



**Pierson  
retires after  
39 years of  
service . . . .2**



**Guardsmen  
vie for top  
marksmen  
title . . . . .6**



**Smoky Hill  
hosts  
Operation Air  
Force . . . . .9**

# PLAINS GUARDIAN

VOLUME 53 No. 4      *Serving the Kansas Army and Air National Guard, Kansas Emergency Management, Kansas Homeland Security and Civil Air Patrol*      SEPTEMBER 2010

## Kansas Soldiers take over force protection mission in Africa

**By Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Graham  
CJTF-HOA Public Affairs**

The 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, Kansas National Guard, conducted a Relief in Place and Transfer of Authority with the 1st Battalion, 65th Infantry Regiment, Puerto Rico National Guard, June 24 at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. The Kansas battalion assumed the lead in force protection and standing watch duties at the camp.

Relief in Place and Transfer of Authority is the process where one battalion takes the place of another. Over the course of several days, each member of the oncoming team followed his counterpart, trying to absorb every aspect of that job.

Maj. Albert Irizarry, 1-65th Infantry Regiment battalion commander, said duty at Camp Lemonnier was a great experience for the battalion's leadership.

"This ceremony was symbolic," said Irizarry. "It means a lot for us and it validates our Soldier's sacrifices and hard work. The men and women of the Puerto Rico National Guard met the challenges head on and they should be commended."

Irizarry also said the 2/137th CAB has been learning local procedures and preparing to fully assume force protection and watch standing duties.

*"We are here to be diplomats and strengthen our partnership with the Djiboutian people."*  
**Lt. Col. Gregg Mittman**

Lt. Col. Greg Mittman, 2-137th CAB battalion commander, said he was excited to assume his duties and responsibilities in Djibouti. He also said Africa presents challenges unlike any he experienced on his previous deployments to Iraq or Afghanistan.

"The Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa mission is different because we are not involved in a kinetic environment," said Mittman. "We are here to be diplomats and strengthen our partnership with the Djiboutian people."

"Our Soldiers want to develop a bond with the people of this country and experience their rich history and culture," said Mittman. "Most Americans will never get an opportunity to visit a place so rich in culture."

Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Hester said every Soldier was ready to get the deployment started.

"The HOA mission is a unique opportunity

(Continued on Page 3)



The command flag of Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, is passed from one unit to another during a Transfer of Authority ceremony for Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa mission. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Graham)

## Himalayan peak the next challenge for Kansas National Guardsman

**By Stephen D. Larson  
Public Affairs Office**

"I need a challenge in life," says Kansas National Guard Capt. Aaron "Ike" Isaacson. Isaacson has already seen plenty of challenges, including deployments to Iraq in 2004, 2005 and 2006, followed by a tour in Afghanistan in 2008. During these deploy-

ments, Isaacson was injured twice, the first time in 2005 by the explosion of a land mine set off by a vehicle as he walked beside it. The explosion damaged his hearing and caused minor head and neck trauma. These injuries resulted in his award of the Purple Heart.

Isaacson's second major injury was during his Afghanistan deployment. While conducting combat operations along the Pakistan boarder he broke his right leg.

But those challenges did not keep him from taking on a new one—climbing to the top of a mountain in Nepal. Isaacson, a member of the Kansas National Guard's 69th Troop Command, will join a team of wounded warriors from other branches of the U.S. military for a "Soldiers to the Summit" expedition Oct. 2-21, 2010, that will take them to the top of Mount Lobuche, a 20,075 foot peak located just 8.7 miles from Mount Everest. The expedition is organized by World TEAM Sports, a non-profit organization that showcases what can be achieved by disabled athletes through the power of an inclusive and diverse team.

"I've always been impressed by the spirit of our fighting men and women, especially our wounded warriors," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general. "I've met so many of them who, although they have been wounded, sometimes terribly so, they don't give up. They say 'I'm not going to let this beat me' and they don't. They deserve our honor and respect,



**Capt. Aaron Isaacson**

(Continued on Page 6)

## Joint exercise tests civilian, military first responders

**By Sgt. Jason Lee  
Public Affairs Office**

Crisis City, a training site for emergency responders in Salina, hosted Operation Smoky Hill, a first responder exercise July 11-18 that included nearly 300 participants from local, state and federal agencies.

The training event began with a preplanning phase with participating agencies determining their roles in a given crisis. The exercise went into action when a simulated bomb derailed a train and a second simulated detonation took down a high-rise apartment building. From there, first responders from across Kansas took action.

"They developed a plan. It was an all-hazard plan," said Frank Coots, Crisis City manager. "They did not know what the

scenario was."

The overall objective of the exercise was to test how well the first responder agencies worked together in a real world situation.

"The training has been incredibly realistic in my opinion," said Coots. "And I know for a fact that all of the first responders at the local, state and federal levels that participated have achieved their exercise objectives and received some outstanding training."

The eight day Operation Smoky Hill exercise encompassed members from the state to county and federal government. Participants included the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Regional Search and Rescue Team,

(Continued on Page 2)



Members of Kansas Task Force 3 extricate a "victim" trapped in a collapsed structure during Operation Smoky Hill, an interagency training exercise conducted at Crisis City, a multiuse training facility at the Great Plains Joint Training Center, Salina. (Photo by Jane Welch, Public Affairs Office)

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# Division command was “best experience of my entire career”

Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, commanding general of the 35th Infantry Division, Kansas Army National Guard, will pass the division colors to a new commander Aug. 28, closing a long and distinguished career of dedication and service to the National Guard.

Pierson’s 39-year military career will come to an end, but his mark on the division, where he spent more than 14 years of his military service, will endure.

“The best experience of my entire career was to be commander of the 35th Infantry Division,” Pierson said. “It has been an honor to command the 35th over the past

three years and nine months. As the commander, I have had the distinct privilege of serving with some of the best officers and noncommissioned officers the Guard has to offer.”

Under Pierson’s leadership, the 35th ID has taken the lead on several important National Guard missions and



Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson

training events, including a year-long deployment to Kosovo; a successful overseas deployment for training to South Korea in support of Operation Key Resolve with just over two months notice and fielding of the Army’s Battle Command Systems, making the division the first National Guard division to be fully fielded ABCS. During his command, the division also assumed responsibility for designing one of the first two Domestic All-Hazards Response Teams in the National Guard.

“We have been tasked with numerous missions, some with very short response times, and some, like DART, that we essentially developed from concept to implementation,” Pierson said. “But no matter the mission, when I asked this division staff to respond, they did, and with 110 percent effort and commitment to mission success. I am proud of everyone in the division for their work over the last three and a half years. It has been that commitment and dedication that has put us out in front of other divisions. I am proud to have been a part of the work that we have done here and proud to have worked with so many outstanding young Soldiers, NCOs, and officers.”

Pierson is quick to credit the Soldiers who work for him for his success as a commander. He says his interaction with other officers and noncommissioned officers throughout his career is what motivated him to be a leader.

“What has always inspired me most was my exposure to great NCOs and officers early in my career,” Pierson said. “I learned many things from them, but most importantly, I learned their philosophy that to succeed at any mission, you first have to take care of Soldiers. You have to set Soldiers up for success by giving them the training and tools they need.”

Pierson said he has always been impressed by the opportunity senior leaders have to affect the lives of the young troops coming after them.

“As a young Soldier just getting in the military, I don’t know that I had a goal other than just wanting to serve my country,” Pierson said. “However, as time went on, I saw the opportunity that officers and senior noncommissioned officers had to affect the lives and development of our young Soldiers. To me, there’s nothing more satisfying than to watch a young NCO or officer develop as a leader.”

Families have always played an important role in Pierson’s career, both his own family and the families of the service members who have worked for him.

“Taking care of Soldiers also means tak-

ing care of their families,” Pierson said. “People that serve with me understand that my first priority is always Soldiers and their families.”

“No Soldier is successful in the military without a supportive spouse or family,” Pierson said. “I’ve been so very fortunate. If you look over my career, I could never have accomplished what I have without the support of my wife and family.”

He admits that time away from family is a major sacrifice asked of every Soldier serving their country.

“I think what I regret most was what I missed with my wife and children. I can never go back and make that up,” Pierson said. “Yet, you have to balance that with your love of country. Thank God we have families that understand that and we have people, like my wife, who love this country and who know how important it is to support the Soldiers and their families who help us keep our freedom.”

“There was never one thing or one person that made me stay in for 39 years,” said Pierson, reflecting on the longevity of his career. “It was a privilege every day I got to put on this uniform and work alongside these quality young men and women serving today in our effort to keep this country free.”

(Continued on Page 7)



Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson addressed his troops during train-up for Operation Key Resolve, a joint U.S. Army/Korean Army exercise conducted in March 2010. (Photo by the 35th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office)



Firefighters hose down debris at the train derailment venue at Crisis City during the Operation Smoky Hill training exercise that took place July 18-22. (Photo by Jane Welch, Public Affairs Office.)



Members of the Nebraska National Guard CERFP Team perform medical triage on a disaster “victim.” (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

## Only three months left to apply for “Stop Loss” Special Pay

Eligible service members and veterans have less than three months to apply for Retroactive “Stop Loss” Special Pay.

The special pay was approved by Congress as part of the 2009 War Supplemental Appropriations Act. Servicemembers and veterans who involuntarily served or were on “Stop Loss” from Sept. 11, 2001 to Sept. 30, 2009, are entitled to \$500 for each month served past their contracted end-of-service, resignation or retirement date.

“This additional money, this benefit, was granted by Congress to recognize that continued service,” said Lernes Hebert, acting director of the Defense Department’s Officer and Enlisted Personnel Management office, in an interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel.

The Pentagon announced the program Oct. 21, 2009. Those eligible must apply by Oct. 21, 2010, to receive compensation. Survivors of service members who were under ‘Stop Loss’ orders are entitled to the benefit.

The Defense Department wants to ensure everyone eligible for the special retroactive pay is compensated, Hebert said.

Each service has its own criteria and specific outreach and application process.

Members and veterans who qualify, or think they are eligible for the special pay must contact their individual services for eligibility requirements.

Information about the program, procedures and points of contact for each individual service can be found at [www.defense.gov/stoploss](http://www.defense.gov/stoploss)

So far \$111 million has been paid out to 25,000 troops and veterans affected by ‘Stop Loss,’ Hebert said. The average payout is \$3,000 to \$4,000 per claim, he added.

“Congress authorized a fairly generous number, so we’re not concerned about the money running out,” Hebert said. “We are concerned about individuals getting their applications in.”

An estimated 145,000 servicemembers, veterans and beneficiaries are entitled for the retroactive pay.

Effective Dec. 19, 2009, per the Defense Appropriations Act, stop-lossed service members who voluntarily reenlisted or extended their service, and received a bonus for such reenlistment or extension of service, became no longer eligible to receive retroactive stop loss special pay.



# Ask the TAG



## Speakers Bureau gives a personal face to the Kansas National Guard

*Is there a list of people in the department who respond to requests for speaking to community groups? If so, how do I get on the list?*

The Public Affairs Office of the Adjutant General’s Department oversees the Speakers Bureau for the agency. The office receives numerous requests every year from American Legions, VFWs, schools, civic groups, and other organizations requesting military speakers for events such as Memorial Day, Veteran’s Day and Armed Forces Appreciation Day. Each group has their own specific requests. Some groups prefer speakers that have been deployed, are female, live in a certain area of the state and the list goes on. Anyone who is interested in becoming a part of the Speakers Bureau, or would like to have a speaker at their event, contact the Public Affairs Office at 785-274-1190 or e-mail Jane Welch at [jane.e.welch1@us.army.mil](mailto:jane.e.welch1@us.army.mil). The Speakers Bureau is a great opportunity to get out into the communities and tell the Guard story.

