



TAG visits troops in Kosovo2



National Honor Guard team competition is demanding . . .7



Crisis City shows off its facilities . . .10

PLAINS GUARDIAN

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FEBRUARY 2010

State budget shortfalls force closure of 18 armories

Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general, recently announced the names of the communities where 18 of 56 Kansas National Guard armories will close in February 2010 due to state budget cuts.

Armories slated to be closed are in Atchison, Burlington, Chanute, Cherryvale, Council Grove, Fort Scott, Garden City, Garnett, Goodland, Horton, Kingman, Larned, Phillipsburg, Russell, Sabetha, Salina (East Armory), Troy and Winfield. The Salina East building will remain open for Guard use, but armory operations will be transferred to other armories.

Armory personnel, community leaders, legislators and congressional staff affected by the impacted armories, as well as all Adjutant General Department staff, were notified prior to the public announcement.

Budget cuts and the need for long-term sustainment of operations force closures

The decision to close the facilities and consolidate operations into 38 existing locations was the result of state budget cuts announced in the governor's budget reduction package on Nov. 23, 2009, and is necessary for long-term sustainment of armory operations.

"This was a difficult decision, but we had little choice as the state budget was reduced and we considered what would be

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*Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting
the adjutant general*

necessary for long-term sustainment of armory operations statewide," said Bunting.

"When you factor in maintenance, repairs and utilities, the real annual cost of keeping the remaining 38 armories open is \$2.95 million," Bunting explained. "We've been getting about \$1.7 million for those 38 armories. Due to this shortfall we've had to defer maintenance for decades, requiring us to take out millions in bonds to bring armories up to a usable standard."

"If funding continues at this reduced level, the Guard will be forced to seek future bonds for renovations or make additional armory cuts," said Bunting.



Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, and Brig. Gen. John Davoren, assistant adjutant general - Army and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, announced the closure of 18 armories across the state, a move necessitated by shortfalls in the state budget. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Hanson)

Personnel and financial impact

All National Guard personnel working at these 18 facilities will be transferred to other armory locations. Training, equipment and other items needed to continue operations will also be relocated.

A total of 29 full-time Guard staff and 412 traditional/M-day Guard Soldiers will be impacted by the consolidation. Traditional/M-day Soldiers are those who train one weekend a month and two weeks a year.

(Continued on Page 8)

Second Kansas Agribusiness Development Team deploys

A joint Kansas Army and Air National Guard team of approximately 60 personnel was honored during a ceremony on Jan. 14, as the second Kansas team deployed to Afghanistan as an Agribusiness Development Team.

The 11 a.m. ceremony was held at the

Kansas Regional Training Center in Salina and was attended by a standing room only crowd of family and friends.

"I knew this place would be packed and it is," observed Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general. "I knew our families would be here."

The team, under the leadership of Col. Mike Dittamo, will take over for the first Kansas ADT team which deployed in March 2009 and returns this spring.

Bunting praised the ADT, noting the

(Continued on Page 2)

Air Guard Engineers help provide disaster relief in Haiti

As part of their annual two-week training requirement, 48 members of Topeka's 190th Air Refueling Wing deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to assist with several base construction projects Jan. 4.

However, following the disaster in Haiti, 190th personnel began assessing personnel and equipment for providing disaster relief response.

"Within a short time of a ceremony to send Soldiers and Airmen to a critical mission in Afghanistan we get another mission," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general. "This is what we do and it is an honor to be called upon to support this. Our Guardsmen are prepared to do whatever is necessary to help the victims in Haiti."

(Continued on Page 10)

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Soldiers of the Kansas National Guard Agribusiness Development Team #2 await the start of the ceremony honoring them as they prepare to deploy for a one-year mission to Afghanistan. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Traynor, Public Affairs Office)



Airmen from the 190th Civil Engineering Squadron set up tents near Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to be used for Haitian relief operations. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Angela Brees)

Adjutant general visits Kansas troops serving in Kosovo

By Sgt. 1st Class David Dodds

The commander of the Kansas National Guard took time recently to personally thank his state's Citizen-Soldiers, who are here beginning an important NATO peacekeeping mission.

Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general, spent two days in Kosovo, visiting troops from the Sunflower State and holding meetings with leaders of Multi-National Task Force-East, part of NATO's KFOR 12 Kosovo Forces peacekeeping operations in Kosovo.

The general was an honored guest of the 231st Maneuver Task Force, which has about 20 Soldiers from the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry, headquartered in Kansas City. The Kansas Soldiers and members of the North Dakota-based 231st have come together seamlessly to form one unit, working with Kosovo people and institutions to maintain safety, security and freedom of movement.

Bunting ate meals with the Kansas-based Soldiers, along with Brig. Gen. Al Dohrmann, commander of MNTF-E; and Lt. Col. Lee Nordin and Command Sgt. Maj. Joel Walsvik, respectively, commander and senior enlisted leader of the 231st.

State Command Sgt. Maj. Scott W. Haworth, Kansas National Guard senior enlisted adviser; Chaplain (Col.) Donald Davidson, Kansas state chaplain; and Chaplain (1st. Lt.) Brock Sailer, 231st chaplain; also joined the generals for meals with the troops.

"They are disciplined, well focused and have great leadership," Bunting said.

Deployed unit completes Weapons Qualification and Army Warrior Training in Sinai

By Spc. Lori Hudson, UPAR
250th Forward Support Company

Soldiers of the 250th Forward Support Company completed Individual Weapons Qualification and Army Warrior Task training Nov. 12-14, 2009, as part of their overseas training in the Sinai Peninsula. The 250th, headquartered in Ottawa with detachments in Burlington, Clay Center and Sabetha, is deployed with about 300 other Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery in support of the Multinational Force and Observers. The mission is an international peacekeeping force overseeing the terms of the peace treaty signed between Egypt and Israel in 1979. This is the 53rd Multinational Force and Observers mission the United States has supported.

The unit combined classroom and lane training to execute doctrinal exercises in

combat lifesaving, land navigation, squad survival, and MFO specific skills. The training and evaluation was platoon-driven and an opportunity for the squad leaders to hone their leadership skills as well.

"This was a great training event where Soldiers were able to qualify with their assigned weapon and accomplish Army Warrior Tasks," explained Capt. Daniel Mehlhaff, commander of the 250th FSC. "The trainers were prepared and kept the audience interested."

The unit utilized the entire Spellmann Range area on South Camp and completed a great number of requirements while on the MFO. Training was culminated with a Simulated Training Exercise for certification.

"Overall this was a very successful event that we will continue to use in the future," said Mehlhaff.

"From what I have seen over the last few days, the Soldiers here understand their task and are performing well."

*Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting
Kansas adjutant general*

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Also, during his stay in Kosovo, Bunting toured areas around Camp Bondsteel, the main U.S. KFOR base, including a stop in the city of Gjilan/Gnjilan, where he met up with Capt. Darren Koberlein, commander of the Kansas force in Kosovo.

"The Soldiers from Kansas and all the Soldiers serving in Kosovo are performing their mission to the highest degree. It is my pleasure to lead this disciplined and well-trained team," said Dohrmann.

The Soldiers began their mission in Kosovo on Nov. 14, after approximately two months of training in Indiana and Germany.

Multinational Task Force - East is a U.S. led task force commanded by Dohrmann. This task force is comprised of nearly 2,200 Soldiers, including Task Force Hellas and Task Force POL/UKR (Polish/Ukraine). The charter mission of MNTF-E is maintaining a safe and secure environment and providing freedom of movement for the people in Kosovo.



Capt. Darren Koberlein, of Kansas City, Kan., shows various points of interest to Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general, on top of "Memorial Hill," an overlook of Gnjilane/Gjilan, Kosovo. (Photo by Spc. Joshua Dodds)



State Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth (right) talks with Spc. Timothy Stewart during a dinner on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. (Photo by Spc. Joshua Dodds)

Agribusiness Development Team

Continued from Page 1

proud 154-year history of the Kansas National Guard.

"Few people can do what we do and even fewer actually choose to do it," said Bunting. "These right here are the finest of Kansas, the finest of America. You won't go anywhere in your life and see any better Soldiers or Airmen than around this room and particularly this ag development team."

Bunting also acknowledged the support of Guard families.

"We serve—we've done it for 154 years—and we'll do it for 154 more because of the great people like you, the families," said Bunting. "I salute each and every one of you."

"With sword or plow, that's our motto," said Dittamo. "It's meant to evoke an image that dates back to the famous citizen soldier of ancient Rome, Cincinnatus, who was twice called literally from plowing his fields to take charge of the Roman army and defend the city-state."

"It evokes an allusion to the Bible," he continued, "where the idea of beating one's sword into a plowshare, moving toward peace."

Dittamo said that although the focus of the mission "is simply to help the Afghans help themselves through the improvement of the agricultural economy," the ADT also "...retains a strong sword able to defend against and defeat our enemies."

"These Soldiers are ready," said Dittamo, "these Airmen are ready. They're ready as Citizen Soldiers in the tradition of Cincinnatus, the Minutemen of Lexington and Concord, of the National Guard past and

present. I have faith and confidence that the ag team will be more than capable of carrying the day in Afghanistan and excelling."

ADT # 2 will work in conjunction with the Provincial Reconstruction Team, U.S. Agency for International Development, Department of Agriculture, the State Department and other agencies in Afghanistan's Laghman Province to assist in building capabilities for increased agricultural production, training and services, and improving the safety of food and other agricultural products that are produced and distributed to the Afghan people. They will also assist in the development of sustainable agriculture and other related enterprises.



Col. Michael Dittamo (right) and Sgt. Maj. Dennis Holder, accept a Kansas flag from Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting to fly over their headquarters in Afghanistan. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Traynor, Public Affairs Office)



Soldiers of the 250th Forward Support Company take part in a Squad Survival Skills exercise while deployed to Sinai, Egypt, as part of a Multinational Observer Force. (Photo by Spc. Lori Hudson, UPAR)

Rodina steps down as State Command Sergeant Major

By Maj. Mike Wallace

105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Kansas National Guard State Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Rodina, a 1968 Bishop Ward High School graduate and Kansas City native, stepped down from his post as the Kansas senior enlisted advisor for the Joint Forces Headquarters on Dec. 5, 2009. The retirement ceremony coincided with a change of authority at the Topeka Nickell Armory, where Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth, Pratt, assumed Rodina's duties.

At the ceremony Rodina was awarded the prestigious Legion of Merit from the Secretary of the Army.

Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, the adjutant general, who presented the award, said, "Command Sergeant Major Rodina was my battle buddy for many years. We've travelled the world together and he deserves this medal for his exceptionally meritorious service while serving in various positions of increasing responsibility throughout a distinguished career spanning more than 41 years."

"Command Sergeant Major Rodina's character and energy motivated his subordinate non-commissioned officers and established a reputation for excellence in Soldier care," Bunting said. "His enforcement of standards is the cornerstone of excellence within the command and set the example for all to emulate. Command Sergeant Major Rodina's outstanding performance and dedication to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit on him, the Kansas Army National Guard, and the United States Army."

President Barack Obama and Kansas Governor Mark Parkinson sent letters of congratulations to Rodina. The President gave personal thanks and sincere appreciation for all of Rodina's contributions to the U.S. military. Parkinson thanked Rodina for the monumental effort, saying Rodina left a lasting impression on those with whom he served.

"It has been my honor and privilege to serve as the senior enlisted leader of the Kansas National Guard for the last nine years," said Rodina. "I thank former Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Greg Gardner and current Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting for giving me the opportunity to lead the greatest Soldiers and Airmen in the world. I also thank my warriors, peers, leaders and my family for their support."

The day celebrated Rodina's 41 years of military service, which began with four years in the Marine Corps as a military policeman, including a one-year tour of duty in Vietnam in 1970. Rodina's military career progressed

"Command Sergeant Major Rodina's outstanding performance and dedication to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit on him, the Kansas Army National Guard, and the United States Army."

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

as an infantry first sergeant, a military police first sergeant, command sergeant major of the 169th Support Battalion, command sergeant major of the 69th Troop Command, concluding with nine years in service as the state command sergeant major.

The state command sergeant major is the senior enlisted leader and advisor to the adjutant general and the Joint Forces Headquarters for all of the administrative, training, morale and welfare matters of all enlisted Soldiers, Airmen, and their families. He has oversight of promotion boards and recommends senior non-commissioned officers for positions of greater responsibility.

Rodina also served in civilian law enforcement, retiring as a Kansas Highway Patrol trooper. He earned an associate's degree from Barton County Community College and enjoys a love for horses, dogs, hot rods and motorcycles.

Rodina is the son of the late Edward B. and Frances C. Rodina. His mother and two sons, Jake and Nick, and their wives and children, as well as siblings and other relatives attended the retirement ceremony.

Rodina's other military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medal with combat "V" device, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with three campaign devices, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Training Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Kansas National Guard Medal of Excellence, Kansas Meritorious Service Ribbon, State



Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting (right), Kansas adjutant general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth (left) present a replica of an 1860 Army pistol to State Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Rodina (center) during Rodina's retirement ceremony in Topeka. (Photo by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Emergency Duty Service Ribbon with one device, and the Kansas National Guard Service Medal with one device. Unit awards include the Navy Unit Commenda-

tion, meritorious Unit Commendation, Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Medal with palm device and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm device.

Haworth assumes role of State Command Sergeant Major

By Maj. Mike Wallace

105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Command Sgt. Maj. Scott W. Haworth, Pratt, assumed the duties as the Kansas senior enlisted leader for the Joint Forces Headquarters when he was invested as the state command sergeant major for the Kansas National Guard during a ceremony held at the Nickell Armory in Topeka on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009. The event coincided with a retirement ceremony for the outgoing senior enlisted leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Rodina, who held the position for nine years.

"I feel extremely fortunate and greatly honored to have been selected for this position," said Haworth, a 1978 graduate of Pratt High School and a member of the Kansas Army National Guard for 30 years. "I am excited and ready to serve the Soldiers and Airmen of the Kansas National Guard as their senior enlisted leader."

