



**Flora retires;  
Link assumes  
command of  
Kansas Air  
National  
Guard .....3**



**35th Infantry  
Division con-  
ducts joint  
exercise with  
Republic of  
Korea .....8**



**“We lost a  
hero today.”  
Col. Jim  
Trafton dies  
in turnpike  
accident ...13**

# PLAINS GUARDIAN

VOLUME 53 No. 2      *Serving the Kansas Army and Air National Guard, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Kansas Homeland Security and Civil Air Patrol*      APRIL 2010

## NGB chief McKinley tours Great Plains Joint Training Center

**By Sharon Watson  
Public Affairs Office**

Gen. Craig McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, visited the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, Kan., on March 26. He took an aerial and ground tour of parts of the center and the new 160-acre site where military and civilian first responders train together for state disaster response.

“This is a world treasure out here, very impressed,” McKinley said.

McKinley was invited by Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general, to view the site developed over the past couple of years and opened for training last summer.

The training venue includes Crisis City, a replica of a small city that allows responders a more realistic training scenario. It includes a rubble pile for a building collapse and actual overturned rail cars for a hazardous chemical spill. Additional venues are being added.

“We designed the site after getting input from our civilian first responders on

what they need,” Bunting said.

McKinley expressed appreciation for Bunting’s vision and ability to make the site a reality.

“With Fort Riley, this facility can bring so much training space to this part of the country,” McKinley noted.

The first joint civilian-military training at the Great Plains Joint Training Center and Crisis City was in June 2009 when the field portion of the Vigilant Guard exercise involved a train derailment and building collapse. Another large-scale exercise is planned for July 2010 and will involve a number of military and civilian participants.

During his visit, McKinley toured the Crisis City headquarters building, which is nearing completion. It will provide a second-story observation room for instructors to watch the various components of an exercise unfold. It will also provide classroom instruction.

A group of firefighters involved in a search and rescue exercise greeted McKinley as he got a close-up view of the rubble pile at Crisis City. He thanked them

for their efforts.

McKinley told reporters there are potential opportunities where the Great Plains Joint Training Center might provide the best venue for national training needs and said

he would ask some of his team to come visit the site to determine the possibilities.

“I can’t think of a better venue than this facility right here, right in the heartland of America,” said McKinley.



Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting (left), the adjutant general, and Gen. Craig McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, talk with Kansas firefighters conducting training at Crisis City, located at the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina. McKinley visited the center in March. (Photo by Sharon Watson, Public Affairs Office)

## Kansas firefighters conduct search and rescue training at Crisis City

**By Maj. DeAnn Barr  
Great Plains Joint Training Center**

Twenty-five firefighters from across Kansas gathered at Crisis City, located at the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, March 22 to 26 to attend Technical

Search Specialist Training, a Kansas Division of Emergency Management initiative.

During the five-day training event, students learned to locate victims by narrowing search parameters utilizing equipment such as ultrasonic listening devices, specialized search and rescue cameras, search robots and GPS locating equipment.

The multitude of venues offered at Crisis City, including the 10,000 ton rubble pile, structure collapse building, land navigation range and classrooms, made the class cost-effective and convenient for participants.

“Given its central location, this is soon to be an incredible training facility,” said Capt. John Troyer from the Sedgwick County Fire Department, an assistant with the course. “The training environment is in close proximity to the overnight lodging. Where else can you stay overnight for \$15 and have access to cheap meals?”

After 24 years of firefighting experience, Troyer appreciates what the training center has to offer.

“Usually everywhere we go to train we have to build our own scenarios and it’s all here. All we have to do is send our people with their personal protective equipment,” said Troyer.

The most extensive class to prepare for is the Structure Collapse Technician Course that requires two months to set up each time it’s taught, according to Troyer. Instructors need to arrive days prior to the class in order to assemble tons of concrete blocks, cut steel and prepare for the hands-on training scenarios.

“Here it’s all set up and I can show up and teach. It’s a very labor intensive and cost

(Continued on Page 10)

## Secretary of Defense receives award, recalls Kansas roots

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

Key leaders in the Kansas Army National Guard attended the speech given by Secretary of Defense, Dr. Robert M. Gates, when he was presented the Distinguished Kansan of the Year Award in Topeka on Jan. 29 by the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas.

Numerous political leaders were

present to honor Secretary Gates, including former Kansas governor and current Health and Human Services Secretary, Kathleen Sebelius, Kansas Governor Mark Parkinson, U.S. Senator Sam Brownback and U.S. Representative Todd Tiahrt.

“I was surprised on how down-to-earth he was,” said Col. John Andrew, Kansas Army National Guard Chief of Staff. “His

(Continued on Page 11)



Secretary of Defense Dr. Robert Gates received the Distinguished Kansan of the Year award in January. During his acceptance speech, Gates displayed his down-to-earth Kansas common sense and humor. (Photo by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 178  
SALEM, OR

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY AND AIR  
FORCE  
NATIONAL GUARD OF KANSAS  
Adjutant General of Kansas  
2800 S. Topeka Blvd.  
Topeka Kansas 66611-1287

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
Penalty for Private Use, \$300



# “Meet Your Local Heroes Day”



How do you define a hero? Students from Robinson Middle School, Wichita, had the opportunity to answer that question when 184th Security Forces members joined with other local law enforcement agencies at the Meet Your Local Heroes Day event. Equipped with two tactical response vehicles and accounts of their own experiences ranging from natural disaster responses in Kansas and Louisiana to overseas missions in support of the War on Terror, 184th members Tech. Sgt. Mark Wall, Staff Sgt. Quentin Morris, Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Nicholson and Master Sgt. Bill Cook represented the Kansas Air National Guard. (Photo by Master Sgt. Eric Smith, 184th Security Forces Squadron)

# School counselors get up-close look at 184th Intelligence Wing

By Capt. Nancy Harper  
184th Force Support Squadron

The 184th Intelligence Wing hosted approximately 100 counselors from local area elementary, middle and high schools on Feb. 12, 2010.

Maj. Jesse Sojka, flight commander for the 161st Intelligence Squadron, and unit volunteers welcomed counselors from the Unified School District #259 and gave mission briefings. Maj. Steven Shook from the 184th Force Support Squadron and Tech. Sgt. Justin Moody from the Chaplain’s office gave testimonials and shared their satisfaction of serving the local community and country as a Guardsmen and how both their civilian and military jobs complement each other. Both are traditional Guardsman and are employed by the Wichita Public School district as education administrators.

Counselors later toured various 184th IW units and facilities. The 184th Security Forces Squadron hosted one group that concluded with a “hands on” demonstration of the Fire Arm Training Simulator, a weapons program that allows the user to practice marksmanship without the use of real arms or live ammunition. Col. Joseph Jabara, commander of the 184th Mission Support Squadron, escorted the first group of visitors to the SFS offices.

A second group chose to visit the 299th

Network Operations Security Squadron, getting an opportunity to see the expansive operations floor. Another group took a tour of the 134th Air Control Squadron facilities. They were able to see specialized equipment and visit with some of the squadron’s personnel.

The final group, primarily elementary school counselors, viewed the wing’s STARBASE program facilities and spoke with team coordinators to help recruit school children into the program, which offers Kansas elementary students academic activities to improve their mathematics, science, and technical knowledge.

Sojka noted how important the event was to the wing’s mission.

“The intent of the event will be to educate these counselors about the Kansas Air National Guard, specifically the 184th,” said Sojka. “Ultimately, if they know people who are considering joining the military, we’d like the Kansas Air National Guard to be the first organization they reference.”

Shook was also impressed by the counselors’ interests in the wing. “An important part of the process is intentionally clarifying the unit’s role in the community and country while highlighting the opportunities becoming a Guard member offers individuals, both from a benefits perspective as well as heartfelt personal satisfaction.”



Tech. Sgt. Justin Moody, 184th Intelligence Wing, gives marksmanship pointers to a school counselor from USD 259 trying out the Firearm Training Simulator. (Photo by Capt. Nancy Harper, 184th Security Forces Squadron)

# Bringing closure: 190th supports MIA recovery mission in Vietnam

By Capt. Joe Blubaugh  
190th ARW Public Affairs

There has been little chance for closure for the families of more than 1,300 Vietnam veterans who are listed as Missing in Action. Although some of the MIAs have been missing for more than 40 years, their service brethren haven’t given up hope of someday returning them back to American soil and to hopefully provide the closure so many families are still seeking.

Three or four times a year, the Joint POW/MIA Accountability Command sends a team of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines to Vietnam to search for the remains of the missing servicemembers. JPAC’s mission is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing as a result of the nation’s past conflicts.

In February, the 190th Air Refueling Wing was tasked with transporting a 25-member advance team and their cargo to the Southeast Asian country. The JPAC team is comprised of anthropologists, linguists, explosive ordnance specialists, logisticians and medics. The advance team works very closely with the Vietnamese government to negotiate potential excavation sites and sets up logistical infrastructure so excavations can begin immediately upon the arrival of the 50-member main body.

The full team is actually broken into several smaller teams with two distinctive missions. The recovery team’s mission is to conduct excavations, looking for remains or equipment of missing servicemembers.

Choosing a location for an excavation

is the responsibility of the research and investigation teams. While the excavations are ongoing, investigation teams are working with Vietnamese officials, interviewing witnesses and visiting potential sites for future missions.

Kelly Ray is a retired Air Force linguist and the team leader for one of the two investigation teams on this mission. This is Ray’s 45th trip to Vietnam as a JPAC member including his military and civilian trips.

Ray’s team scheduled interviews with retired Vietnamese Army veterans that were witnesses when a U.S. servicemember was killed or went missing. During the interviews, the investigation team have the witnesses take them to the burial site, if possible. The investigation team surveys the site and, based on their findings, recommends site for future excavation.

Ray says the information they gather is taken back to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, where a board reviews the recommendations and decides whether an excavation is warranted.

Army Capt. Greg Smith, the leader of one of the recovery teams, says a very small sample of human remains can lead to the identity of an MIA.

“We only need a bone fragment the size of a tooth.” If remains are found, they are transported to Hickam, for further forensic investigation and DNA extraction.

Thanks to new genetic advances, DNA extracted from remains can now be compared to blood relatives of MIAs for identification. Smith says a DNA sample doesn’t

(Continued on Page 12)

# Joint conference brings Army, Air logistics professionals together



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Mark Looper provides information on Army tactical communications systems. (Photo provided)

The second Kansas National Guard Sustainment Conference, hosted by the 184th Logistics Readiness Squadron, was conducted Feb. 9 - 11 at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Kan. This conference brought logisticians and operations Soldiers and Airmen together to discuss and develop plans and procedures for conducting joint sustainment functions in domestic operations.

Military and civilian subject matter experts from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management delivered several presentations. These presentations were focused toward sharing management systems between Air Force and Army sustainment professionals and providing the tools for efficiently directing and managing domestic missions to support the governor and Adjutant General’s Department in times of domestic emergency.

In addition, three working groups

were formed to develop a more efficient and encompassing reporting and asset tracking system for decision makers; for developing a joint standard operating procedure for conducting reception, staging, and onward movement operations for large scale events; and for further developing pre-planned “capabilities packages” for most anticipated support events from the Kansas National Guard.

Included with the programmed events in this conference was the opportunity for the Kansas National Guard logistics community to develop relationships and friendships. This will produce a more efficient and rapid level of response for future missions.

After action comments indicate this conference to be very valuable for the participants. As a result, the sustainment community will continue its efforts to develop “jointness” for the citizens of Kansas.



# Flora retires; Link assumes command of Kansas Air Guard



Col. Bradley Link (right) prepares to accept the command flag of the Kansas Air National Guard, transferring command from Brig. Gen. Ed Flora. (Photo by Sharon Watson, Public Affairs Office)

Col. Bradley Link has been named to succeed retiring Brig. Gen. Ed Flora as assistant adjutant general – Air and commander of the Kansas Air National Guard. The appointment became effective April 12. A formal change of command ceremony took place April 26 in Nickell Armory, Topeka, Kan.

“It will take an officer with considerable experience and wisdom to replace General Flora,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, “and I have every confidence that we’ve picked the right officer in Colonel Link. His knowledge and insight will prove extremely valuable to shaping and carrying out the command strategy of the Kansas Air National Guard.”

“Ed Flora has done a tremendous job for the Kansas National Guard and has had a remarkable military career,” said Bunting. “We all wish him the best in his retirement.”

Link’s most recent assignment was as

commander of the Maintenance Group, 190th Air Refueling Wing, Kansas Air National Guard. Link was responsible for directing all aircraft and equipment maintenance support for 12 KC-135R aircraft, as well as the quality and quantity of training for over 300 airmen, ensuring they were prepared to perform the wing’s mission to provide worldwide in-flight refueling for military aircraft of the United States and its allies as directed by the Department of Defense and to support Global Reach/Global Power for America.

Link deployed from March to June 2005 as commander, 385th Air Expeditionary Group, based at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. From November 2006 to May 2007, he deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, serving as the deputy director of the Air Component Coordination Element, Strategic Operations Center, Headquarters Multi-National Force, Iraq.

Link is a command pilot with over  
(Continued on Page 13)

## A brief history of your veterans educational benefits

By Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

In almost every military recruiting message, money for college or education is typically listed within the top three reasons why someone should enlist in that particular branch of the Armed Forces.

Perhaps the greatest area, in terms of the federal government’s participation in education, was the GI Bill of Rights. The GI Bill, officially known as the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, was designed to provide greater opportunities to returning veterans of World War II. The bill, signed by President Franklin Roosevelt on June 22, 1944, provided federal aid to help veterans adjust to civilian life in the areas of hospitalization, purchase of homes and businesses and especially, education. This act provided tuition, subsistence, books and supplies, equipment, and counseling services for veterans to continue their education in school or college. The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act included the following:

- The federal government would subsidize tuition, fees, books, and educational materials for veterans and contribute to living expenses incurred while attending college or other approved institutions.
- Veterans were free to attend the educational institution of their choice.
- Colleges were free to admit those veterans who met their admissions requirements.

Within the following seven years, approximately eight million veterans received educational benefits. Of that number, approximately 2,300,000 attended colleges and universities, 3,500,000 received school training and 3,400,000 received on-the-job training. By 1951, this act had cost the government a total cost of approximately \$14 billion.

The effects of increased enrollment to higher education were significant. Higher educational opportunities opened enrollment to a varied socioeconomic group than in the years past. Engineers and technicians needed for the technological economy were prepared from the ranks of returning veterans. Also, education served as a social safety valve that eased the traumas and tensions of adjustment from wartime to peace.

For American colleges and universities, the effects were transforming. In almost all institutions, classes were overcrowded. Institutions required more classrooms, laboratories, greater numbers of faculties, and more resources. Housing facilities became inadequate and new building programs were established. New vocational courses were also added.

This new student population called for differential courses in advanced training in education, commerce, agriculture, mining, fisheries and other vocational fields that were previously taught informally. Teaching staffs enlarged and summer and extension courses thrived. Further, the  
(Continued on Page 13)

# Saint Barbara Society inducts eleven

By Maj. Mike Wallace  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

On Jan. 9, 2010, at the Broadview Hotel in Wichita, Kan., the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery of the Kansas Army National Guard held its annual Field Artillery Ball and Saint Barbara’s Celebration, a military honor society of the United States for both the U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corp. The award is named for Saint Barbara, patron saint of artillerymen.