\*\* \* \* \*

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

## New council will represent teens of Kansas Guard families

Family Programs is introducing a new organization designed specifically for military youth.

The Kansas National Guard Teen Council is being put together to listen to the needs, ideas, and suggestions of Kansas military children and youth. Representatives on the council will be 13-18 years old, and will serve as role models and leaders. Darcy Seitz, State Youth Coordinator, will serve as the facilitator. As representatives of the Kansas National Guard Child and Youth Program, Teen Council members will act as a voice for all National Guard children and youth throughout Kansas.

The Kansas National Guard Teen Council will have periodic meetings to talk about ideas for improving events, like Teen and Kid’s Camp, and to discuss life as a military youth. The Council will also be involved with providing resources and handouts to schools in Kansas, and will take part in opportunities to lead presentations at community and Family Program sponsored events.

To be involved in the Kansas National

Guard Teen Council, the following criteria for application apply:

- Minimum age of 13 (as of July 1, 2010)
- Must have a family member in the Kansas National Guard
- Must have the ability to travel for meetings, presentations, volunteer opportunities, and community service
- Be willing to hold a term of appointment for 1 full year
- Agree to actively participate in the Kansas National Guard Teen Council and selected events sponsored by Family Programs/Child and Youth Programs
- As opportunities arise, be willing to represent the Kansas National Guard Teen Council at community events in a professional, positive manner

The Kansas National Guard Teen Council is dedicated to developing leadership skills and enhancing life for military children and youth of Kansas. If you would like to nominate a teen to serve on the Council, please contact Darcy Seitz at 785-274-1967 or by e-mail at [darcy.l.seitz.ctr@us.army.mil](mailto:darcy.l.seitz.ctr@us.army.mil).

## Back to School events provide school supplies for families

The 190th Air Refueling Wing and 184th Intelligence Wing Family Programs sponsored a Back to School Event in Topeka and Wichita on July 31. Denise Winton and Hilari DeLarosa, Airman and Family Readiness Managers, co-hosted the events with support from their staff, Family Readiness Group, key volunteers and state youth coordinators in giving out school supplies to Kansas National Guard families.

The school supplies were made possible by community support through donations and Operation Home Front. The local American Red Cross and the Dollar Tree were also major contributors to the events.

“We are extremely grateful for all of the support the Kansas National Guard receives,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting. “The individuals, organizations and businesses donating items and money are a big help to our Guard families and shows the community appreciation for all of the sacrifices our military members make to serve this country.

The Topeka event was held at the Kansas National Guard Nickell Armory. The Wichita event was in Building 36, McConnell Air Force Base.

While the Kansas National Guard members picked up school supplies, children took part in a variety of fun activities.

## Force protection mission

**Continued from Page 1**

to share and learn from our capable Djiboutian partners and teammates,” said Hester.

“We have an opportunity to represent the great state of Kansas, our parents and show people the things that make America so strong: Our strong desire to help people all over the world.”

Mittman said the Soldiers were already

fond of the services provided at Camp Lemonnier.

“Everyone likes the gym, Wi-Fi and the galley,” said Mittman. “Camp Lemonnier has a lot of things that remind you of home. Our Soldiers have already contacted loved ones back home and let them know that things are fine here. The camp is taking care of them.”

## Hinkley receives command of 235th Training Regiment

**By Staff Sgt. Jamie J. Baxter, UPAR 2nd Battalion, 235th Regiment**

As the Soldiers at the 2nd Battalion, 235th Training Regiment said farewell to Lt. Col. John Campbell, they also took the time to warmly welcome Lt. Col. Douglas Hinkley during a change of command ceremony held in Salina, Kan., June 5, 2010.

Campbell conveyed his appreciation for the work of the Soldiers he commanded at the Kansas Regional Training Institute’s Modular Training Battalion.

“It’s always bittersweet to leave command of a unit made up of top quality Soldiers who are so passionate about the jobs they do,” said Campbell. “I have valued my time here very much, and I thank these Soldiers for inspiring me as a leader. I am confident that the unit will continue to excel and impact it’s trainees under the capable hands of Lt. Col. Hinkley.”

As Hinkley addressed his Soldiers and the guests of the ceremony, he took the time to thank those in attendance.

“One of my favorite definitions of leadership is ultimately about creating a way for people to contribute to making something extraordinary happen,” he said.

“I know that the men and women of this Army and the Kansas Army National Guard are making extraordinary things happen... I don’t think that there is a more critical time for quality training than today and by utilizing the combat experiences of the trainers in this regiment.”

“I look forward to leading the way with the great leaders and Soldiers of the Second Battalion,” he concluded, “to continue to contribute to making extraordinary things happen that effect the national strategy of the United States and for peace and protection.”

**(Continued on Page 5)**



**Lt. Col. John Campbell (left center) prepares to relinquish command of the 2nd Battalion, 235th Training Regiment to Lt. Col. Douglas Hinkley (right) during a change of command ceremony on June 5. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jaime J. Baxter, UPAR)**

## Preventing suicide is everyone’s responsibility

**By Chaplain (Capt.) Richard Dunn Joint Force Support Chaplain**

On Aug. 18, 2010, Gov. Mark Parkinson signed a proclamation setting aside Sept. 5-11, 2010, as the observance of National Suicide Prevention Week in Kansas. This proclamation points out that suicide prevention is everyone’s business.

Despite great efforts in previous years, both military and civilian statistics indicate that death by suicide is a growing tragedy. Each death is an unnecessary loss of life that affects all of us as a community. In the Guard community alone, we have had nearly 70 completed suicides this year. Total Army suicides are also up from previous years. As Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston once said, “One suicide is one too many.” How do we succeed in at least reducing the rising numbers of suicides that tear families, units and communities apart?

We must begin by making it our business--our mission, if you will--to work towards suicide awareness, prevention, and intervention. This responsibility is yours, mine and everyone’s!

In the military, we often point to specific risk factors that place some warriors in greater danger of suicidal ideation than others. Relationship break up is one of the greatest factors involved. There are others, such as: financial or legal difficulties, depression, substance abuse, stress, etc. In our current socio-economic climate, there are many that have lost jobs, or have experienced setbacks in the pursuit of their particular “American dream,” which is adding even more stress to already tough situations. More than ever we must exercise great diligence in watching out for one another. Remember ACE: Ask, Care, Escort!

Each one of us knows a circle of friends, family members and coworkers better than strangers do. This is what makes our respective roles in suicide prevention so critical.

Make it your business to monitor the people you care about. In our military family, emphasize the need to extend this level of care to one another at the lowest possible levels. Battle buddies make this a part of watching out for each other. If we discover that someone we care about has experienced a loss of employment, a relationship breakup, or any other setback, we must step up our efforts to observe and communicate with that person even more.

If you suspect that suicidal thoughts may be present, ASK. Be direct. Show you CARE. If someone says they are having thoughts of suicide, ESCORT them to an emergency room, mental health professional, chain of command or chaplain.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns that I may be able to assist you with as we tackle the mission before us. By working together, we can bring these trends down.

*Dunn may be contacted at (785) 274-1514; [richard.b.dunn@us.army.mil](mailto:richard.b.dunn@us.army.mil)*

# Soldiers may be coming home, but our mission goes on

By Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting  
The Adjutant General

Recent national news stories have focused on the last combat brigade leaving Iraq. However, the Kansas National Guard will be involved for quite a while longer. Approximately 300 soldiers with the 778th Transportation Company in Kansas City, Kan., will deploy in the fall for a year and assist in transporting equipment out of Iraq over the next year. The area is still dangerous so while combat troops aren't the primary focus, every Kansas soldier going is trained to respond to the dangers brought about by potential unrest in the area. There is a possibility of additional Kansas units going in 2011, but we do not have confirmation of this. Meanwhile, the Kansas



Maj. Gen.  
Tod M. Bunting

Guard still has many missions around the world besides Iraq, including the Horn of Africa and Afghanistan. Another critical mission our Kansas troops are involved in is aeromed/critical care air transport, conducted by the 190th Air Refueling Wing. I had the privilege recently of traveling with this mission, which involves moving wounded troops from the battlefield to Landstuhl, Germany, for medical treatment. I'm extremely proud of the 190th for seeking out this opportunity and working to make our wing more adaptable for such missions. We have a video of this mission on our web site at: [http://kansastag.ks.gov/PR\\_video\\_view.asp?PRid=716](http://kansastag.ks.gov/PR_video_view.asp?PRid=716) Another important initiative of our department that is expanding is the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina. It includes Crisis City, an area where civilians and military train together and recently conducted an excellent exercise involving several hundred emergency responders and wrapped up with certification of the Nebraska National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear, and Explosive -



Aeromed and critical care transport missions being conducted by the 190th Air Refueling Wing mean more injured service men and women are getting the vital medical care they need sooner. (Photo by Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting)

## Soldier to Soldier

# Kansas Guardsmen on the job in Horn of Africa

By Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Hester  
2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry

Greetings to our fellow Kansas Guard personnel from the "hottest" spot in Africa, Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. First Kansas Soldiers and Airmen are fully engaged and accomplishing their assigned mission set as part of the Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa. From first boots on the tarmac at the Djibouti City Airport back in June, the Soldiers of First Kansas have hit the ground running. With a polite and professional attitude toward our host nation partners, the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment has proven without a doubt that we were in fact prepared to assume and sustain this unique mission. Our Soldiers are in the business of building operational capacity, institutional capacity, and the growing of human capacity with our African host nations. We support, assist, listen, and learn as part of this African team.



Command Sgt. Maj.  
Troy Hester

Force Protection missions for Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa are demanding and challenging. Trained and proficient Soldiers that are expertly and professionally led are paramount to mission success. Empowerment and sustainment of junior leaders are key to successful protection of all forces. To the Soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, I challenge each of you to prepare yourselves mentally and physically for this mission. Think about defense, diplomacy, and development for your unit and how you will implement these three "D"s into your mission set. Focus on the family and ensure that you are providing for all of their needs now and while deployed down range. Our spouses, children, and parents play a huge part in our individual and combined success and without them we would not be who we are. The opportunities for joint service interaction and multiple foreign military engagements abound at Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa. The mission focus and the intent of Gen. William Ward, AFRICOM commander, has been clearly disseminated to each member of our team. We thank the ones who love us for their sacrifice and for supporting us during this deployment. "First Kansas."

*Recent national news stories have focused on the last combat brigade leaving Iraq. ... Meanwhile, the Kansas Guard still has many missions around the world besides Iraq, including the Horn of Africa and Afghanistan.*

Enhanced Response Force Package, familiarly known as CERFP. The GPJTC and Crisis City have earned a reputation among civilian and military users which made the recent training a reality. This was the first time another state's National Guard had used the site for certification. We have been working hard to improve the situation for our families in the Kansas National Guard and provide more support as the war continues. We have increased staffing and added more marriage retreats for couples to help them build stronger marriages. We see a positive response from these and are pleased with the turnout and feedback. The first week of September is Suicide Prevention Week and unfortunately, the Kansas Guard has suffered the consequences of this with a suicide earlier this year. Nationwide, June saw the highest number of suicides among Army personnel since the Vietnam War. Thirty-two soldiers killed themselves and while 21 were on active duty, 11 were National Guard or Army Reserve in an inactive status. And it's not just military members who are affected. Emergency responders also struggle with

this requiring all of us to be diligent about watching for signs that our peers and acquaintances may be struggling. As we go into the fall and winter weather and also continue to face the risk of tornadoes in Kansas, I remind everyone to be on alert. Sept. 13 is Kansas Preparedness Day at the State Fair in Hutchinson, where our department will again be displaying important equipment and providing information and prizes to help Kansans get better prepared for disasters, whether man-made or natural. Each of us should make plans for our families to be self-sufficient for a short period of time after an emergency by having an emergency preparedness kit with bottled water, non-perishable foods, medicines, pet supplies and other essentials. We should all know where to rendezvous with our families if we are separated and communication lines go down. (Cell phones and land lines are often the first to go). One other thing we can do is volunteer to be a part of Citizen Corps and go to trainings to determine how to assist our community in a crisis. Finally, I want to congratulate a key team in our agency's response to disasters: the Geo-Spatial Information Systems team who recently was recognized nationally for their mapping capabilities and database tracking that puts Kansas in the forefront in the nation for being able to better respond to emergencies. With this information, the state has better awareness of the issues facing any particular event response and this allows responders, including emergency management, other state partners and National Guardsmen, to better do their jobs. Congratulations to Jessica Frye, Nicholas Graf and Jesse Smith. We're proud of you! Have a safe and pleasant September!