As state command sergeant major, Haworth will be the senior enlisted leader and advisor to the adjutant general and JFHQ for all the administrative, training, morale

and welfare matters of all enlisted Soldiers, Airmen and their families. He will also respond to the concerns of civilian and contractor employees of the command and perform community outreach activities. He has oversight of promotion boards and recommends senior non-commissioned officers for positions of greater responsibility.

"Command Sergeant Major Haworth has some big shoes to fill, but I am completely confident that he is the right Soldier for the job," said Kansas Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Todd M. Bunting. "I don't think that anyone else could be as capable and ready for the position."

Throughout his years in the Guard, Haworth has had two deployments, once to Bosnia in 2003, where he was the operations sergeant, and once to Iraq in 2008, where he was the National Guard Affairs senior enlisted advisor. His previous assignments include Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery; Battery C, 1st Battalion, 127th Field Artillery; 35th Division Artillery; 35th Division; Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery; 69th Troop Command and Joint Forces Headquarters Land Component-Kansas.

Haworth has been married to Pamela Sue Haworth for more than 28 years. They have four children and four grandchildren.

Haworth has attended numerous military schools and he has also attended Pratt Community and Barton County Colleges.



Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth

Online and up-to-date



(From the left) Pfc. Daniel High, Spc. Michael Mize and Sgt. Maj. Rick Matticks Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, use computer kiosks to update their files on Army Knowledge Online, such as periodic health assessments or their civilian employers information during drill weekend. These computers are available for use by Soldiers during drill weekend and normal armory operating hours throughout the week. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Larry Coltharp)

Adjutant general renews joint training agreement with Fort Riley

Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, and Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, signed a renewal of a Joint Training Cooperative Agreement Jan. 5, 2010.

The renewed agreement includes some new provisions detailing cooperative training at the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina. These new provisions include plans to work together on Unmanned Aerial Systems, a Forward Operating Base at the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, facilitating the staging of military aircraft at Salina Municipal Airport, training on tactical operations center technology, expanding cooperation on training aides and devices, exploring options for opening a

Kansas National Guard liaison office at Fort Riley, exploring options for expanding Military Occupational Skill and Non-commissioned Officer Education System courses by Fort Riley Soldiers at the Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina and exploring opportunities to conduct Defense Support of Civil Authorities training at Great Plains Joint Training Center.

"This new agreement will enhance the training opportunities for both the Kansas National Guard and the Soldiers at Fort Riley," said Bunting. "Our mutual responsibility of protecting the lives and safety of the people of the United States mandates that we do everything we can to ensure we're training and fighting as one team."

Facing our challenges at home and abroad

By Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting
The Adjutant General

We recently made an extremely difficult decision to close 18 of our 56 armories due to recent state budget cuts; however, it was an issue we'd been considering for some time because of budget reductions that have been ongoing for several years. Future budget cuts are of great concern to us as Kansas continues to project shortfalls. Given this, we had to take these steps in order to ensure we are able to properly maintain our existing armories for the Guard and the community.



Maj. Gen.
Tod M. Bunting

The real cost to keep the remaining 38 armories open annually is \$2.95 million for maintenance, repairs and utilities. Actual funding received for 38 armories has only been around \$1.7 million or a \$1.25 million shortfall. Due to this shortfall, we've had to defer maintenance for decades, requiring us to take out millions in bonds over the last decade to bring armories up to a usable standard. If funding continues at a reduced level, we will again be required to seek fu-

We understand it's emotional for many to see armories close in a community... but we must make the best use of our existing funds and ensure the mission of the Kansas National Guard is fulfilled....

ture bonds for renovations.

Our decision regarding which armories to close incorporated a number of factors, of which two key ones were the number of Soldiers drilling at an armory and consolidation of operations in the most effective and efficient means. In many cases, armories have fewer than 30 Soldiers drilling there, but they were built for 150. And in some areas, armories are only 15 to 30 miles apart, so it made sense to combine facilities. We understand it's emotional for many to see armories close in a community, as it is for the Kansas Guard leadership, but we must make the best use of our existing funds and ensure the mission of the Kansas National Guard is fulfilled both here at home and globally.

Soldier to Soldier

Four vital traits for NCOs

By Command Sgt. Maj. Manuel Rubio
635th Regional Support Group

Let me start off by sharing with you a

quote from Sgt. Maj. Glen E. Morrell, the seventh Sergeant Major of the Army, who said: "Identifying good Soldiers — potential leaders — and turning them into noncommissioned officers is a complex process. The bottom line is simple, however:



Command Sgt. Maj.
Manuel Rubio

Weed out the poor performers, teach the

right Soldiers the right things and recommend the best Soldiers for promotion and retention. The only good way to prepare good Soldiers to become noncommissioned officers is to place them in leadership positions and increase their responsibility according to their ability. This process takes time and patience. ...Noncommissioned officers make noncommissioned officers."

I want to remind our NCOs and Soldiers of a few items that I have found to be true in my career that we need to be aware of to be successful NCOs and leaders.

Army Regulations define the role of the noncommissioned officer, the NCO Guide (FM 7-22.7), lists the skills, knowledge and attitudes of each grade, and the NCO Creed

(Continued on Page 5)

With deepest appreciation

On Dec. 3, your officers and men provided Military Honors at the funeral of my father, Leonard Barker Jr., in Sumner Cemetery, Atchison, Kan.

My father, 91, was a combat veteran of World War II, serving overseas for more than two years in the 6th Army, 414 Truck Battalion, in the invasions of New Guinea and the Philippines, and received two bronze stars for operations under fire. Like most of us that have seen war first hand, he seldom spoke of the horrors he had seen, but instead related the good times he remembered while serving with other brave young Americans of that time. My mother, who passed in 2005, had suffered through those terrible years of him overseas and had always told my sister and I that she would like to have the VFW or American Legion at his funeral to honor his service, if at all possible.

From the time I was little I can remember going to this same cemetery on Memorial Day to decorate graves, and for many of the later years, when my own family and I accompanied my parents to Sumner, the local VFW would honor our war dead by setting the flag to half staff and playing Taps.

There is something almost religious about the sound of a bugle playing Taps on a cold winter morning and those memories rushed back Thursday morning as your men honored my father. I had not been aware that such an Honor Guard was available for

older veterans like my father, and my sister and I were delighted when we learned that even with such short notice, your Honor Guard would be able to be there.

Your team performed their duties with deep respect and true professionalism and I am sure my mother was standing there smiling as her husband of 69 years was put to rest so he and her can now be together forever. I was only able to briefly thank your team, but I would like everyone involved with this program to know how much it meant to our family for the Military Honor Guard to be there on that very cold windy day.

Sir, I would also like to express my personal thanks to you, your men and your families for serving in our countries military, especially in such difficult times. I truly know how demanding it is on our Soldiers of today and on their families. With my father serving in World War II, I serving in Vietnam, my younger son in his seventh year with the U.S. Air Force and my late father-in-law having been career Army, I can truly say that only those of us who have served know the high price of freedom. Thank you again for honoring my father and may God Bless and keep safe your entire command and their families in the coming years.

With the deepest appreciation,
Leonard W. Barker and Family

Unfortunately, our budget situation is not expected to get better anytime soon and that's why we are looking at additional armory closures beyond the first 18. Our state budget for maintenance and repair of armories dropped from more than \$800,000 to just over \$200,000 in the past decade. We simply can't keep these facilities going without the funds to support them.

Our Guard members are deployed in many locations around the world today. The most recent deployment was Jan. 22 when more than 40 Kansas Air Guardsmen from the 184th Intelligence Wing and the 190th Air Refueling Wing Civil Engineering Squadrons flew to Haiti from Cuba, where some had spent annual training. The unexpected 120-day deployment involves construction of a living area for disaster victims.

In January, approximately 60 Kansas Army and Air Guard members of the state's second Agri-Business Development Team left for Afghanistan. They will take over for the first team Kansas sent over a year ago. The focus of their efforts is to assist Afghan farmers in improving agricultural techniques through a partnership between the Guard and Kansas State University.

Over the winter holidays, I was blessed by a visit to members of our 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry in Kosovo and the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery in the Sinai. I'm proud of each and every one of them as they remained strong through the holidays, despite not getting to be with family. It's a tremendous sacrifice and one our families also make. I thank you for your dedication and service.

This winter has been a difficult one in

Kansas with record-breaking snowfall and the ongoing cases of H1N1 flu. So far, we've had one state disaster declaration for snow. H1N1 vaccine arrived prior to an anticipated peak of cases in February. Unfortunately, 27 Kansans have lost their lives from H1N1. Everyone must remain diligent in the fight against the flu. If you haven't received the vaccine, make time to get it.

Recently, I welcomed Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth on staff and wished the best to a long-time friend and battle buddy, Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Rodina, who has served his country well for more than 41 years. I'm excited for Steve's opportunity to relax and ride his Harley after all of his many efforts in caring for our warriors through the years. I'm pleased to have Scott stepping into his shoes to continue his successful work.

We do many good things in the Kansas Adjutant General's Department for our communities, and often we do it without thinking about it. It's just what we do. However, I'd like to draw your attention to a "thank you" letter on this page which reminds us of the type of impact each of us can have on our community by simply doing our jobs. In this case, it was the Funeral Honors Team that brought appreciation, but next time it may be a Family Readiness Group worker helping a Soldier's spouse, an emergency management staff assisting after a disaster or one of our orientation flights for an ROTC student that impacts our community. Let's remember that each of us, by doing our jobs well, is touching the lives of Kansans and beyond. Keep up the good work.

Deal with problems immediately

By Command Chief Warrant Officer 5
Mark Jensen

I wanted to take a moment in this edition of the Plains Guardian to discuss some of the recent difficulties encountered by warrant officers in our system.

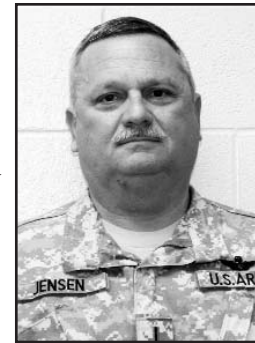
I've recently been engaged by several young warrant officers to assist them in resolving problems with things from Officer Evaluation Reports to school qualifications to personal issues in dealing with both supervisors and subordinates. I wanted to tell each of you as warrant officers that I consider it part of my responsibility to help you resolve these problems and with the support of the command and executive staff, I assure you most issues can be positively impacted with a little

communication.

It's important to address these types of concerns as soon as possible and not permit them to cause unnecessary difficulty. A wise man once told me that bad news does not get better with time and I can certainly validate that through many years of experience. Please consider contacting the command chief if you have such issues and please make that effort before the issues become real problems.

I am a staunch advocate of the chain of command and always defer to that process, but should you feel that process has failed, always remember that I'm available for consultation, as are the inspector general and equal opportunity officer, both very effective tools designed to assist you. The Warrant Officer Corps in Kansas is exceptional and has the respect of the adjutant general and command staff.

Remember, if you feel in your gut that something is wrong with what is happening around you and you can't find a way to change it, take the time to find the help you need to improve our system. It's your right and your responsibility as a warrant officer.



Command Chief
Warrant Officer 5
Mark Jensen

PLAINS GUARDIAN

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For change of address, contact Jane Welch.



Ask the TAG



DD-214 now available online

Is it possible to get a copy of my DD-214 any way other than going to the records office in Topeka or the National Personnel Records Center?

The National Personnel Records Center has provided the following Web site for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use the new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for docu-

ments must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online Web site.

Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new Web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mailroom and processing time.

** ** *

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

995th Maintenance Company supports Maintenance Activity Kaiserslautern

By Spc. Kevin Landers, UPAR
995th Maintenance Company

Members of the 995 Maintenance Company supported the War fighter at Maintenance Activity Kaiserslautern at Kaiserslautern Army Depot, Germany, during their Overseas Deployment Training in August 2009. The Kaiserslautern Army Depot is the largest maintenance and support facility in Europe. Over 2,000 major end items are repaired through the facility each year.

The 995th operated its own shop office and completed over 40 work orders with a total of 1,400 man-hours of production.

The technical expertise that the 995th brought to the Maintenance Activity Kaiserslautern was reciprocated in the hands-on experience the 995th received. The MAK placed several experienced Soldiers with their own less experienced mechanics, allowing the exchange of valuable training. A contingent of Soldiers supported the 5th Quartermaster, providing much needed technical assistance.

"When we got there, the active duty Soldiers didn't have a good handle on certain areas relating to generator repair," said Sgt. Darby Lane. "But the more we worked with them, the more familiar they became."

Soldier to Soldier

Noncommissioned officers

Continued from Page 4

is the guiding document on how we must perform our duties. I strongly recommend that all enlisted Soldiers and NCOs dust off, or if you don't have one, get a copy of the NCO Guide. As it states in the manual's forward "Read this manual thoroughly. It will assist you in your growth as a leader of Soldiers" and all NCOs and future NCOs need to review, follow, know and be proud of the NCO Creed. It should be your guide in performing your duties.

The four traits noncommissioned officers and Soldiers need to strive to master, maintain and remember are:

Technical and tactical proficiency. All Soldiers should be proficient in their Military Occupational Skill at their current grade and skill level. Basic Soldier and job skills are critical in assessing performance. This area also includes Common Task Test, survival skills and weapons qualification. A Soldier who is not proficient in his job is a burden on the remainder of the unit and beyond certain grade levels should not be allowed to stay in the military. Staying current in your job, learning new skills and developing good work habits are necessary to excel.

Functional discipline. Good Soldiers can be defined by their ability to react correctly in the absence of orders. A better way to define this is obeying rules when the boss is not around to look over your shoulder. Undisciplined Soldiers bring down a unit and cause much grief among their peers. Rules and regulations are much a part of the military and Soldiers are expected to follow orders. Without discipline in a unit, it is

nothing more than an unruly mob.

