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Soldiers deploy to monitor levees, provide security

**By Sgt. Shawn Stovall, UPAR
2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery**

As the Missouri River began to rise, so did the possibility of a flood. Several communities in the St. Joseph, Mo., area have been at risk, including a 13-mile stretch of levee in Elwood, Kan. Once the water level reached 22 feet, it was clear that the levee was going to need constant monitoring. Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery were ready when the call was made for support and Operation Thunder II was born.

Ten Soldiers reported to battalion headquarters in Hiawatha, Kan., to begin their mission briefs and training. They were going to need training on everything from equipment, including how to operate the Gator all-terrain vehicles, to proper procedures of spotting problem areas in the levee. After the briefs were finished in Hiawatha, the local Pizza Hut provided a free lunch for the Soldiers before they started the next phase of their mission at Rosecrans Air Force Base in St. Joseph, located just outside of Elwood, Kan.

Once the Soldiers made it to Rosecrans Air Force Base, they were trained by the Army Corps of Engineers on how to properly monitor the levee, how to spot problems and how to properly prepare those problem areas for maintenance. Also taking part in the training were public officials from the surrounding area. The audience ranged from police officers to city councilmen from Elwood and Wathena, as well as St. Joseph. It was here it was made clear this was going to be a group effort with the community playing a very big role.

The Soldiers were later transported to Elwood High School, where they stayed during the entirety of their mission. What was a Spanish class during the school



Ten Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, Hiawatha, Kan., help the citizens of Elwood, Kan., with flood monitoring on a 13-mile stretch of federal levees and other flood related activities (Photo provided)

year became the Soldier's new temporary barracks. They were given access to the gym, weight room, football field and dining facilities.

Volunteers from the surrounding area signed up to donate food, drinks and to serve meals to the Soldiers three times a day. Tammy Norris and Brandon Funk, both from Wathena, were two of the volunteers during lunch time.

"It feels great to be able to help the community and lend a hand," said Norris, a school teacher during the fall. "We both have flexible schedules and what better way to spend the summer then to help out these Soldiers while they are here."

Pfc. Jeremy Yoho had great things to say about how helpful the community has been

during their stay. "We are treated like family here," said Yoho, a Topeka, Kan., native. "This is why I signed up to be in the National Guard, to help out communities in crisis. Everyone is extremely hospitable and it is amazing to see how well they have been taking care of us."

The levee monitoring is broken down into six hour shifts, with Soldiers working both day and night rotations. Spc. Ramone Addington has been tasked with daytime operations.

"When we find a problem area, such as a sand boil, we mark it with orange construction paint and call it in," said Addington, a Hiawatha native. "Keeping an alert status, staying focused and hydrated are key components during the day."

The night shifts bring different obstacles to overcome. Pfc. Roy Lockhart, from Holton, Kan., knows what it takes to be successful during night time operations.

"We did some day time routes, so we could familiarize ourselves with the terrain," said Lockhart. "Of course once it's dark out, there are always things that try and catch you off guard. We are equipped with halogen flashlights that allow us to have an extreme amount of visibility, but we always have to be on watch for the local wildlife. We don't want to disturb them while we are out here."

While the Soldiers were out on patrols, the Command Center, set up at the Elwood High School, was ready to make the call to the Emergency Operation Center at a moment's notice. Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Johnson, Savannah, Mo., was ready to assist his Soldiers when they call in a potential problem.

"We are a key aspect for the city of Elwood to help quickly identify where the problems are and how to fix them," said Johnson. "Once the Soldiers call in a problem the call goes to the EOC located at the Elwood Fire Station and from there directly to the levee district."

This line of communication is vital for the overall success of the mission. Currently, the Soldiers are not manning the EOC, but once the water level reaches 25 feet the Soldiers take on 24-hour shift rotations and have a presence inside the fire station.

It is unclear how long the Soldiers will be deployed to the city of Elwood. Initially it was for six weeks, but with constant severe storms in the area, the Soldiers could be there through the month August. The strong support from community volunteers and city officials has made a significant impact on the mission. No matter how long the Soldiers have to patrol the levee, it is clear that the community is there to help.