## Warrant Officer Corps turns 100

By Chief Warrant Officer 4 Hector Vasquez

I hope everyone had a safe and Happy Fourth of July. Happy belated birthday to the Warrant Officer Corp! The official birthday is July 9, 1918. Warrant officer lineage in the U.S. Army can be traced back to 1896. Since 1918, there have been many changes to the corps -- Military Occupational Skills, rank, insignia and job descriptions, to name a few. There is now a new MOS which is the Chemical, Biological Nuclear and Radiological open to all Chemical Operations Specialists. This warrant officer position was approved on May 10, 2010. More information will be put out once we find out



Command Chief  
Warrant Officer 4  
Hector Vasquez

more on this new and exciting position. We have two new warrant officers in our great State. Warrant Officer One Susan Brown and Warrant Officer One Brian Fife graduated from Warrant Officer Candidate School. I congratulate Brown and Fife for a job well done. If you are interested in becoming a warrant officer, now is the time to start completing your determination packet. The next Warrant Officer Candidate School class at the Regional Training Institute in Salina, Kan., begins in February 2011. If you have question on becoming a warrant officer, please contact me or Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jack Hancock. The Kansas State Regional Training Institute Warrant Officer Candidate School received their accreditation last year, allowing Kansas to be a Warrant Officer Candidate School battalion regional training site for a seven-state region which includes California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and

(Continued on Page 5)

# 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<br>Printed under contract with the U.S. Government Printing Office |   |
| <b>Commander-in-Chief</b><br>Gov. Mark Parkinson   | <b>Public Affairs Office</b><br>Director<br>Sharon Watson 785-274-1192  |
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For change of address, contact Jane Welch.

# Northern neighbors train at Great Plains Joint Training Center

By Maj. DeAnn Barr  
Great Plains Joint Training Center

Ten Forward Air Controllers students from the Canadian Forces, along with six CF-18 Hornets from the 409th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Canadian Air Force, traveled to the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, Kan., for three and a half weeks of training that began in late June.

“The Canadians come here for the sole purpose of training their FACS, in our wide-open unrestricted airspace,” said Lt. Col. Jeff Maddex, commander of the Smoky Hill Weapons Range. “What the Canadians have at home is limited and the airspace is saturated. Smoky is so unusually tailored to close air support when you compare us to the 13 other Air National Guard ranges. We have over 140 target sets; there is no comparison.”

Capt. Kevan Currie, senior forward air controller instructor from the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery School, agrees. “Smoky is a great range,” said Currie. “Not only do they offer us a very complex set of targets, but the F-18s and the alpha jets can stage out of the Salina Regional Airport. They have an extra long runway and a new hangar facility, which leads to group debrief between pilots and students and therefore much better training is re-

ceived when the jets are local.” The role of the F-18s is to support the forward air controller training on the ground, the troops who are training to serve as the eyes on the ground for Air Force pilots. Through a number of methods, forward air controllers communicate with inbound pilots, guiding them to destroy enemy targets and minimize collateral damage. The less time pilots spend in the air getting to a training venue, the more time and fuel they can spend training the troops on the ground and sharpening their own skills, as well.

Currie said the forward air controller certification course is 10 weeks total, including five and a half weeks of training with CF18s and Alpha Jets. Two weeks are spend on a range in Oklahoma, then they drive five hours to Salina to complete the course on Smoky Hill. In years past, the F-18s had to stage out of Dallas, which could significantly degrade training, based on the flight duration and varying weather conditions.

“Smoky Hill range is a gem of a range for Canadian Artillery School training,” said Currie. “The excellent upkeep of their targets, overall range area and layout, multiple observation post and air space allows me to properly test a student’s ability in controlling Canadian Artillery School.”



Forward Air Controllers Master Bombardier Coelho, Capt. Pelletier-Bedard and Sgt. Zaremba from the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery School participated in training at the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, Kan., for three and a half weeks in June and July. (Photo by Maj. DeAnn Barr)

## Hinkley receives command

Continued from Page 3  
tion of the citizens of this great nation.”

Hinkley joined the Army in 1983 where he served in the Utah Army National Guard as an enlisted Soldier and noncommissioned officer. In 1990, he was commissioned at the California Military Academy. After completing the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course as the distinguished graduate, he returned and served in various positions within the California, New York and Kansas Army National Guards, including the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, deploying with the battalion to Iraq in 2003. In 2005 and 2006, he served in the Army Operations Center at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

His military education includes Noncommissioned Officer’s Academy, Army Battle Skills Course, TAC Officer School, Field Artillery Officer Basic and Advance Courses, Pre-Command Course, Combined Arms Services and Staff School and Command and General Staff Officers Course. His civilian education includes a Bachelor’s Degree in Engineering from Utah State University and an Master’s degree in Business from the University of Phoenix.

His military awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with silver oak leaf cluster, the National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global

War on Terrorism Service Medal and Army Staff Badge.

Campbell’s service to the Army and to the state of Kansas began in 1986 when he received his commission from the Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Kansas, graduating with a Bachelors degree in Human Resources. After completing Field Artillery Officer’s Basic Course he made his way through the field artillery community of Kansas. His travels placed him in various positions and first brought him to the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery. In 1993, he deployed with the 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Calvary Regiment. Then, in 1996, he was deployed to Bosnia with Battery E (Target Acquisition), 161st Field Artillery. His latest deployment was with the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery to Iraq.

Campbell’s military education includes Field Artillery Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms Service and Staff School and the Command and General Staff Officers Course. He is currently attending the U.S. Army War College.

Campbell’s military awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with six oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the South West Asia Service Medal with campaign star, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the NATO Service Medal (Former Yugoslavia), and the Combat Action Badge.

## Resiliency Center instills tools for coping with military stresses

By Sgt. Jason Lee  
Public Affairs Office

Many Kansas Army and Air National Guardsmen have answered the nation’s call and crossed the ocean to complete tours-of-duty in unfamiliar and unforgiving lands. Through all their sacrifices, Soldiers and Airman have found that through everything they endured, ever changing situations were the only things that remained constant.

For men and women of the Kansas Guard, the phrase “adapt and overcome” may not have meant much on a drill weekend, but after they got the call to deploy they knew that they had a lot of hard and stressful times ahead of them.

Being in a foreign land for an extended period of time can cause stress for even the most level-headed Soldier. The Kansas National Guard relies on the Resiliency Center to train soldiers in learning coping skills to better prepare them to handle stressful and unwanted situations.

“The Resiliency Center’s mission is to provide a comprehensive range of customized education and training,” said Dr. Richard Selig, Resiliency Center director of psychological health. “(The Resiliency Center) instills the tools necessary to handle high-level stress, accurately identify potential problems, and develop both the individual and group techniques to survive and prosper in times of great stress.”

The Resiliency Center has many ways to assist Soldiers who have been or are about to be overwhelmed by stressful situations.

“Just as one performs strength training in a gymnasium to prevent disabling physical

injuries, the Resiliency program provides a comprehensive approach to create physically and emotionally resilient responses to deployment, war and disaster,” said Selig.

The Resiliency Center’s Flash Forward program is designed for military personnel who are in a leadership position and hold the rank of sergeant or above. The Flash Forward program is a one- day “Adult Learning Module” course that focuses on leadership traits, personal assessment, bolstering strengths, family resiliency and spirituality. The program is designed so that service-members can have a personal resiliency plan that helps them be a better leader and gives them better supervisory skills.

“Individual readiness, collective readiness and effective leadership can lead to improved mission preparedness and ultimately improved mission response and performance,” said Selig. “The Resiliency Center had developed an innovative course that incorporates ground-breaking education, skills training, cutting edge technology and research that will result in improved performance, adaptation and response to stress.”

To improve family resiliency, the Resiliency Center conducts a Life Ties Family Resiliency Course that teaches families to evaluate their personal strengths and understand what a cohesive unified family is. The Life Ties course focuses on families setting realistic goals, approaching potentially stressful situations with a positive framework and shows the family new, healthy solutions to change a stressful situation into a positive one.

## Warrant Officer Corps turns 100

Continued from Page 4  
Washington. Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Smith is the battalion course manager for the region. Anyone interested in becoming a warrant officer; Training, Advising and Counseling officer or instructor can contact Smith, Hancock or me.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sandra Lashley recently updated our Kansas Warrant Officer Internet site, which contains updated information concerning warrant officers. Hopefully, this site will improve communications between fellow warrant officers, as well as seeking help or advice from other warrant officers throughout our state. There is a also blog located on this site. ([https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portal/index.jsp?sessionId=6E749524052779F7439D5EFC02221784.appd07\\_1](https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portal/index.jsp?sessionId=6E749524052779F7439D5EFC02221784.appd07_1))

If you have any ideas that will improve

the site please contact Lashley at (785) 274-1166; [Sandra.lashley@us.army.mil](mailto:Sandra.lashley@us.army.mil).

The “Dog Days” of summer are upon us and one thing we, as leaders, need to take into consideration is the temperature and humidity. It had been extremely hot and if you or your Soldiers are working outside, you need to make sure everyone hydrates, including yourself. As leaders, we must look at the risk management and access the conditions, as appropriate. Always work smart and safe.

Here is some advice or mentoring to the new warrants, as well as a refresher to the rest of us. Warrant officers no longer are focused only on individual Soldier training. Now your focus is broader and deeper (short/mid/long range, logistics, admin, training plan, etc.). Let noncommissioned officers do their job, but know what their job is, as well as yours.

## School time! Be alert! Be safe!

By Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marvin Terhune  
State Safety Manager

School is back in session! All the kids are excited to be back and enjoy catching up with their friends about summer activities.

As drivers, we need to be extra vigilant around school zones, crossings and bus stops. The excitement of the school day is still fresh on the kids’ minds as they run down the steps and dart from the bus. Obey the law by



Chief Warrant Officer 3  
Marvin Terhune

coming to a complete stop when the school bus lights are flashing and the “STOP” sign is displayed. Remind your children to stop and look before crossing the street. Always use the designated crossings.

As you drive you have noticed the increase in people around you not fully engaged in driving their vehicle. Distractions such as talking on cell phones, texting, eating, reading, putting on makeup or anything else that keeps your attention from controlling your vehicle should be avoided. The one second that you look down to read the text someone sent could be the second that a child runs into the street chasing a ball.

When you’re behind the wheel and driving “Just Drive.” Of course, always buckle up! This one act could save your life.