Appearance and bearing. Looking like and performing as a proud Soldier will serve you well. A Soldier who looks sharp, displays confidence and takes the initiative will always be recognized as top performer. Sloppy Soldiers who can't care for themselves or display substandard behavior will not go very far in the military.

Remember that Soldiers are required to be physically fit and maintain body fat standards for their height and weight. Those who can't meet the requirements will be left behind in the promotion race and could be separated from the service for noncompliance.

Professional and self development. Coming to work, putting in a full day and doing the jobs assigned to you will not alone ensure your success. The Army is a profession of arms. We have volunteered to defend our country and our Constitution. Just as in any endeavor you desire to be good at, you must learn, study, train, and continue to better yourself, both personally and professionally.

Learning about the Army through reading – don't forget to read field manuals, periodicals and related military publications – classes and self-study are great ways to expand your skills.

Being a Soldier is a rewarding experience. Each of us has personal reasons for choosing this profession. However, as you progress through your career, remember why we do this: To give you the skills to better train and prepare our Soldiers for the ultimate battles they may face.

Battalion conducts successful annual training at Fort Irwin

By Spc. Sharon Smart
169th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion

The 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion conducted their 2009 annual training at the National Training Center, Calif. The 169th CSSB conducted their doctrinal mission as a unit "in the box" at NTC and supported the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Benning, Ga.

The 169th CSSB's primary missions at NTC were to maintain a Forward Operating Base and support the delivery of numerous classes of supply to the 3/3 HBCT. The battalion commanded and controlled four companies totaling approximately 450 Soldiers during the rotation.

The battalion had units from the National Guard, Reserves and Active duty as part of their structure. These units were the 872nd Maintenance Company, a Reserve unit from Ogden, Utah; 2nd Transportation Company (Heavy Equipment Transport),

an active duty company stationed at Fort Irwin, Calif.; 266th Ordinance Company, a Reserve unit from Puerto Rico, and the 2123rd Transportation Company (Palletized Loading System), a National Guard company from Kentucky.

Lt. Col. Thomas Foster, battalion commander, said "This was a perfect venue for our battalion headquarters. We were able to conduct our mission and command and control units from every component, just like we would have to do deployed."

The battalion received training in operating in a contemporary operating environment, Iraq-specific cultural and language skills, individual warrior tasks, the Command Post of the Future and Battle Command Sustainment Support System.

The battalion conducted a very successful training, proving that a rotational CSSB with appropriate subordinate companies could sustain a brigade. This is an important test that NTC wanted to learn.

226th Engineer Company sets off on the road to Afghanistan

Approximately 170 Soldiers of the Kansas National Guard were honored in Salina during a ceremony on Dec. 30, 2009, as they prepared to deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Soldiers are from the 226th Engineer Company, headquartered in Augusta, and the 891st Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Iola. The commander is Capt. Brian Henning.

"I was interviewing today and they said 'What does this unit do?'," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general. "I said 'They build things... They can tear the heck out of stuff if they have to, but mostly they build things. And we're really proud of them'."

"I love this unit's motto," Bunting continued. "It says 'We do what we do and all you have to do is just say when'."

"You should know that all of us— your friends, your neighbors, your state—we are all behind you," said Lt. Gov. Troy Findley.

"We honor your service and your sacrifices because we know it takes a special person to do what you do. It takes a person who understands sacrifices must be made for freedom, a person with skills and abilities to lend to keeping the peace. And a person who desires to ensure that the world is a safer place."

"Kansas needs you, America needs you," said Findley, "and as always, you're answering our call."

"We have trained, we have prepared ourselves," said Capt. Brian Henning, 226th commander. "This has been something that we have really put ourselves into... we are ready to go to (Fort) McCoy and we will be ready to go to Afghanistan."

The Soldiers deployed to Fort McCoy, Wis., for additional mission-specific training and then on to Afghanistan. Their mission is to construct, repair and maintain vertical infrastructures in support of support brigades or engineer brigades within the Afghanistan theater, including construction of base camps and facilities.

Guardsmen come home from Iraq



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ross England hugs his son, Cameron, at a welcome home ceremony held in Salina for members of the 287th Sustainment Brigade. The unit returned from their deployment to Iraq in September 2009. (Photo by Jane Welch)

Approximately 140 Kansas National Guard Soldiers of the 287th Sustainment Brigade were welcomed home Sept. 29, 2009, after serving a year in Iraq supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Soldiers of the 287th served as the logistical support for U.S. and Coalition forces in Iraq in their assigned area of operations.

"It's always a great day when we welcome our Soldiers home," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general. "We're proud of what they've accom-

plished and happy to have them back in the U.S. with their families."

Approximately 75 Soldiers of the 287th Special Troop Battalion, 287th Sustainment Brigade, were welcomed home in a ceremony held on Sept. 24.

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

Ribbon cutting marks opening of Air National Guard facility



Members of the Kansas National Guard and local Salina dignitaries prepare to cut the ribbon marking the official opening of the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron headquarters, located on the Smoky Hill Weapons Range, Salina. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Traynor, Public Affairs Office)

Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general and director of Kansas Division of Emergency Management and Kansas Homeland Security, hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony Oct. 1, 2009, for the headquarters for the Kansas Air Guard's 284th Air Support Operations Squadron at the Smoky Hill Range in Salina.

"The opening of this facility also marks the day we are officially standing up this new Kansas Guard unit," Bunting said. "The 284th Air Support Operations Squadron is one of only 14 in the entire Air National Guard and we're proud to have it

here in Salina."

The 284th ASOS brings ground forces and air forces together to conduct joint training and will be a key component to joint military training operations at the Great Plains Joint Training Center. In addition, the ASOS can also provide communications resources for homeland security needs in Kansas during disaster response.

Senator Sam Brownback secured \$9 million dollars in funding for the ASOS's new facility. McPherson Contractors, Inc., in Topeka completed the facility in a little over a year.

His promotion was up in the air... and that's good



Master Sgt. Nathan Neidhardt, a member of the Kansas National Guard's 117th Air Refueling Squadron on assignment with the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, received his promotion to that rank in mid-flight during a mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Lawrence Angelita)

By Tech. Sgt. Joseph Kapinos
U.S. Air Forces Central Public Affairs

Very rarely do flight orders, which list the names and ranks of the aircrew, have to be altered in the middle of a mission. But on Sept. 25, an exception was made when Tech. Sgt. Nathan Neidhardt was promoted to master sergeant.

Instead of the standard pinning ceremony done during a weekend training, the sergeant wanted to do something different.

"I wanted to make it memorable," said Neidhardt. "Everybody gets promoted in front of their peers. I wanted to tell people how, for me, it was special and unique. There

are not a lot of people who can say they took off as a technical sergeant and landed as a master sergeant."

Neidhardt became that master sergeant during his pinning ceremony tens of thousands of feet above the Afghan countryside. He had just completed refueling a Belgian F-16A Fighting Falcon and while they waited for the next plane to arrive, he stood proudly at attention in front of the American flag while the orders were read by the aircraft commander promoting him to his next rank.

Lt. Col. Ken Folger, acting deputy of op-

(Continued on Page 13)

Let's eat out: 190th dining hall closed for renovations

By Staff Sgt. Emily Alley
190th Public Affairs

Put down your fork and grab a hardhat the next time you go to the 190th Air Refueling Wing dining facility!

Over the next year, the building will be gutted and renovated.

Lt. Col. Mark Green, armed with a massive scroll of paper that illustrates the future floor plan, directs the project through the 190th Civil Engineering Squadron, although the work will actually be completed through contractors. He said about six years of planning have already been invested towards this renovation.

Over the next year, Tech Sgt. Alike Peterson and the Services Flight will have the responsibility to feed about 900 people every month without a kitchen, set dining area or permanent office.

She thought about the strain on restaurants that accept meal chits for lunch and potential congestion at the front gate, but statistically only 60 percent of members who are eligible to eat at the dining hall tend to take advantage of it. Four hundred unit members usually eat off base during drill weekends.

Those who return to the dining facility after the renovation will experience an entirely different flow plan. Both the kitchen and serving areas will change. The street east of the dining facility will be permanently closed and converted into a walkway and outdoor dining area. Peterson and Green would like to make the entire facility more adaptable to the base's needs; it could be used for meetings, and as a lounge for events such as family day.

"We want to encourage people to eat here, and enjoy it," said Green.

Several practical innovations will take advantage of security and environmental initiatives. Thanks to ground source heat, it will be more than 30 percent more energy efficient.

Kitchen appliances will be updated and new equipment will give younger services members an opportunity to apply what they've learned in tech school.

"The kids will probably have to show those of us who've been around how to use it," Peterson said.

The furniture is being donated to Army units and being replaced with more modern tables and booths.



Artist's rendition of new 190th Air Refueling Wing dining facility.

184th Intelligence Wing team wins Race for the Cure event



The largest Intelligence Wing in the Air National Guard won the largest team competition at the Wichita Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on Sept. 26, 2009. This first-year team from the 184th Intelligence Wing at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., placed first in a field of 245 local teams.

"As Guardsmen, we serve our state and community, and today that means celebrating our fellow Kansans who have beat this disease," said team member Capt. Alyson Stockton.

Nearly 130 Kansas Airmen and their friends and families registered to walk or run a 5K or one mile race to raise funds and awareness for breast cancer. An additional 35 unit members provided parking support and barricade management for the race that curved through the residential neighborhood. In all, the team raised nearly \$2,000 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. (Photo by Maj. DeAnn Barr)

Army National Guard Honor Guard Team competition is demanding

By Sgt. Adam Cloyd
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

In September, eight teams from Minnesota, Tennessee, Oregon, Maine, California, Maryland, Kansas and Idaho came together in Washington, D.C., to compete in the third annual Army National Guard Honor Guard National Competition. The intent of the competition is to recognize Soldiers within the Military Funeral Honors program and continue to raise the tradition of excellence in the program.

National Guard Military Funeral Honors teams have performed more than 100,000 services for fallen Soldiers this year. For these teams, tradition is a part of their standard operating procedures.

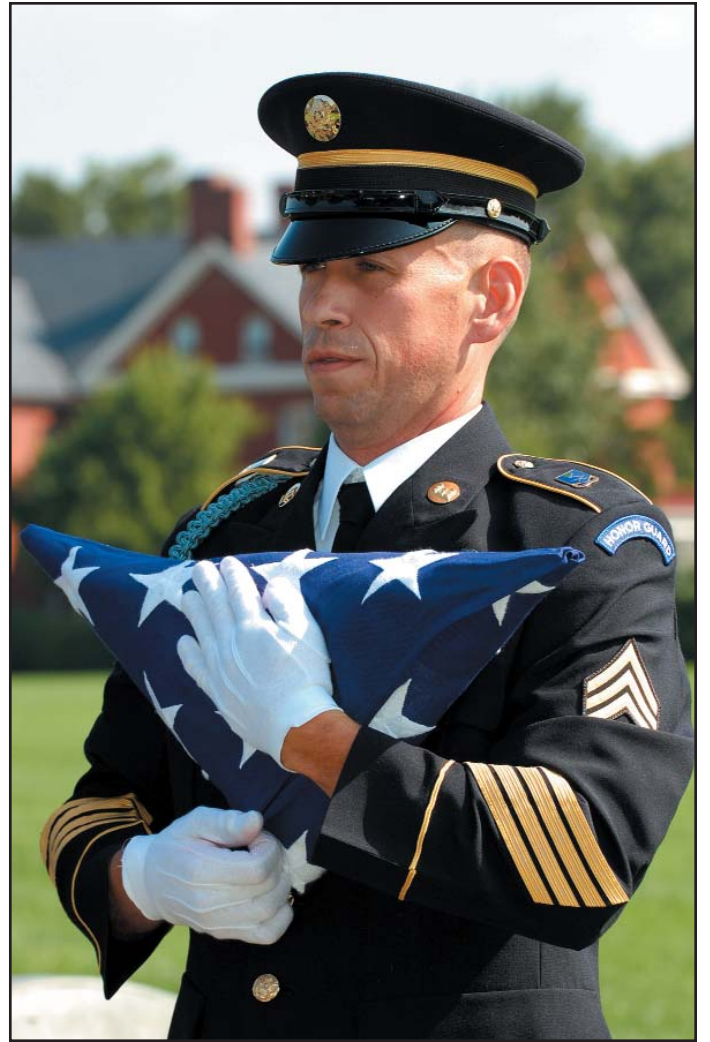
Members of the Kansas team that took part in the competition were Staff Sgt. Ben Aldridge, Staff Sgt. Jessie Brinker, Sgt. Jesse J. Lawrence, Sgt. Chase Taylor, Spc. Shawn Francis, Spc. Dru Payne, Spc. Kyle Simmons and Spc. Joseph Swann.

Brinker, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 69th Troop Command, in Topeka, Kan., the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Kansas Funeral Honors team in this year's competition, expressed his belief in the tradition when he said, "Without honoring our fallen Soldiers, America would not be what it is today."

"I served in Iraq and making sure no veteran has to take his final march alone is very important to me," said Lawrence. "Presenting the flag to the widow of a fallen brother is the greatest honor I've had in my career."

For family members of fallen Soldiers, these traditions can stand as a reminder that just as they were part of a larger family while their Soldier served, even in their time of mourning they do not stand alone:

- The flag draped coffin, the field of blue draped over the left shoulder, is carried feet first in the Soldier's last march.
- The crack of the rifle in the 21-gun salute can make even the most hardened veteran twinge.
- The sounding of Taps, since 1891, both sobering and uplifting evokes a profound sense of loss in those left behind, yet reminds them that they are joined by those who have heard the call in the past and those that will hear it after they are gone.