KSARNG unit teams with 1st Infantry to certify range

**By Capt. Matt Hapke
2nd Combined Arms Battalion,
137th Infantry Regiment**

On the morning of May 16, 2011, the main guns of six M1A1 Abrams tanks and six Bradley Fighting Vehicles from the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment began a barrage of fire which signaled the start of a special joint endeavor to improve the capabilities package of Fort Riley, Kan. This exercise, which combined the efforts of the 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley Range Operations, and the Kansas Army National Guard, provided the necessary Government Acceptance Test for the Digital Multi-Purpose Range Complex, or DMPRC.

The DMPRC is a state-of-the-art digital live-fire range complex that can support everything from dismounted Soldiers, to High Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs), to Bradley Fighting Vehicles and Abrams Tanks, to attack helicopters like the AH-64 Apache. It has six firing lanes that are being watched by six cameras to aid in the after action review process, giving Soldiers better feedback immediately following their firing exercise.

The command tower of the DMPRC is

reminiscent of an aircraft control tower at any modern airport. Its four command levels house computers and monitors allow both

range operators and military leadership to see what is happening on the range both in
(Continued on Page 9)



Six M1A1 Abrams tanks from the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment help conduct a Government Acceptance Test for a newly built Digital Multi-Purpose Range Complex on Fort Riley, Kan., May 16, 2011. (Photo by Capt. Matt Hapke)

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Kansas Agribusiness Development Team #3 conducts spur ride

By Sgt. Kenneth Kumle
Combined Joint Task Force 1

After the sun set, Soldiers and Airmen deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with the 3/6 Kansas Cavalry Agribusiness Development Team 3, were restless as they awaited the start of the “spur ride,” a tradition exclusive to cavalry units.

The official start time was 3:30 a.m., May 25, to take advantage of the cool pre-dawn, but true to the Army spur ride tradition, the cadre, known as spur-holders, arrived at 9 p.m. the night before, calling forth the “Shavetails” to begin establishing their teams.

Participants threw on their gear, and team leaders raced to fulfill their first assignment: gather three service members of higher rank. Each candidate was required to have all of the required items. However, some Shavetails returned missing required items and soon paid for it.

Service members without a camel back found themselves carrying a series of water bottles tied together with parachute rigging cord. No watch? A wall clock hung around their neck as a reminder of the importance of keeping track of time. The boisterous cadre elicited laughs from all as they singled out candidates for infractions, good-naturedly berating the unprepared and making a ruckus as the Shavetails looked anywhere but in the eyes of the cadre as they had been instructed.

“Back to your bunks!” ordered the spur-holders around 11 p.m. to the teams standing at parade rest. The participants needed their rest for the 3:30 a.m. competition start and the long day ahead, the cadre said.

The tradition of the spur ride and “earning the spurs” goes back to the origin of the U.S. Cavalry, with new riders learning the ropes prior to donning the spurs that earmark a cavalryman. The term “shavetail” refers to their assigned horse having its tail shorn close, visible at a distance and serving the dual purpose of identifying the novice riders and marking their time. There



Spur ride candidate, Sgt. Paul Olson, Manhattan, Kan., center, raises his arm in celebration as he, and teammates 1st Lt. Benjamin Pimpl, Olpe, Kan., left rear, and Sgt. 1st Class James M. Swafford, Emporia, Kan., right, all with the 3/6 Kansas Cavalry Agribusiness Development Team 3, finish the last of their ruck-march iterations on Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam, Afghanistan, May 25. Olson’s enthusiasm earned him the popular vote for the most motivated candidate. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandon Schultz, 3/6 Kansas Cavalry Agribusiness Development Team 3)

was an understanding that by the time the horse’s hair grows to a full tail, both rider and mount will have learned the core skills of cavalry movement, orders and tactics necessary to operate within a horse-mounted military unit.