# Soldiers, Airmen compete for top marksman title

By Sgt. Jason Lee  
Public Affairs Office

Kansas National Guard Army and Airmen teams competed against each other in the 2010 Adjutant General’s Combat Marksmanship Championship Match at the Smoky Hill Weapons Range in Salina, Aug. 6-8.

The competition featured the M16 rifle and the M9 pistol and was hosted by the 184th Intelligence Wing, 190th Air Refueling Wing, the Kansas Army National Guard Area Medical Detachment and the Kansas Regional Training Center, Salina, Kan.

Groups of four Army and Airmen worked at each different competition to get the best score. The Soldiers and Airmen were challenged by being given more dynamic ways of shooting. The competition was designed to mimic real life modern day military tactics and scenarios.

“The Airmen and Soldiers out here have the opportunity to shoot various courses of

fire that try to depict more real-life scenarios that would happen or occur if the Airman or Soldier had to engage in a firefight,” said Tech. Sgt. David Salinas, competition scorer. “Ultimately, we are giving Soldiers and Airmen the opportunity to send more rounds down range with their M9 and M16A2 rifles.”

Though most of the time the competition was for score, some of the matches featured “fun” events in which scores were not recorded for the overall competition. One of those events was the falling plate match, which was a bracketed event that featured both the M16 and the M9. The soldiers competed against each other to see how many of the plates they could knock down in a timed event with the winners moving to the next round.

“We have individuals and teams competing against each other,” said Staff Sgt. Matthew Dailey, event competitor. “This is

my fifth time. It gets me out of the office and this is a good time.”

The overall winners of the competition were Tech. Sgt. Christopher Barth, 184 IW, in the Individual TAG Match Novice category; Staff Sgt. Lonnie Herman, ARNG Medical Detachment, in the TAG Match

Open and Tech. Sgt. James Dickinson, 184 IW, Individual TAG Match Pro.

The overall team winners were Thing One, 184th IW, in first place; 35th ID Red in second and Team Romeo, 190th ARW, took third. Thing Two, 184th IW, came out in first place in the Falling Plates competition.



Judges mark and record scores after a round of the Adjutant General’s Combat Marksmanship Match, conducted Aug. 6-8 at the Smoky Hill Weapons Range, Salina. (Photo by Sgt. Jason Lee, Public Affairs Office)

## Himalayan peak the next challenge for Kansas National Guardsman

**Continued from Page 1**

every one of them.”

After his leg was shattered in Afghanistan, Isaacson underwent surgery and spent a year recovering.

When the call came about the expedition, Isaacson immediately accepted the opportunity to test himself once again. He and other team members have been training with the Outward Bound organization in Colorado to prepare themselves for the arduous task ahead of them. From the airstrip in Lukla, it will take the group seven days of hiking through the Khumbu region just to reach their Advance Base Camp at an altitude of 18,212 feet. But Isaacson is look-

ing forward to the experience.

“I’ve been ramping up and getting ready for something exciting,” he said. “I’m really excited, pumped for it.”

“I want this climb to remind everyone that troops are still fighting and dying for our freedom today and we can’t forget that, not for a minute,” he added.

A documentary is being filmed about the training and will follow the climb up Mount Lobuche. A magazine reporter will accompany the climbers, as well.

Information about Isaacson, his fellow team members and the expedition can be found on-line at the Soldier to the Summit Web site (<http://soldierstothesummit.org>)

## Kansas aviation unit supports Boy Scout National Jamboree



Eleven Soliders and two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, Kansas National Guard, provided aerial support for approximately 45,000 Boy Scouts and their leaders attending the Boy Scout National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, Va., July 26 to Aug. 4. The Kansans culminated their visit by conducting a flyover at the beginning of the jamboree’s closing ceremony. (Photo by Capt. Ryan Bernard)

The Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment recently participated in a Department of Defense National Joint Forces Task Force in support of the National Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, Va. The Boy Scouts of America host the National Scout Jamboree every four years and this particular jamboree was special because it marked the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts. Over 46,000 Boy Scouts from 31 countries and 8,000 staff attended this year’s jamboree.

Kansas provided two aircraft, aircrews, maintenance support and an aviation liaison officer. A total of 11 members of headquarters and Headquarters Company, Company A and Company B represented Kansas during the event: Capt. Ryan Bernard, officer in charge and commander of Company B; 1st Lt. Lindsey Davis; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Dan Fogarty; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Randy Earley; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brent Rounds; Sgt.

Dave Lebbin; Sgt. Charles Frantzen; Sgt. James Mooneyham; Pfc. Darren Love; Pfc. Andrew Sprague and Pfc. Kevin Costigan.

The missions ranged from dedicated support for the quick reaction force to movement of distinguished visitors and national media. During the final arena show, Kansas was called on to perform a formation flight to open the show. Just before darkness, the formation passed near the amphitheater as cameras flashed.

During the 18-day mission, Kansas flew 29 missions transporting passengers, distinguished visitors, and QRF elements, resulting in 73 hours of flight time. The mission was a success and every member of the Kansas contingency was personally thanked by Lt. Col. John Till from Georgia, the Aviation Task Force commander and Brig. Gen. Robert Nolan, Joint Task Force commander, presented each Kansas soldiers with a coin in recognition of excellence throughout the event.

### Join the Civil Air Patrol

The Kansas Wing of the Civil Air Patrol is looking for teens 12 to 18 years of age and adults to join our current volunteers in our important missions.

The Civil Air Patrol is an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force with three primary missions:

- Aerospace education
- Cadet programs
- Emergency services

Go to [www.kswg.cap.gov](http://www.kswg.cap.gov) for a Civil Air Patrol Squadron near you



Capt. Aaron Isaacson (front) is training with a team of other wounded veterans to climb Mount Lobuche, a 20,075 foot Himalayan peak located just 8.7 miles from Mount Everest in Nepal. (Photo provided)

# Kansas Soldiers will provide force protection for rescue missions

By Lt. Col. Michael O’Neal  
United States African Command

On May 7, 2010, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment was mobilized for deployment with the mission to provide support to the Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa, Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. While this was not the first deployment for most of the Soldiers assigned to the battalion, for some this would be their first deployment experience outside the Continental United States. However, this would be the first time any of the Soldiers assigned to the battalion would be providing force protection for the United States Air Force Para Rescue personnel, for personnel recovery operations in Horn of Africa.

While basic infantry skills were required to perform the majority of the tasks for the force protection mission, there were some tasks which the Soldiers assigned to the Joint Combat Search and Rescue platoon would need to learn in order to successfully perform their mission. Soldiers who were assigned to the JCSAR platoon had not been associated with any U.S. Air Force PARARESCUE jumper units previous to this assignment and were not familiar with the skill and techniques the Para Rescue personnel utilize.

These skills were a critical factor, because the primary mission of the infantry units is to find, fix, fight and kill the enemy. The primary mission of the U.S. Air Force PARARESCUE jumper units is to rescue aircrews, Soldiers, sailors or civilians and, if needed, to provide medical assistance to stabilize the patient. To help ensure that the Soldiers assigned to this mission could be successful, the leadership of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion had to discover a way to provide the necessary coordination and training during the mobilization.

The initial task organization for the JCSAR platoon was developed by following a pre-deployment site survey with the 1st Battalion, 65th Infantry, Puerto Rico Army National Guard, deployed to Horn of Africa. The Deployment Manning Document, which outlined the structure of the platoon, was developed based on the information from the survey. After notification of the mission, the initial strength of the platoon was 37 personnel, which were broken down into three squads of 11 Soldiers each with two medics, a platoon leader and a platoon sergeant.

The JCSAR platoon operated with this initial task organization during the pre-mobilization training in Salina, Kan. After the battalion was mobilized and as the platoon began the mobilization training at Fort



The Joint Combat Search and Rescue Platoon practices “fast-roping” from a CH 53 helicopter. Soldiers of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry, Kansas National Guard will provide force protection for the rescue missions conducted by the platoon. (Photo provided)

Lewis, Wash., it became apparent, based on the tactics, techniques, and procedures that the 1st Army unit was using during training, that the platoon needed to expand from the original three squads to four and add four additional personnel to the platoon.

The key training tasks the 1st Army trainers for this mission were contact drills, live-fire exercises and squad/platoon level day/night land navigation training. The live-fire exercises began at the fire team level and progressed to the platoon level. These live-fire exercises gave the teams and squads the confidence needed to maneuver with each other before live rounds were fired. It also gave the fire team and squad leaders refresher training on managing the rates of fire and training in controlling their fire teams and squads while utilizing the various movement techniques over varying types of terrain.

The 1st Army trainers contacted a PARARESCUE jumper unit from Oregon to come to Fort Lewis to brief the JCSAR platoon members on the PARARESCUE jumper mission, capabilities and tactics. The briefings and training the PARARESCUE jumpers provided gave the members of the JCSAR platoon the ability to ask questions, handle the equipment the PARARESCUE jumpers used during missions, and to gain insight regarding their future missions.

The training with the PARARESCUE jumpers allowed the leadership of the platoon to identify the deficiencies in the

training, and allowed the platoon to correct these deficiencies prior to deployment to Horn of Africa.

Upon deploying to the Horn of Africa, the JCSAR platoon was specifically assigned to support Personnel Recovery missions by providing security for the PARARESCUE jumpers and any isolated persons, injured persons or sensitive equipment. The intent of this mission is to allow the PARARESCUE jumpers the ability to focus on their primary mission of providing medical care, extraction, and recovery of sensitive items, without having to provide

## Sinai mission ends with a warm Kansas welcome home

By Sgt. Jason Lee  
Public Affairs Office

Approximately 430 Kansas National Guard soldiers from the 2nd Battalion 130th Field Artillery returned home to Topeka July 13, and July 17 after being gone for a year-long deployment in Egypt.

The 2-130th FA deployed to Egypt in July 2009 as part of the Multinational Force and Observers mission.

“The Sinai mission is not well known here in the United States. It’s not well known in Kansas,” said Brig. Gen. John Davoren, incoming 35th Division Commander. “But, it (this mission) is an opportunity for us to let folks know that Kansans have gone and answered the call of the nation and performed superbly at it.”

The battalion was tasked with supervising the implementation of the security pro-

security for themselves. The JCSAR platoon currently consists of three squads of eight Soldiers who are dedicated to support the CH-53 helicopters and two additional squads of six personnel each to support the C130 airplanes.

While deployed to the Horn of Africa, the JCSAR platoon’s training focuses on ensuring it is proficient in the basic skills to allow them to be successful in their mission. The platoon trains on battle drills, basic rifle marksmanship, short range marksmanship, land navigation, demolitions and night operations.

The platoon also trains on air assault techniques; which include the ability to fast rope from rotary wing aircraft and setting up drop zones/pickup zones. The platoon conducts most of its training exercises at night to perfect the use of night vision devices and runs night ranges to increase the comfort level of the platoon members in firing weapons in a limited visibility operation.

Depending on the JCSAR platoon’s training schedule, it trains with the PARARESCUE jumpers during the week. The PARARESCUE jumpers make it a priority to incorporate the JSCAR platoon into their training whenever it is possible. The JCSAR platoon joins the PARARESCUE jumpers in conducting water operations utilizing inflatable boats to familiarize the Soldiers in using them and to become familiar in conducting operations in the water. The JCSAR platoon also trains in survival, evade, resistance, and escape operations with the PARARESCUE jumpers. Additionally, the PARARESCUE jumpers give medical training to the members of the JCSAR platoon in order to increase the unit’s proficiency in treating injuries if needed.

visions of the Egyptian-Israeli Treaty of Peace.

“The hardest thing I learned from this deployment is that deployments are especially hard on the families,” said Sgt. John Rickard. “They are actually harder than I thought it would be on me because of being away from them for such a long time.”