Left: The Kansas National Guard Honor Guard stands at attention during a moment in the national competition. From the front are Spc. Shawn Francis, Spc. Kyle Simmons, Sgt. Jesse J. Lawrence, Spc. Joseph Swann, Sgt. Chase Taylor, Spc. Dru Payne and Staff Sgt. Ben Aldridge. Right: Sgt. Jesse J. Lawrence, Company E, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, ensures the flag is properly folded prior to being presented. (Photos by Sgt. Adam Cloyd, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

- "I present this flag on behalf of a grateful nation for the honorable and faithful service rendered for your loved one," said on bended knee in little more than a whisper, with a crisp salute to the flag. For some National Guard Soldiers in the competition, these traditions are a part of their daily duties.

The competition began with an in-ranks Dress Blue Uniform inspection, an event that would be repeated daily throughout the competition. Teams were judged on their execution of the six-Soldier casket detail and the seven-Soldier firing detail.

Each team was evaluated twice on each

task, once with the team members in positions dictated by their team noncommissioned officer in charge and once by the evaluators.

The evaluators, Justin Helton and Tim Ferrell, Army National Guard Honor Guard instructors at the National Guard Professional Education Center, are no strangers to the tasks being performed by the teams. Each is a former member of the 3rd Infantry Regiment, the Army's "The Old Guard."

"Each of the teams representing their regions have exceeded the high standards the Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors program has established," said Helton.

The first day jitters were apparent as the competitors left the field. Many teams could be seen huddling after their turn, dissecting what went right and what they needed to improve before their next iteration.

But as Taylor of the Kansas team said, "It's about competing against the best, to learn from the best in the hope of learning

something new we can use to better our performance as a team."

After an exhaustive day of competition, the teams were all within single digit points of each other. From the two-time winners from Oregon to first-time competitors such as Kansas, all the teams served notice that they had come prepared to represent the world's most professional fighting force.

On day two, after performing all morning, the competitors took an Army Physical Fitness Test. Unlike other events of the week, this event provided a clear winner... almost. Kansans Lawrence, Company E, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment; and Taylor, Sniper Detachment, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, tied for first with a time of 12:14 in the two-mile run event.

On day three, an in-ranks inspection for grade was performed. By Army National Guard Honor Guard standards, there are 171 inspection points on the Army Dress Blue

(Continued on Page 11)

Making another friend



A few weeks ago, Joe Hoelscher from the Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Department sent a care package to the members of the Kansas National Guard's Agribusiness Development Team, currently serving in Afghanistan. Included in the package was a soccer ball and instructions to give it to a deserving little boy or girl in the area. A local man named Esal, who works on the local Mehtar Lam Research and Demonstration Farm, has two children who fit the bill.

"I was able to give this ball to them first thing this morning and make their day!" said Lt. Col. Dirk A. Christian, deputy commander of the ADT. "I couldn't believe the size of the smiles that instantly appeared." (Photo by Spc. Richard Hansen, Agribusiness Development Team)

Five inducted into Officer Candidate School Hall Of Fame

By Spc. Angie M. Mooneyham
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Five Kansas National Guard officers were inducted into the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame on Saturday, Aug. 22, at the Kansas Regional Training Institute, Salina, Kan.

This year's inductees were retired Col. Everett R. Weaver, Topeka, OCS Class XVI (1972); retired Col. Robert D. Bloomquist, Topeka, OCS Class XXIII (1979); retired Col. James E. Trafton, Kansas City, Kan., OCS Class XXVI (1982); 1st Lt. Kerry E. Hess, Topeka (killed in action in Vietnam) OCS Class XII (1968); and 1st Lt. Arlen D. Richardson, Lawrence (killed in a helicopter accident in Vietnam) OCS Class XII (1968).

Weaver's father-in-law, Dr. James Warn, Kansas City, Kan., is a member of the Fort Benning, Ga., Infantry OCS Hall of Fame, which is the National OCS Hall of Fame. Weaver commented his father-in-law is quite the accomplished man and an inspiration.

"I never set out in my military career to be someone outstanding," said Weaver. "I

was just doing my job and 35 years later here I am."

Weaver attributes a lot of his achievements to having good family, friends and subordinates working with him.

The Kansas National Guard OCS Hall of Fame was established in 2003 by retired Col. Robert D. Bloomquist, former commander of the 235th Regiment. Its purpose was to recognize outstanding military leaders who have made significant contributions to the achievement, tradition or history of the Kansas Army National Guard and the Armed Forces of the United States.

To be considered for selection into the OCS Hall of Fame, officers must meet one of the following criteria: have attained the rank of colonel or higher, have been awarded a Silver Star or higher award, were killed in action or died in a combat zone or were held prisoner of war.

When the OCS Hall of Fame was established, it was determined that the induction ceremony would coincide with the ceremony for the Officer Candidate School graduates receiving their commissions as second lieutenants.

State budget shortfalls force closure of 18 armories

Continued from Page 1

For several Soldiers, the changes will mean a shorter drive to work. For some others it will mean a longer drive. Prior to these closures, more than 52 percent of Kansas Guardsmen lived within 50 miles of their armory. After these closures, two percent more of Kansas Guardsmen, for a total of 54 percent, will live within 50 miles of their armory, making it a shorter drive to work.

Closing the 18 armories will cut \$156,662 from the current fiscal year's operating budgets to meet state requirements and ad-

dress additional cuts for next year's budget for a total of \$264,217 for FY 2011.

"The funding we would need to adequately sustain these 18 armories we are closing is approximately \$1 million annually," said Bunting. "We need approximately \$40,000 a year per armory for maintenance and repairs and another \$18,000 per armory for utilities. We've had to severely limit upkeep and repair of these facilities and wait for years until we could get millions of dollars in bonds approved, then go back and perform maintenance on these buildings just to get them

to minimal standards."

"Because we've been operating with so much less than the required funds for so many years prior to these state budget cuts, we had been considering closures for some time," he continued. "These cuts left us no choice but to move forward with the consolidation of our operations."

The Head Start Program is operating out of the armories in Horton, Sabetha and Troy. Guard leadership will work with the community regarding the program to ensure it can continue operations at the armories for the remainder of its current school year.

Criteria for determining closures

A comprehensive strategic analysis was conducted to consider the closure of armories and consolidation of operations. It included location and proximity to other armories, historical and projected demographic shifts in population, consolidation of operations, condition of current facilities and the potential to expand to accommodate new mission requirements in the future, required facility upgrades and maintenance costs. Another factor included ensuring a National Guard presence in each of the seven homeland security regions to



Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas - Land Component

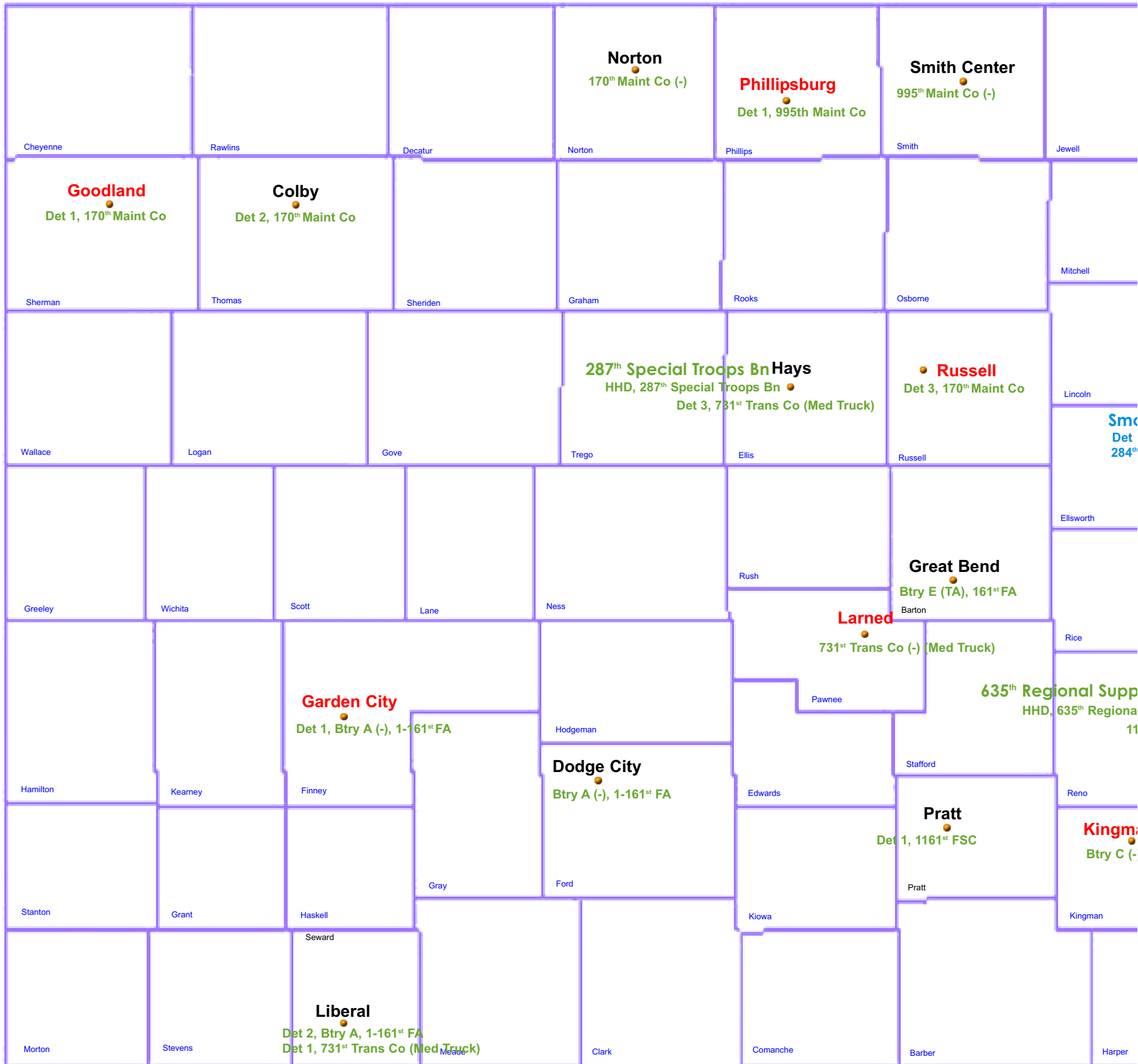
Topeka Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas

TDA Battalion

- JFHQ -Land Component
- 105th MPAD
- 137th Chaplain Spt Team
- Rec and Ret Det
- 1979th Contract team
- 1989th Contract team
- USPFO
- Central Issue Facility

JFHQ - Air Component

Armories in the cities marked in RED are slated to be closed between January and June 2010. The units will be transferred to other armories.



Legend

- AR = Armor
- ARW = Air Refueling Wing
- ARS = Air Refueling Squadron
- Avn = Aviation
- Bde = Brigade
- Bn = Battalion
- Btry = Battery
- CAB = Combat Arms Battalion
- Cmd = Command
- Co = Company
- CSSB = Corps Support Sustainment Battalion
- Det = Detachment
- Div = Division
- Eng = Engineer
- FA = Field Artillery
- Flt = Flight
- FSB = Forward Support Battalion
- FSC = Forward Support Company
- Gp = Group
- HET = Heavy Equipment Transport
- HIMARS = High Mobility Artillery Rocket System
- HQB = HQ and HQ Btry
- HHC = HQ and HQ Company
- HHD = HQ and HQ Detachment
- HHS = HQ and HQ Service Btry
- HSC = Headquarters Support Company
- HQ = Headquarters
- Inf = Infantry
- KSRTC = Kansas Regional Training Center
- Lg = Logistics
- MAC = Mobile Augmentation Company
- Maint = Maintenance
- Med = Medical
- MP = Military Police
- MPAD = Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
- OCS = Officer Candidate School
- Rgmt = Regiment
- Rec and Ret = Recruiting & Retention
- Spt = Support
- Sqdn = Squadron
- TA = Target Acquisition
- TDA = Table of Distribution and Allowances
- Trans = Transportation
- Trp = Troop
- WMD = Weapons of Mass Destruction

support domestic response operations. "Many of the facilities to be closed were built in the 1950s and designed for 100 to 150 Soldiers. However, today several of these facilities have 50 or fewer people

training there," Bunting said. "This isn't cost effective, it reduces the cohesiveness of our units and it isn't sustainable given the budget situation we have been facing for several years and which isn't likely to

improve in the near future."

Disaster response will not be impacted

Despite the consolidations, the Kansas National Guard is committed to its state mission of disaster support to communities.

"Although the Kansas Guard has never had an armory in every community, we have always fulfilled our mission to help protect Kansans and their property during emergencies, no matter where they occur in our state, and we remain committed to this," Bunting said. "We didn't have armories in Greensburg, Chapman, Osawatimie, Hoisington, Sublette or Parsons, as well as many other communities hit by severe weather in recent years, yet we responded and stayed as long as we were needed."

All of the closed armories eventually will be returned to the communities for local use. In the meantime, some of the impacted facilities will remain unoccupied for a time while equipment and personnel are transferred and operations are consolidated.

"With fewer armories, strategically located around the state, we will be better postured to sustain the 38 remaining facilities and provide our Guardsmen and the local communities with the type of facility they deserve," Bunting added.

Prior closures of armory locations have occurred in Kansas for a variety of reasons; however, usually these involved one or two at a time. A total of 17 armories have closed since 1980.

