohn Hamilton, 184th Medical Group commander.



**Members of the 184th Medical Group set up their Expeditionary Medical Support Squadron equipment in Gim Hae, Republic of Korea, on Sept. 18. (Photo by Capt. Alyson Stockton)**

Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Akin has been a part of many exercises that tested medical capabilities, and observed that the Jaydocs set up the EMEDS system in record time. But unlike Akin, many were learning the procedure for the first time.

“During my four years of active duty I never set up an EMEDS,” said Staff Sgt. Melinda Kellogg, bioenvironmental technician. “Now I know if we are called up for something, we all have the confidence to set up EMEDS and provide help to whoever needs it.”



**184th Medical Group personnel attend to an” injured” warfighter during a medical readiness exercise at Gim Hae Air Base, South Korea, Sept. 23. (Photo by Capt. Alyson Stockton)**

## Smoky Hill commander trades Air Guard blues for Elven red and green

**By Chief Master Sgt. Jim Weldy**  
Lt. Col. Jeff “Madman” Maddex, Smoky Hill Air National Guard Weapons Range commander, may not have won any national awards, but he was chosen by the men and women of the range as the person they would most like to see wearing an elf costume. Voting for their favorite elf was just one way the group raised money for a less fortunate Salina area family during the holidays.  
For the third year in a row, the 27 men and women from Smoky Hill have come together to purchase, wrap and deliver gifts to a Salina family in need. The first year was simple--donate if you wish--and \$587 was raised. Last year, the donations were a little down, so a challenge was made to the

Smoky folks that if \$450 was raised, the range noncommissioned officer in charge and assistant noncommissioned officer in charge would shave their heads. That opened up the check books and they raised \$625.  
Since Team Smoky couldn’t bear to see their beloved enlisted leaders with frozen craniums again, several ideas of how to raise the money were suggested. The pay to vote for the person you’d most like to see wearing an elf costume to work idea was met with instant positive response.  
Thankfully, Maddex is good-natured and donned the costume with little fight. In total, \$803 was raised and a local Salina family was able to have a very Merry Christmas.

## Annual report is now online

The 2008 Annual Report of the Adjutant General’s Department is now available online. The interactive PDF version of the report can be accessed by clicking the link found on the Adjutant general’s Department home page. The URL is <http://www.kansas.gov/ksadjutantgeneral>  
The report, compiled by the Public Affairs Office of the Adjutant General’s Department, details the events and activities of the Kansas National Guard, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Kansas Homeland Security and the Civil Air Patrol over the past year.

Included in the report is an overview of the year’s events, a brief history of the agency, information on deployments and homecomings, legislative measures that affected the Kansas National Guard and other divisions of the agency, reports from each of the agency’s offices and National Guard units, fiscal information and a map showing the location of each National Guard unit within the state.  
The report and map are interactive with links from each National Guard unit’s information to its location on the map and vice versa.

## 134th Air Control Squadron supports Iraqi election process

**By Staff Sgt. John Gordinier**  
**332nd Air Expeditionary Wing**  
Joint Base Balad Airmen were engaged in the Iraqi sky as Iraqis participated in their country’s electoral process Jan. 31, the first time since 2005.  
Members of the 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron observed the sky and polling stations to give confidence to the Iraqi people and support them while they vote, said Lt. Col. Michael Tokarz, the 727th EACS commander. In addition, the unit is providing airspace deconfliction and situational awareness for Iraqi air force pilots during the election process.  
Tokarz is a member of the Kansas National Guard’s 134th Air Control Squadron, currently deployed with the 727th EACS. Approximately 60 members of the 134th ACS are deployed for the mission. Their assignment is to manage flying operations for all aircraft flying in Iraqi airspace, including

air refueling tankers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft and fighters. They also manage, coordinate and clear airspace to allow for tactical mission execution while simultaneously permitting air traffic procedures to continue in Iraq.  
"I'm honored to be a part of this," Tokarz said. "I don't think we'll realize until after we've left, to understand the true impact we've had to the mission. It's easy to get caught up in the day-to-day actions compared to being part of the moment. What I think is remarkable are the steps we are taking now will hopefully give the country of Iraq everlasting peace by building it up toward a democracy."  
"U.S. and coalition airpower is uniquely qualified to provide non-intrusive security support to the government of Iraq as it conducts this historic election," said Lt. Gen. Gary L. North, the commander of 9th Air Force and U.S. Air Forces Central.