It has been a number of years since a Kansas National Guard unit has deployed to Egypt.

“Just seeing how Egypt is and how the country is, it made me proud that I am from America,” said Rickard. “The fact is we have got it pretty darn good over here compared to them.”

The 2-130th FA is headquartered in Hiawatha, with subordinate units located in Abilene, Clay Center, Concordia, Hiawatha, Holton, Marysville, Ottawa and Salina.

## 35th Infantry Division commander retires after 39 year career

Continued from Page 2

Following his military retirement, Pierson said he looks forward to traveling and spending more time with his wife, Margaret, and his family, as well as perfecting his woodworking skills. He will also continue working for his civilian employer, Energizer Battery Company, for two more years.

“I don’t know that my wife would know what to do with me if I was suddenly underfoot all the time,” Pierson laughed.

Pierson and his wife live in Maryville, Mo. They have four children: a daughter, Leslie, and her husband, Terry Henry; daughters Kellie and Emily, and a son, Gregory and his wife, Kassie. He also has three grandchildren Kinsey, Corey, and Colby.

Pierson graduated from Northwest Missouri State University with a Bachelor of Science and Agriculture in 1972. He began his military career as an enlisted signalman. He completed the Missouri National Guard’s Officer Candidate School (OCS) in 1974 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Signal Corps.

His assignments include platoon leader, 435th Signal Company; commander, Alpha Company, 937th Signal Battalion; systems control officer, 135th Signal Battalion; communications-electronics officer, 135th Field Artillery Brigade; intelligence/operations officer, 135th Signal Battalion; division communication-electronics officer, 135th Signal Battalion, 35th Infantry Division; commander, 135th Signal Battalion; executive officer, 35th Division Support Command, 35th Infantry Division; commander, 35th Division Support Command, 35th Infantry Division; assistant division commander (Support), 35th Infantry Division (Mechanized); Assistant Adjutant General-Army, Joint Force Headquarters, Missouri National Guard.

Pierson’s education includes Signal Officer Basic and Advance courses; Electronic Warfare; Support Operations; Command and General Staff College; and the U.S. Army War College. He also earned a master’s degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.



“Battalion, dismissed!” With that command, Lt. Col. John Rueger, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 130 Field Artillery, releases his troops to their families. (Photo by Sgt. Jason Lee, Public Affairs Office)

# Domestic All-Hazards Response Team concept put to the test

By Maj. Michael Howell, DART-West  
35th Infantry Division

Throughout its history, the National Guard has responded to hurricanes, forest fires, earthquakes and floods many times. Additionally, the events of Sept. 11, 2001, show there are numerous man-made threats to our nation. The National Guard is preparing to respond to these complex and large scale threats with a new initiative, the Domestic All-Hazards Response Team. The DART is the evolution of a concept that began with the use of division headquarters to command and control Guard forces during the response to Hurricane Katrina and was expanded by Joint Task Force 29 to include preplanned capability packages during the 2009 presidential inauguration.

The DART concept uses the planning and command capabilities intrinsic to a division headquarters to assist states in responding to large scale events. Using the eight National Guard infantry divisions as a force pool, the nation was divided into two areas of responsibility. DART-West was formed from members of the 35th Infantry Division and was assigned the states generally west of the Mississippi River as its area of responsibility, while the 28th Infantry Division was designated DART-East and assigned the states generally east of the Mississippi River. DART responds only at the request of the affected state. Coordination is done directly with the Joint Operations Coordination Cells of the affected and supporting states as resources are brought to bear on the event.

The DART not only saves taxpayer dollars, but time, as well. By identifying existing capability gaps, DART identifies which resource can best respond to a man-made or

*By identifying existing capability gaps, DART identifies which resource can best respond to a man-made or natural disaster.*

natural disaster. The capabilities brought to the disaster through DART offer a scalable, modular response.

Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, 35th Infantry Division commander, has worked diligently with National Guard Bureau and DART-West personnel as the DART concept was developed. Working together, the DART members collectively developed Standard Operating Procedures to identify force packages in order to fill identified capability gaps in the affected states. While developing DART, the 35th has begun to coordinate with Adjutants General from various states in order to ensure the DART concept is understood. The initial focus was on the states facing the most dangerous scenarios. This focus led to the development of a validation exercise, which culminated in the practical application of all processes and SOPs developed since August 2009.

The exercise, conducted July 12-16 at the 35th Division Headquarters, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., focused on identifying the resources the affected states would request based on pre-identified capability gaps from states which have been historically affected by floods, hurricanes, wildfires and earthquakes. As the exercise concluded, Pierson stated, “The exercise objectives have been met.”

## Soldiers get back into the routine after a year in Iraq



Staff Sgt. Marion Martin opens the hood of M1097 during the hands on portion of Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services training conducted. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Sara Bigelow)

By Staff Sgt. Sara Bigelow

With reintegration training complete after spending a year in Iraq, the Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 287th Sustainment Brigade, under the command of Capt. Peter Euler, began 90 days of driving and convoy operations training. Euler said as the outgoing commander he wanted to insure mission readiness so he could leave incoming commander Capt. Mark Bastian in good shape for the upcoming Command Maintenance Evaluation Team inspection later this year.

This was a three-phase process, consisting of a crawl, walk, and run method of training Bastian said. The first phase of the process began with the crawl phase to teach Soldiers about Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services. Instructed by Sgt. 1st Class Roy Wagner, this portion of

classroom training gave Soldiers the down and dirty on everything from using a DA Form 5988e to the Technical Manual check list, familiarization with things to look for and how to classify a leak.

Bastian gave a summary of the walk phase conducted in May, in which he said “This phase allows us to get Soldiers on the road in a controlled environment that allows them to drive a simple route in order to get use to the vehicle.” Together with a written driver test, the month was a great success.

The Soldiers of the 287th ran head on into the month of June. The training of the previous months was being put to the test as platoon leaders were give the task of a 40 mile road trip in which section radios were mounted, safety briefings were given and they would take to the road to exercise equipment and test Soldier skills.



Maj. Shep Woodard, DART deputy, briefs Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, 35th Infantry Division commander, in the daily update brief. (Photo by Maj. Brian Schoenhofer)

## As reputation grows, Crisis City makes plans to expand

By Spc. Stephanie Hodges  
105th MPAD

Frank Coots, manager of Crisis City, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, whole-heartedly believes in the business he is in and others are jumping on board.

“Word is getting out through, not only the military, but especially through the first responder community,” said Coots. “They are truly excited about the incredible opportunity of multi- training courses enabled by the immense size of Crisis City. It is one of two venues of its size nationwide.”

Currently, it is providing its users with a Technical Rescue Tower, Collapsed Structure, Urban Village, Rail Venue, Incident Command Center and Agricultural Rescue Venue. With an abundance of training facilities, talk of expansion is on the forefront.

“Crisis City is going to expand. Period,” said Coots.

Coots has expressed interests and ideas about future expansion plans to include a



Frank Coots

*“Crisis City is going to expand. Period.”*

*Frank Coots  
manager, Crisis City*

high speed driving track, vehicle skid training center, water rescue, live burns and wild fires. At present, two more training venues are currently in the planning stages.

Technical Rescue Tower: The Technical Rescue Venue is a five-story structure suited for high rise rescue operations, rope rescue, military and law enforcement search and extraction operations, and shoring operations.

Collapsed Structure: Crisis City has a large rubble pile with underlying tunnel infrastructure suited for collapsed structure search and rescue operations, breaching and shoring operations, K-9 search for both rescue dog and cadaver dog operations, and heavy equipment extraction operations.

Urban Village: The urban village simulates a small urban setting with a number of buildings of varying stories. This venue is suited for search and rescue operations, breaching and shoring operations, law enforcement and military search and extrac-

(Continued on Page 10)

## A visit from the general



Gen. William Ward, commander, U.S. Africa Command, interacts with a Soldier from the Kansas National Guard’s 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment Aug. 19. Ward visited Camp Lemonnier to observe daily operations and to welcome the battalion. (Photo by Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Nathan Laird, U.S. Navy)

# Law enforcement officers train at Great Plains Joint Training Center

By Sgt. Jason Lee  
Public Affairs Office

Thirty Two Kansas law enforcement officers participated in the North Central Regional Homeland Security, Kansas, Incident Action Team Active Shooter course, hosted by the Immediate Action Shooter team at the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina Aug. 9-13.

The training is the last of a series of three training venues for Kansas law enforcement officers. During the week-long training at the Great Plains Training Center, officers learned how to breach locked doors using a 12-gauge shotgun and how to actively engage a shooter with their service-issued rifles and pistols.

“This training is very important in an active shooter situation like a high school. You are walking down the hallway, you see the bad guy,” said Dustin Florence, Lincoln County deputy. “You have to learn how to run and go down the hallway and get the bad guy as soon as possible to prevent loss of life.”

The officers were shown how to approach a suspect who has barricaded themselves in a school or office building and although the training was specifically designed for encounters that involved situations like suspects

overtaking a school building or office but the overall training was targeted at any situations that officers may encounter while they are out on patrol.

“We are trying to hone in some of the skills of the officers that are in the class,” said Eric Daniels, Government Training Institute lead instructor. “We are out here, we are shooting, we are working in the training structure and we are going to be showing movements and things that they need to do to intersect an active shooter.”

For many of the officers, this was the first time that they used the Great Plains Joint Training Center. They found the center offered a variety of shooting areas and is equipped to handle the required training the officers were seeking

“This facility is very nice because you get into situations sometimes where you are coming into small community style areas where you may have an active shooter or something else going on,” said Charles Lindberg, Cloud County sheriff deputy. “If you have those situations going on, being able to train in an area like this would be perfect.”

The training was approved by the Government Training Institute which gets its approval by the Department of Homeland Security.

# Ricklefs speaker at national conference on stress

By Sgt. Jason Lee  
Public Affairs Office

Tonya Ricklefs of the Kansas National Guard Resiliency Center was selected to attend the Navy and Marine Corps Combat and Operational Stress Conference 2010 in San Diego, May 18-20, where she conducted a presentation on “The Critical Impact of Military Leadership on Family Resiliency.”

Ricklefs was the only person from a National Guard agency selected to be a speaker at the conference.

“I recommended to Tonya that she submit a proposal to the COSC conference as a way of getting the word out about our Kansas initiatives,” said Dr. Richard Selig, the Resiliency Center’s director of psychological health. “Through that presentation (the Resiliency Center could) develop additional resources and networking opportunities that could potentially lead to further collaboration efforts on the topic of resiliency.”

Although the Resiliency Center focuses primarily on Kansas National Guard members and their families and the conference was for active Navy and Marine Corps members and their families, the presentation selecting committee found that Ricklefs’ presentation was unique and it pertained to military members of all branches and their families.

“It was wonderfully run, it was a wonder-

ful experience,” said Ricklefs. “The Navy and Marines were very accommodating.”

Ricklefs presentation focused on teaching military leaders critical skills to enhance military family’s abilities to overcome sudden change or misfortune.

“I have had enough years of experience to continually see that leadership had always directly impacted on the families during deployments,” said Ricklefs. “There are times during their military careers that I do not think a lot of people are thinking about that topic.”

Conference committee members looked specifically for presenters that focused on and were relevant to psychological health and wellness in relation to combat operational stress control.

“Strong military members and their families are the cornerstone of readiness,” said Selig. “All leaders must take a proactive approach to creating a resilient force in the footsteps of those before us.”

The Kansas National Guard Resiliency Center develops curriculum that teaches Soldiers how to adapt to sudden changes and how to have the ability to overcome stressful situations.