“We do this every year,” said Lt. Col. Thomas Burke, commander of the 1-161 FA, “to honor those Soldiers and spouses that have shown outstanding attributes that contributed to the field artillery and have exemplified the qualities desired in being an artilleryman or woman.”

During the ceremony, Spc. Michael Collins was recognized as the Best Individual Soldier, while Sgt. Gregory Torres was identified as the Best Individual NCO for the battalion in 2009. Battery A was identified as having the Best Gun Section for the past year. Artillery members that exemplified the finest traditions and

highest standards of the field artillery were recognized by induction into the honorable Order of Saint Barbara.

Those inducted were Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, Maj. Paul Scofield, Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Cline, Staff Sgt. Jon Depiesse, Staff Sgt. David Franco, Staff Sgt. Michael Garcia, Staff Sgt. Terry Hillyer, Staff Sgt. Jason Jouret, Staff Sgt. John Lofing, Staff Sgt. Brian Reed and Staff Sgt. Michael Yandel.

Special recognition was given to Ronnie and Connie Bachman, who accepted awards on behalf of their son, Sgt. 1st Class Travis S. Bachman, who was killed in action in Iraq on Aug. 1, 2007.

The next item on the agenda was to induct members into the order of Molly Pitcher. The Molly Pitcher award is to recognize the service and support of spouses to the Kansas Guard member.

Those inducted were Mrs. Tammy Alsop, Mrs. Rebecca Boese, Mrs. Marilyn Brumley, Mrs. Amanda Joan Cline, Mrs. Kristine Depiesse, Mrs. Rebecca Mattix, Mrs. Bonnie McGhee, Mrs. Amy Rijfko-gel and Mrs. Robin Witzke.



Lt. Col. Thomas Burke hangs the medal reflecting the induction of the Order of Saint Barbara around Staff Sgt. Michael Yandel’s neck. (Photo by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD)

## “Super Boards” evaluate Soldiers for promotion

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

The Kansas Army National Guard’s annual Enlisted Promotion Board was held at the Kansas Regional Training Institute, Salina, Kan., for three days in February.

Each year, this “Super Board” is held to review the files of Soldiers eligible for promotion to the ranks of sergeant through sergeant major. Qualified enlisted non-commissioned officers of the rank staff sergeant and above are chosen to be board members in charge of grading promotable Soldier’s files based on documents verified by their 4100s, such as Department of the Army photo, awards, trainings and education, along with an additional score estimating the Soldier’s potential to improve in these areas.

These scores are combined to create a subjective score which are validated by having each Soldier’s file graded by three different board members, whose scores must remain within a 100 point window of each board member’s score.

This score is not the only determining factor to overall points towards promotion, said Sgt. 1st Class Beverly Claycamp, Joint Force Headquarters. Claycamp said this score is combined with points a Soldier may have accumulated through administrative points, such as Army Physical Fitness Test, qualifications, trainings and education. A promotion list is then composed using the total of both points from the Enlisted Promotion

Board and administrative point to create a promotion sequence number, which is assigned by seniority and vacancy of desired ‘slot’ within each Military Occupational Specialty for the following 12 months.

This year, the board members reviewed 980 promotable Soldier’s files, compared to approximately 1,200 files the previous year, said Staff Sgt. Cheryl Larson, Joint Force Headquarters. The Enlisted Promotion Board process appeared to function more efficiently and smoothly compared to the following year, said Larson.

Command Sgt. Maj. Glenn Peterson, senior command sergeant major assisting this year’s Enlisted Promotion Board, reported changes are forth coming for next year’s board for enlisted Soldiers contending for the rank of sergeant first class to sergeant major.

Peterson says that under new guidelines, a Soldier’s administrative points will no longer be considered for the overall score and only the points accumulated through the Enlisted Promotion Board count towards promotion.

In addition, the length of time and grade a Soldier serves in a designated rank will be increased from a minimum of one year to two years. Peterson said he feels the increase in time and grade is an important change, allowing Soldiers to have more time in a designated rank to improve on their leadership skills and personal growth as a senior noncommissioned Soldier.



# Recent events bring pride, reflection and sorrow

By Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting  
The Adjutant General

I was recently honored to host Gen. Craig McKinley, the first four-star National Guard Bureau chief, for a tour of our facilities at Salina. Many of you have worked very hard to make Great Plains Joint Training Center and Crisis City a reality and it was a proud moment for me to be able to share what we’ve accomplished. During the tour, a number of firefighters from across Kansas



Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting

practiced search and rescue techniques using specialized cameras at Crisis City’s rubble pile venue. We also presented seven new search cameras, purchased through funding from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, to the seven homeland security region representatives. Crisis City was transferred from Joint Force Headquarters to the Kansas Division of Emergency Management this spring and Frank Coots was named the Crisis City manager in April. Coots had been the lead disaster planner for KDEM’s Plans and Mitigation section. He has a military and emergency management background and has proven himself as an effective planner and leader. In July, Coots and the leadership of

GPJTC will have an opportunity to showcase the benefits of the training venues as we participate with the Nebraska National Guard and many civilian partners in a week-long exercise, similar to Vigilant Guard 2009.

Our success in Salina with Great Plains and Crisis City depends heavily on our many community partnerships. The Salina Airport Authority has made it possible to do so much more than we ever imagined. Gen. McKinley and I had the opportunity to present Tim Rogers, the executive director, with our first ever Patriot Medal for his immeasurable support.

Many of our Guard members will be transitioning to and from deployments in the coming weeks. We’ll join family members in May to wish the best to approximately 575 members of our 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry as they leave for the Horn of Africa. Approximately 70 Soldiers with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion) are joining Operation Iraqi Freedom this summer. And a team of Soldiers and Airmen recently left for Afghanistan to serve as the second Kansas Agribusiness Development team.

We recently welcomed home the 190th Air Refueling Wing and 184th Intelligence Wing from service in Haiti. The civil engineers were so effective in their missions they were able to come home after two months rather than the anticipated four months. We’re also happy to have home Soldiers and Airmen who served in Afghanistan as the first Agribusiness Development Team from

noncommissioned officers (battalion command sergeant major, first sergeant, platoon sergeant, and squad leader/section sergeant).

The Soldier’s Creed includes the statement “... trained and proficient in my Warrior tasks and drills.” It’s not by coincidence that Army Warrior Task No. 1 is Qualify with Individual Assigned Weapon(s). Marksmanship is fundamental to combat, and not just to the infantry or combat arms community. Soldiers not only need to know how to shoot, they need to be trained to shoot accurately and consistently – this is noncommissioned officer business.

Training standards are low when it comes to rifle marksmanship. Typical current training strategies have not evolved to match the demands and environments we place our Soldiers in regardless of their MOS and are potentially positioning our Soldiers for failure. The micromanagement approach to ranges can result in Soldiers who do not learn to do what needs to be done when it counts – when the stress is on. We still rod weapons on and off of the range – true marksmen know this is a cardinal sin when handling weapons. More importantly, when Soldiers are deployed, there isn’t a safety noncommissioned officer present to rod their weapons to ensure they are clear. They are required to use clearing barrels or field expedient safe locations and clear their weapons to standard.

We require Soldiers to keep their weapons “pointed up and downrange,” but when deployed there are only two acceptable positions to carry their rifle, the low-ready or high-ready. Muzzle awareness is the most important because there often is no clear down-range as the Soldiers are in a 360-degree environment. The micro-management of ranges takes responsibility from the individual Soldier and creates a fear of live ammunition. We must strive to

(Continued on Page 7)

Kansas. Thank you for your service and a job very well done. Much appreciation goes to your families for all they did to support you while you were away.

Congratulations to the 30 Unit Public Affairs Representatives who went through the annual training this spring in Salina to learn how to better tell our story through photos and stories. Getting the word out to the community and the state about what we do in the National Guard is a critical part of our success and we look forward to seeing your articles in the future editions of the Plains Guardian and on our agency Web site, [www.kansas.gov/ksadjutantgeneral](http://www.kansas.gov/ksadjutantgeneral), and social media sites (Facebook and Twitter).

A number of recent retirements have resulted in many leadership changes for the Kansas Guard.

Brig. Gen. Ed Flora, commander of the Kansas Air National Guard, relinquished his command to Col. Brad Link. The 184th Intelligence Wing commander Col. Michael Foster, also retired recently, turning over his command to Col. John Hernandez.

Col. Joe Wheeler, Joint Force Headquarters chief of staff, retired after 36 years. Col. Eric Peck, just back from his command of the ADT, will take over those duties.

Command Sgt. Maj. John Ryan has been selected as the next Kansas National Guard – Land Component state com-

mand sergeant major. Ryan will officially assume his duties in July when Command Sgt. Maj. Glenn Peterson plans to retire.

It’s my pleasure to work with many great leaders in the Guard and these men have served well. We wish them all the best in retirement.

April was a difficult month for the Kansas Guard with the loss of friend, colleague and recent 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment commander, retired Col. James Trafton. He served his country in Vietnam and the military for a total of 37 years. His motorcycle accident on the Kansas Turnpike on Easter Sunday left us stunned. He was enjoying retirement and one thing is certain, he knew how to enjoy life, so he would want us to keep on making the most of every day we have. His wife and four daughters are in our thoughts and prayers.

Our annual fishing tournament in Burlington at Coffey County Lake was a huge success with approximately 20 boats on the water making it the largest ever. We honor the memories of all of our fallen service men and women with this event and we’ll do the same with a Memorial Bike Run for Col. Trafton on May 8 in Leavenworth. With the summer months come greater safety risks with the many outdoor activities so I ask everyone to keep safety a priority.

## Soldier to Soldier

# Individual weapons proficiency is noncommissioned officer business

By Command Sgt. Maj. James Moberly  
69th Troop Command

Training and leading Soldiers is non-commissioned officer business and at no time in our history has our business been more critical than it is now with the current high demand placed on our Soldiers and units to perform both state and federal missions. I challenge all non-commissioned officers to step up and ensure that all of our Soldiers are properly trained on their assigned individual weapons and lead them by ensuring they are properly qualified by enforcing the correct conditions and standards. In the last edition of the Plains Guardian, Command Sgt. Major Manuel Rubio addressed “Four Vital Traits for NCOs.” I want to take this opportunity to expand on all of these traits, especially technical and tactical proficiency with regards to weapons proficiency within the Kansas Army National Guard.



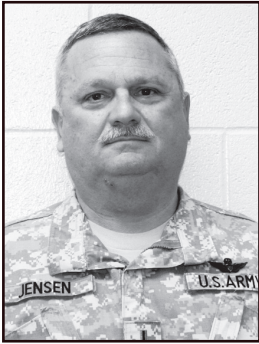
Command Sgt. Maj. James Moberly

Noncommissioned officers are the primary trainers of enlisted Soldiers, crews and small teams and must provide and enforce standards-based, performance-oriented, mission-focused training. We have all heard the statement “train as you will fight.” This isn’t just a neat sounding slogan, it is a fact. We must ensure that all Soldiers, regardless of unit of assignment or MOS, are trained on the fundamentals of weapons proficiency and trained for today’s diverse operating environment. When shortfalls in individual and crew-served weapons training, qualification and/or proficiency are found, it must be regarded as a failure on the part of the

## A farewell message: Remember the important things

By Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mark Jensen

This will be my last article as your command chief. I would like to thank each of the warrant officers in Kansas for your dedication and professionalism.



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mark Jensen

As the first command chief warrant officer in Kansas, I can tell you that the job has not been without challenges, but it has also been rewarding and satisfying. The National Guard and our nation currently face enemies with many faces, some we can touch and some we cannot. It will be through the efforts of patriots like Kansas warrant officers that these adversaries will be overcome.

As the future causes our country and our military to change, I encourage you, the warrant officer, to remain steadfast to the values and practices that have identified you as the catalyst that keeps us strong. Continue to be the “go to” guy or gal, seek opportunities for more knowl-

edge and always stay true to your own character and values. It has been my privilege to serve and I will carry a special pride and esteem into my retirement years knowing I was a part of a corps of unique and select individuals.

I will leave you all with a favorite story of mine. Please take the time to read it.

\*\* \*\* \*

An old warrant officer stood before a bleacher full of Soldiers during a safety class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks about 2 inches in diameter. He then asked the Soldiers if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

So the crusty old warrant officer then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the rocks. He then asked the Soldiers again if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The Chief picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He then asked once more if the jar was full. The Soldiers responded with a unanimous “Yes.”

The Chief then produced two cans of

(Continued on Page 6)

## PLAINS GUARDIAN

The PLAINS GUARDIAN is published under the provisions of AR 360-1 for the personnel of the Kansas National Guard. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of The Adjutant General’s Department PA Officer. Contents of the PLAINS GUARDIAN are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of the Army or The Adjutant General’s Department. News, features, photographs and art materials are solicited from readers; however, utilization is at the discretion of the editorial staff. All photos must be high resolution and include complete caption information, including photographer’s name and rank. No paid advertisement will be accepted, nor will payment be made for contributions.

The deadline for all submission is the first Wednesday of the month: February, April, June, August, October and December. Submissions may be e-mailed to Jane Welch ([jane.e.welch1@us.army.mil](mailto:jane.e.welch1@us.army.mil)).

Circulation: Approximately 15,500 Printed under contract with the U.S. Government Printing Office	
<b>Commander in Chief</b> Gov. Mark Parkinson	<b>Public Affairs Office</b> Director Sharon Watson (785) 274-1192
<b>Adjutant General of Kansas</b> Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting	Assistant Director Stephen D. Larson (785) 274-1194
<b>Editor</b> Sharon Watson	Administrative Assistant Jane Welch (785) 274-1190 FAX (785) 274-1622 email: <a href="mailto:jane.e.welch1@us.army.mil">jane.e.welch1@us.army.mil</a>
<b>Production/Graphics/Writer</b> Stephen D. Larson	
<b>Production Assistant</b> Jane Welch	

The Plains Guardian may be read online in PDF format  
<http://www.Kansas.gov/ksadjutantgeneral>. Click the link on the home page.  
For change of address, contact Jane Welch



# “The bride was lovely in her Army Combat Uniform while the groom wore...”

By Staff Sgt. Sara Bigelow, Staff Sgt. Curtis Brown, and Spc. Adam Brown  
Unit Public Affairs Representatives

When Jennifer and Ryan were married in August 2006, the dominant color schemes for their wedding were lovely shades of camouflage green. Their attendants’ accessories included M9 and M16A2 assault rifles and M9 9mm handguns.

Jennifer and Ryan Cornelius are sergeants in the Kansas National Guard. Their wedding took place while both were deployed to the former Serbian province of Kosovo. Sgt. Ryan Cornelius deployed with the 24th Medevac Kansas Army National Guard and Sgt. Jennifer Butler was with Company D, 1st Battalion, 104th Aviation Attack supporting the AH-64A Apache Attack helicopters with the Pennsylvania National Guard. Their civilian marriage ceremony was witnessed by three of their battle buddies, who were authorized by the Kosovo Force – Multinational Brigade East Task Force Falcon commander. The witnesses also had the additional duty as the security detail for the couple.