Modern times have seen the retirement of the horse, but not the pride or traditions. Hooves have been replaced with wheels, armor tracks and rotor blades; the bugle call to “Charge!” replaced by radio-borne affirmatives. However, the tether to the cavalry of old can be seen in the spurs, Stetsons and sabers Soldiers traditionally wear today for formal armor and cavalry

functions, and it is primarily through spur ride events that Soldiers earn the honor of wearing the Stetsons and spurs.

At 3 a.m., the Shavetails poured from their living areas into the predawn darkness into the teams they formed the night before. The cadre rearranged the teams, dictating the rosters.

“The whole time it reminded me of basic training, but this time I got to talk back,” said Spc. Jason Cook, resident of Wichita, Kan., a truck crewman with the ADT 3. The exchanges between the spur-holder cadre and the candidates, seeking to earn their spurs, maintained its tempo and

humor as the Shavetails mustered for their next task — a two-mile ruck-march called the “hump-walk.”

The teams marched around the perimeter of Forward Observation Base Mehtar Lam, past the living areas, firing range, maintenance bays and airfield.

The seven teams split to one of seven performance stations: six static stations with additional ruck-march iterations serving as the seventh station. During the spur ride, the cadre graded the candidates on weapons, maintenance, emergency resupply, marksmanship, medical and a written exam on cavalry history. Candidates traversed two-mile ruck-marches between each station.

An element of the competition was the teams earned more points for faster march times. The timer only stops when the last member crosses the finish line.

“It was good for the simple fact that so many guys haven’t seen a traditional spur ride The biggest thing is can [the service members] think outside the box with their skill sets,” stated Master Sgt. Michael L. Crist of Basehor, Kan., a personnel officer for ADT 3.

As the sun rose and the Afghanistan heat arrived, competitors joked “It’s a dry heat.” The first casualties of the spur ride were a few of the “extra” team members, a soft boiled egg each team was required to name, protect and carry through the spur-ride. By the end of the day, three eggs were lost, and in the heat, fried to perfection.

Significant to this particular spur ride, despite being in a combat zone, was the entry of Senior Airman Melissa Hidalgo, a medic attached to ADT 3, and native of Costa Rica who currently resides in Topeka, Kan. Female spur-holders are rare, and Air Force spur-holders rarer still.

According to Col. Howard E. Wheeler, a native of Manhattan, Kan., commander of the ADT 3, Hidalgo may be the first female Kansas Air Guard spur holder.

“It was an honor to ... partake in the spur (Continued on Page 11)

Maintenance company provides needed support to MATES

By Sgt. Kevin Landers, UPAR
The 995th Maintenance Company conducted annual training at the Maneuver

Area Training Equipment Site at Fort Riley, Kan. While at annual training, the unit worked on vehicles and equipment



Spc. Jonah Stafford, 995th Maintenance Company, works on a trailer at the Fort Riley MATES during his annual training (Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Fankhauser)

that they would not normally work on. “The training that the Soldiers received was very beneficial to keep their skills sharp,” said Master Sgt. Jimmy Jarvis, 995th acting first sergeant.

The unit opened 132 work orders which resulted in 1,480 hours of direct labor time. The Allied Trades section completed eight of nine nonmission capable work orders. The remaining order had additional electrical problems which had to be sent to another shop for repairs. The trailers all needed the bed board replaced on them. They also load tested the material handling cranes for two Forward Repair Sites.

The Commo Section installed radio mount kits on 10 humvees. They also worked 186 night vision goggles for two different units.

The Organizational Maintenance section repaired two nonmission capable vehicles, performed two annual services on the Heavy Equipment Transporter and four annual services on M113 track vehicles.

The 995th Maintenance Company was augmented by Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 287th Sustainment Brigade, 731st Transportation Company and the 170th Maintenance Company, which led to the overwhelming success of the unit’s annual training.

“The focus for this annual training was individual Soldier MOS (Military Occupational Skills) training, as well as team building,” said Capt. Wallace Miller, 995th commander. “Soldiers of the 995th Maintenance Company and sister companies were able to expand their individual skill sets by working on new equipment which is not available at the unit level.”