ARMORY	DATE CLOSED	ARMORY	DATE CLOSED
Bellefonte	Dec. 17, 2008	Mankato	Dec. 17, 2008
Bellefonte	Dec. 17, 2008	McPherson	Jan. 1, 2001
Beloit	Feb. 1, 1995	Medicine Lodge	May 1, 1980
Ellsworth	Nov. 1, 1994	Neodesha	Aug. 20, 1992
Eureka	March 1, 1982	Pittsburg	Dec. 17, 2008
Fredonia	March 13, 1997	Pleasanton	Jan. 16, 1999
Harper	Feb. 16, 1996	St. Marys	Sept. 30, 2006
Leavenworth	March 29, 1996	Wellington	July 15, 1992
Manhattan	June 12, 2005	Yates Center	Oct. 26, 1997

ional Guard

Forbes Field, Topeka

- 69th Trp Cmd**
 - HHD, 69th Trp Cmd
 - Det 1, 137th Trans Co. (PLS)
 - Det 3, HHC, 2-137th Inf
- 1st Bn, 108th Aviation**
 - HHC (-), 1-108th Avn
 - Co A, 1-108th Avn
 - Co D, 1-108th Avn
 - Co E, 1-108th Avn
 - Det 3, HHC, 1st Bn, 171st Av
 - Det 1, Co C, 1st Bn, 171st Av
 - Det 3, Co D, 1st Bn, 171st Av
 - Det 3, Co E, 1st Bn, 171st Av
- 190th Operations Gp**
 - 117th Air Refueling Sqdn
 - 190th Operations Support Flt
- 190th Maintenance Group**
 - 190th Maintenance Squadron
 - 190th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
 - 190th Maintenance Support Flight
- 73rd Civil Support Team (WMD)**
- 190th Air Refueling Wing**
- 190th Mission Support Group**
 - 190th Logistics Readiness Squadron
 - 190th Security Forces Squadron
 - 190th Civil Engineering Squadron
 - 190th Force Support Squadron
 - 190th Communications Flight
- 190th Medical Group**
- 127th Weather Flt**

Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas - Air Component

Counties and Units:

- Republic:** Marysville (Btry A (-), 2-130th FA (HIMARS)), Sabetha (Det 3, 250th FSC), Hiawatha (2nd Bn, 130th FA (HIMARS), HHB (-), 2-130th FA (HIMARS)), Troy (Det 1, HHB (-), 2-130th FA (HIMARS)), Horton (Btry B (-), 2-130th FA (HIMARS)), Atchison (Det 2, Btry B, 2-130th FA (HIMARS)), Holton (Det 1, Btry B, 2-130th FA (HIMARS)), Fort Leavenworth (35th Division, 35th Div TAC CP, Det 2, HHC, 35th STB), Kansas City (2nd Bn, 137th Inf, HHC (-), 2-137th Inf, 778th Trans Co (-) (Combat HET)), Lenexa (Co C, 2-137th Inf, Det 1, Btry B, 1-161st FA, KS Medical Detachment), Olathe (169th CSSB, HHC, 169th CSSB, 137th Trans Co (-) (Med Truck), 35th Division Band, 1077th Ground Ambulance Co), Paola (Btry B (-), 1-161st FA), Lawrence (Co A, 2-137th Inf), Salina (Det 1, Btry C, 2-130th FA (HIMARS), Co B, 1st Bn, 108th Avn), Council Grove (Det 3, 778th Trans Co (Combat HET)), Emporia (Co D, 2-137th Inf), Burlington (Det 1, 250th FSC), Garnett (Det 1, HSC, 891st Eng Bn), Ottawa (250th FSC (-)), Hutchinson (Hutchinson Group, Art Gp, (-)), Newton (Det 1, Btry C, 1-161st FA), Wichita (226th Eng Co (-) (Vert)), Augusta (226th Eng Co (-) (Vert)), Winfield (Det 1, 242nd Eng Co (Horz)), Coffeyville (242nd Eng Co (-) (Horz)), Cherryvale (Det 2, 226th Eng Co (Vert)), Fort Scott (Det 1, 772nd Eng Co (MAC)), Pittsburg (772nd Eng Co (-) (MAC), Det 1, 226th Eng Co (Vert)), Chanute (Det 1, 891st FSC), Iola (891st Engineer Bn, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, 891st Support Co), Coffeyville (242nd Eng Co (-) (Horz)), Wichita (1st Bn, 161st Field Artillery, HHB, 1-161st FA), Wichita (287th Sustainment Brigade, HHC, 287th Sustainment Brigade), Wichita (14C, 2-137th Inf, 137th Inf, 137th Inf), Wichita (Det 2, 731st Co (Med Truck), Det 2, 778th Trans Co (Combat HET)), McConnell AFB, Wichita (184th Intelligence Wing), McConnell AFB, Wichita (184th Regional Support Group, 127th Command and Control Sqdn, 134th Air Control Sqdn, 177th Information Aggressor Sqdn, 184th Munitions Sqdn, 299th Network Operations Security Sqdn), McConnell AFB, Wichita (184th Intelligence Group, 161st Intelligence Sqdn, 184th Operations Support Sqdn, 184th Intelligence Support Sqdn), McConnell AFB, Wichita (184th Mission Support Group, 184th Civil Engineering Squadron, 184th Communications Flight, 184th Force Support Squadron, 184th Services Flight, 184th Security Forces Sqdn, 184th Logistics Readiness Sqdn), McConnell AFB, Wichita (184th Medical Group)

Crisis City shows off its facilities to Kansas city managers

By Major DeAnn Barr
184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

Nearly 120 city managers from across Kansas were on hand to tour the Great Plains Joint Training Center's Crisis City Complex on Dec. 3, 2009, in Salina. Attendees of the Kansas Association of County and City Manager's Conference were intrigued with what they saw at the comprehensive training facility that sits on more than 36,000 acres of wide-open training space.

"I bet our fire and police departments have already called and asked when it's open for business," said Emily Vincent, budget analyst for the city of Olathe.

The Great Plains Joint Training Center offers civilian and military first responder's access to multiple, state-of-the-art training venues that can accommodate hands-on training exercises as well as offer overnight and dining facilities for a nominal fee.

"The Great Plains is an outstanding national asset for joint military training," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Jordan, deputy commander of the GPJTC.

At Crisis City alone, a two-story state of the art command center building offers several large conference rooms that also can function as a command center. An elevated observation deck with a 300 degree view of the training area allows for complete surveillance of the multiple training venues. Eight rail cars and a 166,000 square foot concrete rubble pile have already been used for search and rescue and fire rescue training. Venues nearing completion include an urban village, grain tower and helicopter landing pad.

"Our fire department would especially utilize the derailed train scenario," said Nick Wollery, management intern with the city of Olathe. "We have some of the busiest rail sections in the state."

Venues are also available to exercise confined space rescue, collapsed structure, technical rescue, vehicle and machinery extrication, trench and rope rescue, haz-

ardous material response and urban operations law enforcement.

"I think the regional opportunity for training is a very exciting aspect of this facility," said John Deardoff, Hutchinson city manager. "It can bring our emergency responders into situations with peers from like-sized communities and that will be very advantageous."

"This was built for you by the Kansas legislature," said Jordan as he addressed the city managers.

Access to the various training venues are free of charge for Kansas first responders and nominal fees for consumables will be incurred as they are utilized. Requests from out-of-state organizations will be fulfilled on a space available basis, with a venue utilization fee.

The facilities at the GPJTC satisfy the needs for proposed regional training centers to enhance the state's capabilities to defend against terrorism and respond to disasters and emergencies. Crisis City is the first of these potential sites and would form the hub for an additional four RTCs that would be strategically located to ensure state and local first responders, the National Guard and public safety organizations train together.

This is good news for one conference attendee who lived four hours away and wanted to utilize the facility, but was doubtful his civil support branches could depart the local area for the extended length of time training would entail.

Also part of the GPJTC is the Kansas Regional Training Institute, which offers a simulated weapons range and the virtual convoy operations trainer with plans to include a virtual battlefield and call for fire trainer, computer labs and 13 classrooms that can accommodate classes from nine to 360 people, and a small arms range.

The Unmanned Aircraft Center provides limitless opportunities as research progresses



Sp. Patrick Stapleton shows John Deardoff, Hutchinson city manager, and Meryl Dye, assistant city manager, a view from the Crisis City observation deck. (Photo by Maj. DeAnn Barr, 184th Intelligence Wing)

in regards to Unmanned Aerial System capabilities when linked with emergency response. Partnered with Kansas State University-Salina, the center also offers unique access to restricted air space. The Smoky Hill Weapons Range, the largest and busiest Air National Guard bombing range in

the nation, encompasses 54 square miles of training space with more than 100 tactical targets and an electronic warfare site.

To secure training dates at the GPJTC contact Sp. Patrick Stapleton at patrick.j.stapleton@us.army.mil, call 785-826-3733, or visit www.crisiscitykansas.com.

Army, Air Guard cooperate in joint training mission

By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR
1st Battalion, 108th Aviation

The 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation (Assault) conducted a joint interoperability operation with the Wyoming Air National Guard. The training took place during the 108th's annual training at Camp Guernsey, Wyo.

Conducted over two consecutive days, C-130 Hercules cargo planes from the 153th Air Lift Wing flew from Cheyenne to Camp Guernsey. The Air Guard's mission was to fly to a predetermined drop zone. On directions from the forward controllers, the C-130 crews deployed the 3,400 pound Joint Precision Air Drop System or JPADS. The JPADS is used to supply forward operating bases.

Once the JPADS was on the ground, the riggers removed the parachute and rigged it for helicopter external sling loading. When ready, UH-60 Black Hawks from Companies A and B flew in to conduct the external load lifts. External loads are one of the main missions of the Black Hawk. Moving everything from artillery to water to wherever it is needed, on the battlefield or to support a state emergency.

"External loads are something Air Force

riggers are not trained to do," explained Sgt. 1st Class Derron Lindsey. "They are trained to rig the JPADS for parachute drops out of the backs of the cargo aircraft like the Hercules. That is why we call upon the Army crew chief to ensure that the external load is safely rigged and ready to be hooked up to the helicopter."

"It is always good to train with external loads," said Capt. Joshua Urban. "This training gave us a chance to train with working our aircraft power management with external loads in a high altitude flying environment."

For example, the field elevation at Forbes Field, Topeka is about 1,000 feet, while the terrain at Guernsey ranges between 5,000 and 6,000 feet. The training to develop this skill cannot be done at home station.

Although great training for the pilots and crew chiefs there was a practical side of the mission. The Black Hawks returned the JPADS from the drop zone to the Guernsey airfield. From there they could be returned to the Air Guard. This kept the Air Guard from having to deploy a heavy forklift and tactical truck to the drop zone.



A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation, Kansas Army National Guard, lifts a Joint Precision Air Drop System package dropped earlier from a C-130 cargo plane flown by the 153th Air Lift Wing, Wyoming Air National Guard. (Photo by Sgt. Michael Mathewson, UPAR)

Disaster relief in Haiti



An Airman from the 190th Civil Engineering Squadron, Kansas National Guard, used a bulldozer to clear land near Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to prepare the area for Haitian relief operations. (Photo by Senior Airman John Countryman)

Continued from Page 1

Twelve additional personnel deployed Jan. 22 to Cuba to support the mission. The additional Airmen included members of the 184th Intelligence Wing, Wichita.

The Civil Engineering Squadrons, which are comprised of construction personnel, utility workers, plumbers and electricians, assembled tents and attended to other logistical requirements used to support on-site humanitarian assistance.

"We have a very experienced team here. This is what we are trained to do," said Lt. Col. Mark Green, 190th Civil Engineering Squadron commander.

As part of their original assignment in Cuba, 190th members worked to install

electrical conduits and outlets in the base's migrant processing centers. Near that same area, members also cleared away brush and trees, laying the groundwork for the construction of tents to house refugees after a crisis event, if necessary.

"Their (Civil Engineering Squadron) efforts are another indication of the level of expertise and dedication to duty that members of the Kansas National Guard exhibit each and every day," said Col. Keith Lang, 190th Air Refueling Wing commander.

On Jan. 25, the Kansas Guardmembers deployed to Haiti to assist with logistics operations and to assemble an Expeditionary Medical Support hospital in Port-au-Prince.

891st Engineer Battalion welcomes new commander

Lt. Col. Barry W. Manley turned over command of the Kansas Army National Guard's 891st Engineer Battalion to Lt. Col. Roger D. Murdock during a change of command ceremony on Jan. 10, 2010.

The 10 a.m. ceremony took place in Iola, Kan., at the Iola Senior High School.

"It has been my privilege and honor to command the 891st Engineer Battalion for the last 44 months," said Manley. "The officers and enlisted personnel of the battalion have accomplished every assigned task and mission with incredible dedication and commitment to the organization."

"The Soldiers of the Engineer Battalion have accepted a multitude of changes and challenges that were presented before them, in a very short manner, and were always successful," he continued. "I know they will continue to do so in the future. The citizens of Kansas and our nation can be very proud."

"I am honored and excited to take command of the 891st Engineer Battalion, a unit with a distinguished and proud legacy of providing support to the citizens of Kansas and the nation," said Murdock. "The National Guard faces numerous emerging challenges and I am looking forward to the opportunity to lead the outstanding men and women of the battalion as we meet those challenges."

Murdock was commissioned in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in May 1986. Most recently Murdock served as the operations officer for the 287th Sustainment Brigade during its deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

His previous assignments include support operations officer, 287th Sustainment Brigade; brigade operations officer, 69th Troop Command; branch chief, Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas-Land Component; battalion operations officer, 891st Engineer Battalion; assistant brigade personnel/training officer, 69th Troop Command; brigade logistics officer, 69th Troop Command; assistant brigade logistics officer, 69th Troop Command; battal-



Lt. Col. Barry Manley addresses the audience during the ceremony marking the end of his tenure as commander of the 891st Engineer Battalion. (Photo by Capt. Sean Linn, UPAR)

ion logistics officer, 891st Engineer Battalion; company commander, 242nd Engineer Company; detachment commander, Detachment 1, 714th Maintenance Company; platoon leader, 242nd Engineer Company.

Manley enlisted into Company B, 891st Engineer Battalion, Kansas National Guard, in 1983 as a combat engineer. He attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in June 1987.

After commissioning, Manley's first assignment was as the support platoon leader, Company B (-), 891st Engineer Battalion in June 1987. He served in three different platoons with Company B and was then assigned as the company executive officer in March 1990. In June 1990, Manley was selected as commander of Company B, serving in that capacity through September 1992 when he became the commander of the battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters Company. Later staff positions included assistant operations officer, intelligence officer and full time training

officer. In 1998, he moved to Headquarters, State Area Command, Topeka, as the officer accessions officer for Recruiting and Retention Command. In April 2002, Manley became the executive officer for Headquarters, 891st Engineer Battalion, where he served in Iraq for Operation Iraqi

Freedom III from September 2004 to December 2005. He also served as the command executive officer for Joint Force Headquarters Kansas-Land Component.