Sgt. Ryan Cornelius and Sgt. Jennifer Butler were wed in August 2006 while deployed to the former Serbian province of Kosovo. (Photo provided)

The sergeants met during their pre-mobilization training that was conducted at Fort Hood, Texas. There Jennifer first

saw Ryan while he was eating ice cream with a fork. Jennifer says that she offered Ryan the use of a “cootie free spoon.” They soon became friends and as their deployment progressed so did their

relationship. The sergeants were engaged soon after their arrival at the United States Army – Europe training area of Hohenfels, Germany.

The couple chose to be married during their deployment to honor their relationship and the circumstance in which they met.

“We wanted to do something special, that no one back home could ever do again,” Jennifer said. “Our wedding was an experience, not just for us, but for our friends in our companies, too.”

The wedding was conducted by a United Nations Mission in Kosovo civilian administrator in the stark former Eastern European civil administration building in Uroševac/Ferizaj, a town located just a few miles west of Camp Bondsteel where they were stationed.

Their unit leadership worked with them to gain approval of the brigade commander for their marriage to be conducted. After pre-marriage counseling conducted by the task force chaplain on Camp Bondsteel, and two months of delays for paperwork and mission essential activities they were finally able to be married. The chaplain was unable to attend the marriage

(Continued on Page 7)

## Three-man team documented military activities in Afghanistan

By Spc. Amanda Gruber, Sgt. 1st Class Tammy Lutze and Sgt. John S. West  
Unit Public Affairs Representatives

A three-man team from the Kansas Army National Guard recently returned from a one-year deployment to Afghanistan documenting U.S. military activities in that nation.

The Kansas Army National Guard’s 102nd Military History Detachment, comprised of Maj. Damon Frizzell, Gardner, commander; Staff Sgt. William McGinnis, Wichita, and Sgt. Gilbert Gonzales, Topeka, returned from Afghanistan in June 2009. This team was the only military historians in country from June 2008-June 2009 and the only military history team to deploy to Afghanistan since 2002. There are only 25 such teams military-wide — one active duty, five National Guard and 19 Army Reserve.

The primary mission focus for this team was to compile documents, critical data and military artifacts, and to conduct interviews throughout Afghanistan in support of the 101st Airborne Division. This information was forwarded to the Center for Military History and to the Center for Army Lessons Learned to enhance military data collected throughout history and to help future Soldiers to be more successful on the battlefield.

The team’s focus was on the Re-

gional Command East, located along the Pakistan border.

“One of the most dangerous areas in Afghanistan was known as “Ambush Alley” because this area was ideal for an ambush from the enemy,” said Gonzales, noting that “Ambush Alley” was located in the Regional Command East area.

There was also another area that was primed for enemy attacks because of the lay of the land. The area was known as the K G Pass. This area was surrounded by mountains on both sides of a road that ran directly between them that gave the enemy an advantage from overhead.

“I was told that this area was not able to be held by any NATO forces until the American forces arrived,” said McGinnis. “After the arrival of our forces, we were able to capture and hold this area. The Americans are the only force to ever be able to do this in the history of all wars that have taken place in this country.”

The units identified for interviews and the collection of data were determined by logistics, air assets, importance of battle and other factors. Units selected to interview and to collect data from were approved by the director of Manpower and Personnel and then the chief of staff.

During this deployment, the 102nd Military History team conducted more than

(Continued on Page 6)

## Serving his country, serving the future

Sgt. Robert Diebert, Pfc. Kellie McKee and Pfc. Rochelle Rodriguez

After serving his country in Iraq; Spc. Chancy Williams came home in February 2005, and began volunteering his time to the Boy Scouts of Salina, Kan.

Growing up in Dallas, Texas, he was involved in the Boy Scouts himself, joining the Cub Scouts when he was eight years old. He earned the Webelos badge and Arrow of Light and then crossed over to Boy Scouts at age 11. He stayed with the Boy Scouts until the rank of Star Scout.

While he was deployed, Williams’ son Jared joined the Cub Scouts as a Tiger Scout. His wife, Shannon, stepped up and started volunteering in the scouting program, first as a den leader, then as the committee chair.

When Williams returned from deployment, he started going with his son to the den meetings. Soon he was asked to be the song and cheer chairperson. The next year he became the advancement chair. He attended den meetings, helped with a couple of Cub Scout day camps, even helping to run a few and went camping with the pack several times a year. He volunteered to get trained to run the climbing

wall, helping scouts of all ages learn to climb and rappel. After Jared crossed over to the Boy Scouts, Williams became an assistant scoutmaster to his son’s troop, the Triconda District Boy Scout camping chairman and a unit commissioner for four different units. He started going on every campout that didn’t conflict with his drills in the Army National Guard.

“The reason why I love volunteering is to be a good role model to some of the kids that don’t have enough of them,” said Williams. “I love the scouting values.”

He believes that the National Guard helps him with teaching the children respect and showing them discipline and structure. Currently, Williams is assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery and works full-time as a technician for Joint Forces Headquarters, Topeka.

Scouting is one of the important interests in this family because they do it as a family. “It’s important for our family to spend together and I feel like the scouts do that for us. We also get out in the community and make a difference to the kids that need someone to look up to like when I was a kid.”

## Choreographic skills spill over to military job

By Col. Jerry Hanson, Spc. Stephanie Hodges, Spc. Shanna Washington and Pvt2 Molly Williams

Supplies dancing in the military world are choreographed throughout a theater of confusion and dilemmas.

Spc. Daisy Salvalsa, a logistics supply specialist, practices this art for the Kansas Army National Guard, and incorporates this skill in her civilian life.

“I always remember dancing ever since I was little,” said Salvalsa. “I never had any training. However, during my first competition I won first place.”

Salvalsa started competing in dance as a sophomore at Ephrata High School on a school dance team and branched out to include choreographing dance

team routines in 2007, the same year she enlisted in the Washington National Guard as a supply specialist. As a supply specialist her tasks are to effectively, efficiently and flawlessly coordinate the movement of supplies. Just as one would on a stage and during a performance, no mistakes, keeping organizations, individuals moving in group formations and time effectively.

Her first year in service was with Company E, 181st Aviation, Washington National Guard. Later, she transferred to the Kansas Army National Guard’s 35th Military Police, furthering her college education at Fort Hays State University. She is majoring in interior design with

(Continued on Page 6)



Members of the 102nd Military History Detachment pause for a photo with unidentified civilian contractors from India at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan. From the left are Staff Sgt. William McGinnis, Maj. Damon Frizzell and Sgt. Gilbert Gonzales. (Photo provided)

The stories on this page were written by Kansas Guardsmen attending the 2010 Unit Public Affairs Representative class. The class is conducted one weekend each March to provide instruction on writing news releases and stories, taking photographs, interacting with the news media and other aspects of public affairs the representatives need to know to carry out this important duty.



# Second Kansas Agribusiness Development Team deploys to Afghanistan

A joint Kansas Army and Air National Guard team of approximately 60 personnel were honored during a ceremony on Jan. 14 as the second Kansas team to deploy to Afghanistan as an Agribusiness Development Team. The ceremony was held in Building 365, Kansas Regional Training Center in Salina.

“It only makes sense that Kansas would be a part of such critical missions as this one since agriculture is the backbone of our state’s economy,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general. “We are sending Guardsmen who work in the agriculture sector here and can share their knowledge with the Afghan people, while still being able to protect and fight, if necessary.”

The team, commanded by Col. Michael Dittamo, took over for the first Kansas ADT team that deployed in March 2009 and returned to Kansas in March 2010.

“These right here are the finest of Kansas and the finest of America,” said Bunting. “You won’t go anywhere in your life and see better Soldiers and Airmen.”

Bunting presented a Kansas flag that had flown over the Kansas Statehouse to Dittamo charging him to fly it over the team’s headquarters in Afghanistan.

“There is nothing more important than this flag,” said Bunting, “You will take this flag and you will fly it, not as the flag of Afghanistan, but as a symbol to anyone who comes around that there are Kansans in this area that have put their lives at risk to help you find a better way.”

“With sword or plow. That’s our motto,” said Dittamo, explaining it was meant to evoke an image of the citizen soldier, leaving his plow in the field and taking up arms to defend his country, as well as an allusion to Bible verses that speak of “beating one’s sword into a plowshare and moving toward peace.”

Dittamo also said the motto is a reminder the mission is somewhat different

“This focus is simply to help the Afghans help themselves, through the improvement of the agricultural economy.”

Col. Michael Dittamo  
ADT #2 commander

than those typically undertaken by citizen soldiers.

“This focus is simply to help the Afghans help themselves,” said Dittamo, “through the improvement of the agricultural economy. While focusing on the soft skills of mentoring and development with our Afghan partners, the ADT retains a strong sword able to defend against and defeat our enemies.”

“These Soldiers are ready,” he continued. “These Airmen are ready... they’re ready to execute a mission. 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, USAID, U.S. 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 that will increase the economic well-being of the Afghans.

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

## 102nd Military History Detachment

Continued from Page 5

35 missions and more than 500 interviews, took more than 6,000 photographs and collected in excess of 500 gigabytes of electronic data. While collecting this information in Afghanistan, there were many enemy mortar and rocket fire attacks on the forward operating bases this team visited. When the team first arrived in country these attacks really got their attention. However, by the time they were ready to leave Afghanistan, the attacks became, in Gonzales’ words, “no big deal.”

“At one point, the ammunition dump was hit by incoming mortar fire and when it exploded I thought ‘Man, that was really close!’” Gonzales recalled. “When I first got to Afghanistan, I would have been

running for any cover I could find.”

At another time, during a visit to another forward operating base, Frizzell encountered an attack involving mortar and rocket fire.

“I was packing to move to another location and the attack began,” said Frizzell. “When the Soldiers that were involved in returning fire actually operated the equipment, the vibration would cause the fillings in their teeth to become loose and they would have to visit the dentist.”

The collection of the data from this deployment will be beneficial to the 101st Airborne Division, the Soldiers in the unit, their families, and the Kansas Army National Guard, preserving valuable military history for future generations.



Sgt. Gilbert Gonzales, 102nd Military History Detachment, caught up on some sleep during a Chinook flight to Jalalabad, Afghanistan. Gonzales was part of a three-man team documenting U.S. military activities in Afghanistan, a task that entailed many hours of flight time across the country. (Photo provided)



Col. Michael Dittamo (right) commander of Agribusiness Development Team #2, and Sgt. Maj. Dennis Holder receive a Kansas flag from Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, to fly over the team’s headquarters in Afghanistan. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Traynor)

## Springtime safety begins with the proper protection

By Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marvin Terhune  
State Safety Manager

Springtime has finally arrived in Kansas. With the change of seasons, we move our activities outside to begin lawn work and plant gardens. The “spring clean up” is an annual right of passage into the new season.

This year, let us all start out on the “right foot” that includes protecting ourselves while we are working. The best way to start is to have a small inventory of personnel protective equipment available, including eye, hearing and hand protection.

Eye protection is easily obtained by the purchase of safety glasses with clear or

tinted lenses. A face shield could also be added with safety glasses to afford added protection especially when operating a “weed whacker.”

Hearing protection is a must for operating anything with an engine. A good rule of thumb is that if you have to raise your voice to speak over the noise, then you probably require hearing protection. Foam earplugs are a good choice or, for ease, “Mickey Mouse” earmuffs are an option.

Gloves should be used whenever handling items creates a hazard. Remember when using fertilizers, weed killers or other chemicals to read the manufacturer’s “Material Safety Data Sheet” that is posted on the label of the product or available from the store, when requested. Select the correct type of glove for the job.

Enjoy your activities this spring and remember to protect yourself and your family by using personnel protective equipment!  
Be Safe!



Chief Warrant Officer 3  
Marvin Terhune

## Chief Corner: A farewell message

Continued from Page 4

beer from under the table and proceeded to pour the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The Soldiers laughed.

“Now,” said the Chief, as the laughter subsided, “I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The rocks are the important things – your family, your partner, your health and your children – things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.”

“The pebbles are the other things that matter, like your job, your house, and your car,” he said. “The sand is everything else. The small stuff.”

“If you put the sand in the jar first,” he continued, “there is no room for the pebbles or the rocks. The same goes for

your life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you.”

“Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children! Take time to get medical check-ups. Take your partner dancing. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, give a dinner party and fix the disposal.”

“Take care of the rocks first – the things that really matter,” he concluded. “Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.”

One of the Soldiers raised his hand and inquired what the beer represented.

The Chief smiled. “I’m glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem... there’s always room for a couple of beers.”

## Choreographic skills spill over

Continued from Page 5

an emphasis on architecture and a minor in business.

Salvalsa enjoys choreographing and dancing to hip hop and other forms of dancing.

Although she is no longer a member of the Ephrata Dance Team she continues to assist in choreographing performances, and other small activities, helping her hometown community.

Throughout her high school career she

won first and second place in 2007 for individual drill down, in the following year a second place medal, the Washington State Dancer for the Liberty Bowl in 2007 for the half-time show, State Academic Champion Medal and captain her senior year 2008.

Salvalsa says, “With the skills acquired and experiences attained through being in logistics for the Army National Guard, as well as dance techniques and abilities, I hope to one day have my own dance studio.”



# Guardsmen compete for Soldier, Noncommissioned Officer of the Year

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

As the final night of the competition drew to a close, a lone Soldier frantically assembled an M-249 light machine gun amid the shadows cast from the dim headlights of a government van. Slumped inside were other Soldiers, exhausted from the previous days, yet anxious for the morning hours to arrive with the announcement of the NCO and Soldier of the Year Award.

The Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year competition were held simultaneously at the Kansas Regional Training Institute, Salina, Kan, for four days in November 2009.

Command Sgt. Maj. Glenn Peterson was the senior command sergeant major overseeing the event. He said that, in prior years, competitors would just appear before review boards and answer questions.

“For the last three to four years they have made it event-driven and board driven,” said Peterson.

To qualify for the either competition, each battalion conducted their own preliminary boards to determine a representative, along with an alternative, who then competed at the state board, said Peterson.



Sgt. Chase Taylor runs during the 12-mile ruck march as part of the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition, held in Salina last November. (Photo by Spc. Angie Mooneyham, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Soldiers who battled for the Soldier of the Year were Spc. Colton Carlson, 995th Maintenance Company; Spc. Roberto Ravelo, Company E, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation; Spc. Michael Collins, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery and Spc.

Kyle Wyres, 772nd Engineer Company. For Noncommissioned Officer of the year the competitors were Sgt. Chase Taylor, Detachment 1, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment and Sgt. Adler Ladewig, Detachment 2, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery.

The Soldiers had begun the competition with a little friendly rivalry between one another for the highest scores in numerous events, starting from the moment they in-processed, followed immediately with a standard Army Physical Fitness Test, concluding the day with a 25-question exam and essay.

Day two, the longest and most challenging day for most Soldiers and their feet, consisted of a 12-mile road march. Soldiers were allotted three hours to complete the march while carrying a 35 pound ruck sack and a standard Army-issued M-16 weapon. Ravelo completed

this march in record time of two hours and 30 minutes.

As the day continued, with a quick lunch and a fresh change of bandages for the blisters, the Soldiers completed a seven-point course along with land navigation.

Weapons, weapons and more weapons were in store for day three as the Soldiers traveled to the range. The Soldier’s mission was not to qualify, but to zero their M-16 and to hit more targets than their fellow Soldiers.

Then on to the special event, where the Soldiers demonstrated their warrior tasks by dragging a 180 pound dummy and strategically firing at a target with an M-16 rifle and 9mm handgun while running a designated course.