“It was amazing to watch four companies come together and accomplish so

“ It was amazing to watch four companies come together and accomplish so much in such a short amount of time.”
**Capt. Wallace Miller,
commander
995th Maintenance Co.**

much in such a short amount of time,” said Miller. “The dedication, enthusiasm and professionalism of these Soldiers were the critical factors which allowed the 995th Maintenance Company to far surpass workload expectations.”

The unit also worked two high visibility work orders. One was for the repair of a piece of equipment at the Fort Riley museum. The second was to perform services on 95 M16s and four M203s for the 170th Maintenance Company before their upcoming range.

Drivers’ training was conducted on the up-armored family of medium tactical vehicles, light medium tactical vehicle, Forward Repair Site and the load handling system. This resulted in getting 28 Soldiers trained on the FMTV and the LMTV. Five Soldiers trained on the FRS and the LHS equipment.

While conducting physical training, the unit was also preparing Soldiers to go to Warrior Leader Course. They accomplished this by have them conduct the Army Physical Readiness Training using the new physical training regulations. This included opening and closing formations, as well as doing the drills from the new manual.

Officials address flooding concerns at tele-town hall meeting

By Sgt. Jessica Barnett
Public Affairs Office

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback and U.S. Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins hosted a live telephone town hall meeting, June 15, 2011, in response to the flooding of the Missouri River in Northeast Kansas.

The goal of the conference call was to inform residents of Northeast Kansas about the resources available to them, answer any questions they had about the flood in the state and status, preparation and response to the flooding of the Missouri River.

In attendance for the phone conference in the State Defense Building in Topeka., Kan., were Brownback; Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafarielli, the adjutant general and director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management; Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger; Mike McNulty, operations director for the Bureau of Public Health Preparedness, Kansas Department of Health and Environment; along with representatives from KDEM and other state agencies.

Joining the teleconference by phone were Jenkins; Beth Freeman, regional administrator of Federal Emergency Management Agency Region VII; Dean Ownby, National Flood Insurance Program branch chief; Col. Anthony Hoffman, U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers district engineer, Kansas City District; Jud Kneuen, USACE chief of emergency management, Kansas City District; and Jody Farhat, USACE Reservoir Control Center.

Calls were placed to residents of Atchison, Doniphan, and Leavenworth counties, while others were able to call in. More than 2,300 callers participated in the meeting.

Many of the residents’ questions were concerning the rumors that insurance companies are claiming that they will not cover this flood because it is “man-made.” Ownby was able to assure the Kansas community that no matter what caused the flood, if their flood insurance is in effect, they are covered.

“Some people are calling this a ‘man-made event.’ That is not the way we define a flood in the flood policy. As long as your policy was effective as of June the 1st, south of Garrison Dam, Midland, you will be covered by the flood policy.”

Praeger also reminded the community that flood is not a covered peril in the normal homeowner’s policy. She encouraged people to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, which was established by an act of Congress in 1968 to protect your home or commercial property against flood damage. Water damage as a result of sewer back up or ground water seeping up into basements is not covered.

Many citizens also voiced their opinion that this flooding situation could have been prevented by better management from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The USACE addressed the concern during the town hall meeting.

“We operate in what is called the Master Manual, which is a water control plan which guides how much water should be released, when and how long from the reservoirs



Representatives from state and federal agencies meet with residents of Doniphan and Atchison Counties in a teleconference town hall meeting June 15 in the State Emergency Operations Center. The telephone conference was arranged with the help of U.S. Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins to address flooding concerns of Kansas citizens. (Photo by Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

for the benefit of the basin,” shared Hoffman. “This manual is based on 100 years of historical run of records.”

Many callers wished that the waters would have been released earlier to prevent the mass amount that is being pushed out now.

“The bottom line is, there was no reason to release additional water according to the Master Manual,” said Hoffman. “The game changing events were the rains in Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming, as well as kind of a perfect storm of high snowfall and high rainfall in early May. Those three combinations were unpredictable. Those were game changers in the reservoir system.”

Farhat also noted that during the winter the rivers are frozen up north so there is no water to be released to prevent the massive overflow of melting snow.

Other important issues addressed during the meeting included questions about special needs individuals living within the area of possible flooding.