**Senior Airman Daniel Shaub concentrates on a screen depicting Iraqi air space in the Control Response Center Jan. 29 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Members of the 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron observed the sky and polling stations to give confidence to the Iraqi people and support them while they voted in the 2009 Iraqi provincial elections. Shaub is a 727th EACS air surveillance technician deployed from the 134th Air Control Squadron, Kansas Air National Guard. (Photo by Senior Airman Elizabeth Rissmiller)**



# Classes spur thinking, continuing operations after a disaster

By Staff Sgt. Mark Hanson  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Over the past year the state of Kansas has seen its fair share of disasters and emergencies. In 2008 alone, Kansas was hit by a record-breaking 187 tornadoes, resulting in four fatalities, nine injuries and millions of dollars in damage to homes, property and infrastructure. When such incidents occur, the citizens of Kansas rely upon their appointed state agencies for services and support in order to maintain their way of life. But what happens when the necessary state, county or city organization has yet to properly plan how their own agency will endure the crisis?

“Proper planning means finding and isolating your entity’s central functions,” said Maj. Dave Young. “I put it this way, when your boat is sinking, you have to take inventory of what is essential for your job that won’t allow you to sink further.”

Young is the director of the Kansas Adjutant General’s Department Integrated Initiatives Office in Topeka, Kan., and a key instructor of the Continuity of Operations or “COOP” class, often held at the agency’s Eisenhower Center for Homeland Security Studies. The COOP class was designed to help agency members evaluate

what their central functions are and what essentials they will need in order to maintain longevity and stability in a time of severe crisis. Over the past several years, Young has continued to develop similar classes that focus on educating governmental officials on proper preparation methods and interagency collaboration.

“The key to these training sessions is that there are representatives from numerous state and local departments,” Young said. “Each individual department’s function forms a foundation on which all other plans are designed and deployed. The point of these COOP classes is to allow the various agencies to sit down and develop these plans around each other.”

Interagency development helps promote and maintain the vitality of requirements needed in instances where a COOP would be utilized. Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general, agrees that such training elements, like the Continuity of Operations class, is a fundamental part of emergency management.

“Any amount of planning can help keep people alive and safe,” said Bunting. “The interconnected relationship that these different agencies, departments and businesses have is unfathomable. And only by doing



**Maj. Matt Oleen leads a discussion in Continuity of Operations Planning at the Eisenhower Center for Homeland Security Studies in Nickell Armory, Topeka. (Photo by Jane Welch)**

joint classes and exercises, can we manage to develop courses of action that will maintain structural integrity in a time of need.”

The program also addresses the broad and complex range of circumstances each department or agency should prepare to address.

“We drive in the diversity of things that can potentially happen,” says Young. “It may not be some far-fetched Hollywood gimmick, but it could be any number of things, not just tornadoes or floods or ice storms, but things like finding lethal mold in your building, leaking gas-lines, biological contamination, worker strikes, information technology outages or terrorist attacks.”

The lesson also places a large emphasis on personal family protection, perhaps the most critical part of COOP preparedness. Personal family protection recommends that government employees should actively be updating and preparing their own families for emergencies so as not to further complicate their duties later on.

“People can do their jobs left and right

all day long, but the second their own family is involved, it complicates things and they’re not able to focus on the tasks at hand,” said Young.

More than 1,100 individuals from multiple agencies have attended COOP training sessions. The day-long block of instruction includes group discussions, tabletop exercises, planning activities and lectures. Participants are given the materials and guidance to plan and devise their own COOP. Classes are typically taught on a monthly basis at the Eisenhower Center. Sessions are open to state and local officials.

Tentatively scheduled to begin in June 2009, the Integrated Initiatives Office will be offering two new classes at the Eisenhower Center—Kansas Homeland Security 101 and Fusion Center Intelligence 101. Both classes will be focused on creating a collaborative work environment between agencies.

For more information about the COOP class, contact Maj. Dave Young at (785) 274-1478 or dave.r.young@us.army.mil.