Once the special event was concluded, the Soldiers were tested on their overall knowledge of weapons by disassembling, trouble shooting and reassembling numerous weapons ranging from a .50 caliber machinegun to a 9mm.

The Soldiers also explained how to capture and detain a hostage, were quizzed on their familiarization of combat life-saving techniques and demonstrated how to detonate a mock claymore mine.

The competition concluded on day four with a Class A Board inspection and the announcement of this year’s NCO and Soldier of the Year recipients. Sgt. Chase A. Taylor was named the Kansas National Guard’s Noncommissioned Officer and Spc. Kyle Wyres was the Kansas National Guard’s Soldier of the Year.

Both Soldiers will compete tirelessly through the blisters and the brass for the regional titles at the Louisiana Regional Training Institute in June 2010. Soldiers from Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas and Oklahoma will contend for the chance to advance to the National Guard Bureau, followed by a competition for the ultimate title of the Army Soldier and NCO of the Year.



Spc. Kyle Wyres performs a functions check on a .50-caliber machine gun during the Soldier of the Year competition. (Photo by Spc. Angie Mooneyham, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

## KANSAS NATIONAL GUARD 2010 Adjutant General's Combat Marksmanship Championship Match



Rifle - Pistol

Hosted by:



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

August 6 - 8 2010  
Points of Contact

LTC David Seybold  
SSgt David Salinas

35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division  
190<sup>th</sup> ARW Air Guard

(308) 350-4200  
(785) 608-3685

david.seybold@us.army.mil  
david.salinas@kstope.ang.af.mil

## Soldiers wed in Kosovo

Continued from Page 5

due to other mission requirements.

Their marriage, by this authority, cannot be repeated today, since Kosovo is now an independent country, no longer under direct United Nations Mission in Kosovo control.

“Our marriage certificate is in three different languages (Serbian, Albanian and English) and it took three interpreters, before it could be official,” described Jennifer. A copy of their license remains on file with the U.N. and a hand written civil record remains with the new civilian government of Ferizaj.

## Weapons proficiency

Continued from Page 4

ensure safe training of our Soldiers while using initiative to instill confidence in our Soldiers.

We must ensure that our Soldiers aren’t just qualified to the minimum standard, but that they can effectively engage targets under stress. Army Warrior Task 1 – Qualify with Individual Assigned Weapon – also requires that Soldiers demonstrate their ability to handle their weapons competently, confidently and safely. Noncommissioned officers must ensure that their Soldiers are able to:

- Perform tasks and handle their assigned weapon(s) without negligent discharges,
- Correctly clear their assigned weapon(s) without coaching,
- Correctly move between weapon statuses (green, amber, red),
- Constantly display muzzle, safety-selector and trigger-finger awareness,
- Can disassemble, assemble, per-

form functions checks and correct malfunctions on their assigned weapon(s),

- Changes magazines smoothly in all conditions without losing magazines and
- Can perform proper Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services on all assigned weapons, optics, night vision devices and aiming lights, to include identification and proper reporting of deficiencies and ensuring that deficiencies are corrected in a timely manner at the proper level of support.

We must and can do better with the overall weapons proficiency within the Kansas Army National Guard. Ensure that you know and understand the correct standards.

Our Soldiers have performed magnificently and without fail on every mission assigned since 9-11, let’s take it to the next level. I’ll see you at the range!



# Joint exercise tests U.S. and Korean military, strengthens friendships

By Cadet Sherridan M. Franklin  
35th Infantry Division Public Affairs

“Ka chi gap si da.” In English, it means “We go together” and signifies a very deep commitment.

Approximately 135 Soldiers from the 35th Infantry Division Headquarters, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., gained great appreciation for this mantra when they deployed to Camp Long, South Korea, March 4, 2010, to conduct Operation Key Resolve with the First Republic of Korea Army.

Operation Key Resolve is an annual high-profile joint military exercise conducted by U.S. and ROK forces. It is designed to enhance readiness and the ability to defend the Republic of Korea and strengthen the alliance between the two nations. The exercise provided valuable training to South Korean and 35th ID service members and improved the ability of allied forces outside of Korea to quickly integrate into the Combined Forces Command should an incident occur that threatens the ROK. As a combined/joint exercise, Key Resolve involved all branches of the United States and ROK militaries.

Formerly called Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration, the exercise was renamed three years ago to reflect the transition to a ROK-led program that will be complete in 2012. Key Resolve focuses on crisis management, maneuver and sustainment of forward forces during wartime situations.

Eleven 35th Infantry Division Soldiers left ahead of the main body on Feb. 23 to set up life support services for the main body and to coordinate for the arrival of the advance party. Twenty-one



Staff Sgt. Antwoin Eischle, from the U.N. Command Security Battalion, briefs Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson and other officers and sergeants major from the 35th Infantry Division, on the layout of the Joint Security Area at Panmunjom and surrounding area of the demilitarized zone. U.S. military personnel who are not assigned to the Joint Security Area are required to wear civilian clothing when touring the demilitarized zone. (Photo by Lt. Col. Rick Peat, 35th ID Public Affairs)

Soldiers made up the advance party that left on Feb. 28 to receive and analyze the classified operations order from the First Republic of Korea Army headquarters. The advance party also prepared the exercise area in the command bunker so that the main body could hit the ground running. The main body assembled at 35th ID headquarters for final preparations on March 2 and deployed on March 4.

The division received notification to participate in Operation Key Resolve on Dec. 16, 2009. Normally,

Guard units plan two to three years ahead for overseas training. The 35th ID had just under three months to plan for this exercise. The division replaced January and February’s two-day drills with two four-day drills to complete all the required training and Soldier readiness processing in time.

“Starting with notification on Dec. 16, it was a non-stop process that the staff

worked on every day,” said Lt. Col. Dave Johnson, division operations officer.

A small team conducted a one-week site survey in Korea in January.

“The site survey was critical to the success we experienced preparing for this deployment,” said Johnson. “We actually walked the ground we would use during the exercise and met the people we’d be working with.”

Communication in multinational operations can be challenging. Korean augmentees to the U.S. Army are used as interpreters to facilitate communication between U.S. units, the ROK Army and Korean civilians. Eight Korean augmentees were assigned to the 35th ID and were crucial to the success of the division.

“One of the differences of working with another army is that they don’t always understand what is written or said, so the interpreters are needed,” said Lt. Col. Eric J. Ford, a 35th operations officer. “The Korean Augmentees did an excellent job, that’s why they’re there. They did it well.”

Sgt. Youngsuk Jung, Korean augmentee with the Army Liaison Team, said despite having occasional minor issues, joint forces in Korea get along well because they truly care about each other.

“Sometimes it’s not that easy to get along with Americans because we have some differences in our cultures,” Jung said. “But I think the forces in Korea care about each other and even though there are differences, we make a great team.”

Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, the

(Continued on Page 9)

## Passing the baton highly symbolic

By 1st Lt. Jason Boothe  
35th Infantry Division Public Affairs

To formally launch the 35th Infantry Division’s participation in Operation Key Resolve, Gen. Seung Jo Jung, First Republic of Korea Army commander, presented Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, commanding general of the 35th Infantry Division, with an honorary Ji-hwi-bong (Commander’s Baton) on March 8, 2010.

Originally designed as an ornament used to display status among military leaders in Korea, the baton is a symbol of command authority and responsibility in the Korean Army given to new commanders of battalion or larger size units during their assumption of command ceremony.

“In the past, the baton often contained a sword for self-defense, but today rep-

resents a symbol of importance and status among military leaders,” said 1st Lt. Choong Seong Kim, Korean army interpreter for Jung.

“It was an honor to receive on behalf of all the Soldiers I have commanded in the past 40 years and it was a ceremony I won’t forget,” said Pierson.

Operation Key Resolve 2010 is an annual joint combined exercise designed to demonstrate support for the Republic of Korea against foreign aggression. It exercises the alliance’s ability to accept U.S. forces from outside of Korea. How these forces are met at the airport, joined with their equipment and integrated with Korea-based units to carry out combined operations is evaluated. The exercise ended March 18, 2010.



Gen. Seung Jo Jung, First Republic of Korea Army commander, presented Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, commanding general of the 35th Infantry Division, with an honorary Ji-hwi-bong (Commander’s Baton) on March 8, 2010. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ki-Chang Lee, Republic of Korea Army)



35th Infantry Division staff conduct a joint planning meeting with officers from the First Republic of Korea Army. The First Republic of Korea Army served as the 35th ID’s higher headquarters during the Operation Key Resolve exercise held in March 2010. (Photo by Lt. Col. Rick Peat, 35th ID Public Affairs)



Capt. David Osborne, commanding general’s aide de camp, coordinates command group commitments with 1st Lt. Jeung Kim from the 1st Republic of Korea Army. (Photo by Lt. Col. Rick Peat, 35th ID Public Affairs)



# Mayor's Cell provides foundation for 35th Division's success

By 1st Lt. Jason Boothe  
35th Infantry Division Public Affairs

In today's Army, having an efficient Mayor's Cell is an integral part of running an operation successfully. The Mayor's Cell mission is often under-appreciated and even more often, misunderstood. Great Mayor's Cells receive little attention.

The Mayor's Cell functions as a nerve center to the non-maneuver side of the division in wartime and during exercises like Key Resolve. The Mayor's Cell provided essential support functions during the division's March 4 to 21 deployment to Korea for Operation Key Resolve. The Mayor's Cell mission included medical, staff duty and personnel accountability, as well as nonessential tasks such as arranging transportation for troops on Morale Welfare and Recreation trips to Seoul, Korea. Key Resolve is a U.S.-Republic of Korea joint exercise held annually on the Korean Peninsula involving all branches of the military.

The mission of the Mayor's Cell appears simple on the surface, but is actually wide-ranging and complex when viewed from the inside.

"The Mayor's Cell is the life support for the division that provides crucial logistics for mail services, food, housing, etc." said Sgt. 1st Class Ron Sutton, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Mayor's Cell. "However, most of the time is spent taking care of Soldier issues and 'putting out fires'."



Sgt. Michael Mann, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 35th Infantry Division "Mayor's Cell" dishes up midnight chow for Soldiers on the night shift during Operation Key Resolve. The dining facility on Camp Long was closed at night, so 35th ID cooks prepared a midnight meal and brought it to the exercise area for them. (Photo by Cadet Sherridan Franklin, 35th Infantry Division Public Affairs)

One of the Mayor's Cell's key functions was to provide medical aid and support to the 35th ID Soldiers and Korean augmentees to the U.S. Army at Camp Long.

Maj. Cristal Horsch, a 35th ID physician's assistant attached to the Mayor's Cell for Key Resolve, said there were very few medical situations during the division's time at Camp Long.

"Luckily, we had no injuries and nothing

more serious than an ear-infection," Horsch said.

The Mayor's Cell also provided transportation, when needed, for emergency services. During the exercise, two Soldiers received Red Cross messages that resulted in an early departure for emergency leave from Korea. The Mayor's Cell successfully coordinated efforts and provided transportation to get these Soldiers to the airport and back home to be with family.

Getting the 35th ID to Korea and back home took a huge effort. Plans had to be made for transportation to and from Korea, the basic necessities of food and shelter and a myriad of other details that

allowed the operation to run smoothly. Part of that effort rested on the shoulders of the advance party.

The advance party was a group of soldiers that traveled to Korea prior to the rest of the unit to arrange for basic necessities to be met. They set the groundwork so the rest of the unit had a place to eat, sleep and operate upon their arrival.

"The advance party arranged for barracks, cots to sleep on, cell phones and vehicles," said 1st Lt. Jessica Aguinaga. "(We) also set up the medical clinic and coordinated with the dining facility to set up hours for Soldiers to eat."

Any sergeant major or first sergeant in the Army will tell you that feeding troops in the field is one of the unit's highest priorities. Due to the continuous 24 hour operation that Key Resolve demanded, the Mayor's Cell also had two soldiers whose sole focus was to provide food for the night shift. These Soldiers regularly ensured that a hot meal was made and delivered to those soldiers who did not have the opportunity to eat during the regular dining facility hours.

"We prepared 60 meals a night and took it over to them," said Spc. Kevin Kirkwood, a cook for the 35th ID. "After we served them, we waited about two hours to make sure everyone had a chance to eat before we brought the food back and cleaned up."

Making sure the Mayor's Cell staff had what they needed to perform their jobs was the responsibility of Capt. Todd Lavery, Mayor's Cell officer in charge.

"Our job in the Mayor's Cell is to support the Soldiers so they don't have anything to worry about but the mission," said Lavery. "If we can do that, then we've helped the division complete its mission."



Sgt. Richard Smith, a Soldier with 35th Infantry Division Headquarters, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., coordinates for the return home of a Soldier on emergency leave during his shift in the Mayor's Cell. (Photo by 1st Lt. Jason Boothe, 35th ID Public Affairs)

## Joint exercise strengthens friendship

Continued from Page 8

commanding general for the 35th Division, said the exercise is essential to ROK national security and demonstrates a deep commitment to a U.S. ally.

"The Koreans live under the constant threat of aggression from the north," said Pierson. "To the First Republic of Korea Army, this exercise is about protecting the lives of their families and the existence of their country. To us, it is a demonstration of our deep commitment to a very close ally to help them protect their families and their country."

The 35th ID is also the subject of a ROK government documentary film. Chosun Illbo, the Korean Daily News, is producing a four-part documentary featuring the U.S. National Guard and the Israeli Reserves in an effort to change the ROK's reserve system. The Korean film team visited Kansas to capture 35th ID's preparations for the Key Resolve deployment and also filmed the division partici-

pating in Key Resolve in Korea.

Brig. Gen. Alex. E. Duckworth, 35th Infantry Division deputy commanding general, said, overall, the exercise was a success. Not only did the division accomplish its goals and expand its capabilities, the real world exercise gave all the Soldiers who participated a chance to hone their Soldier skills outside of the armory.

"NCOs need to know how to move live formations instead of icons," Duckworth said. "Going through the thought process of what to do with weapons, personal hygiene, feeding plans, sleep plans and movement plans; all those things you don't get when you move icons. So anytime we get to get out of the armory and get away from our comfort zone and get put in new environments where we have to adapt is great."

Soldiers from the 35th Infantry Division made the 15-hour flight back home and were reunited with their families March 21.



Maj. Cristal Horsch, a physician's assistant with the 35th Infantry Division Headquarters Mayor's Cell, checks a Soldier during a follow-up visit to sick-call. The 35th ID Mayor's Cell was the nerve center of the division during their deployment to the Republic of Korea March 4-21, 2010, for Operation Key Resolve. (Photo by 1st Lt. Jason Boothe, 35th Infantry Division Public Affairs)

## Korean documentary features 35th Infantry Division

By Lt. Col. Rick Peat  
35th Infantry Division Public Affairs

The 35th Infantry Division will be featured in a Republic of Korea documentary about a United States reserve component unit participating in Operation Key Resolve 2010.

"We are honored to have been selected from among many reserve component units participating in Key Resolve/Foal Eagle 2010," said Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, 35th Infantry Division commander.

The Republic of Korea's government would like to reduce the size of their active component military and bolster their reserves. However, when they announced these plans, their public responded unfavorably. They commissioned this docu-

mentary to present to the Korean people how the U.S. and Israeli reserve systems work as compared to the present and proposed Republic of Korea reserve systems.