The Resiliency Center was initiated after the number of Kansas National Guard suicides equaled combat deaths in 2006.

# Smoky Hill Weapons Range hosts Operation Air Force

By Capt Alyson Stockton  
184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

Cadets from the U.S. Air Force Academy’s Class of 2012 visited Smoky Hill Weapons Range July 21 as part of Operation Air Force. The range is located near Salina, Kan.

The program aims to help the cadets, who are committed to five years of active duty once they return to classes, choose the career field in which they will serve after commissioning in 2012.

Cadets observed a day of flying opera-

tions that featured A-10 and F-16 close air support. The training they witnessed included simulated operations by a Tactical Air Control Party unit.

During their three-week visit, the seven cadets spent one day with the 184th in order to gain perspective on the Total Force, learning what characteristics distinguish reserve components from active duty.

“After today, I can definitely say I like the Guard,” said Cadet 2nd Class Hanna Marlette. “I can see myself doing this after active duty.”



Maj. Todd Kavouras shows cadets the type of weapons that are used by aircrews in targeting training conducted at Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range. The cadets were visiting as part of a summer program called Operation Air Force, designed to familiarize them with officer career fields and Air Force operations. (Photo by Capt. Alyson Stockton, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

# KCVA selects design for Vietnam Era Medal, Medallion and Certificate

The Kansas Commission on Veterans’ Affairs has selected the design for the Vietnam Era Medal Medallion and certificate.

The agency is in the process of soliciting bids for the production of the medallion. Individuals who served in the military during the Vietnam War era are eligible for the Medal, Medallion, and Certificate.

Applications for the Medal/Medallion and Certificates will be held at the KCVA central offices. Delivery will begin as funds become available. Applications are

processed on a first come first serve basis.

You may apply by completing a simple application form (<http://www.kcva.org/pdf/vs/Vietnam%20Medallion.pdf>) and faxing, along with a copy of your DD-214, to (785) 296-1462 or mailing it to:

Kansas Commission on Veterans’ Affairs  
Director of Veterans Services  
700 SW Jackson Ave. Suite 701  
Topeka, KS 66603

## Kansas National Guard Military Funeral Honors Team MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS APPLICATION

If you are the BEST and want to work with the BEST, complete this form!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to call \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm (Circle one)

Available to train on weekends Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Available to train on weekdays Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Would like to talk with a Military Funeral Honors Representative \_\_\_\_\_

The best time to set up an interview Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: KSARNG Honor Guard, 2800 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka KS 66611





KSARNG Honor Guard  
Phone 785-271-1520  
Cell 785-438-9202  
Fax 785-274-1687  
Email [rodney.moyer1@us.army.mil](mailto:rodney.moyer1@us.army.mil)



ANNUAL KANSAS CITY ARMORY  
**REUNION**  
**FRIDAY, NOV. 5, 2010**  
**KANSAS CITY, KAN. ARMORY**  
**100 S. 20TH ST.**  
**Social begins at 6 p.m.**  
**B-B-Q dinner follows**  
**Just \$5 per person**

Info/Registration: [stephen.gfeller@att.net](mailto:stephen.gfeller@att.net)


# Awards and Decorations


| KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Legion of Merit</b>  |  |
|    |  |
| Brig. Gen. John E. Davoren, HHD JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka<br>Col. Lawrence E. Hannan, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka<br>Col. Timothy R. Marlar, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka<br>Col. Michael C. Slusher, HHD JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka<br>Lt. Col. Gloria J. Sherman, USP&FO, Topeka  |  |
| <b>Bronze Star</b>  |  |
|    |  |
| Col. Eric Peck, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Lt. Col. Dirk Christian, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Maj. Blaine Clowser, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Capt. Trent Miller, ADT #1, Topeka<br>1st Lt. John Laurin, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Command Sgt. Maj. James Crosby, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Sgt. Maj. Jay Jackson, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Master Sgt. Paul Johnston, ADT #1, Topeka, one oak leaf cluster<br>Sgt. 1st Class Dwane Clifford, ADT #1, Topeka, one oak leaf cluster<br>Staff Sgt. Jason Carr, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Staff Sgt. Christopher Johnston, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Sgt. Lucas Atherton, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Sgt. Nathan Hunt, ADT #1, Topeka, one oak leaf cluster   |  |
| <b>Meritorious Service Medal</b>  |  |
|    |  |
| Col. Lee Tafanelli, HQ, 69th TC, Topeka, two oak leaf clusters<br>Lt. Col. Greg S. Salisbury, 287th SB, Wichita, one oak leaf cluster<br>Lt. Col. Richard A. White, KSARNG Med Det, Lenexa, one oak leaf cluster<br>Maj. Brian J. Komar, KSARNG Med Det, Lenexa, one oak leaf cluster<br>Maj. Troy Price, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Maj. Shy M. Warner, HQ, 235th Regt (KSRTI), Salina, one oak leaf cluster<br>Capt. Jeffrey Mann, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Sgt. Maj. Dennis W. Noll, HHC, 287th SB, Wichita<br>1st Sgt. Mark S. Hecht, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth<br>1st Sgt. Craig S. Tunheim, 995th Maint Co., Smith Center, two oak leaf clusters<br>Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Hren, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Master Sgt. Robert Audano, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Master Sgt. Jeremy Rabb, 184th IW, Wichita<br>Master Sgt. Harry H. Salyer, HHD JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka<br>Master Sgt. Carlo Vassalle, HHD, 635th RSG, Hutchinson, two oak leaf clusters<br>Master Sgt. Nancy White, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Sgt. 1st Class Randy Cox, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Sgt. 1st Class Jason Good, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Sgt. 1st Class John J. Jarrell, HQ, 235th Regt (KSRTI), Salina<br>Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth L. Lukavsky, 1st Bn, 235th Regt (OCS), Salina<br>Sgt. 1st Class Martin E. Pittier, HHD, 635th RSG, Hutchinson<br>Staff Sgt. Keith L. Bartlett, HHD, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka<br>Staff Sgt. Walter Miller, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Staff Sgt. Juaquin Orosco, ADT #1, Topeka |  |
| <b>Army Commendation Medal</b>  |  |
|    |  |
| Sgt. Maj. Lawrence E. Hall Jr., JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, one oak leaf cluster<br>Master Sgt. Sean Matthews, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Staff Sgt. Mark Alligood, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Staff Sgt. Daniel Bender, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Staff Sgt. Ernesto V. Gonzales, Det 1, 170th Maint Co, Colby, one oak leaf cluster<br>Staff Sgt. David Rogers, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Staff Sgt. Carolee Tustin, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Staff Sgt. Justin Underwood, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Tech. Sgt. Jared A. Hartter, 190th ARW, Topeka<br>Sgt. 1st Class Michael Dickmeyer, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Sgt. 1st Class Jamie Jackson, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Sgt. 1st Class Jodi K. Melby, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, two oak leaf clusters<br>Sgt. Anthony Boone, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Sgt. Eric Cooper, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Sgt. Joseph Debaere, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Sgt. Devry Jeffress, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Sgt. James Kellison, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Sgt. Lucas May, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Sgt. Randy Oliver, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Sgt. Robert Patrick, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Sgt. Warren Rogers, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Sgt. Kristopher Simpson, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Sgt. Jeconiah Spangler, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Cpl. Beau Gene Allen, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Cpl. Nathan Carnahan, ADT #1, Topeka<br>Cpl. Bobby Gaylor, ADT #1, Topeka  |  |

# Retirements

| Kansas Army National Guard   |  |
|--|--|
| Col. Lawrence Hannan, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka<br>Col. David Joe Wheeler, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka<br>Lt. Col. Gloria Sherman, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka<br>Maj. Daniel Evasco, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth<br>Capt. Darren Hoskins, HHD, 635th SG, Hutchinson<br>2nd Lt. Robert Judd, Co B (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Salina<br>Chief Warrant Officer 4 John Alexander, Co G, 2nd Bn, 135th Avn, Topeka<br>Sgt. Maj. Dennis Noll, HHC, 287th SB, Wichita<br>1st Sgt Alfred Besser Jr., 731st Trans (-), Larned<br>1st Sgt Lonnie Lacroix, Co D (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka<br>Master Sgt. Max Wharton, HHC, 287th SB, Wichita<br>Sgt. 1st Class Rosalyn Carr, HHC, 287th SB, Wichita<br>Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Goheen, Co A, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka<br>Sgt. 1st Class Richard Hartman, HHD, 635th SG, Hutchinson<br>Sgt. 1st Class Richard Jackson, HHC, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth<br>Sgt. 1st Class Donald Johnson, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth<br>Sgt. 1st Class Larry Larson, Det 1, 170th Maint Co, Goodland<br>Sgt. 1st Class Michael Mai, 287th SB, Wichita<br>Sgt. 1st Class Leonard McNutt II, HQ, 235th Regt (RTI), Salina<br>Sgt. 1st Class Martin Pittier, HHD, 635th SG, Hutchinson<br>Sgt. 1st Class George Savage Jr., 2137th FSC, Manhattan<br>Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Schneider, HHC, 287th SB, |  |


Cpl. Zachary Kirkham, ADT #1, Topeka  
Cpl. Diego Raymundo, ADT #1, Topeka  
Spc. Grant Anderson, ADT #1, Topeka  
Spc. Jeffery Blascyk, ADT #1, Topeka  
Spc. Kyle Bolling, 250th FSC, Ottawa  
Spc. Jeremy Burgess, ADT #1, Topeka  
Spc. Cedrick L Burghart, ADT #1, Topeka  
Spc. William Corkins, ADT #1, Topeka  
Spc. Jeremy Ewan, ADT #1, Topeka  
Spc. Christopher Hanke, ADT #1, Topeka  
Spc. Alexander Horn, ADT #1, Topeka  
Spc. Victor Huff, ADT #1, Topeka  
Spc. Joshua Kline, ADT #1, Topeka  
Spc. Trung Nguyen, ADT #1, Topeka  
Spc. David C. Zenner, ADT #1, Topeka

| Army Achievement Medal  |
|---|
|  |
| <p>Spc. Andrew Fuoss, ADT #1, Topeka<br/>Spc. Richard Hansen, ADT #1, Topeka</p>  |

| Kansas National Guard Distinguished Service Medal   |
|---|
|                      |
| <p>Col. Lawrence E. Hannan, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka<br/>Col. Michael P. Dittamo, 635th RSG, Hutchinson</p> |

| KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD   |
|---|
| Meritorious Service Medal   |
|  |