## Agencies take part in four-day emergency management course

By Pfc. Stephanie Hodges  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Any time, any place and in any community, a disaster can happen. In order to better prepare for a crisis situation, the state of Kansas has implemented the Integrated Emergency Management Course for state agencies. This course will streamline disaster preparedness and response by enabling agencies to work together and assess a situation, minimize the impact, ensure the immediate needs are properly met and guarantee the welfare and safety of the public.

Each level of government, from federal to local, along with non-governmental organizations, use the guiding principles of the National Response Framework when a catastrophe occurs. The NRF is the fundamental document for all emergency response, which outlines the key ideas, roles and structures that coordinate national response. Additionally, it gives guidance to the state Emergency Management Agency and coordinating agencies’ Emergency Operations Plans.

In correlation with the NRF and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) provides training and education to all levels of government to improve the level of national emergency responsiveness. EMI has developed the Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) to implement the NRF and reinforce the responsibilities of emergency management officials of state agencies.

“Every disaster is unique...so we need to meet with our partners, practice, and develop relationships so that we become aware

of our resources and assets the other agencies have,” said Paula Phillips, Kansas Division of Emergency Management and Kansas Homeland Security training manager.

The Kansas IEMC was conducted Feb. 10-13 at the State Emergency Operations Center in Topeka at Nickell Armory. This course was open to state organizations with roles and responsibilities in the state EOC. The training included instruction on NRF elements, an outline of Emergency Operations Plans and a description of essential roles based on each response agency. A simulated disaster exercise was also conducted to test the knowledge learned and retained.

Each participating agency provided at least two personnel for this disaster. One individual represented the agency in state EOC training and the other individual acted as the exercise controller. The simulated test took place in a replicated city called Crisis City. Participants were given topographical map resources, hazard analysis and vulnerability assessments. Participants played out their roles as first responders and learned how emergency operation centers should operate, how people respond to disasters and how to manage the crisis. Participants also experienced the recovery phase, adjusting operation capabilities to meet changing needs and the ever changing population.

“The reason we need to participate in these types of activities is to make sure that Kansas Emergency Management and our state partners are able to effectively and efficiently respond to the needs of the citizens of Kansas during a disaster,” said Philips.

## Simulators provide safe training

By Sgt. Michael Mathewson, UPAR

Flying a UH 60 Black Hawk helicopter is a hazardous, yet commonplace, event for members of the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation. To serve the citizens of Kansas, they fly aircraft in all types of weather night or day.

To reduce this hazard and ensure readiness pilots train constantly in the Black Hawk. However, there are some procedures that are too dangerous to perform in the aircraft. That is when crews use the 2B38 UH-60 flight simulator at the Fort Riley Regional Aviation Simulation Center.

The simulator is an exact representation of the Black Hawk’s pilot stations with positions for an instructor pilot and observer in the rear of the cockpit. The simulator has six degrees of motion, which allows for a realistic session of flight. The simulator banks left and right. The nose will drop and rise. The front, side and chin windows are computer generated screens that allow for both visual and instrument flying conditions. With motion and visual clues, the vibration of the seats and the sounds, it simulates a real Black Hawk.

The instructor can input a variety of weather conditions, as well as every conceivable aircraft and Air Traffic Control malfunction. Depending on the mission, the instructor has the ability to program friendly and opposition air and ground forces.

On Jan. 9, Capt. Todd Loughney and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Larry Werneke flew a training session with Chief Warrant Officer 3 Brandy Nichols serving as the instructor pilot. Although physically on the ground at Fort Riley’s Marshall Field, the simulator placed them on the Army National Guard ramp at Topeka’s Forbes Field. After takeoff they took turns flying instrument approaches into the local Billard Airport and Forbes Field. All the while, Nichols was inputting weather conditions, such as icing, and navigation and equipment failures. On the final approach of the session, the runway at Forbes came into view as the aircraft passed through the bottom of the cloud layer. Landing on the runway center line with a complete engine failure, the crew asked the tower to send out an aircraft tug to bring them home.

“The simulator is a wonderful procedural trainer,” said Nichols. “It allows the guys a chance to do things that they can’t do in the aircraft without damage.”

“I was working with the crew for standardization,” he continued. “The crew needs to work as a team. The pilot flying the aircraft needs to fly and rely on the copilot to provide the corrective actions.”