The documentary film crew consisted of four people: a producer, cameraman, writer and interpreter. Also helping to host the film crew and to interpret was the Korean Army's liaison officer to Fort Leavenworth, Lt. Col. Yoonkap Lim.

According to the producer, Chung Intaek, the documentary will be broadcast in May 2010, consisting of four one-hour shows. The first segment will feature the 35th ID preparing for Operation Key Resolve at home station in Fort Leavenworth, Kan. The second segment will feature the

(Continued on Page 11)



# 190th Civil Engineers draw on Greensburg experience in Haiti

By Tech. Sgt. Emily Alley  
190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

After a hot, dusty day of clearing debris, building tents and doing jobs they’ve trained for years to perform, civil engineers from the 190th Air Refueling Wing stopped for dinner with other members of the 24th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron. Lt. Col. Mark Green, commander of the civil engineers in Kansas as well as the 121-person squadron in Haiti, joined his Airmen.

The civil engineers hadn’t had a day off since they arrived in Haiti. Their weariness was apparent, even under a stunning blood-red sunset. They pulled apart their MREs.

Green paused and said slowly, “It’s been continuous, one long day since we’ve gotten here.”

Their accomplishments in Haiti are not unfamiliar. After the town of Greensburg was flattened by a tornado a few years ago, Kansas guardsmen were there, with a humanitarian mission, to clear the roads and

set up Expeditionary Medical Support. “Having set up EMEDS in Greensburg, we hit the ground in Haiti better prepared,” said Master Sgt. Casey Batterton, who is a structures supervisor from the 190th ARW who served in both locations.

“We did mock set ups, a lot of training, but Greensburg was the first real world situation for us to use EMEDS,” recalled Master Sgt. Brian Wohletz.

Now, the current mission for the 190th ARW is also humanitarian. Wohletz described the perspective he’s gained from helping in both the United States and Haiti, “I feel fortunate to have a part in helping people who need it.”

Construction has several elements-heavy equipment, power production, and many others - and it takes planning to coordinate all of those specialties. Greensburg also gave the civil engineers a realistic expectation of how quickly they could begin operations in Haiti. The medical team who took over EMEDS spent

(Continued on Page 12)

## Firefighters train at Crisis City

Continued from Page 1

intensive class, and using the facilities at the Great Plains makes it so convenient and cost-effective for the state,” said Troyer.

Additionally, the state’s seven Regional Councils can send smaller groups of students to training without having to fill a class within their own region. This is more cost-effective and the savings is passed on to local departments in reduced overtime and schedule backfill for off-site training.

“The opportunity for fire, rescue and hazardous material training are huge here and we look forward to joint training with our military partners,” said Troyer.

Technical Search and Rescue Specialist Instructor Lt. Walter Lewis from the Orlando, Fla., Fire Department served as an instructor for the course at Crisis City, as well as in many other locations across the country.

“I would absolutely come back to train here,” said Lewis. “The venues it offers are going to be fantastic when they are all completed. Nobody else offers the civilian and military joint training that the GPJTC has and in a national disaster you are going to have that combination. Training in a joint environment prepares you better for the real world.”



Capt. John Gertzen of the Salina Fire Department uses a search and rescue camera during a training session at the Crisis City training facility in Salina. (Photo by Maj. DeAnn Barr, Great Plains Joint Training Center)



Firefighter 2 John Irsik and Lt. Jason Bennett, Garden City Fire Department, receive instruction during a five-day Technical Search and Rescue course held at the collapsed structure facility at Crisis City in Salina in March. (Photo by Maj. DeAnn Barr, Great Plains Joint Training Center)



Civil engineers with the 190th Air Refueling Wing assemble an Expeditionary Medical System hospital in Haiti to provide space and equipment for doctors treating medical emergencies in the earthquake-stricken nation. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Emily Alley, 190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs)

## Coots selected as Crisis City manager

Frank Coots has been selected as manager of Crisis City, a joint training facility located at the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina that offers multiple training venues for law enforcement, search and rescue, emergency response and other professions in both the military and civilian arenas. Crisis

City is operated by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, a division of the Adjutant General’s Department.

“I am excited by this opportunity to work with true American heroes: our first responders, National Guard servicemen and women, and industry partners from across America’s heartland,” said Coots.



Frank Coots

“Together, we will fulfill our vision of Crisis City as the world-class training facility of choice specifically designed for those who respond to our citizens in times of crisis.”

Prior to accepting this position, Coots was a disaster planner for KDEM’s Plans and Mitigation section, where he was responsible for working with all local emergency management directors and coordinators to develop and update county emergency operations plans, local continuity of operations plans, and the Vulnerable Populations Planning System for deployment statewide. During state disaster emergencies, Coots serves as the emergency services branch chief or logistics section chief, as needed.

“Frank possesses the right combination of emergency management and military experience,” said Angee Morgan, deputy director, Kansas Division of Emergency Management. “These abilities are critical to the successful operation of Crisis City.”

## Camera will make the job a little safer



A firefighter from the Mission Township Fire Department, representing the Northeast Kansas Regional Council, accepts a Searchcam 3000 from Bill Brubaker, Northeast Regional coordinator, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, a division of the Adjutant General’s Department. At left is Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general and director of KDEM and Kansas Homeland Security. At right is Angee Morgan, deputy director of KDEM. KDEM purchased eight of the cameras for the state’s Search and Rescue Task Forces. These units will be used to view void spaces or hazardous atmosphere areas for victims. One camera was given to each regional working group to decide which location would have possession. The eighth camera will be shared by Lawrence Fire and Kansas University Fire Rescue Training for training assignments. (Photo by Sharon Watson, Public Affairs Office)



# Fallen Kansas Guardsmen inducted into NCO Hall of Fame

By Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

In an emotionally charged and somber ceremony, the inaugural induction of the Kansas Army National Guard Noncommissioned Officer's Hall of Fame was conducted April 18, 2010, at the Kansas Regional Training Center, Salina, Kan.

Ten soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the Global War on Terror comprised the inaugural class. For many, it was an honor that evoked both heartache and pride as the inductees were memorialized, marking the establishment of the Noncommissioned Officer's Hall of Fame.

"This was the right thing to do," said Command Sgt. Maj. Glenn Peterson, state command sergeant major, Land Component. "The Noncommissioned Officer Hall of Fame will be here for all to bear witness to in the future. This place started our Noncommissioned Officers Academy. So, it is a fitting place that we are able to display our Soldiers and give them a place of honor."

The brainchild of Command Sgt. Maj. John Ryan, 235th Regiment, the Hall of Fame will be a place where outstanding noncommissioned officers who have made significant contributions can be recognized and serve as an example and as inspiration to others.

Nothing could be truer of the inaugural class of inductees. All gave their lives in defense of freedom during operations in either Iraq or Afghanistan and serve as a solemn reminder of the kind of sacrifices Soldiers make on a daily basis.

"Our honorees, I believe, understood fully what their duty was," said retired State Command Sgt. Maj. Warren "Bud"

Smith. "Our honorees were not just Soldiers. They chose to be patriots."

"Our honorees chose to be patriots because they wanted to serve and defend not only their country, but our way of life," said Smith. "Just like our forefathers who were part of the militia in the colonies and answered the call when the call was made, our honorees answered the same call when disaster struck. They were always there. They were ready to serve."

This year's inductees were:  
Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wisdom enlisted Nov. 4, 1986, into Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery. In January 2004, Wisdom deployed with Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While providing security for a convoy during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq, Wisdom, with valor, gave his life protecting the convoy from a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device.

Sgt. Don Clary enlisted in February 2000 with Detachment 1, Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery. He deployed in January 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While providing security for a convoy during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq, Clary, with valor, gave his life protecting the convoy from a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device.

Sgt. Derrick Lutters enlisted in November 1998 into Detachment 1, 170th Maintenance Company. In December 2004, he deployed with Company A, 891st Engineer Battalion in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While on a bridge and road reconnaissance combat mission,



**Janet Wisdom and Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting unveil a plaque inducting Widsom's husband, Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wisdom, into the Noncommissioned Officer Hall of Fame. Wisdom was one of the first two Kansas National Guardsmen killed in the line of duty during Operation Iraqi Freedom. During the ceremony, all Kansas Guardsmen killed in the line of duty since 2004 were inducted into the NCO Hall of Fame. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Phil Witzke, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)**

Lutters lost his life when his vehicle was struck by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device.

Sgt. Jessie Davila enlisted in May 2004 into Detachment 1, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery. Davila deployed September 2005 with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While on combat patrol in Iraq, Davila lost his life when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device exploded near his vehicle.

Cpl. John Wood enlisted in October 1988, joining Company D, 891st Engineer Battalion. In September 2004, Wood deployed with the 891st Engineer Battalion in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Wood volunteered to extend his deployment and was attached to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 110th Engineer Battalion, Missouri Army National Guard. Wood lost his life during combat operations when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device.

Master Sgt. Bernard Deghand enlisted in September 1986 into Company D, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry. He deployed to Afghanistan in January 2006 with a Kansas Army National Guard Embedded Training Team in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. While conducting combat operations as part of Operation Mountain Fury, Deghand lost his life to hostile enemy small arms fire.

Staff Sgt. David Berry enlisted in April 1986 into Detachment 1, Company E, 1st Battalion, 137th Infantry. In February

2005, Berry was awarded the Soldiers Medal, when at great personal risk, he pulled a driver from a burning vehicle accident. Berry then deployed with Battery B, 1st Battalion and 161st Field Artillery in October 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He died during combat operations when he was struck by an improvised explosive device.

Sgt. Courtney Finch enlisted in August 2002 into Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 35th Infantry Division, Kansas Army National Guard. In June 2006, he deployed with the 714th Security Forces in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His death was not combat-related.

Sgt. 1st Class Travis Bachman enlisted in November 1993 into Battery A, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery. In June 2006, he deployed with the 714th Security Forces, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While on a combat security patrol, Bachman lost his life when an improvised explosive device exploded near his vehicle.

Cpl. Ronald Schmidt enlisted in January 2007 into Battery C, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery. In October 2007, he deployed with the battalion in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Schmidt died while assigned as a vehicle gunner during a combat patrol.

Nominations for future Hall of Fame inductions can be made in writing to the State Command Sergeant Major, Land Component. Nomination information is available via the chain of command or by contacting the Land Component sergeant major.

## Gates recalls Kansas roots

Continued from Page 1

speech really impressed and motivated me and I was very pleased to find out that his Kansas common sense still seems to be with him, even after all the years he's spent in Washington, D.C., away from his home state."

Gates acknowledged the state's 149th birthday as he accepted the Distinguished Kansan Award in a speech speckled with humorous anecdotes.

"In Topeka," said Gates, "unlike Washington, you are unlikely to see a prominent person walking down Lover's Lane holding his own hand. Washington, after all, is the place where those traveling the high road of humility encounter little heavy traffic."

"It is impressive to see a cabinet member give such a heartfelt and emotional summary on their native roots here in Kansas," said Col. Robert Windham, commander for the 635th Regiment. "You could tell the love he has for Kansas and really came to understand him in

the honest and emotional way he delivered his speech. I really enjoyed what he had to say."

State Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth said Gates' speech was one of the most touching he had ever heard because he realized the close ties the two share.

"It's ironic," said Haworth, "to find out how small a world it is. I never realized it before, but his family had relocated to Pratt, Kansas, where he was raised, so he is like a neighbor. I suppose a lot of those kids named Gates I went to school with are his relatives. It makes me feel good to see that even if you are from a small town, such as Pratt, and you live in a state that most of the world thinks is a nondescript state, such as Kansas, that with hard work, education and drive you can be a good influence in how our country is governed and benefit our society to become better."

To view Secretary Gates's speech in its entirety, visit website; <http://www.defense.gov/speeches/speech.spx?speechid=1415>.

## Korean documentary features 35th ID

Continued from Page 9

35th and other reserve component units participating in the exercise in Korea from March 8 through 20. The third and fourth segments will cover the Israeli system.

Due to the highly visible nature of this public documentary and the level of open access to the 35th ID, the Korean documentary project required approval at the highest levels. The approvals included the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Department of the Army's Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, 8th Army Commanding General, National Guard Bureau, the Adjutant General of Kansas and the Commanding General of the 35th ID.

According to Maj. Jungbum Hur, National Guard Bureau liaison officer to 8th Army Headquarters, the 35th ID was chosen to be featured in the documentary because "their mission is 'high-vis' and they have an internal PAO to coordinate with U.S. Forces Korea, 8th Army and Republic of Korea. Also, since they will be supporting the First Republic of Korea Army, the Republic of Korea Ministry of

National Defense will be able to coordinate for the film crew to be allowed into First Republic of Korea Army headquarters."

Brig. Gen. Alex E. Duckworth, 35th ID deputy commanding general, said the documentary was a good opportunity for the Republic of Korea to see exactly how a great National Guard division runs.

"It's interesting that the Koreans are looking at how other reserve branches work and it's good that they're taking an opportunity to interview experts," Duckworth said.

The Korean film team spent five days with the 35th ID during February at Fort Leavenworth, preparing for their deployment to Korea for Operation Key Resolve. They also covered the unit during the exercise in March in Korea. They returned to Kansas in April to gain additional video of National Guard mobilization training, covering the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment preparing for deployment to the Horn of Africa at the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center in Salina and at Fort Riley.



**Master Sgt. Roy Cummins is interviewed by a Korean documentary film team about his experiences in the National Guard and at Operation Key Resolve. The documentary about the U.S. reserve system prominently features the 35th Infantry Division. The film team covered the division preparing for the deployment at home station and participating in the actual exercise in Korea. The documentary will air on Korean TV in May. (Photo by Lt. Col. Rick Peat, 35th ID Public Affairs)**



# Strong Bonds help hold Army families together

By Staff Sgt. Michael Green and Cadet Sherridan M. Franklin  
35th Infantry Division Public Affairs

The Army National Guard Strong Bonds program, sponsored and endorsed by unit chaplains, believes the number one obstacle to Warrior readiness is a poor family bond. The program encourages stronger relationships by providing weekend retreats for Soldiers and their spouses to combat the strain of deployments and family separation that the Army adds to marriages.

Strong Bonds events attempt to enhance communication between Soldiers and their spouses in order to strengthen marriages and help Soldiers serve with greater confidence on the battlefield. Chaplain (Capt.) John Potter, the full-time Joint Forces Support Chaplain in Topeka, Kan., has sponsored Strong Bonds events since 2005 and said the retreats are especially focused on those preparing to go overseas or for those who have recently returned from a deployment. The focus is on the Soldiers' reintegration into their family.

Participants in the weekend retreat say

that although it's only from Friday night through Sunday around noon, the getaway is enjoyable and refreshing.

"This has been a wonderful experience," said Dawn Moler of Coffeyville, Kan. after a weekend retreat with her husband, Sgt. Roger Moler. "We both feel a sense of refreshment – rebirth – whatever you want to call it, in our marriage and commitment to each other. I will encourage every military couple I know to attend these retreats."

Potter said spouses are encouraged to go out on a date, spend quality time together and enjoy themselves as part of the retreat's homework.

The Strong Bonds program is designed as a preventative measure against the strain Army life can have on families. It not only helps spouses develop better communication, but also gives them a support channel through the chaplains and sponsors who are available for counseling.