The Kansas Division of Emergency Management is urging residents who have special needs to call 2-1-1 and register with the Vulnerable Needs Planning System or go

online to register: <http://www.helpmekansas.org>. Registration is free.

Registering does not guarantee services and should not take the place of personal preparation.

“If you or someone you know has a special need, perhaps mobility issues, oxygen usage or communication difficulties, please take advantage of this system to ensure emergency personnel are aware of your situation,” said Tafarielli. “The information you voluntarily give will allow local emergency management officials to know where you are and what you require.”

The sole use of this information will be to assist emergency management in planning to assist these individuals before, during and after a disaster.

Brownback concluded the meeting by saying, “Key things folks, is to be watchful and be prepared. It’s going to be a long wet summer. If we get a long rainfall event in the lower basin, that’s when we really look at particular problems coming up, and just be tuned in and listening.”

For a listing of FAQs on flooding please go to www.floodsmart.gov.

Brownback, Roberts visit flood stricken counties with adjutant general

By Sgt. Jessica Barnett
Public Affairs Office

Kansas Adjutant General and director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafarielli, joined

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback and U.S. Senator Pat Roberts on a tour of Doniphan and Atchison counties, July 1, 2011.

Local elected leaders, emergency responders and residents met with state leaders at

the Doniphan County Emergency Operations Center located at the Elwood, Kan., fire station.

Representatives from FEMA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were on hand to discuss problems being caused by the Missouri River flooding in the area and how the state and/or federal government could further assist them, if needed.

During the meeting, Roberts discussed how he is working to help the communities impacted by flooding. “I have a bill that tells the [U.S. Corps of Engineers] to factor in the 2010 and 2011, especially 2011, hydrologic data into their 432 big book or manual that they have and must consider on flood control, navigation, irrigation and so forth,” said Roberts. “We are also going to have congressional hearings. There are at least 10 to 12 members of the Senate that are wanting answers to that because of the obvious snow packs. “

As of 9:30 a.m. that morning the flood stage was recorded at 29.01 feet. A voluntary evacuation was put into effect the Monday prior, June, 27, 2011 once the river reached 29 feet.

Missouri River levels continue to slowly lower along the Kansas border. However, the public is being advised that these conditions may change several times in the coming weeks.

“We need to remember that this is going to be a long-term situation,” said

Tafarielli. “River levels will be fluctuating day by day depending on weather conditions upstream and locally and other factors. We will maintain our staffing in the State Emergency Operations Center for as long as necessary to keep on top of these changing conditions and respond as quickly as possible.”

To help the Elwood community throughout the duration of the flood, the Kansas National Guard has provided support to include levee monitoring and security.

Twenty-two Kansas National Guard Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery were brought on state active duty to Elwood to help provide a security patrol to keep the city safe from possible theft as residents and business decided to leave.

In Atchison, local officials had the opportunity to meet with Tafarielli, Brownback and Roberts along with a FEMA representative.

Trey Cocking, city manager, shared information of the city’s economic hardship created by the flooding of the Missouri River. Currently, the bridge across to Missouri on US 59 is closed along with railway along the river. Companies like MGP Inc. are having to find other means of transportation for goods coming in and out.

With many of the bridges closed across the state border, many of the employees must travel out of their normal route to get

(Continued on Page 6)



Trey Cocking (left), Atchison city manager, shows the city’s area of the Missouri River to Governor Sam Brownback as they discuss flooding along the river July 1. (Photo by Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

Summer sends heat and floods, but we keep on serving

By Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli
The Adjutant General

The summer of 2011 has given Kansans an up front seat to extreme weather. The heavier than usual snowfall in the upper Missouri basin last winter, coupled with above average rainfalls in the spring, is resulting in flooding all along the Missouri River, including the Kansas/Missouri border. And unlike the extreme heat and drought conditions across large areas of the state, the immediate effects of the flooding will likely last long into the fall.