Col. Bradley Link, 190th ARW, Topeka, eight oak leaf clusters  
Col. Jeffrey Zillinger, 190th ARW, Topeka, two oak leaf clusters  
Chief Master Sgt. Philip Mahan, 190th ARW, Topeka, one oak leaf cluster  
Chief Master Sgt. Leslie Money, 190th ARW, Topeka, three oak leaf clusters  
Chief Master Sgt. Howard Steanson, 190th ARW, Topeka, three oak leaf clusters  
Senior Master Sgt. Chad Bellquist, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Master Sgt. Gary Cox, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Master Sgt. Jill Jantz, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Master Sgt. Brian L. York, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Gordon R. Bosie, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Teresa Fulton, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Donald L. Gerstenkorn, 184th IW, Wichita, one oak leaf cluster  
Master Sgt. Troy Hultgren, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Jean Robinson, 190th ARW, Topeka, one oak leaf cluster  
Master Sgt. Curtis R. Rogers, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. James C. Schlehuber, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Gerlad M. Singer, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Terry Spangler, 190th ARW, Topeka

| Air Force Achievement Medal  |
|--|
|   |
| <p>Col. Derek Rogers, 190th ARW, Topeka<br/>Lt. Col. Christopher Gnagi, 190th ARW, Topeka, three oak leaf clusters<br/>Capt. Craig M. Cooper, 184th IW, Wichita, second oak leaf cluster<br/>Chief Master Sgt. Lucian L. Buttel, 184th IW, Wichita, four oak leaf clusters<br/>Chief Master Sgt. Richard Meador, 190th ARW, Topeka<br/>Senior Master Sgt. Robert Bledsoe, 190th ARW, Topeka<br/>Master Sgt. Timothy A. Kern, 184th IW, Wichita, one oak leaf cluster<br/>Master Sgt. Robin Lewis, 190th ARW, Topeka<br/>Master Sgt. Billy R. Mayo, 184th IW, Wichita, one oak leaf cluster<br/>Master Sgt. Mark A. Rush, 184th IW, Wichita, one oak leaf cluster<br/>Master Sgt. Peter Tavares, 190th ARW, Topeka<br/>Master Sgt. Kathleen Thornton, 190th ARW, Topeka<br/>Tech. Sgt. Jamel Francis, 190th ARW, Topeka<br/>Tech. Sgt. Kent A Niebuhr, 184th IW, Wichita, one oak leaf cluster<br/>Tech. Sgt. Jason Parker, 190th ARW, Topeka<br/>Tech. Sgt. Theresa K. Spears, 184th IW, Wichita<br/>Tech. Sgt. Carola Todd, 190th ARW, Topeka, second oak leaf cluster<br/>Staff Sgt. Craig Jackson, 190th ARW, Topeka<br/>Staff Sgt. Brett A Peine, 184th IW, Wichita, one oak leaf cluster<br/>Staff Sgt. Joshua Stuchlik, 190th ARW, Topeka, one oak leaf cluster<br/>Senior Airman Rudy Belew, 190th ARW, Topeka<br/>Senior Airman Justin McDaniel, 190th ARW, Topeka, second oak leaf cluster<br/>Airman 1st Class Matthew Greene, 190th ARW, Topeka</p> |

Wichita  
Sgt. 1st Class Drue Staatz, HQ, 235th Regt (RTI), Salina  
Sgt. 1st Class Roy Wagner III, HHC, 287th SB, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Anthony Landon, Rec & Ret, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Lynn Lannon, Btry C (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman  
Staff Sgt. Randall Sparkman, 2137th FSC, Manhattan  
Sgt. Walter Craft, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lenexa  
Sgt. Michael Cruse, 35th MP, Topeka  
Sgt. Kenneth Eurton, Det 2, 731st Trans Co, Wichita  
Sgt. Jason Hulse, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Phillisburg  
Sgt. Brian Kelly, 35th MP, Topeka  
Spc. Sterling Addison, Det 1, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Lenexa  
Spc. Brian Stewart, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola  
Spc. Mark West, Co B (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Salina

| Kansas Air National Guard  |
|--|
| <p>Lt. Col. Brian J. Moore, 184th IW, Wichita<br/>Lt. Col. William S. Waddell, 184th IW, Wichita<br/>Chief Master Sgt. Alan Conner, 184th IW, Wichita<br/>Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Hren, 190th ARW, Topeka<br/>Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Johnson, 190th ARW, Topeka<br/>Senior Master Sgt. Mark E. Post, 184th IW, Wichita<br/>Senior Master Sgt. Brian York, 184th IW, Wichita<br/>Master Sgt. Alan L. Beat, 184th IW, Wichita<br/>Master Sgt. Donald Gerstenkorn, 184th IW, Wichita<br/>Master Sgt. William McClain, 190th ARW, Topeka<br/>Master Sgt. Gerald Singer, 184th IW, Wichita<br/>Staff Sgt. Gregory Bates, 190th ARW, Topeka<br/>Staff Sgt. Bobby Logan, 184th IW, Wichita<br/>Tech. Sgt. David A. Steele, 184th IW, Wichita<br/>Tech. Sgt. Toney Turner, 184th IW, Wichita</p> |

# Baby boomers passing the leadership baton to younger generations

By Chief Master Sgt. Sharon Clark  
 Command Chief, 184 Intelligence Wing

As an Air National Guard command chief, I travel extensively and I pride myself on being an experienced traveler. However, recently I had just settled in my seat on a commercial airline when a young voice came over the speaker system announcing he was the pilot and they were ready for takeoff. The pilot sounded very young and I began to question his capability to fly! Luckily, after a rather nervous flight, we landed without incident.



While waiting to exit the aircraft, I wondered if that is the way we treat our Airmen and Soldiers. Do military leaders fear the decisions of our young service members, especially when something’s at risk? Will the next generation have what it takes to lead our military into the future?

In my college days, I wrote a research paper on three generations and how they affected the workplace. The Baby Boomers are currently the longest running workforce, born between 1946 and 1964. Generation X was born between 1965 and 1976, and the Millennials were born between 1977 and 1998. In my research, each generation created challenges in the workplace as leaders struggled to understand the different professional goals and ambitions of their employees. In the military, we have standards that hold every generation to the same level of expectations. As a supervisor, all this generation stuff can literally boggle your mind. Do we focus on what motivates our Airmen and Soldiers or solely utilize our tradition of military standards?

I believe that in order to motivate and mentor each generation you have to understand what makes them tick. Some would suggest that generation study is a civilian tool and should not be used in the military. After all, our profession, the profession of arms, can be deadly. Others hold to the fact that our jobs are dangerous and strict military standards are the priority.

I agree wholeheartedly, when you are talking about technical expertise in your job. However, in order to mold our Airmen and Soldiers into future military leaders, I am willing to use all professional studies available to me.

I have listened to supervisors from the Baby Boomer generation express frustration in not being able to get through to the young service members. Could the frustration stem from the difference in what motivates each generation? According to Diane Thielfoldt and Devon Scheef, who wrote the article “Genera-

tion X and the Millennials: What you need to know about mentoring the new generation.” “The Baby Boomers are motivated by workplace authority and corporate benefit packages. They are workaholics, who spend more time in the workplace than at home. Generation X is more accepting of diversity. They are known as the latchkey kids, with strong independence and self reliance. They perform better when someone is not looking over their shoulder and expect immediate and ongoing feedback. They are also equally comfortable giving feedback to others, especially to leadership. They have a strong mistrust in institutions and tend to be committed to their craft, not their organization.”

As for the Millennial generation, the article defines the generation as “the most child-focused time in our history. This generation was showered with attention and held to high expectations. They became multi-taskers at an early age, juggling school, sports and social interests. They are self confident and expect structure and stability.”

In my early years, I relied on the military’s structure, stability and my Baby Boomer philosophy to guide me as a supervisor. I strongly believed that if I led my Airmen with fair, equitable treatment, they would progress in their military career. My theory worked until I started supervising multiple generations. It took me several years to realize that providing mentorship had to become a specialized responsibility. Baby Boomers equate self-worth to work accomplishments and wanted more responsibility. Generation X required more cross talk, but no over the shoulder supervision. Millennials were good with group mentoring and worked best in a strong team environment. When I applied generation study to mentoring my enlisted core, I alleviated confusion and miscommunication.

Communication is what brings me back to the airline pilot. Even though he communicated in a professional voice, I was still skeptical of his ability to fly the plane. As military leaders, do we trust our younger service members to get the job done?

You can read any military magazine and you’ll see that Baby Boomers, Generation X and the millennial generations have real American heroes. They are fresh out of high school, college graduates, civilian professionals and long standing military leaders. They understand that every mission depends upon their military standards, technical expertise and leadership. Baby Boomers have risen to the many challenges that have faced their generation.

However, their most important responsibility is to ensure the members of Generation X and the Millennials are prepared to accept the baton of military leadership. We have to trust that this baton, regardless of motivation, methods of study or world events, will continue to move forward.

# Crisis City has expansion plans

Continued from Page 8  
 crisis as well as close-quarters small-arms combat operations.

Rail Venue: The first venue constructed at Crisis City. This venue includes a diesel engine, two boxcars, two liquid cars, a grain/coal car, and a two level passenger car. It is suitable for derailment search and rescue operations, hazardous material search and containment operations, train stoppage training, and many other such training operations.

Crisis City Headquarters: The building has classroom facilities, a conference room, working office spaces, a state of the art communications suite and a command

tower with a 300-degree view of all of Crisis City so that observer/controllers and incident commanders can control operations on all of the venues while maintaining line-of-site contact with all personnel.

Agricultural and Farm Safety Venue: This venue will include a barn with loft, numerous pieces of agriculture equipment including an anhydrous ammonia cart and a grain silo. The AG venue will focus on entrapment/entanglement scenarios and rescue operations that frequently occur in an agricultural environment..

For more information, go online to [http://kansastag.ks.gov/kdem\\_default.asp](http://kansastag.ks.gov/kdem_default.asp)

# Conference builds “Strong Bonds”

By Sgt. Jason Lee  
Public Affairs Office

The Kansas National Guard Chaplains office, along with the Family Programs Office held a Strong Bonds Training marriage retreat weekend at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Wichita July 16-18.

The Kansas National Guard Strong Bonds Training retreat benefited Soldiers and their spouses by creating strong support networks, and worked on creating strong mission ready families.

“By far, the majority of the evaluations turned in after the completion of the weekend were extremely positive,” said Chaplain (Capt.) Richard Dunn, Joint Forces Headquarters Support Chaplain. “Most couples reported learning one or more new principles to apply to their marriage relationship.”

Couples who attended the marriage retreat were taught several relationship building techniques like learning to hear what your spouse is saying. The couples learned to become nonjudgemental when discussing issues with their partners.

“We gave them a lot of tools for their marriage. We covered subjects like forgiveness and commitment,” said Sgt. Mike McClellan Joint Support Chaplains Assistant.

“The speaker/listener technique slows down the process of arguments or even normal day conversation to make sure the couples are truly hearing and understanding one another.”

“(This training) is to help couples at every stage in the marriage,” said Lt. Col. Dana Duggins 287th Sustainment Brigade. “(it helps) to strengthen their communication skills and their relationship.”

The program is designed to be stress free so couples can focus on each other for the weekend. The state Family Program Office pays for the lodging, meals and mileage which helps the couples relax so they can focus on the family training.

“I think we have learned a lot about each other by communicating the new way,” said group participant Jennifer Redenies. “I think I know now where his (her husband) goals are for the future, where he wants to be, where he is at now, where his stressors are and what really means a lot to him.”

Strong Bonds Training retreats are offered to both Kansas Army and Air National Guard Soldiers several times throughout the year. Air National Guard interested in attending need to contact their Wing Family Program Coordinator.

# Use of GIS technology earns award for department



Jessica Frye, GIS coordinator for the Adjutant General’s Department, accepted a Special Achievement in GIS Award from Esri International on behalf of the agency. (Photo provided)

The Kansas Adjutant General’s Department received a Special Achievement in GIS Award at the 30th Annual Esri International User Conference in San Diego, Calif., July 14.

The award was presented for vision, leadership, hard work and innovative use of Esri’s geographic information system (GIS) technology. The Adjutant General’s Department was selected from more than 300,000 organizations worldwide.

“I’m proud of the work our GIS staff has accomplished in finding many ways to use this technology to further advance our disaster response capabilities, while also assisting other state efforts and our many local partners,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general. “Our team, lead by Jessica Frye, is among the best and extremely deserving of this recognition.”

Frye accepted the award at the conference. The department uses geographic information systems to support the organization and the state through geographic database design and management, desktop and web based applications and printed maps. The department was nominated and received the award for the work accomplished through homeland security regional GIS projects throughout the state.