Manley's next assignment will be as the brigade executive officer, 69th Troop Command, in Topeka.

Muther succeeds Kuntz as Medical Detachment commander

By Lt. Col. Rex Johnson
JFHQ Kansas PAO

Col. Gordon D. Kuntz turned over command of the Kansas Army National Guard's Medical Detachment to Col. John D. Muther during a ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009, in Lenexa, Kan.

"It has been my privilege and honor to command the Kansas Medical Detachment for the past 26 months," said Kuntz. "The professionalism of the officers and enlisted personnel in the unit has remained very high and there has been incredible dedication and commitment to accomplishing the mission. The state of Kansas has consistently ranked in the top 10 nationally for medical readiness for the past two years and is on target to be there for three years in a row."

Kuntz was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal from Brig. Gen. John Davoren, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, for his service as the commander.

As the incoming commander, Muther said that he is honored to have the ability to serve with the Medical Detachment.

"I am very excited and looking forward to the opportunity in the continuous step to increase medical readiness," expressed Muther. "To continue the great work we've done up to this point."

The mission of the Medical Detachment is to improve the readiness of Kansas National Guard Soldiers. The detachment performs the periodic health assessments that are required for all Guard Soldiers and Airmen annually. They also assist with medical readiness for service members who are deploying or returning from a deployment.

"We make sure they (Soldiers) are healthy and ready for deployment," said Muther. "We also help them reenter the

force when they return."

Kuntz entered the U.S. Army on March 10, 1975, serving as a tactical microwave repairman. He later reenlisted as a patient care specialist in 1978. He joined the Kansas National Guard in 1984 and served as the medical noncommissioned officer for the Kansas Military Academy in Salina. He completed the State Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the infantry. Upon completing his nursing education, he received a direct commission in the Nurse Corps in January 1988.

Kuntz served in the roles of clinical nurse, nurse practitioner, training officer and head nurse for physical examination with Detachment 5, Headquarters, State Area Command, in Lenexa, Kan. He served as the executive officer and deputy commander for the Medical Detachment. Upon completing the U.S. Army War College in May 2007, Kuntz returned to the Medical Detachment to serve as the commander.

Muther enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve in 1978. He received a direct commission in the Army Nurse Corps in 1991. He worked in various positions at the Kansas Area Medical Detachment including clinical nurse, training officer head nurse, executive officer, and deputy commander of clinical services. He most recently served with the 56th Stryker Brigade, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, as brigade surgeon during Operation Iraqi Freedom 2008-2009.

Muther works full time as the deputy surgeon for the Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas. He lives in Topeka Kan., with his wife, Nancy. They have two children, Kiersten and Kelsey.

Honor Guard competition

Continued from Page 7

Uniform. Uniforms are measured to within a 16th of an inch with a 1/16th of an inch margin for error. With more than 60 Soldiers to inspect, the inspection lasted over two hours, during which the professionalism and dedication of the participants was tested as they stood at attention the entire time.

That afternoon saw the competitors tested on the six-Soldier Urn detail and the three-Soldier detail. As with previous iterations, each team's performance reflected the highest standards of military bearing and professionalism.

After three grueling days of intense scrutiny the teams were beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. However, as is so often the case, when their country called next it was in the cover of darkness. At around midnight on day four the call came: Wake up and be downstairs in 20 minutes.

Honorable transfers were next on the evaluators score cards. As in all facets of honoring a fallen Soldier there is a precise manner in which this happens.

The teams performed this duty out of a Chinook helicopter. Even at 2 o'clock in the morning, working in pitch blackness on just a few hours of sleep, their movements reflected the respect they had for the task.

After completing the honorable transfer portion of the morning's events, the teams were evaluated on the manual of arms and their ability to maintain military bearing in what can only be described as less than ideal circumstances.

All this before breakfast.

Next came a two hour written test on military history and military funerals history before the final evaluation.

The conclusion of the competition found each team's NCOIC and its youngest member or its female member before a board an-

swering questions and explaining why they choose to serve on the funeral honors team.

Payne, a member of the 35th Infantry Division Band and the Kansas team, told the board members, "I joined the honor guard to serve the veterans of my community. These men and women taught me the value of a handshake, and helped shape who I have become as a woman and a Soldier."

"It is our moral obligation to maintain the standard and tradition of the military funeral honors," said Payne.

In the end though only one team could come in first place. The honor went to the Minnesota team. Every team showed remarkable attention to detail and outstanding professionalism with Minnesota edging out the others.

"These teams' performances were the most excellent I've ever seen since we've had the competition," said Helton.

When asked about the competition a near unanimous sentiment was expressed by the competitors, what happens at the competition is merely an opportunity to improve on the honors rendered in their home states.

Brig. Gen. Renwick Payne, special assistant to the deputy director of the Army National Guard, spoke to the competitors near the end of the competition.

"Military service is like a four by 100 meter race," he said. "Running one leg as well as you can will not win the race. Each leg must give it their all and each leg must pass the baton to the next smoothly. Without the smooth passing of the baton the next leg will surely fail."

The professionalism and dedication to duty in maintaining the tradition of honoring the fallen is certainly being carried this leg by an outstanding group of Soldiers who will no doubt pass on the baton to future generations.



Col. John Muther (left center) receives the command flag of the Kansas National Guard Medical Detachment from Brig. Gen. John Davoren, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard. At right is Col. Gordon Kuntz, who stepped down as commander of the detachment. (Photo by Lt. Col. Rex Johnson, PAO, Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas)

Employer receives ESGR award

The Missouri Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, an agency of the Department of Defense, announced Michael Carter, owner of the Carter Broadcasting Group, was honored with a Patriot Award in recognition of extraordinary support of the employees who serve in the Kansas National Guard and Reserve.

"I am amazed by the service, and sacrifice that is continually made by the men and women of the U.S. military," said Carter. "So, it is with great pleasure that the Carter

Broadcast Group stands with them in support of their call to serve and protect our nation."

Spc. Chris Vedder, a Kansas National Guardsman with Headquarters, 35th Infantry Division, and an Carter Broadcast Group employee said "The Carter Broadcast Group sets an outstanding example for other employers, and in doing so other guardsman and reservists like myself can serve their community, state, and country with confidence, knowing they have the support of their civilian employer."

Preparedness Day event helps Kansans get ready for emergencies

The 2009 Kansas Preparedness Day kicked off Sept. 15 at the Kansas State Fairgrounds. Kansas Preparedness Month creates a significant opportunity for every Kansan to learn more about ways to prepare for all types of emergencies from natural disasters to manmade events. The annual event features state and local agencies and

organizations focused on emergency preparedness with displays of equipment, informational booths and prizes.

A news conference to highlight Kansas Preparedness Day featured Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, director of Kansas Division of Emergency Management and the adjutant general; Col. Terry Maples, superintendent

of the Kansas Highway Patrol; Dr. Jason Eberhart-Phillips, director of Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment; Bill Guy, Reno County emergency manager and Steve Hewitt, city administrator of Greensburg, Kan. They addressed the importance of emergency preparedness in the home, community and the workplace given the ongoing threats of natural and manmade disasters in our state and nation today. They also highlighted each agency's role in keeping Kansans safe before, during and after a disaster. A special focus for the news conference was a discussion of how Kansans can best protect themselves from contracting the H1N1 virus.

Featured displays, equipment and infor-

mational booths will be provided by a variety of local, state, federal and non-profit emergency response agencies including the Adjutant General's Department/Kansas Emergency Management/Kansas National Guard, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Animal Health Department, Citizen Corps, Civil Air Patrol, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, American Red Cross, Kansas Highway Patrol, Hutchinson Fire Department, Hutchinson Police Department, the Community Emergency Response Team Trailer, Reno County Emergency Management, Reno County Sheriff's Department, Kansas Department of Transportation, National Weather Service and FEMA.



Fairgoers take a tour of information booths set up for Kansas Preparedness Day at the Kansas State Fair. The booths offered information and resources on emergency preparedness for home and business. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Traynor, Public Affairs Office)

Crisis City hosts ribbon cutting

Lt. Gov. Troy Findley and Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, hosted a ribbon cutting Oct. 1, 2009, for the debut of the Crisis City training site, a hands-on homeland security public safety training area at the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina. This training venue will allow emergency responders from local, state and federal organizations, including law enforcement, search and rescue teams, medical response teams, public and private industry safety professionals and the National Guard, to train together, conduct exercises and work through realistic disaster scenarios.

Crisis City includes a completed rail training venue and will also include an engineered concrete rubble pile, urban search and rescue venues, a grain bin for search and rescue training, a farm training venue to provide training for farming and grain

silos accidents and a five-story rescue training tower. It will also provide training in military operations and urban terrain.

In-kind contributions of approximately \$12 million made the rail venue at Crisis City possible. The locomotive and other rail cars were provided by Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway. They were moved and the tracks set in place by R.J. Corman Railroad Group. Other contributions of equipment and labor came from Union Pacific Railway Company, Occidental Chemical Corporation, J.R. Simplot Company, Mid-America Car, Inc. and Energy Transportation.

"Kansas is among one of the first states in the country to develop such a training opportunity for our first responders and National Guardsmen to prepare together for disasters," said Bunting.

Conference focuses on making Kansas schools safe, prepared

Creating schools that are safe and prepared for emergencies was the focus of the Kansas Safe and Prepared Schools Conference held in Salina last September. The conference was sponsored by the Kansas Adjutant General's Department and Kansas Department of Education.

Lt. Gov. Troy Findley opened the conference with Kevin Jennings, assistant secretary of U.S. Department of Education, serving as the keynote speaker. The conference hosted school administrators, board members, teachers, counselors and resource officers who will discuss topics ranging from classroom behavior to natural disasters and possible school violence.

The Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools was created in 2009 to provide a central office to coordinate school/safety/preparedness activities. The center was developed as a result of guidance from the Governor's Commission on Healthy and Prepared Schools.

"Feedback from superintendents across Kansas indicated a need for a coordinated effort and we collaborated with other state agencies to form the center," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, director of Kansas Homeland Security, Emergency Management and adjutant general. "This

conference brought together many key players who will be instrumental in ensuring resources and training are in place for schools to provide a safe and prepared learning environment and to assist them in preventing, preparing and responding to crisis events impacting local schools and communities."

"What is particularly unique about this event is that we've tried to broaden the communication between school officials, first responders and emergency management personnel," said Bob Hull, director, Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools. "School crisis is also community crisis; if it happens to a school, it happens to the community."

Hull, of Olathe, has served as the director of the Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools since February 2009. Hull has spent 30 years in the public education system and prior to becoming the director served as a Kansas school superintendent.

State officials note that on any given day, 20 percent or more of Kansans are gathered in a school setting, where society and parents expect their children to learn in a safe and prepared environment where school and community officials are prepared to handle unforeseen events.

Adjutant General's Department co-hosts Technical Rescue Conference

The Adjutant General's Department and the Kansas Search and Rescue Working Group hosted a Kansas Technical Rescue Conference Sept. 10-12 at the Great Plains Regional Training Center in Salina.

The three-day event featured field experts in training venues for local search and rescue personnel. The event was aimed at people with backgrounds in structural collapse, trench collapse, confined space, water rescue teams. The conference also featured equipment, manufacturers and distributors showcasing new gear and technology.

Several four-hour classes were pre-

sented on Sept. 10 before the main conference, providing hands-on instruction at the Great Plains Joint Training Center's Crisis City training site. It included an open forum for sharing news and views on advances in equipment and techniques, technical problems and issues surrounding local jurisdictions.

Other classes presented during the conference included vehicle and machine rescue, U.S. Army technical search and K-9 operations for the Army, breaching/breaking for Army operations and shoring for Army operations.



Participants in a Kansas Technical Rescue Conference, held in Salina Sept. 10-12, 2009, test their skills on the vehicle accident venue at the Great Plains Joint Training Center's Crisis City. (Photo provided)

Homeland Security Summit addresses state, national security issues

Designed for senior-level decision makers involved in homeland security response issues, the first biennial Kansas Homeland Security Summit was held Dec. 8-10, 2009, in Wichita.

"In an ever-changing world, where new, potential dangers threaten our state and our nation's security, it is critical that Kansas' homeland security responders come together, discuss issues and continue to strengthen our communication and coordination," said Governor Mark Parkinson.

"This working summit provided an opportunity for Kansas leaders involved in homeland security preparedness planning and response to engage in discussions and work through disaster and terrorism scenarios," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general and director of Kansas Homeland Security and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. "By bringing together the knowledge and experience of the various response sectors with an array of professional presenters, we ensure better planning and improved communication."

Attendees included representatives of police and fire services, emergency medical services, hospitals, trauma and emergency medicine, public health, National

Guard, elected officials plus local, state and federal officials and the private sector.

Presentations discussed Middle Eastern intelligence and terrorist organizations, emerging domestic threats, addressing vulnerabilities, terrorism tactics, along with several other presentations to familiarize leaders with the scope and nature of potential threats to the heartland and, accordingly, be able to appropriately integrate that information into disaster response plans. Homeland security leaders focusing on man-made threats heard lectures on improvised explosive devices, weapons of mass destruction, evidence collection and current threats.

Kansas-specific presentations focused on familiarizing local leaders on vulnerabilities, communications and threats. Attention was also given to Kansas-specific medical capabilities and limitations, including rural communities.

The summit was sponsored by the Kansas Adjutant General's Department, including Kansas Homeland Security and Kansas Division of Emergency Management, along with the Kansas Highway Patrol, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, National Preparedness Directorate and the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Four inducted into Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame

The Museum of the Kansas National Guard added four new names to the ranks of honored service members. Officials for the Hall of Fame hosted an induction ceremony on Nov. 8 in Topeka, Kan., to pay tribute to the new members. The new members range from years past in the Civil War and Wild West to more recent members who battled in Vietnam.