“The simulator is a great tool and resource,” said Werneke. “It gives us a chance to fly in an instrument flight envi-

(Continued on Page 11)




**Capt. Todd Loughney (left) and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Larry Werneke, members of the Kansas National Guard’s 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation, go through their paces in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter flight simulator at Fort Riley. (Photo by Sgt. Michael Mathewson, UPAR)**







## KANSAS VETERAN’S MEMORIAL BASS TOURNAMENT



The **Fifth Annual Kansas Veteran’s Memorial Bass Tournament** in memory of all fallen Kansas service men and women will be held on April 25, 2009, at the Coffey County Lake near Wolf Creek Generating Station, Burlington, Kan. This tournament is to celebrate the freedom and pursuit of happiness that we enjoy as Americans. So join us in recognizing the fallen heroes of Kansas that gave the ultimate sacrifice for our American Freedom.

This is a boat tournament, bring your own boat and fill it with as many participants as the boat can legally hold. Top 5 places will receive prizes. 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 130th Field Artillery Family Support Group is hosting this tournament. This is a fun tournament you can start from 30 minutes after sunrise until 8:30 a.m. and ends at 12 p.m. Prizes will be awarded after the final boat returns or 12:30 p.m. whichever is the earliest. **There is NO entry fee for this tournament.**

<b>Prizes and Trophies will be awarded.</b>	<b>Date: April 25, 2009 at Coffey County Lake (near Wolf Creek)</b>
<b>Bratwurst, Hamburgers and side dishes will be served at the end of the event.</b>	

**Schedule of Events**

Time	Event
<b>6 a.m. until 8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Check in and Pre-Tournament Announcements</b>
<b>30 minutes after sunrise until 8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Tournament begins</b>
<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Tournament Ends/Weigh In/Lunch and Awards</b>

### Official Entry Form

**Boater Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hm Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Wk Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Boat Registration Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Year & Model of Boat:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Boat Motor HP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read and will comply with the above stated tournament rules and regulations;**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Boater’s Signature**  
Point of contact for this tournament is Eric Thompson, 785-742-5636.

**Send form to: 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 130<sup>th</sup> FA**  
**Attn: Family Support Group**  
**108 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street**  
**Hiawatha, Kansas 66434**

## Tournament Rules and Regulations

- Participants and Eligibility:** Participation in this event is open. The first 70 teams (maximum allowed on Coffey County Lake) to register for this event will be allowed in the tournament. Contestants must possess a valid Kansas State Fishing License if required by law. Contestants under the age of 18 may enter and fish with a parent or legal guardian providing both the minor and parent/legal guardian read, understand and sign an entry/waiver form (provided upon request).  
This is a Boat tournament. We will not be matching boaters with non-boaters; your fishing partner is up to you, but you will have to have a partner. Tournament starting order will be determined by the arrival time of the boat.
- Lake Closure:** The Lake is subject to being closed to boat access under certain wind or other conditions. Boats will be prohibited from be placed on the Lake when it is closed, boats are prohibited from staying in the water after notification of Lake closure. If the tournament starts on Coffey County Lake and wind conditions cause anglers to leave the lake, the weigh in will be conducted at that time.
- Boats, Motor and Safety:** All boats must be motorized and for fishing purposes only. All boats must stay in designated fishing areas. The Lake must be accessed and entered at the Public Access Area only. Any other access is prohibited. All persons in a boat on the lake are required to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved (Type I, II, III or V) personal flotation device at all times. Each contestant is solely responsible for his/her actions, including situations due to inclement weather. It is your personal decision to travel to and/or fish in this tournament regardless of weather conditions. There is absolutely no use of alcohol during the tournament.
- Scoring:** The daily limit is based upon creel limits of Coffey County Lake. Only species in the Bass family will be counted during weigh in. The creel limit for a TEAM is five fish; they must meet all State and Coffey County Lake Limits (Creel and size restriction pamphlets will be available during registration). Total weight of five fish will determine a teams standing. In the event of a tie for 1st place, the winning team will be decided by the largest single fish weight. Any team presenting fish that fall into the protected length limit will be disqualified and may be subject to fines imposed by Coffey County or Kansas Dept of Wildlife & Parks. All fish weighed will be returned to the water upon completion of weighing. Disposition of dead fish will be up to tournament officials.
- Sportsmanship, Tackle and Equipment:** You may not fish within 50 yards of another competitor if anchored or secured in a fixed position with the trolling motor out of water. All angling must be done from the boat. Anyone displaying poor sportsmanship, breaking local, state or federal laws or violating any of the rules of this tournament will be subject to disqualification. Tournament officials on-site will make any decisions concerning disqualification. Protests must be received at time of weigh in, no exceptions.
- Pre-tournament meeting and weigh-in:** Any last minute tournament information will be given to the boat captain upon sign-in. All contestants are required to sign in. The tournament will begin at 6 a.m. or first safe light (dependent on inclement weather or fog). The tournament will end at 12 p.m. Competitors that do not meet the 12 p.m. time for turn in are disqualified from weigh in.