The projects have three phases: County GIS Inventory, Most Valuable Professional Meetings, GIS Data Gap Analysis. The inventory allowed the project team to determine what currently exists, the MVP meetings allowed responders across the region to voice their information requirements during disaster situations and the

Gap Analysis allowed the team to determine which GIS data layers should be the focus in a phase II project.

The project brought together GIS professionals, first responders and public/private industry to work on boosting the GIS capability statewide.

All GIS data acquired and created through phase II will be included in the state’s common operating picture, Kansas-MAP. Kansas-MAP is an online web-based application built for Kansas by Kansas responders to meet their response requirements, such as plume modeling, find closest resource and routing.

“We created the Special Achievement in GIS Award to recognize our users’ extraordinary contributions to global society,” says Jack Dangermond, Esri president. “Each year, I look forward to being part of this ceremony; it’s a tradition that has gained great meaning and importance for professionals in the GIS industry.”

GIS combines computer hardware, software, data, and, most importantly, people to collect, manage and analyze geographic information. Virtually any information can be linked to a geographic location, helping people see that information as part of a complete picture. With GIS, users can view relationships, processes, patterns and trends in the form of maps, globes, reports and charts. Whether responding to a natural disaster, growing a business or sharing information with the public, GIS helps solve problems and make smart decisions. More than one million people worldwide rely on GIS to learn and plan geographically.



Kansas National Guard couples watched a video during a training session for the “Strong Bonds” marriage retreat conducted in Wichita. (Photo by Senior Airman Matt Lucht, Public Affairs Office)

# You may be eligible for post-mobilization compensation

The Army National Guard has been very successful in tracking down the thousands of Soldiers, including those who have retired or separated, who were eligible to apply for Post Deployment Mobilization Respite Absence compensation for serving long, overseas deployments.

More than 10,000 of the 14,000 eligible Soldiers have submitted packets to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, but “there’s more work to do,” said Maj. Gen. Raymond Carpenter, acting director of the Army National Guard.

The Department of Defense developed PDMRA for servicemembers who were deployed longer than established dwell ratios. For reserve component servicemembers that dwell ratio is one year deployed for every five years at home station.

“If you have a tour ending today, you look back 72 months and if you were (mobilized) for more than 12 months out of that 72 months, you may be eligible for PDMRA days,” said Col. Dennis Chapman, the chief of the Army Guard’s Personnel Policy and Readiness Division.

Initially, PDMRA allowed Soldiers to earn additional administrative leave days for the additional time spent deployed. However, Soldiers must be in a Title 10 status to use those leave days. That meant that once Army Guard Soldiers returned to Title 32 status, they were ineligible to use those days, said Chapman.

As a stop gap measure the policy was revised and allowed eligible Soldiers to apply

those leave days to their next deployment. But for those who left the service or don’t deploy again, that effectively meant they couldn’t take advantage of the benefit, said Chapman.

“Congress passed a law in the most recent National Defense Authorization Act, authorizing the services to pay Soldiers at a rate of up to \$200 a day for any PDMRA days they earned... but were not able to take,” said Chapman.

Primarily, those who may have earned days under the program, but were not able to use them, are those Guard Soldiers serving on active duty between the signing of the initial policy on Jan. 19, 2007, and when implementation guidelines were published by the Army on Aug. 18, 2007, said Chapman.

However, other laws and policies may affect a Soldier’s eligibility.

Typically, a Guard Soldier who serves longer than 12 months during the most recent 72 months gets one PDMRA day for each additional month or fraction of a month. The number of PDMRA days awarded increases after 18 months and again after 24 months served.

On average, those who are eligible receive credit for about 28 days, which translates to more than \$5,000, said Chapman. And those who feel they may be eligible are urged to contact their unit leadership or their state military pay officer.

For more information, contact ArmyNationalGuardPDMRA@ng.army.mil

# Thirteen graduate from 235th Regiment Officer Candidate School

Thirteen Kansas National Guard officer candidates received their commissions Aug. 14 during the the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame induction, graduation and commissioning ceremonies. The ceremony was conducted in Building 365 at the Kansas Regional Training Institute, Salina, Kan.

This year’s Hall of Fame Ceremony honored retired Kansas Army National Guard officer Col. David Joe Wheeler.

Officer candidates receiving their commissions were Ronny O. Adorno, Riley; Matthew J. Ayers, Wichita; Cameron C. Crenshaw, Larned; William J. Gardenhire, Lawrence; Lynette M. Ham, Wichita; Erin M. Kelley, Meriden; Louis S. Latimer, Kechi; Benjamin P. Moore, Augusta; Samuel Ornelas, Manhattan; Edward V. Raschen, Coffeyville; Georgia S. Schafer, Winchester; and Matthew R. Williams, Topeka. Officer Candidate Tyson C. Winingham, Wichita, will receive his at a later date.

The 235th Regiment, Kansas Army Na-

tional Guard, Salina, hosts the annual OCS Hall of Fame and Commissioning Ceremonies. Its purpose is to pay special tribute to those outstanding officers and leaders who were graduates of the program and have since retired, left the military or passed away.

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

When the OCS Hall of Fame was established, it was determined that the induction ceremony would coincide with the commissioning ceremony for the officer candidates that were commissioning as second lieutenants. This allows the newest officers of the Kansas National Guard to read the biographies of Hall of Fame inductees, the older officers of the Kansas Army National Guard.

## Painting depicts last flight of heroic Kansas Guardsman

By Sgt. Jason Lee  
Public Affairs Office

The museum of the Kansas National Guard in Topeka received the first copy of a painting that depicts Medal of Honor recipients Erwin Bleckley and Harold Goettler June 14.

The painting, “Mortal Immortal” by artist Mike O’Neal, was donated to the museum by Jerry Hester, World War I aviation historian, with a dedication from the artist to the men and women of the Kansas Air National Guard.

2nd Lt. Erwin Bleckley was a member of the Kansas National Guard from Wichita, Kan. and the first Air National Guardsman to receive the Medal of Honor when he was sent over to fight in World War I. Bleckley, originally a field artillery officer, became a forward observer in the 50th Aero Squadron, Remicourt, France. Bleckley and pilot, 1st. Lt. Harold Goettler, were shot down by German troops on their second attempt to locate and resupply the “Lost Battalion.”

“It makes me feel proud to be a member of the Kansas National Guard organization. As a former Guardsman it is an honor serving the citizens of Kansas along with people such as Erwin R. Bleckley. His life has been an inspiration to me and many other Guardsmen,” said retired Lt. Col. Doug Jacobs, Kansas National Guard command historian. “Erwin is unique in that he represents both the Army and the Air National Guard, as a field artillery officer flying as a forward observer in an airplane.”

The original painting was created so a copy of it could be placed on the cover of the 2010 summer edition of Over the Front, a World War I aviation historian magazine. It depicts the plane that Bleckley and Goettler were in moments before it crashed. Bleckley was believed to have been trying to save the plane from crashing after Goettler was mortally wounded.

For their efforts at trying to locate the “Lost Battalion,” Bleckley and Goettler were posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 1922.



**Jerry Hester, World War I aviation historian (left) and Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, unveil “Mortal Immortal,” a painting depicting the final moments of the fatal flight of 2nd Lt. Erwin Bleckley and 1st Lt. Harold Goettler during World War I. Hester donated the painting to the Museum of the Kansas National Guard in Topeka. (Photo by Sgt. Jason Lee, Public Affairs Office)**

## Topeka business receives “My Boss is a Patriot” award

AutoZone in Topeka, Kan., was the recipient of an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Award from the Kansas National Guard. The award was presented Aug. 19, at the Kansas National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility #1, Forbes Field, in Topeka.

AutoZone employs Sgt. Steven Baker, a traditional Kansas National Guardsman, who is a helicopter crew chief with Company A, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation.

Baker nominated AutoZone to receive the “My Boss is a Patriot Award.” Jose Vasquez, California Avenue store manager; and Richard Fortner, district manager accepted on behalf of the business.

“My employer has always been very supportive of my position in the Guard,” said Baker. “They have allowed me to take off work and rearrange my schedule when duty has called. They have been so supportive that I wanted to give back to them for all of their support, so I nominated them for this award.”

“If it weren’t for traditional Guardsmen the Kansas National Guard wouldn’t be able to do what we do,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general. “The support of employers like AutoZone for

our Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen is crucial in our mission of supporting our communities, our state and our country when the call comes in.”

“When our Guardsmen know they have the support of their employer, it allows them to focus on their mission to the state and country and succeed in both their civilian and military roles,” said Lt. Col. David Leger, commander, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation.

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of Defense-sponsored, all volunteer committee of business, community and military leaders dedicated to assisting our nation in fielding a strong, prepared and valued National Guard and Reserve force.

The Kansas Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve promote public understanding and employer support of the critical role of the Kansas Guard and Reserve components to advance national interests and protect the nation’s security and gain and maintain active support from public and private Kansas employers for the men and women of the Kansas National Guard and Reserve as defined by demonstrated employer commitment to employee military service.

## Alert and ready for action



**Spc. Leonard Herrman and Spc. Jerry Lofland from Battery E (Target Acquisition) 161 Field Artillery, take security positions while conducting Situation Training Exercise lanes at Fort Riley, Kan., on July 20, 2010. The battalion is preparing to deploy to the Horn of Africa. The STX lanes were utilized to help develop and assess the squad level leadership in preparation for the deployment. (Photo by Capt. Rodney Galindo)**

## School helping Afghan engineers improve skills

By Spc. Celia Prince, UPAR  
226th Engineer Company

When summer comes, most students are jumping at the chance to put their pencils down and go outside to play, but in Afghanistan, that is far from the desire.

Students here are eager just to have the chance to be a part of a community that allows schools. For these students, attending a school means the possibility of having a job and making money to support their families. The latest school to make progress in the area is the Center for Engineering Excellence, facilitated by Gallant Engineering Team and Construction Company. The school teaches vertical engineering skills to men in their early 20’s to mid 30’s from around the Paktika Province to help them take their work to the next level: getting hired by area Paktika contractors or develop their own contractor company.

From March 15 –May 25, 2010, 24 students worked to improve the skills they already had. Capt. Rocky Hodges of the 226th Engineer Company and his team collaborated with the president of Gallant Engineering Team and Construction Company, Engineer Wajhuddin, to help the students have a better sense of knowing correct procedures when it comes to their contracting skills.

The students who came to the school al-

ready had vertical contractor skills, but joined so they could become a part of something greater, the building up of their province. In many of the prior construction projects, their methods of fabrication were correct, but through the help of the school the contractors are able to hone their skills and improve those projects.

May 25 marked a milestone – graduation day -- for the men of the spring 2010 contractor class. Mubibulla Samim, the new governor of Paktika Province, visited the students and saw firsthand the growth they’ve made to become hireable contractors. Samim encouraged them in their progress and shook their hands as the diplomas were passed out. Promising them if they had a problem finding a job, they were “welcome to come to his office and he would place them in a job.”

Shadi Khan, Social Labor director and member of the Paktika Province, also stopped in to congratulate the students. He reassured the students “that even though there are other places to work and make money outside of their country,” staying in their own province sends “a strong and clear message.” By encouraging the young men to stay in their own locale, “it would create a corruption-free government able to stand on its own” and would open the doors for other new contractors to build a more stable and productive community.



**Interpreter Dawood speaks with Engineer Wajhuddin, president of Gallant Engineering Team and Construction Company, about the possibility of hiring any of the graduating students. (Photo by Spc. Celia Prince, UPAR)**