The inductees were Pvt. William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, Cpl. James Whitfield Ross, retired Command Sgt. Maj. Warren J. "Bud" Smith and retired Col. Charles R. Ray.

Pvt. William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody

The 1861-65 Report of the Adjutant General of Kansas shows that William F. Cody enlisted in February 1864 at the age of 18 and was mustered out of service with Company H, Seventh Cavalry Regiment, Kansas Volunteers. He later served as a civilian scout for the 9th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry Regiment. His service to the nation continued when, at 22 years of age, he was handpicked by General Phil Sheridan to be the chief scout of the 5th U.S. Cavalry in October 1868 as a civilian.

On April 26, 1872, at the age of 26, he was awarded the Medal of Honor for "Gallantry in Action" by General Order 7 by General Eugene Carr while serving with the 3rd U. S. Army near the South Fork of the Loup River in Nebraska.

Cpl. James Whitfield Ross

Cpl. James Whitfield Ross was born into slavery. In 1862, at the age of 26, he escaped and found his way to a Union Army regiment heading for Kansas.

Upon reaching Topeka in August of that year, he joined Company F of the First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry. His service and ability was such that on Jan. 13, 1863, he was promoted to the rank of corporal. He remained with Company F of the First Kansas, which on Dec. 13, 1864, became the 79th Regiment, United States Colored Troops until mustered out in October 1865.

After mustering out of the Union Army, James Ross returned to Topeka where he lived on a small farm just north of the city. In addition to farming he also worked laying stone for the basement and interior walls of the first portion of what is now the Kansas State Capitol building.

In 1868, he met and married Margaret Elizabeth Chapman from Mound City, Kan. They lived on a farm he bought and produced a family of seven children, including two girls who died in infancy. Their sons, however, went on to become educators and prominent members of their communities.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Warren J. "Bud" Smith

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Warren J. "Bud" Smith enlisted in the Kansas Army National Guard in September 1966 and was assigned to the 226th Engineer Battalion.

After serving as a traditional Guardsman for six years, Smith was hired in 1972 to be an administrative supply technician for the 242nd Engineer Company. In the early 1970s, Smith served in an additional duty status as operation sergeant at the Kansas Military Academy Officer Candidate School. In 1980, he was asked by the school's leadership to examine and evaluate a proposed course that would affect all potential noncommissioned officers. After re-

viewing and crafting a plan, Smith proposed his plan to the leadership and it was approved. By the end of the year, other states had heard of the plan and requested their Soldiers be allowed to attend in Kansas. This was the beginning of what was known as the Primary NCO Course and now is the Warrior Leadership course.

In 1983, after assignment to the 226th Engineer Battalion, he was named commandant of the Noncommissioned Officer School. By 1984, he was selected to be the command sergeant major of the 1st Battalion, 635th Armor. His assignment to the Armor Battalion was short because of the activation of the 35th Infantry Division and the need for an operation training sergeant major in the division headquarters.

In 1991, Smith was selected to be the state command sergeant major, retiring in 2000.

Retired Col. Charles R. Rayl

Col. Charles Rayl enlisted in the United States Army in January 1964 and was commissioned in March 1965. In 1970, he was commissioned in the Kansas National Guard and remained in the Guard until his retirement in 1994.

Rayl completed Armor Officer Basic Course in 1965, as well as Airborne Training. He became an Army aviator in 1967 and was assigned to Troop A, 7th Squadron, 14th Air Cavalry in the Republic of Vietnam in 1968. He held various command positions in Armored Cavalry Regiments from November 1968 until May of 1970 in Germany.

In September 1970, he was commissioned in the Kansas National Guard, serving in the 137th Aviation Company and the Headquarters, State Area Command, Kansas Army National Guard. During his time in the Kansas National Guard he also served as the commander, 920th Medical Detachment (Air Ambulance) and as the battalion commander of several units including the 135th Aviation Battalion, the 108th Aviation and the 635th Armor Battalion, and as the brigade commander of Troop Command, Kansas Army National Guard. He served on the headquarters staff as the Director of Security and was the State Army Aviation Officer during his last assignment in the Kansas National Guard.

Five complete Warrant Officer School

By Chief Warrant Officer 5 Rosanna Morrow

Last August, five members of the Kansas Army National Guard graduated from the Reserve Component Warrant Officer Candidate School at the Indianapolis War Memorial. Warrant Officer Candidates Samantha Hancock, Kevin J. Linder and Christian D. Tinch were appointed to the rank warrant officer one. Warrant Officer Candidates Bradly A. Henry and William N. Nicoll completed the course but will revert to their prior enlisted ranks while they await vacancies compatible with their full time employment. Henry and Nicoll work

full time for the Kansas Army National Guard and accepted certificates of eligibility to be appointed to warrant officer one any time within the next two years.

The current iteration of the Reserve Component Warrant Officer Candidate School was approved in 2005. Phase I consists of a distance learning course with Phase II conducted during five consecutive drill weekends at the Kansas Regional Training Institutes in Salina, Kan. The final two-week resident Phase III is conducted at the Indiana Regional Training Institute, Camp Atterbury, Ind., where all the warrant officer candidates from the other states are brought together.

Promotion up in the air

Continued from Page 6

erations for the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron and Chief Master Sgt. Tim Treinen, chief boom operator, stood by with him and "tacked on" his new name tag. Folger is the squadron commander of the Kansas Air National Guard's 117th Air Refueling Squadron at Forbes Field, Kan., where Neidhardt is a member.

Once the ceremony was complete and congratulations given, it was time for a bit of levity as the pilots stated over the intercom that "snacks and refreshments were available on the veranda."

A Kansas native, Neidhardt was born just outside of Wichita. Calling himself a "Guard baby," he followed his father, Col. Hans Neidhardt, into the Guard almost 10 years ago.

"Serving in the Air National Guard was always something I wanted to do," said Neidhardt. "It's what my family does, it really is a tradition."

"Nate" originally wanted to become a pilot and saw serving in the Guard as a way to accomplish his goal. He initially looked at serving in the Guard unit at McConnell Air Force Base; his plans changed when the mission there switched from B-1 bombers to KC-135 tankers.

"I was close to finishing my degree when the [base realignment and closure list] changed the mission at McConnell," said Neidhardt. "I saw becoming a boom operator was my way of getting my foot in the door. Before I started flying I was working in maintenance as a full time Guard member. Luckily my unit was able to keep me full time when I changed jobs."

But being a "boom" got into his blood. "Seven years later, I have my degree, and I have taken all the tests required to become an officer — I just really find it hard to let go of this job," he said. "I truly enjoy what I get to do every day."

BNSF gives holiday gift to Kansas service members



Brig. Gen. John Davoren, assistant adjutant general - Army and commander of the Kansas National Guard, expresses his thanks to Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad for providing a free "Holiday Express" train excursion to members of the Kansas National Guard and other military members and their families. The event, which also provided free cookies and hot chocolate and a visit from Santa, took place in Topeka Dec. 1 and 2, 2009. Burlington Northern Santa Fe also donated \$10,000 to the Kansas National Guard Foundation. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)

Technical tactical training



(From the left) Spc. Michael Beckner, 1st Lt. James Pope and Sgt. Tim Rozell, all from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Wichita, use newly fielded Getac laptop computers, to conduct the battalion's first successful Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System training over the state network Jan. 9-10, 2010. AFATDS is the Army's artillery tactical data system that provides net-centric battle command to coordinate indirect fire systems in support of maneuver operations.

This also marked the first time the AFATDS Effects Management Tool was incorporated into the battalion's training. The Getac laptops operate a new Windows-based AFATDS that enhanced and increased the communication ability between the headquarters in Wichita and units in Paola and Newton. (Photo provided)

Civil Air Patrol members tests emergency service skills

By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson
Unit Public Affairs Representative

The Kansas Wing of the Civil Air Patrol conducted their Kansas Emergency Services Academy the weekend of Oct. 9-11, 2009.

“The purpose of the KESA is to give rookie and veterans alike hands-on learning experience in the various aspects of CAP’s emergency services,” said Col. Tim Hansen.

The academy’s mission base was the Farnum Creek camping area on the east side of Milford Lake. The area was filled with a mixture camping trailers and tents of various sizes and colors.

“We have 55 senior and cadet members for the weekend. Their ages range from 12 to over 60,” said Capt. Linette Lahan. “Our goal was to conduct as realistic training as we could. The fact that this happened to end up being one of the coldest Octobers in 35 years, although unplanned, just adds to the training.”

Saturday’s training included first aid procedures to include prevention and treatment of hot weather injuries. Additional training included locating a distress beacon, conducting a search line, land navigation and map reading. After dark, there was training with various night vision devices.

With overnight temperatures projected to be freezing, arrangements were made to move everyone in tents to the Junction City

Army National Guard Armory, where they slept warmly on cots with sleeping bags.

Sunday was set aside to conduct training missions based on Saturday’s missions. The training missions began by creating new ground teams from the assembled senior and cadet members. Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Bradley Doubrava was selected to head one of the teams. His team’s training mission was to locate a three-year-old child that had wandered away from her family.

Dounrava deployed his team at the last known location of the family. Cadets Gabrielle Roth, Samuel Dorsey, Steele Ward and Gyluss Hutchens formed a search line. They quickly found a child’s shoe, their first clue in the search. Empowered by the clue, they continued on. When the open field turned into a tree line, Dounrava closed up the line before going into the trees.

The team moved as far as the lake’s shore line before forming a new line going back the way they came. Just before reaching the clearing there was excitement. Dounrava called in a “tally ho” as the team found the doll representing Denise.

“It was great that we were able to find our target,” said Ward. “I am just glad that it was not for real.”

“It was a very good feeling when we were able to radio back that we had found her,” agreed Dorsey.

“This made the weekend worthwhile,” said Hutchens.



Maj. Ron Schlesener, Kansas Wing, Civil Air Patrol, conducts training on the radio direction finder for two CAP cadets. (Photo by Sgt. Michael Mathewson, UPAR)

Awards and Decorations

Continued from Page 14

- Tech. Sgt. Richard L. Sparks, 184th IW, Wichita
- Tech. Sgt. Denton Stafford, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Tech. Sgt. Daniel W Strickland, 184th IW, Wichita
- Tech. Sgt. Cynthia A Swazey, 184th IW, Wichita, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
- Tech. Sgt. Dorothy Westergren, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
- Tech. Sgt. John Williams, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Staff Sgt. Erin Burden, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Staff Sgt. Crystal Crews, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Staff Sgt. Anthony G. Gordon, 184th IW, Wichita
- Staff Sgt. Paul Harper, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Staff Sgt. Troy P Kaufman, 184th IW, Wichita
- Staff Sgt. Khamkert Khuesy, 184th IW, Wichita
- Staff Sgt. Sarah Mendez, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Staff Sgt. Karissa R. Nelsen, 184th IW, Wichita
- Staff Sgt. Heather R. Stump, 184th IW, Wichita
- Staff Sgt. Ashley Tremblay, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Staff Sgt. Joseph Weber, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Senior Airman Clinton C. Adams, 184th IW, Wichita
- Senior Airman Aaron L. Crockett, 184th IW, Wichita
- Senior Airman Cori M. Fortner, 184th IW, Wichita
- Senior Airman Jennifer Lord, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Senior Airman Jake Meyer, 190th ARW, Topeka

Air Force Achievement Medal



- Capt. Donald Harper, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
- Senior Master Sgt. Gary Cox, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
- Senior Master Sgt. Wendy Davis, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
- Sgt. 1st Class Randy Bole, HHC, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City
- Master Sgt. Mary J. Douglass, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
- Master Sgt. Jean Hager, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
- Master Sgt. Gina Hastings, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
- Master Sgt. Mark Jantz, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
- Master Sgt. Mark Moulden, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
- Master Sgt. Richard Rust, 190th ARW, Topeka

- Master Sgt. Angelina Siroky, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
- Master Sgt. Jacob Urban, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Tech. Sgt. Gordon Cole, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 5th Oak Leaf Cluster
- Tech. Sgt. Michael Dunn, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Tech. Sgt. Jamel Francis, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
- Tech. Sgt. Matthew M. McCoy, 184th IW, Wichita, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
- Tech. Sgt. Phillip Money, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
- Tech. Sgt. Jason Parker, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
- Tech. Sgt. Topanga I. Stanton, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
- Tech. Sgt. Levi Vincent, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
- Tech. Sgt. Deric Winn, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
- Tech. Sgt. Bradley Yocum, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Staff Sgt. Jeffery A Corbin, 184th IW, Wichita
- Staff Sgt. Barbara Dustin, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Staff Sgt. Sean Greenlee, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Staff Sgt. Ashley Hastings, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Staff Sgt. Neal Jensen, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Staff Sgt. Justin Meier, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
- Staff Sgt. Nathan Miles, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Staff Sgt. Robert Morris, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
- Staff Sgt. Gabriel Moulden, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Staff Sgt. Aaron Poston, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Staff Sgt. Jesse Price, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Staff Sgt. Aaron Robinson, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Staff Sgt. Robert Sauerbrunn, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Staff Sgt. Michael Schneider, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Staff Sgt. Sarbjit Singh, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
- Staff Sgt. Daniel Snyder, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Staff Sgt. David Tomczek, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
- Staff Sgt. David Wright, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
- Staff Sgt. Michael Zeller, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Senior Airman Curtis Anderson, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Senior Airman Jeffrey Austin, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 2nd

Heroic WWI Kansas National Guardsman honored in France



Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose, director, Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas, assists M. Ghislain Deketele, mayor of Remicourt, France, in unveiling a plaque in honor of Medal of Honor recipients 2nd Lt. Erwin Bleckley and 1st Lt. Harold Goettler, who died in World War I (Photo by Sharon Watson, Public Affairs Office.)