Potter said 93 percent of couples who have attended Strong Bonds events report significant improvement in their marriages



Staff Sgt. Diana Starr and Scott Starr practice the speaker-listener technique taught at the Strong Bonds seminar. (Photo provided)

and he encourages other Soldiers to attend a retreat. "Travel and lodging are taken care of by the Strong Bonds program funds and units may also be able to put Soldiers on orders for these events," said Sgt. Michael McClellan, Joint Forces Sup-

port Chaplain assistant.

Soldiers interested in the program can contact the State Chaplains Office, their unit chaplain or go to [www.strongbonds.org](http://www.strongbonds.org) for more information or to register for any of the four retreats held each year.

## Law school selects Guardsman for promotional campaign

By 1st Lt. Jason Booth  
35th Division Public Affairs

When the Washburn University School of Law recently decided to promote itself, they wanted to put their best foot forward. In doing so, they selected Sgt. Hanh Vu-Peck, a 35th Infantry Division Soldier, to be photographed as part of Washburn's recruiting campaign. Vu-Peck appears on a bookmark distributed as part of the school marketing program.

Vu-Peck, whose photo was taken during oral arguments in one of her law school classes, was chosen after she responded positively to an ad for students willing to appear in a Washburn recruiting effort.

"I received a school-wide email looking for a mix of students throughout the population willing to be used in photos in the school's advertising campaign," Vu-Peck said.

While she has spent the last four years at the Kansas Army National Guard's 35th ID as a human resources specialist, Vu-Peck is hoping to transfer to the Staff Judge Advocate Office in Topeka. Those at the 35th ID who know her are not surprised that Washburn chose her over so many others.

"I think Washburn made an excellent choice in picking Vu-Peck," said Lt. Col. Jon Shafer, Vu-Peck's supervisor at the 35th ID. "We would be hard-pressed to

find someone better to represent us than Sgt. Vu-Peck. She is competent, confident, and personable. She is what we want Washburn students and faculty to think of when they think of the National Guard."

The road to success has not been an easy one for Vu-Peck. Simultaneously working towards both her law and master's degrees, she is putting herself through college by taking full advantage of a Reserve Forces Scholarship through the National Guard, Army ROTC and the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Vu-Peck was born in Saigon, Vietnam, in 1984. She is the fifth of six children. Her family moved to the United States in 1994, when she was nine. After settling in Dodge City, Kan., it took Vu-Peck one year to learn English. Later, while attending Dodge City High School, she studied and became fluent in French, allowing her to study abroad in France from 2002 to 2004.

She intends to work in the field of International Relations or International Law. Currently in the Simultaneous Membership Program in the Kansas Army National Guard, she is attending Washburn University School of Law and is also enrolled in the University of Kansas Army Reserve Officer Training Corps. Vu-Peck is on course to graduate and be commissioned as a second lieutenant in May 2010.



Sgt. Hanh Vu-Peck, whose image appears on a bookmark (right) distributed as part of a promotional campaign by the Washburn University School of Law, is a human resource specialist with the 35th Infantry Division. (Photo by 1st Lt. Jason Booth, 35th Infantry Division Public Affairs)

## Adjutant general presents Kansas National Guard Patriot Medal

Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general, presented the first-ever Kansas National Guard Patriot Medal to Tim Rogers, executive director of the Salina Airport Authority, during a brief ceremony on March 26.

The citation accompanying the medal said the award was presented for Rogers' "immeasurable support to Great Plains Joint Training Center and the Kansas National Guard."

"When you're trying to accomplish a project as large and comprehensive as the Great Plains Joint Training Center, you need to have someone in your corner willing to work with you to get the job done," said Bunting. "Long before the center was



Timothy Rogers

conceived, Tim has been a good friend and supporter of the Kansas National Guard. This medal is just a small token of the recognition he deserves for his many efforts on our behalf."

Included in the dignitaries who witnessed the presentation was Gen. Craig McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, who was in Salina to tour the Great Plains Joint Training Center.

In addition to supporting the center, the Salina Airport Authority is involved in the Governor's Military Affairs Council. Rogers' citation also makes note that Rogers "...has facilitated the Salina Municipal Airport to function seamlessly as a forward operating location for Canadian and U.S. military personnel using the Great Plains Joint Training Center facilities and ranges." Other support initiatives include the construction of a weapons storage area, hot arm area (a safe area to arm munitions prior to take off) and additional hangar that will enhance the capabilities of the Kansas National Guard.

## 190th supports MIA recovery mission

Continued from Page 2

have to be from an immediate family member - a nephew, niece or grandchild's DNA will be able to provide enough evidence to make a positive identification.

Smith says it is critical that blood relatives of MIAs provide a DNA sample for comparison. "Unfortunately, we have remains that we can't identify because we don't have a DNA sample from their relatives." More information about providing DNA samples can be found on the JPAC Web site at [www.jpac.pacom.mil](http://www.jpac.pacom.mil).

Each of the missions last approximately 45 days, but that is a small sacrifice for Smith. "This is America keeping its

promise to bring home its fallen."

The importance of the JPAC mission was not lost on the members of the 190th. "I think people forget that we still have service members over there and their families still miss them," said Westergren. "While I might not be the team they send over to locate the remains, or the team that recovers the remains, or identifies them, I was a part of the team that made that possible."

Ray says it is the best feeling in the world when they make a positive identification and reunite the servicemember with their family. "This is the most rewarding job I have ever had - I couldn't think of doing anything else."

## 190th Civil Engineers in Haiti

Continued from Page 10

two days setting up one tent before CE arrived. The Kansas Guardsmen set up a functional EMEDS in a matter of hours.

The team was more thoroughly self-sufficient in Haiti. They had to provide their own power, their own water. There was no home improvement store they could drive to if they forgot supplies.

Master Sgt. Carren Christianson, from the 190th ARW, described building

EMEDS in Haiti. As her team had finished, the medical commander approached them and declared, "Do you realize what you've just done? You've built a hospital."

Green is proud of the adaptability of his Airmen, "They've learned how to better evolve into a productive team," he said. "It's rewarding to me, as a commander, to see how well they respond. We've proven we're not only valuable for domestic response, but also international."



# Wheeler retires after 36-years: “It was never like having to work”

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

Serving for more than 36 years in the military, Col. David “Joe” Wheeler, the Kansas National Guard Joint Chief of Staff, retired and was awarded the Legion of Merit and given numerous other accolades for his achievements during a ceremony held for him by the Adjutant General of Kansas, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, at the Nickell Armory in Topeka on Saturday, April 10, 2010.

“We’re losing one of the crutches that the Kansas National Guard has had for 36 years,” said Bunting. “We are extremely lucky that Col. Wheeler put on this uniform 36 years ago, because he’s left an indelible and impressionable mark on the Kansas National Guard.”

Wheeler was awarded the Legion of Merit for his distinguished accomplishments throughout his career. According to the Secretary of the Army, Lt. Gen. Thomas G. Miller, Wheeler deserves the award for his character and energy that motivated his subordinates and established a reputation for excellence, Soldier care and mission accomplishment for all to emulate.

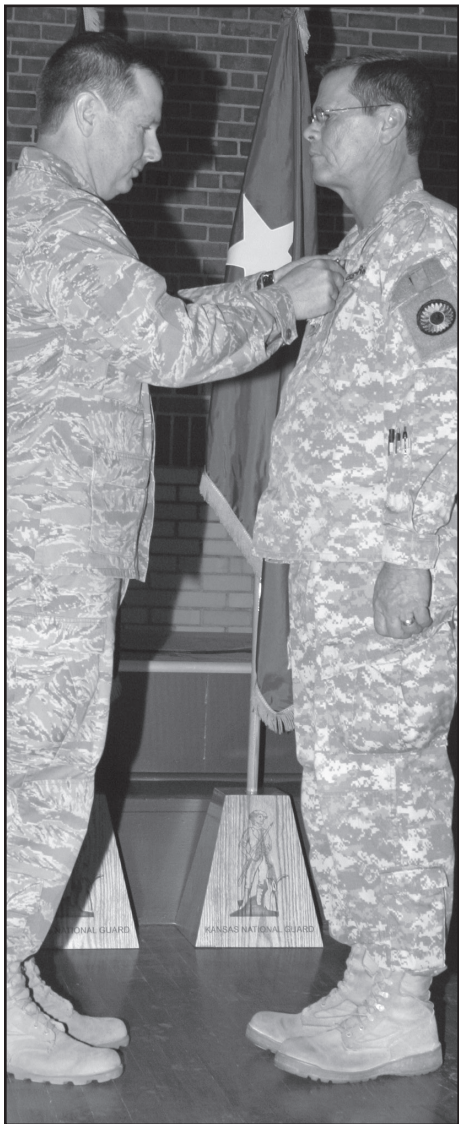
Wheeler also received a certificate of appreciation from President Obama expressing thanks and appreciation for his commitment and dedication.

Kansas Gov. Mark Parkinson sent a letter of acknowledgement and stated that he knew that Wheeler’s family had also sacrificed much for the state and nation’s security during Wheeler’s 36 years of service. He thanked them and said that they, and Wheeler, with their dedicated service and spirit, would leave a lasting impression with all those Wheeler served with.

Wheeler, in his known humble manner, spoke at the end of the ceremony. He commented on how things have worked out during his career.

“I was ‘joint’ before ‘joint’ was cool,” Wheeler said, referring to the team relationships that the Kansas Army and Air

National Guard now employ. “But, I’ve been lucky. There’s a secret I have to tell, I’ve never really worked, because I’ve always enjoyed what I’ve done—so it was never like having to work. I surrounded myself with good noncommissioned officers and staff and



**Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting presents the Legion of Merit medal to Col. David “Joe” Wheeler during a retirement ceremony honoring Wheeler on April 10. (Photo by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th Public Affairs Detachment)**

David listened to what they had to say.” “I look back on all the people I’ve trained and have a good feeling on seeing how many are doing great with their jobs and their careers,” Wheeler continued. “Also, the Guard has been good to me—it’s paid for all my travel and education—I guess it was meant to be. My mom can tell you, when I was only eight-years-old, I was digging foxholes and playing Army, so I guess it was destiny.” Wheeler followed his father’s footsteps for a military life by enlisting in the Army on Feb. 28, 1974, as a crawler tractor operator. A year and a half later, he decided that he would become an officer, getting his commission from the Officer Candidate School on June 19, 1976, and accepting the position as platoon leader, Company D, 891st Engineer Battalion. He served in numerous other positions

## “We lost a hero today” Col. James Trafton dies in traffic accident on Kansas Turnpike

By Stephen D. Larson  
Public Affairs Office

Three volleys of rifle shots cut through the air. A trumpet played the ringing, solemn notes of “Taps.” A United States flag was carefully and respectfully folded and presented.

Col. James Trafton proudly served his country for 37 years, starting as an infantry platoon private in Vietnam and culminating his combat career with a tour of duty in Iraq as commander of the Kansas National Guard’s 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry. Along the way he earned the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars, four Meritorious Service Medals, two Combat Infantryman’s Badges—an achievement he was particularly proud of—and numerous other awards. Trafton retired from the Kansas National Guard in 2008, looking forward to his retirement years of spending more time with his family, hunting, fishing and riding his motorcycle.

But what war could not do, a turnpike accident did. James Trafton died April 5 as the result of injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident on Easter Sunday.

Attended by family, friends and fellow soldiers and accorded the full military honors he earned, Trafton was laid to rest on April 8 at Leavenworth National Cemetery, Leavenworth, Kan., taking his place among the honored dead of generations before.

And he was remembered. “We said goodbye to as good of a guy that you could ever know today,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general.

“There’s no way that you could replace someone like Jimmy Trafton,” said Bunting. “You just hope that another one

over the years, such as platoon leader, executive officer, personnel staff officer, senior TAC officer, engineer equipment officer, assistant operations officer, commander, personnel officer, intelligence officer, deputy commander, joint operations officer and chief of staff for the land component, Kansas Army National Guard before his last assignment.

Besides OCS, he attended many military schools—Engineer Officer Basic Course, Recruiting and Retention course, TAC Officer Training Program, Engineer Officer Advance Course, Command and General Staff College, Nuclear/Biological/Chemical Officer’s Course (where he was the Honor Graduate), National Security Course, the United States Army War College and many others, while still earning a Bachelor of Science degree and two master’s degrees.

comes along, but Jimmy was a one of a kind guy and his loss is immeasurable.” It was a sentiment echoed time and again by those who knew him. “It is a great loss, not only to the men and women of the Kansas National Guard, but to the entire state and entire country,” said Lt. Col. Anthony Mohatt. “We lost a hero today.”

Among those he served with, Trafton was remembered as a skilled and dedicated leader, keenly interested in the welfare of his troops.

“With Colonel Trafton, it didn’t matter what task he was handed,” said Maj. Steve Denney, “he embraced it with great vigor and enthusiasm.”

“Anyone would greatly work for him because they knew that if they needed something from him as a commander, he would speak to that private or that specialist,” continued Denney. “I probably haven’t met a commander that cared for his soldiers more than what Colonel Trafton cared for his.”

But as much as his professionalism as a leader, Trafton’s measure was marked by the kind of man he was.

“I believe that Jim influenced everyone he met in a positive way,” said Col. Cliff Silsby, who was a long-time personal friend.

“He was a personable, down-to-earth person that was a colonel, but didn’t act that way,” said Mohatt. “He wasn’t real flashy or proper and concerned about that stuff. He was more concerned about people and taking care of that.”

“When you have a great man like Colonel Trafton pass away, it not only touches the people that he served with, but the people that are around the whole state.”

Trafton was preceded in death by his grandmother, Alma Etheridge, and his mother, Mary Ellen Reeves. He is survived by his wife of 17 years, Theresa Trafton; daughters Sonia Krafels and her husband, Jeffrey, Fort Worth, Texas; Susan Trafton, Salina, Kan.; Maegan Trafton, Topeka, Kan; Elizabeth Trafton, Kansas City, Kan. and five grandchildren.

## Link assumes command of KSANG

**Continued from Page 3**  
5,400 hours of flight time. His military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, with six oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters, Combat Readiness Medal with five oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal with one device, Iraq Campaign Ribbon with one device, Global

War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Ribbon Short, one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with five oak leaf clusters, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 1 “M” device, hour glass device, Kansas National Guard State Emergency Duty Service Ribbon and the Kansas National Guard Service Medal with one device.

## Veterans educational benefits

**Continued from Page 3**  
student population was no longer limited to those between the ages of 18 and 23. Veterans were eager to learn and had a greater sense of maturity, in comparison to the traditional student. Finally, the idea that higher education was a privilege of the well-born elite was finally shattered.

### Changes in the Bill

By the end of the initial period prescribed by the original legislation in 1957, the bill had been stripped in the Veterans Adjustment Act of 1952. Under the new law, the government no longer paid tuition directly to institutions of higher learning; veterans instead received a flat fee of \$110 which was to go toward their education. Korean veterans returned home only to find that the benefits they believed they were entitled to had been slashed.

By the time of the Vietnam War, benefits had been diminished to almost non-existence and the price of a college education had skyrocketed. Some nine years after the end of the Vietnam War, in 1984, Mississippi Congressman Gillespie V. “Sonny” Montgomery revamped and reintroduced the GI Bill. This bill has since been known as the Montgomery GI Bill, but those earlier provisions wouldn’t last long as the cost of education continued to escalate, making it obsolete within a few years. While federal assistance programs provided some relief for the general student population, the Montgomery GI Bill was failing to provide adequately for veterans. This, coupled with the large influx of personnel following the heinous acts of September 11, 2001, only exacerbated the problem.