## Awards and Decorations

### Continued from Page 10

Pfc. Eric Fox, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City  
Pfc. Donald Jones Jr., 1161st FSC, Hutchinson  
Pfc. Tory Krehbiel, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson  
Pfc. Charles Robinson, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson  
Pfc. Donald Stewart, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City  
Pfc. David Thomas, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman  
Pfc. Jessica Webb, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson  
Pvt. 2 Marc Gray, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City  
Pvt. 1 John Dishon, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City

#### KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD Meritorious Service Medal



Lt. Col. Anthony Smith, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Lt. Col. Mark H. Wilson, 184th IW, Wichita, with 4th Oak Leaf Cluster  
Maj. Deann M. Barr, 184th IW, Wichita  
Maj. Jarrod M. Moseley, 184th IW, Wichita  
Capt. Deborah L. Balentine, 184th IW, Wichita

#### Air Force Achievement Medal



1st Lt. Gregory O. Thomas, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Chief Master Sgt. Brian Saunders, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Master Sgt. Delton Brun, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Shellie D Armstrong, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Dawn M. Haynes, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Jack W. Reynolds, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Christopher N. Tillison, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Frances Wegner, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Vic Vinson, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Capt. John C. Suter, 184th IW, Wichita  
Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Montgomery, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Master Sgt. Wallace Bonnette, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Mark Sabes, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Edward A. Benoit, 184th IW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Sean Greenlee, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Matthew Madinger, 190th ARW, Topeka

# Guardsman’s career spanned 25 years and three continents

**By Staff Sgt. James M. Grosdidier  
35th Division PAO staff**

Sgt. 1st Class Roy Lovelady retired in October from a military career that has seen service on three continents and spans over 25 years.

Lovelady, originally from Kennett, Mo., enlisted in the Army Reserve as an ammunition specialist. Since then he has served in a variety of roles, including a combat engineer and administrative specialist.

Lovelady served in Iraq in Operation Desert Storm in 1990-91. He has spent the last 10 years with the 35th Division. While with the division, he went to support peacekeeping missions in Bosnia and disaster relief missions in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

“The Army has taken me around the world. I saw things and met people I

wouldn’t have had a chance to otherwise,” Lovelady said.

“I have lived in Korea, Germany, Turkey. I have had lots of experiences and the Army made them possible.”

According to Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Taylor, a Soldier like Lovelady will be difficult to replace.

“Sergeant First Class Lovelady is a great Soldier, very highly dedicated. We are going to miss him,” Taylor said. “The skills he brought with him greatly improved the personnel process. He is a great, gentle giant. He will be sorely missed.”

As a civilian, Lovelady is employed by the Trail’s West Golf Course, Fort Leavenworth, as the maintenance supervisor. He presently resides in Leavenworth with his son, Anfernee, a student at West Middle School.



**Maj. Gen. Wayne Pierson, commander of the 35th Division, presents a U.S. flag to Sgt. 1st Class Roy Lovelady during a retirement ceremony. (Photo by Staff Sgt. James M. Grosdidier)**

## Steen promoted to brigadier general

**Continued from Page 5**

attended high school in Hills, Minn. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in economics at the University of Minnesota and a master’s degree in public administration at Kansas State University. He also earned a master’s degree in strategic studies at the U.S. Army War College.

His military education also includes Airborne Course; Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses; Infantry Mortar Pla-

toon Course; RC Tank Commanders Course; Command and General Staff College; Tactical Commanders Development Course, Brigade level and Armor Pre-command Course. He is currently working on the Advanced Joint Professional Military Education Course.