By Sharon Watson
Public Affairs Office

Kansas National Guard members joined the community of Remicourt, France, Oct. 7, 2009, for a ceremony honoring 2nd Lt. Erwin Bleckley, a Kansas Guardsman who died Oct. 6, 1918, in a heroic effort to rescue the American 77th Division, the “Lost Battalion,” during World War I.

Bleckley, one of the 50th Aero Squadron heroes, joined the Kansas National Guard’s 130th Field Artillery Regiment in 1917, volunteering for forward observation duty with the Army Air Service.

Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose, director of the Joint Force Headquarters Kansas, greeted members of Bleckley’s family Oct. 6 to place a wreath at Bleckley’s grave site and another at the site where his plane crashed.

Rose attended the events in France and was joined by Doug Jacobs, command historian of the Kansas National Guard, and Soldiers and Airmen of the Kansas National Guard. The Illinois National Guard was also represented.

“It’s truly an honor to be a part of this ceremony to recognize Lieutenant Bleckley and to be able to personally thank his family for the sacrifices he and they have made for our country,” said Rose.

On Oct. 7, the city of Remicourt hosted a 91st anniversary ceremony to honor Bleckley and his pilot, Harold Goettler, of Illinois, who flew a fatal mission that may have provided key information, perhaps a map, to troops that would later help them locate the battalion that was surrounded by

German troops.

Bleckley received a Medal of Honor for his heroic efforts and was inducted into the Kansas National Guard’s Hall of Fame in 1997. Jacobs recommended Bleckley for the Guard’s Hall of Fame recognition.

Bleckley’s niece, Nancy Erwin, and her husband of Shreveport, La., and Goettler’s niece, Joan Starr, of Connecticut, along with her two sons, attended the wreath laying, site visits and the ceremony in Remicourt.

“It’s been very gratifying to think that I could represent my grandmother,” said Erwin, who says her family didn’t talk much about her uncle and while she knew what had happened to him, as a child she couldn’t comprehend what good it did.

“Suddenly, at some point in my young years, I realized, I pulled it together: I wouldn’t be here today, my family wouldn’t be here today, if there weren’t young men who were willing to do this, to give their lives in defense of liberty,” Erwin said.

During the ceremony, a plaque was dedicated to the city of Remicourt, which will be permanently displayed outside of the mayor’s office to recognize the heroics of Bleckley and Goettler and others who served with them.

“It’s critical we remember those who served and ensure they are recognized in the history books for their heroic actions,” said Jacobs. “Without the research and documentation of Oct. 6, 1918, we wouldn’t know how critical Lieutenant Bleckley and Lieutenant Goettler were in saving so many of the lives of their comrades.”

- Oak Leaf Cluster
- Senior Airman John Barnes, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
- Senior Airman Kelly Bartholic, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Senior Airman Brian Beatty, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Senior Airman Daniel Berends, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Senior Airman Christopher Berroth, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
- Senior Airman Christopher Blaski, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
- Senior Airman Kyle Brabb, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Senior Airman Joshua J. Brown, 184th IW, Wichita
- Senior Airman Brooke Cessna, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Senior Airman Kyle Cochran, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Senior Airman John Countryman, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Senior Airman Jarod Creed, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Senior Airman Erick Dean, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Senior Airman Shanna Finkemeier, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Senior Airman Anthony R. Garner, 184th IW, Wichita
- Senior Airman Melinda Griffith, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Senior Airman Micky V. Grogan, 184th IW, Wichita
- Senior Airman Chris G. Guild, 184th IW, Wichita
- Senior Airman Lianne C. Hendrickson, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
- Senior Airman Jonathan Henry, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
- Senior Airman Celestina Johnson, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Senior Airman Colby Knox, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Senior Airman Anthony D Kober, 184th IW, Wichita
- Senior Airman Matthew Leonard, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
- Senior Airman Melanie Nelson, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
- Senior Airman Diana Olivar, 184th IW, Wichita
- Senior Airman Jacob Perez, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Senior Airman Kaitlin Robinson, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Senior Airman Ryan Sipes, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
- Senior Airman Byron A. Smith, 184th IW, Wichita
- Senior Airman Robert Snyder, 190th ARW, Topeka

- Senior Airman James P. Soutar, 184th IW, Wichita
- Senior Airman Mattheiu A. Statler, 184th IW, Wichita
- Senior Airman Carolyn Tatum, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Senior Airman Brandon Terhune, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
- Senior Airman Ming J. Tran, 184th IW, Wichita
- Senior Airman Carina Vazquez, 184th IW, Wichita
- Senior Airman Kevin Williams, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
- Airman 1st Class Joseph P. Andra, 184th IW, Wichita
- Airman 1st Class Matthew P. Benoit, 184th IW, Wichita
- Airman 1st Class Christopher Lake, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Airman 1st Class Alex Lopez, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Airman 1st Class Ashley Martin, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Airman 1st Class Trinita McNutt, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Airman 1st Class Michael Strobel, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Kansas National Guard Achievement Medal



- Maj. Michael D. Hagerty, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
- Maj. Mark J. Tillison, 184th IW, Wichita
- Capt. Deborah L. Balentine, 184th IW, Wichita
- Capt. Kelly A. Martin, 184th IW, Wichita
- 2nd Lt. Amanda George, 184th IW, Wichita
- Chief Master Sgt. Sidney Baldwin, 184th IW, Wichita
- Senior Master Sgt. William A. Angstadt, 184th IW, Wichita, with 5th Oak Leaf Cluster
- Senior Master Sgt. Donna Buckman, 184th IW, Wichita
- Senior Master Sgt. Debora L. Hooper, 184th IW, Wichita
- Master Sgt. Paul H. Arnold, 184th IW, Wichita
- Master Sgt. Frank W. Cook, 184th IW, Wichita, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
- Master Sgt. Neil H. Fogg, 184th IW, Wichita, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
- Master Sgt. Eric R. Smith, 184th IW, Wichita, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Inspired student puts Salina teacher in national spotlight



Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Susan Jordan, Salina elementary school teacher and a retired member of the Kansas National Guard, was nominated—and won—a national teacher’s award by student Lena Kellogg. (Photo by Tom Dorsey, Salina Journal)

By Tim Unruh
Salina Journal

One day back in January 2009, Magdalena Kellogg announced a high honor to second-grade teacher retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Susan Jordan at Meadowlark Ridge Elementary School.

“She said, ‘I hope you don’t mind. I nominated you as my favorite teacher who makes a difference,’” Jordan said. “What better thing than to have a student say that to you?”

It was the beginning of what would become “an amazing ride” for Jordan and her former student. It concluded Sept. 12, 2009, in Orlando, Fla., said Magdalena’s mom, Becky Kellogg.

The little girl, known to most as “Lena,” penned impressions of her second-grade teacher – she was in third grade at the time – in an essay that she used to nominate Jordan for the National Federation of Republican Women’s My Favorite Teacher Award.

“I think she is the best because she is so energetic and so funny and she helps us a lot,” Lena, 8, now a fourth-grader, wrote in her essay.

“She made me want to go to school every day. She made me feel loved by listening to me. When I see her in the hallway, I get excited. I am thankful she was my teacher!” Lena wrote.

Her nomination of Jordan was faxed to the organization’s state chairwoman in December, but Lena waited until after Jordan was a finalist to inform her.

It was a week before the state winner would be announced at a luncheon on Kansas Day in Topeka.

Somewhat perplexed, her mother asked Lena why “Miss Jordan” had such short notice.

“She said, ‘I was scared she wouldn’t win and I didn’t want her feelings hurt,’” Becky Kellogg said.

A helicopter pilot

Jordan was able to make the trip to Topeka and listened as Lena read her essay at the luncheon. The audience learned of Jordan’s military experience – a Black Hawk helicopter pilot, 30 years in the Army National Guard and a year of service in Afghanistan – and her efforts to improve reading and writing and to inspire learning in the classroom.

“All the other students who nominated were high school girls. That kind of made me feel a little nervous,” Lena said.

It was a thrill and a true honor to win

the state award, Jordan said, but that was just the beginning.

At midsummer, Jordan was informed she was among the five finalists for the federation’s national My Favorite Teacher award. She was invited to the national convention in Orlando, Fla.

Lena and her mother, who is a member of the Saline County Republican Women, attended the convention. Both of her grandmothers – Trisha Marietta, of Salina, and Sandra Bohne, of Leavenworth and aunt, Emily Bohne, of Leavenworth – were also in the crowd Sept. 12.

Lena’s father, Chris Kellogg, a Salina attorney, and her little brother, Carson, 5, were unable to make the trip.

Jordan’s husband, Lt. Col. Jeff Jordan, who is also a Kansas National Guardsman, and their daughter, Samantha, 14, went along, as well.

Brenda Smith, Salina, president of the Kansas Federation of Republican Women, knew that Jordan was the winner, but she didn’t tell.

Convinced she would win

Lena was convinced that her favorite teacher would win.

“Whenever they said ‘if’ she wins, I would correct them and say ‘when’ she wins,” Lena said.

She reminded Jordan to “have something in your back pocket (an acceptance speech) when you win.”

As Jordan and four other finalists stood before 1,300 people in the banquet hall Sept. 12, Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, the featured speaker and presenter, announced Jordan as the winner.

“We were just overwhelmed. We weren’t expecting it,” Becky Kellogg said.

It was an “exciting” moment, Jordan said, especially when she spotted her “star” ex-student, who “bubbles from within, sitting right up front with her paparazzi” family, taking pictures.

“I jumped up and down and screamed,” Lena said.

Jordan was given a finalist certificate, crystal star and crystal bowl, not to mention the enduring memories of a very special experience she shared with Lena, who someday wants to be a teacher.

“It was an exciting time,” Jordan said.

The little girl’s words had an effect, said her mother.

“I’m a proud momma,” Becky Kellogg said. “I told Lena, ‘Your small and simple things can grow into big and wonderful things. This is something you will remember the rest of your life.’”

Black Hawk crews practice with jungle penetrator

By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR
1st Battalion, 108th Aviation

Problem: How to get a flight medic from a hovering helicopter to the ground when there is no place to land.

Solution: Use a hoist to lower the medic down on a jungle penetrator.

On Sept. 18, 2009, the 171st General Support Aviation Battalion conducted hoist training for their pilots, crew chiefs and flight medics. The training was conducted in a grassy area on the southern edge of Forbes Field, Topeka. Staff Sgt. Jennifer Burpo explained this training is done while the Black Hawk is hovering overhead. The crew chief swings the hoist outside of the helicopter and lowers the jungle penetrator, a heavy metal device designed, as the name implies, to penetrate dense jungle foliage. The penetrator is used to retrieve someone from the ground or to lower them to the ground.

Once on the ground, the medic opens the legs of the yellow penetrator. The medic sits facing inwards, straddling two of the penetrator’s legs, and places his arms through the safety straps. When ready, the medic signals the crew chief, who activates the hoist to pull the medic up.

This training was conducted for flight medics Burpo and Sgt. Justin Miser and crew chiefs Staff Sgt J.T. Smith and Sgt. Ryan Kohlman. Capt. Kevin Kennedy and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Steve Hood piloted the Black Hawk.

If the medics have a patient, the patient would be sent up first. Once safely onboard the helicopter, the crew chief would then lower the penetrator to recover the medic. The penetrator can also be used to rescue people from flood waters or from rooftops.

“It was exhilarating!” said Burpo. “It is a great way to develop confidence in the abilities of the pilots and crew chiefs.”



Sgt. Justin Miser hangs from a jungle penetrator below a Black Hawk helicopter from the 171st General Support Aviation Battalion. (Photo by Sgt. Matthew Rose)

Kansas, Oklahoma partner in bi-state stop animal movement exercise

On Oct. 22, 2009, officials in Kansas and Oklahoma recently partnered to conduct the first interstate emergency response exercise. The Oct. 22 event tested coordination and the logistics of implementing a stop livestock movement order issued by state animal health officials.

The exercise took place in Topeka, Kan., and Oklahoma City Okla., and on the Kansas-Oklahoma border. The scenario involved a simulated outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the eastern United States.

“Many states have conducted exercises to test their response plans to a highly contagious foreign animal disease within their own borders, so this exercise provides the new dimension of coordinating activities to stop animal movement across a shared border,” said George Teagarden, commissioner of the Kansas Animal Health Department.

The exercise, titled SAMS-KO, or Stop Animal Movement Statewide KS-OK, was funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Kansas and Oklahoma are members of the Multistate Partnership for Security in Agriculture, a consortium of 13 states that work together to protect the food and agriculture sector by sharing information and building interstate response capabilities.

“We conduct a number of exercises annually with our state partners in Kansas,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general and director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management.

“However, working with our partners across state lines is critical because disasters seldom stop at the state line. We consider foreign animal disease to be one of

the major threats to our state’s economy and the more we exercise for it, the more everyone will know what to expect should it happen in the U.S.”

Animal health, agriculture, law enforcement, transportation and emergency management officials from both states participated in the exercise by working as players, evaluators and actors. The exercise was played out as realistically as possible, in real time, and involved emergency operations centers, key decision makers and local officials in both states. Traffic was screened at two border locations -- one at the intersection of Highways 160 and 183 near Sitka, Kan., and the other three miles north of Turpin, Okla., on Highway 83.

“Kansas is a leader in animal agriculture, so it’s no surprise our state would be among the first to test this critical element of our foreign animal disease response plan,” said Josh Svaty, acting secretary of the Kansas Department of Agriculture. “I’m proud that folks in my department have been able to help develop and carry out this exercise and that we will play a strong supporting role in a real event. It will take all of us working together, including our partners in neighboring states, to control the spread of diseases that could devastate our livestock industry.”

“A stop livestock movement order is designed to protect healthy animals from the introduction of harmful diseases. Its focus is to stop potentially diseased animals or contaminated animal-handling equipment from other states from entering our state and coming into contact with healthy animals,” Teagarden said. “This exercise will allow us to test how well our plan works