To compensate, Congress adopted the

Post 9/11 Montgomery GI Bill, which came into effect recently. The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after Sept. 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. You must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

As of Aug. 1, 2009, the Post-9/11 GI Bill is effective for training. Approved training under the bill includes graduate and undergraduate degrees, and vocational/technical training. All training programs must be offered by an institution of higher learning and approved for GI Bill benefits. Additionally, tutorial assistance, and licensing and certification test reimbursement are approved under this bill.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill will pay your tuition based upon the highest in-state tuition charged by a public educational institution in the state where the school is located. The amount of support that an individual may qualify for depends on where they live and what type of degree they are pursuing. The bill also offers some service members the opportunity to transfer their benefits to their dependents.

Future articles will delve into the application process to activate your benefits and take a look at some of the programs available outside the Montgomery GI Bill and Post 9/11 GI Bill.

When there are questions about your educational benefits you should always defer to the experts in the State Education Office. Their information can be found on the Kansas Knowledge Online Web site (<https://www.ks.ng.mil/>)



# 35th Infantry Division Association hosts annual reunion in Topeka

By Master Sgt. Michael L. Pomes  
 35th Infantry Division Public Affairs

Attendees at the President’s Reception at the 35th Infantry Division Association Reunion in Topeka got to witness something that had not been seen since World War II.

“We’ve not seen so many colors and so many generals since the end of World War II,” said retired Maj. Gen. Jack Strukel, president of the 35th Infantry Division Association.

Colors on the stage included those of the current 35th Infantry Division Headquarters at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and of the 134th, 137th and 320th Infantry, as well as 110th Medical Battalion. Besides Strukel, general officers in the audience included Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, Maryville, Mo., current commander of the 35th Infantry Division; retired Maj. Gen. Phil Finley, Colby, former Kansas adjutant general and member of the 69th Infantry Brigade; retired Brig. Gen. Edward Gerhardt, Topeka, 35th Infantry Division and retired Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Kennedy, Topeka, 35th Infantry Division and 69th Brigade.

Flags of three nations completed the display on the stage. Members of the color guard from Wa-Ta-Se American Legion Post 410, Mayetta, carried flags of the United States of America, France and the Prairie Band Pottawatomi Nation to the stage at the beginning of the President’s Reception.

The presence of the national flag of France became an important clue for things to come during the reception. Many of the awards to be presented that evening

had important ties to France. Topeka Mayor Bill Bunten read a proclamation to honor the 35th Infantry Division and the 35th Infantry Division Friendship Societies during the 92nd Reunion of the Association.

“Whereas, the 35th Infantry Division, United States Army, was activated in 1917 at Fort Doniphan, Okla., serving on the Western Front of Europe in World War I and was again called to active duty during World War II with service in the European Theater of Operations,” Bunten began reading from the proclamation.

Bunten distributed copies of the Proclamation to Pierson; Marilyn Jensen, Denver, Colo.; Paula Baker, Norman, Okla., and representatives of three 35th Infantry Division Friendship Societies that had traveled from France. Jensen and Baker serve on the Association’s International Liaison Committee. Andree Chan and her husband, Maruice, La Meauffe, France, received the proclamation for Santa Fe in Normandy. Claude Rozet, Orleans, received the proclamation for the Association France-USA (Etats-Unis) and Yann Renaud, St. Martin De Bonfosse, received the proclamation for 35th Division in Normandy. These and the other Friendship Societies honor the memories of the members of the 35th Infantry Division who fought and died in France, Belgium, and Luxembourg by erecting monuments and escorting tours of veterans and family members to the battlefields where the Division fought.

Col. Jean-Claude Brejot, French Liaison Officer at Fort Leavenworth, presented retired Brig. Gen. Thomas J.

Kennedy with the French Order of the Legion of Honor for his service in France during World War II. Established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte, the Legion of Honor is France’s highest military honor. “More than 65 years ago, you gave your youth to France to liberate us. To us, you are heroes,” said Brejot to Kennedy.

Kennedy enlisted in the 137th Infantry and mobilized with the 63rd Infantry Division, where he saw action in France and Germany. Following World War II, he returned to the 35th Infantry Division through its deactivation in 1963. He joined the 69th Infantry Brigade, became the commanding general in 1970 and retired in 1976.

Strukel awarded Chan and Rozet with the Order of St. Maurice. Sponsored by the National Infantry Association, this award is given out to members who have served with distinction with the Infantry or have demonstrated significant support for the infantry.

Chan has kept alive the memory of the Americans who died in Normandy by erecting monuments to the 35th Infantry Division at 12 places in and around St. Lo, most notably by having a plaque placed on the Wall of Charlemagne at St. Lo.

“I was seven years old when the Americans came and remember how things were under the Nazis. I will never forget the Americans,” Chan said. “Thank you, forever.”

Rozet was eight years old when the Americans liberated France. Now the president of a society that promotes French-American friendship, he helps

organize dinners and receptions to honor American visitors to the city of Orleans. “Orleans was a quiet area in World War II,” said Rozet. “We take care of the visitors as they travel from Normandy to eastern France.”

Veterans of the 35th Infantry Division and their families make up many of the visitors who travel through Orleans. Also sponsored by the NIA, the Shield of Sparta – Heroine of the Infantry, is awarded to spouses who have made significant contributions to the Infantry. Retired Capt. Sam O’Brien, Des Moines, Iowa, 320th Infantry Headquarters, had intended to present the Shield to his wife, Carolyn, at the President’s Reception. Instead he presented the award to his daughters, Cathy and Cynthia, because of his wife’s illness. “Carolyn has been true and faithful in support of her husband Captain Samuel G. O’Brien (Infantry) who served with valor and distinction during World War II and then for a time in the Army Reserves,” said Strukel. “She has also been a strong supporter of the 35th Infantry Division Association.”


The final award of the evening went to a Soldier “who said he’d never get one,” said Strukel.

James Graff, Middletown, Ill., 134th Infantry, received the Order of St. Maurice for serving as a president of the 35th Infantry Division Association in the past and writing a book entitled, “Reflections of a Combat Infantryman -- A Soldier’s Story of C Co. 134th Inf. 35th Div.”

Following the award presentations, the reception concluded with a dance.


KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Legion of Merit



Col. David Joe Wheeler, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
 Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mark Jensen, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
 Sgt. Maj. William D. Buck, HHC, 287th SB, Wichita

Bronze Star



Col. Mark Stevens, GLO Team #6, Topeka

Awards and Decorations

Maj. Johnnie Gallegos, GLO Team #6, Topeka  
 Master Sgt. Timothy Staver, GLO Team #6, Topeka  
 Master Sgt. Randy Bole, GLO Team #6, Topeka

Meritorious Service Medal



Lt. Col. Roger D. Murdock, HHC, 287th SB, Wichita, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster  
 Capt. Adam Johnson, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence  
 Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ross J. England, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kenneth E. Hampton, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster  
 1st Sgt. John C. Conover, Co C, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Lenexa, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
 Master Sgt. David M. Kennedy, HHC, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City, with 4th Oak Leaf Cluster  
 Master Sgt. Rodney R. Prosser, 235th Regt, Salina  
 Sgt. 1st Class Sherman P. Crawford, Btry C (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
 Sgt. 1st Class Linda A. Rocha, HQ, 235th Regt (RTI), Salina

Army Commendation Medal



Maj. Adam Krein, 635th RSG, Hutchinson  
 Chaplain (Capt.) John R. Potter, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
 Master Sgt. Rodney Moyer, 635th RSG, Hutchinson  
 Sgt. Shane Beardsley, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
 Sgt. Anthony M. Landon, Rec & Ret, Topeka

Army Achievement Medal




Master Sgt. Terry C. Goscha, 635th RSG, Hutchinson, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Oak Leaf Cluster


Maj. David Young, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka  
 Capt. Jeremy S. Jackson, 184th IW, Wichita  
 Senior Master Sgt. Troy Kyle, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
 Master Sgt. Troy Hultgren, 190th ARW, Topeka

Air Force Commendation Medal



Col. Derek Rogers, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Lt. Col. Craig M. Brenton, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City  
 Maj. Tamra Buettgenbach, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster  
 Capt. Todd N Handling, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
 Capt. Kimberly Rhoden, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Senior Master Sgt. Clifford Archer, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
 Master Sgt. Timmy A. Burget, 184th IW, Wichita  
 Master Sgt. Todd R. Daniels, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City  
 Master Sgt. Daniel Larson, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Tech. Sgt. David Finnemore, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Tech. Sgt. Jamel Francis, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Tech. Sgt. Jason Murphy, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
 Senior Airman Christopher Wolf, 190th ARW, Topeka

Air Force Achievement Medal



Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Doviak, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
 Master Sgt. Richard R Champagne, 184th IW, Wichita, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster  
 Master Sgt. Eldon Jackson, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster  
 Tech. Sgt. George Hart, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Tech. Sgt. Karen E Riley, 184th IW, Wichita, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster  
 Tech. Sgt. Steven Zimmerman, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
 Staff Sgt. Holly Baker, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Staff Sgt. William Mesmer, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster  
 Staff Sgt. Stanislaus V Saiz, 184th IW, Wichita  
 Staff Sgt. Joshua Stuchlik, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
 Senior Airman Aaron Boddy, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Senior Airman Douglas Fisher, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Senior Airman Alison Hastings, 190th ARW, Topeka

Retirements

Kansas Army National Guard

Lt. Col. Lee Keffer, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
 Chief Warrant Officer 4 Gary Lacore, Det 1, Co C, 1st Bn, 171st Avn, Topeka  
 Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kenneth Hampton, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
 Sgt. Maj. William Buck, HHC, 287th SB, Wichita  
 1st Sgt. Todd Schainost, HHC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola  
 Master Sgt. James Buttenhoff, Det 1, Btry C, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Salina  
 Master Sgt. Harvey Deatherage, HHD, 635th SG, Hutchinson  
 Master Sgt. Roy Hosier, Det 1, HSC, 891st Eng Bn, Garnett  
 Master Sgt. Carl Mar, 105th MPAD, Topeka  
 Master Sgt. Theodore Neises, 2137th FSC, Manhattan  
 Master Sgt. Rodney Prosser, HQ, 235th Regt (RTI), Salina  
 Master Sgt. Linda Rocha, HQ, 235th Regt (RTI), Salina  
 Master Sgt. Paul Wilson, HHC, 287th SB, Wichita  
 Sgt. 1st Class David Miles, 69th TC, Topeka  
 Sgt. 1st Class Donald Roberts, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
 Sgt. 1st Class Michael Schlingmann, HHC, 287th SB, Wichita  
 Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Williams, Rec & Rec, Topeka  
 Staff Sgt. Yancy Ballard, Btry C (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman  
 Staff Sgt. Forrest Cook, Det 1, HHS, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Try  
 Staff Sgt. James Edwards, KSARNG Med Det, Lenexa  
 Staff Sgt. Thomas Etherton, Det 3, 250th FSC Sabetha  
 Staff Sgt. Wade Jacobson, Det 2, HHC, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf Regt, Junction City  
 Staff Sgt. Randall Musick, 2137th FSC, Manhattan  
 Staff Sgt. Kenneth Rivera, HHD, 169th CSSB, Olathe  
 Staff Sgt. Sonny Shoptese, Co B, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita  
 Sgt. Preston Blackburn, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson  
 Sgt. Eugene Buchheister, 35th MP Co, Topeka  
 Sgt. Lance Carver, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Infantry, Lawrence

Sgt. Stephen Craig, Det 1, HSC, 891st Eng Bn, Garnett  
 Sgt. Orlando Garcia Velazquez, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe  
 Sgt. Paul Helton, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson  
 Sgt. Terry Jones, 250th FSC (-), Ottawa  
 Sgt. John Mattingly, 2137th FSC, Manhattan  
 Sgt. Hilton McLamb Jr., JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
 Sgt. Steven Perkins, Det 1, 242nd Eng Co (Horz), Winfield  
 Sgt. Kevin Pickrell, 35th ID Band, Olathe  
 Sgt. Clint Pierce, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville  
 Sgt. Michael Retoff, 772nd Eng Co (MAC), Pittsburg  
 Sgt. Steven Thompson, Det 1, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Holton  
 Sgt. Jerry Young, 2137th FSC, Manhattan

Kansas Air National Guard


Col. Kerry Taylor, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Lt. Col. Thomas Ballou, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Lt. Col. Joe Knowles, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Maj. Nina Draffen, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Maj. James Findley, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Chief Master Sgt. Leslie Money, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Senior Master Sgt. John C Foster III, 184th IW, Wichita  
 Senior Master Sgt. David Gogian, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Senior Master Sgt. Deborah L Hooper, 184th IW, Wichita  
 Senior Master Sgt. William Mukes, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Master Sgt. Keith Adams, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Master Sgt. William M Phillips, 184th IW, Wichita  
 Master Sgt. Jean Robinson, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Master Sgt. Mark S Schulke, 184th IW, Wichita  
 Master Sgt. Steven Tremblay, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Master Sgt. Carolyn Wilson, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Tech. Sgt. Gerard L Ast, 184th IW, Wichita  
 Tech. Sgt. William Fishman, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Tech. Sgt. Jamel Francis, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Tech. Sgt. Debra Gaunt, 184th IW, Wichita  
 Tech. Sgt. Tony Glidewell, 184th IW, Wichita  
 Tech. Sgt. Maggie Large, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Tech. Sgt. David Smith, 184th IW, Wichita  
 Tech. Sgt. Marshaun Winston, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Staff Sgt. Brian Coppage, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Senior Airman Perry W Seibert, 184th IW, Wichita

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

Chaplain (Capt.) John R. Potter, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka


KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Meritorious Service Medal




Col. Joel Darbro, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
 Col. Kathryn Hulse, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster  
 Col. Martin Sellberg, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
 Maj. Christopher Hill, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st

Meritorious Service Ribbon



Lt. Col. Russell E. Richardson, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha  
 Maj. Kyle T. Chansler, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita  
 1st Lt. Charles M. Ross, 635th RSG, Hutchinson  
 Sgt. 1st Class Christopher S. Lucas, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
 Sgt. Jessie J. Lawrence, Co E, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita  
 Spc. Dru L. Payne, Det 1, 137th Trans Co, Topeka

Kansas Achievement Medal



Master Sgt. Paul H. Arnold, 184th IW, Wichita  
 Master Sgt. Frank W. Cook, 184th IW, Wichita, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster  
 Master Sgt. Eric R. Smith, 184th IW, Wichita, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster



# 287th Sustainment Brigade receives Army Unit of the Year award

By Staff Sgt. Greg Zuercher  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Whenever people work together for the greater good of their objective – putting team above individual achievement – one character trait that stands out above all others is that no one cares who gets the credit. That certainly can be said of the 287th Sustainment Brigade, which was honored as the Army Unit of the Year at the 2010 Joint Conference held at the Wichita Hyatt this March. Col. Robert Schmitt, commander of the 287th, said it was a total team effort, and credited much of the unit’s success to its Family Readiness Group.