In his civilian career, Steen is president of Jasper Enterprises, Inc., Woodland Park, Colo. Steen and his wife, Cheryl, live in Woodland Park and have three children.

## UH-60 Black Hawk simulators

**Continued from Page 9**

ronment and it gives you to chance to conduct tactical missions. There’s the planning process and the execution without any consequences if you make a mistake. There is no danger of loss of limb. If you make a

mistake in the simulator, it is learning. A mistake in the aircraft — worse case is death.”

Werneke went on to say “We are required to get twelve hour a year, which is not a lot, but it keeps you on your toes.”

## Retirements

**Kansas Army National Guard**  
Col. Kenneth Gale, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
Lt. Col. Lisa McPeak, KSARNG Med Det, Lenexa  
Lt. Col. Charles Brown, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
Lt. Col. Francis “Duke” Hester Jr., JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
Lt. Col. William Sullivan, KSARNG Med Det, Lenexa  
Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jimmy Istas, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
Chief Warrant Officer 4 Susan Jordan, Det 1, Co C, 1st Bn, 171st Avn, Topeka  
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Stephen Peak, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita  
Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Romans, HQ, 235th Regt (RTI), Salina  
1st Sgt. Stephen Chrisman, Co B (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Salina  
Master Sgt. Robert Coles, Det 1, 170th Maint Co, Goodland  
Sgt. 1st Class Brian Donovan, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola  
Sgt. 1st Class Roy Lovelady, HHC, 35th Div, Fort Leavenworth  
Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Snook, BCTS, Fort Leavenworth  
Sgt. 1st Class David Welch, 35th Div, Fort Leavenworth  
Staff Sgt. Horace Brown Jr., 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Dennis Coulthard, Det 3, 250th FSC, Sabetha  
Staff Sgt. Leroy Edwards, 2137th SC (F), Manhattan  
Staff Sgt. Suzanne Honeycutt, KSARNG Med Det, Lenexa  
Staff Sgt. John Kompus, 170th Maint Co (-), Norton

Staff Sgt. Kelly McPormack, Btry B (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City  
Staff Sgt. Jerry New, Co A, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf Regt (CAB), Lawrence  
Staff Sgt. George O’Brien Jr., 2137th SC (F), Manhattan  
Staff Sgt. Colleen Owens, Co A, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Charles Sallis, Det 1, 778th Trans Co, Manhattan  
Sgt. Carlos Arroyo Jr., 778th Trans Co, Kansas City  
Sgt. Franklin Brown, 2137th SC (F), Manhattan  
Sgt. Clyde Hixson II, Det 3, 250th FSC, Sabetha  
Sgt. Jeffrey Knowlton, 250th FSC, Ottawa  
Sgt. Eric Lawrence, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville  
Sgt. Emeka Okoronkwo, Det 2, 250th FSC, Clay Center  
Sgt. Matthew Stewart, Co D (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka  
Sgt. John White, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Phillipsburg  
Spc. John Sims, Btry E, (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend

#### Kansas Air National Guard

Lt. Col. Miki Rende, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Master Sgt. James R. Beard, 184th IW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Delton Brun, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Master Sgt. Kris Clarke, 184th IW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Scott Then, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Mark Mertel, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Jeffrey L. Nice, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Jack W. Reynolds, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Christopher N. Tillison, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Coons, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Dawn M. Haynes, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Richard LaCount, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Patrick B. O’Brien, 184th IW, Wichita



## Cargill "Jeans Week" nets money for Kansas National Guard Foundation



Employees of Cargill Meat Solutions Corp. in Wichita presented a check for \$2,059 to the Kansas National Guard Foundation in January. The money was collected as part of a "Jeans Week" event during Veterans Awareness Week at the company. Employees paid \$5 each to be allowed to wear blue jeans to work during the week. (Photo provided)

## State Representative Elaine Bowers elected to Kansas STARBASE board

State Representative Elaine Bowers was recently elected to the Kansas STARBASE Foundation Board. The Board assists with dispersing funds for STARBASE programs.

"We are excited to have State Representative Elaine Bowers joining the STARBASE Foundation Board. Her familiarity with the STARBASE program both from her personal experience attending STARBASE academies with her children, as well as many of the elementary schools she represents in her district participating in the Salina STARBASE site are a great asset to our team," said Garry Cushinberry, STARBASE Foundation president.

General elections were held last fall during which Barbara Bunting was elected for another three-year term as the secretary for the Foundation Board.

Generally, one or two positions on the board open each year, and Board members can serve two, two-to three-year terms for a maximum of six years.

The STARBASE foundation board of directors consists of: Garry Cushinberry, president; Dennis Hansen, vice president; Barbara Bunting, secretary; Frank Garver, Treasurer; and members Dr. Kurt Barnhart, State Representative Elaine Bowers, Marlon Johnston and Alan States.

The Board of Directors is the sole governing body of the Kansas STARBASE 501(c)3 organization. The nonprofit organization manages the STARBASE program on behalf of the state of Kansas and augments the U.S. Department of Defense funds to enhance the youth educational program in Kansas.

## Kansas National Guard names Soldier, NCO of the Year

**By Maj. Mike Wallace**  
**105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

Staff Sgt. Ryan L. Pierce of Newton is the Kansas Army National Guard's Non-commissioned Officer of the Year and Spc. Edwin Jones of Junction City, Kan., is the Kansas Army National Guard's Soldier of the Year.

The Soldiers earned these top honors during the Non-commissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year Competition held at the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center in Salina during a grueling four-day contest from Nov. 6-9, 2008.



Staff Sgt. Ryan L. Pierce

Bachelor of Arts degree from Upper Iowa University in May 2009. He works as a material handler in civilian life.

Jones has been married to Tramaine for three years, and they have a daughter, Angel, 2. He likes to read, work out, watch sports and spend time with his family.

Pierce, a member of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry, joined the Guard so he could keep the military in his life and have a retirement after serving his country.



Spc. Edwin Jones

"I am honored to have represented my unit at this year's competition and will strive to be the best at the upcoming Regional NCO of the Year Board," said Pierce, who is an armor crewman. He is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and works with the Pre-mobilization Training Assistance and Evaluation team in Salina. He has served in the Minnesota Army National Guard and spent five years on active duty. In civilian life, Pierce is a maintenance worker for the City of Newton.

Pierce, a 12-year veteran of the Kansas Army National Guard, is no stranger to military bearing and history. His parents are retired Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond Pierce and Susan Pierce, who live in Hibbing, Minn.

"I would like to thank all of those who have helped and are currently supporting me with a very special thanks to the one that supports me the most, my lovely wife, Traci," said Pierce.

They have three children, Kaitlin, 11; Madison, 8 and Rylie, 4. Traci is a chiropractor assistant. Pierce is a 1995 graduate of Hibbing High School. He has attended Everest College and Hutchinson Community College while working on a degree in criminal justice.

His hobbies include hunting, playing horseshoes, watching the Minnesota Vikings and NASCAR, taking trips with his family, going to the movies with his wife, sports and playing the acoustic guitar.

## KANSAS NATIONAL GUARD 2009 Adjutant General's Combat Marksmanship Match



**Rifle - Pistol - Sniper**  
 Hosted by:



184<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Wing  
 190<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing  
 KSARNG Area Medical Detachment  
 Kansas Regional Training Center, Salina, Kan.

**May 29-31, 2009**  
**For registration please contact:**

Capt. Gleb Gluhovsky, State Marksmanship Coordinator 913-486-6530 [gleb.gluhovskiy@us.army.mil](mailto:gleb.gluhovskiy@us.army.mil)  
 Staff Sgt. David Salinas, 190<sup>th</sup> ARW Air Guard 785-861-4435 [david.salinas@kstope.ang.af.mil](mailto:david.salinas@kstope.ang.af.mil)

## Napolitano visits Greensburg



New Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, along with Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, visited Greensburg, Kan., on Feb. 11 and took part in a ceremony reopening the Dillon's store in the community that was ravaged by a tornado May 4, 2007. Earlier in the day, Napolitano stopped by Nickell Armory in Topeka to speak to a group of emergency management professionals attending an Integrated Emergency Management Course conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. As Homeland Security secretary, Napolitano oversees all federal emergency response, recovery, training and mitigation programs. (Photo by Sharon Watson)