“It was the finest FRG I’ve ever worked with,” said Schmitt, who led the unit’s deployment to Iraq from October 2008 to September 2009 at Operation Base Adder. “I don’t know how you could do any better. Our FRG had the best quality, inclusiveness, and communication than anyone could hope for. Everyone showed concern for the whole military family – the extended family as well as the core families. So many things hap-

pened that were solved by the FRG before it reached me as a concern. When it did, it arrived as a problem solved, well before I had to get involved.”

“We had the finest resources we could tap into that we never had before on previous deployments,” he continued. “From the newsletters, the phone tree, all the hours put in by a central core of ladies – it was the right thing to do to take care of Soldiers. It was all about taking care of Soldiers.”

Serving on three previous deployments before the 287th’s tour in Iraq, Schmitt said the communication on this deployment was the best he has ever experienced.

“It was far better than the 2005 one. At that time we had no newsletter – just email to stay clued in with our families,” he said.

He also thanked all the family readiness group volunteers on behalf of his Soldiers.

The commander of the 287th Special Troops Battalion, Lt. Col. Tony Divish, said it was hard work, attention to detail, and contributions from everyone that led to the unit’s successful year.



**Beth Harper accepts the Newsletter of the Year Award for the 287th Sustainment Brigade from Col. Robert Schmitt (right), commander of the brigade, and Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Greg Zuercher, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)**

“Beth Arpin deserves a lot of credit. She did a lot of work on the newsletter and kept it a family, not a unit newsletter. I’m glad to have people like her,” he said.

The newsletter contained photographs along with articles, as well as birthdays and anniversary dates of each Soldier.

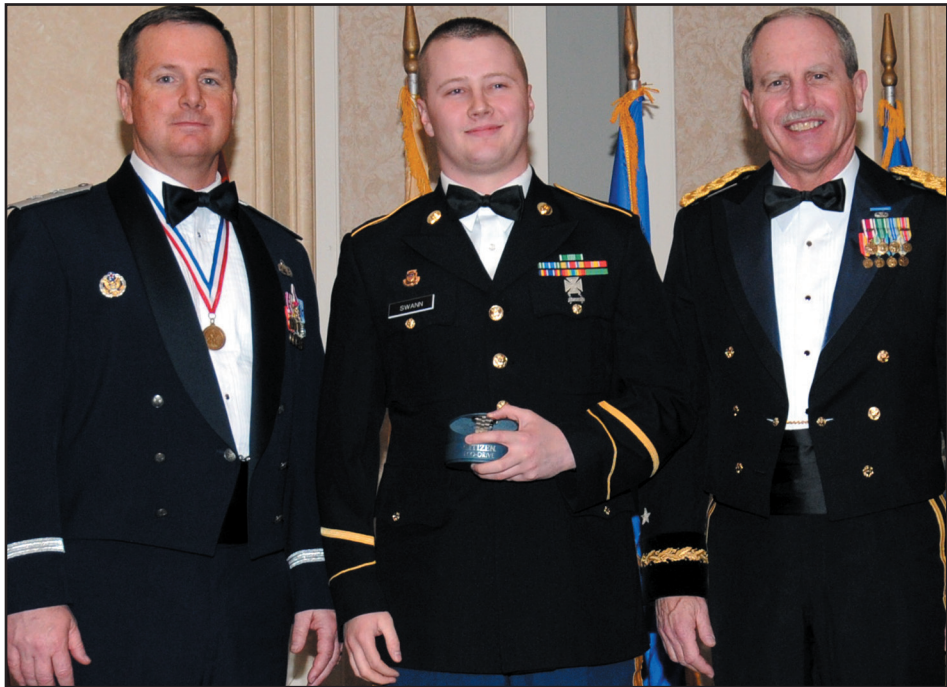
“They helped leadership remember,” said Divish. “I know on two occasions it helped bail out Soldiers to remember their anniversaries. A big part of the newsletter was communication. The amount of man hours devoted to putting the newsletter together would be like a second job. It made my job easier.”

The administrative officer for the 287th, Lt. Col. Dana Duggins, noted that great

organizations are inter-connected, meaning that they value contact with families and provide activities so that there is something for everyone. “We had Soldiers and families spread out all over Kansas, the country, and its territories,” said Duggins. “There was a high degree of commitment to keep track of everybody, to let them know what was going on, so they could take care of each other. So much of this award has to do with the volunteers.”

The Army Volunteer of the Year award went to Schmitt’s wife, Theresa. He also gave credit to Jewel Murdock, the treasurer of the 287th’s FRG; Susan Duggins, wife of Dana Duggins, and Sgt. 1st Class Samantha Weir, who helped on the military side.

## Swann selected as top Kansas Guardsman



**Spc. Joseph Swann (center), was named Outstanding Kansas National Guardsman at the 2010 Joint Conference in Wichita. He received the award from Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, and Brig. Gen. John Davoren, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Greg Zuercher)**

By Staff Sgt. Greg Zuercher  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

He had no idea that as a boy taking music lessons he would be following a trail that would lead him to the highest award possible for an Army Guardsman.

Spc. Joseph Swann, from Topeka, has followed just such a path. Swann was named the Outstanding Guardsman at the 2010 Joint Conference held at the Wichita Hyatt this March.

Enlisting in the Kansas Army National Guard as a member of the 35th Infantry Division Band in March 2005 after his freshman year at Washburn, Swann’s decision was influenced by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Steven Patterson, who happened to be the commander of the 35th ID Band, as well as Swann’s music lesson teacher.

Comparing him to a proud father witnessing his own son succeed, Swann said Patterson is “very happy, excited and proud of me.”

Serving full time as a Soldier and bugler in the Kansas National Guard Military Funerals program since July 2008, Swann credits Patterson and Rodney Moyer, the state coordinator of military funerals honor program, for much of his success.

“I served a long time as an M-day (traditional) Soldier with the band,” said Swann. “It was through Chief Patterson that I became involved full time in the honor guard as a bugler.”

“All I’ve tried to do is to be the best I can possibly be,” said Swann. “I just do my job – I wasn’t even looking for this award – it came to me... I just go about my business

– I wake up, do PT (physical training) in the morning, serve the funerals and PT in the afternoon, if time permits.”

Conducting more than 500 funeral services a year, as many as five services a day, takes up the majority of Swann and his fellow Honor Guard Soldiers’ duty time.

“It is a great privilege and honor to serve the veterans,” said Swann. “It’s not about you — it’s about your duty serving the veteran and their families.”

Proud of his Kansas’ team sixth place finish at the annual honor guard drill competition, Swann noted that there are 54 Honor Guard teams, from all 50 states and several territories. Most do not get chosen for the annual event.

The opportunity to observe, compete against and visit with Soldiers of the Old Guard, the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, who perform the funeral and ceremonial details for the military district of Washington, was a highlight for Swann and his honor guard team.

“They are the best of the best. They all look the same. They set the standard we strive for,” said Swann.

Swann is finishing up a four-year degree and is on track to graduate from Washburn in December 2010 with a bachelor of arts in music. He aspires to make a full time career in the military.

“Right now, the Guard is my home and they take good care of me,” said Swann. “I’m very grateful and honored to be selected for this award. Being honored is more about being around Soldiers – it’s a family to me.”

## Awards ceremony honors volunteers

By Spc. Stephanie Hodges  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Kansas National Guard Family Programs hosted its annual Volunteer Awards Ceremony at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Wichita on March 28. The awards ceremony demonstrates appreciation and recognition to Kansas National Guard volunteers, families and friends for significant achievement and service to the Kansas National Guard Family Program. Any person having served a period of time in support of the Kansas Family Program and benefiting morale, cohesion and esprit de corps of the service members and families of the Kansas National Guard is eligible for awards.

“Volunteers bring to Family Programs an abundance of talents and gifts for that we are truly grateful,” states Michelle Williams, State Family Program Readiness assistant, “We are pleased to have an opportunity to recognize these talents and countless hours of service each volunteer has devoted.”

The Newsletter of the Year Award was presented to the 287th Sustainment Brigade and accepted by Beth Arpin, Family Readiness Group chairperson of 287th Headquarters and Headquarters Company. The award recognized the unit for producing and maintaining the best Family Readiness Group newsletter during the 2009 calendar year. The Family Readiness Assistant assembles a board of at least three individuals outside of the Family Program Office to vote on the nominated individuals. Each board member votes anonymously and turns in the final results to the State Family Program Office through the Family Readiness assistant.

“Our newsletter was a key element in dispersing vital information and resources and producing a sense of community

within the families, which became notably imperative with our unit deployed,” said Arpin.

The Frontier Award was presented to volunteers who contributed significantly to an activity or a group of activities that generated an environment that elevated the quality of life within their unit. This award requires a minimum of 50 service volunteer hours, but not more than 199 hours. The recipients were Skylar Dickey, Chris Divish, Alicia Foster, Sharon Halsig, Jessica Herlinger, Jean Hirsh, Janet Kristinat, Whitney Kristinat, Jewel Murdock, Patti Phillips, Lt. Col. Jon Shafer, Tyler Shafer, Danni Stallbauer, Sheri Taylor and Paula Zielke.

The Pioneer Award was presented to volunteers who displayed a commitment, not only to the unit, but also to the morale and cohesion of the families within the unit and requires a minimum of 200 service volunteer hours, but not more than 499 hours. The recipients were Kimberly Abbey, Brenda Bernard, Nicole Boucher, Senior Airman Justin Burget, Susan Duggins, Staff Sgt. Sarah Mendez and Stacy Sanders.

The Horizon Award is presented to volunteers who have distinguished themselves in such a manner as to be invaluable to the success of the Kansas Family Program. The Horizon Award requires a minimum of 500 documented service volunteer hours. The recipients were Beth Arpin, Marie Delong, Theresa Schmitt and Kay Scott.

“The Family Programs Office has truly reached thousands of family members across the state because of each volunteer,” said Williams. “Their hard work and relentless dedication in support of our program, their units and the families of all service members have made a positive and inspiring impact on the Kansas National Guard.”



# PLAINS GUARDIAN

## Lending a helping hand



Spec. Timothy E. Stewart, Manhattan, Kan., a member of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, Kansas National Guard, helps set up items for a Soldier's Pantry at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. Stewart is serving with his unit as part of the multinational peacekeeping force in Kosovo. The pantry, a project of the camp's Junior Enlisted Council, takes items donated for Soldiers' use and organizes them into a free "mini-market" where Soldiers can get toiletries, magazines, DVDs and other personal comfort items they need. "I did a similar thing in college, so this reminds me of home," said Stewart. "My involvement in JEC gives me an opportunity to work with Soldiers from other units to organize events, be a voice for my peers and, of course, have fun." (Photo by Sgt. Joshua Dodds, 116th Public Affairs Detachment)

## Hernandez assumes command of 184th Intelligence Wing

The Kansas Air National Guard announces that command of the 184th Intelligence Wing in Wichita, Kan., has passed from Col. Michael C. Foster to Col. John J. Hernandez. The change of command ceremony took place April 11 at McConnell AFB.



Col. John Hernandez

Foster has been a member of the Kansas Air National Guard for over 15 years and served in the role of Wing Commander since March of 2008. Hernandez was previously the 184th Intelligence Group Commander at the 184th Intelligence

Wing. A graduate of the University of Kansas, Hernandez was commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1985. Following training as an aircraft maintenance officer, he subsequently transferred to the U. S. Navy. After completing Naval Flight Officer training in Pensacola, Fla., he served with the Pacific Fleet electronic warfare community. In 1995, he joined the 184th Bomb Wing, Kansas Air National Guard. A Navigator and Air Intelligence Officer, he held qualifications in the B-1B, EA-6B, ERA-3B, and F-4N aircraft. Hernandez has served in a variety of positions with the Wing including 127th Bomb Squadron Flight commander, 161st Intelligence Squadron commander and 184th Intelligence Group commander. He is married with three children.

## Special Troops Battalion shows support for Special Olympians

More than 170 athletes and cheerleaders received a special treat on March 18, thanks to the Kansas Army National Guard's 287th Special Troops Battalion. The members of the Wichita Special Olympics team, who were participating in a basketball and cheerleading tournament in Hays, received a catered lunch courtesy of the STB and one of its subordinate units, the 731st Medium Truck Company. The meal, which was hosted at the Hays armory, was catered by the local Kentucky Fried Chicken courtesy of the Wild West Fest Committee. The Wichita athletes took part in a three-day tournament involving more than 1,600 athletes and coaches from across the state, with more than 150 games played. Fort Hays State University

hosted the tournament and cheerleading competition March 18-20 at Gross Memorial Coliseum. Members of the Leavenworth team received an additional treat, as members of the 287th STB and the American Legion Riders provided them with a motorcycle escort through Hays to the Coliseum. Master Sgt. Ray Palmer, 287th STB operations noncommissioned officer, an active supporter of the Special Olympics, said the motorcycle escort is one of the most enjoyable aspects for the Special Olympics team members. This marks the first year the 287th STB has been able to directly support the Kansas Special Olympics, but the unit hopes to continue to foster the growing relationship in the coming years.

SPONSORED BY THE KANSAS NATIONAL GUARD

# OPERATION KIDS CAMP

YOUTH AGES 8-12  
JULY 6 - 10, 2010

**DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER TODAY!!**

FOR QUESTIONS AND REGISTRATION, PLEASE CALL MARY NESBITT AT 785-274-1171 OR EMAIL MARY.NESBITT1@US.ARMY.MIL

### Teen Camp 2010

Teen Camp is a five day & four night stay at Camp Webster in Salina, KS. All teens will split into groups and will be directed by a Camp Counselor or JR Counselor. Youth will sleep in cabins, based on gender, on site. Youth between the ages of 13-18 are welcome to attend. Some of the activities planned are:

- Low Ropes Course
- High Ropes Course
- Climbing Wall and Zip Lines
- Meeting Guard Teens across the state
- Games/Sports

Teen Camp is an experience youth will never forget. The camp's goal is to provide a safe and fun environment where youth can learn leadership as well as create friendships among other Guard teens.

Any dependent or family member of a Kansas National Guardsman between the ages 13-17 can attend the camp.

- **Priority will be given to family with currently deployed military members.**
- **Space is limited!**

**To apply, contact Mary Nesbitt at 785-274-1171 or email at mary.nesbitt1@us.army.mil**

**Registration ends May 15, 2010 !!!!!**

**Volunteers Needed!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**Families with hardships can apply for Teen Camp scholarships. Please contact Mary Nesbitt at 785-274-1171 or by email at mary.nesbitt1@us.army.mil**

Teen Camp  
June 19-23, 2010  
Webster Conference Center  
Salina, KS

To register for 2010 Kids Camp, go online to [http://kansastag.ks.gov/AdvHTML\\_Upload/Kids camp invite 2010.pdf](http://kansastag.ks.gov/AdvHTML_Upload/Kids%20camp%20invite%202010.pdf)  
To register for the 2010 Teen Camp, go online to [http://kansastag.ks.gov/AdvHTML\\_Upload/teen camp invite 2010.pdf](http://kansastag.ks.gov/AdvHTML_Upload/teen%20camp%20invite%202010.pdf)

Print and fill out the form. Mail the completed form and payment to:

**Kansas National Guard Family Program Office  
c/o Mary Nesbitt  
2800 SW Topeka Blvd.  
Topeka KS 66611**