Maj. Gen. (KS)
Lee Tafanelli

I want to commend the staff of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) for keeping on top of the flood situation in Northeast Kansas and coordinating with local officials to provide the necessary resources and assistance. Their work to ensure that Incident Management Teams are there to support to the local agencies has been tremendous. I also want to commend the men and women of the Kansas National Guard who have been deployed to Doniphan County to assist with levee patrols and to provide security to areas that have been evacuated. As the weeks go by, I am sure that KDEM and the National Guard will remain vigilant and prepared to respond to further calls for help from our citizens.

It’s important to remember that’s what we do. Day in, day out, 365 days a year, this agency is ready to fulfill our primary state mission -- protect the life and safety of the people of Kansas. That is our focus and that is why we exist. This is why we constantly plan, prepare, train, test and evaluate ourselves. We must be at our best so that we can give our best efforts to the people we serve.

A holiday, a birthday and a new MOS

By Command Chief Warrant Officer 4 Hector Vasquez

I hope everyone had a safe and pleasant Independence Day holiday. I would like to thank the men and women in the National Guard for their service, as well as all of the retirees. Less than one percent of the United States population serves our country today and without you and the support of your families we would not have the freedom that we do.

I would also like to wish happy birthday to the Warrant Officer Corps. The Army Warrant Officer Corps began July 9, 1918, when an act of Congress established the Army Mine Planter Service as part of the Coast Artillery Corps. Since 1918, the Warrant Officer Corps has gone through many changes from ranks, definitions, education, pay, commissioning, duties and positions, and continues to change as the Army evolves. The warrant officer plays a vital role in the Army and will continue to play a vital role for years to come.

In October 2011, the Kansas Army National Guard will have a new Warrant Officer Military Occupational Skill, the 740A, which is the chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological technician. The 740A CBRN technician will provide in-depth technical expertise in the areas of



Command Chief
Warrant Officer 4
Hector Vasquez

This issue of the Plains Guardian highlights several examples of Kansas Soldiers and Airmen driving themselves to excel. On page 2 is a story about a “spur ride” conducted by the Agribusiness Development Team 3 in Afghanistan. I encourage you to read about what it takes to “earn your spurs.” Those who achieved this distinction included Senior Airmen Melissa Hidalgo, the first female Kansas Air Guardsmen to become a spur holder.

On page 6 is a story about Staff Sgt. Veronica Bartley, who at the ripe old age of 23, has become the first female drill sergeant in the Kansas National Guard. She achieved her goal by going through all the required courses while continuing to fulfill her recruiting quota as part of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion.

There is also a story on page 10 about Master Sgt. John Bogart, a member of the 184th Intelligence Wing’s Civil Engineering Squadron, currently deployed to Afghanistan. As if being deployed wasn’t enough of a challenge, Bogart entered himself in a Noncommissioned Officer Board competition, conducted by the U.S. Army 176th Engineer Brigade. The two-day event tests competitors physically with a 3.3 kilometer road march, marksmanship stress shoot, land navigation course and a combat life-saver scenario. It also challenges them mentally by requiring them to write an essay on leadership and to appear before a review board to answer tough questions. In the end, Bogart came out on top. My congratulations to him.

This drive to excel can be seen at the unit level, as well. Many of our units recently completed their annual training, testing what they have learned, as well as learning new skills.

The 995th Maintenance Company spent its annual training at Fort Riley supporting the Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site by repairing, refurbishing and upgrading equipment the Guard needs to be able to carry out its missions.

The 731st Transportation Company took

CBRN defense. Some duties specific to this position include planning, coordinating and directing CBRN operations and training. This new MOS will be in field artillery units with the first slot going to the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery. More 740As will be fielded in the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery and 35th Infantry Division throughout Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013.

The adjutant general, state command sergeant major, inspector general and I had the privilege to visit several units throughout the state this past June. For many of the Soldiers attending annual training at home station, this was their first time to participate in training back home for quite a while due to deployments. Some units were catching up on maintenance while others were updating records such as driver’s licenses and setting up Defense Travel System accounts. However, one thing that I found consistently throughout the trip was that everyone I spoke with enjoyed getting back to home training. The morale and atmosphere were outstanding and I want to thank all of the Soldiers and leaders for their support and questions concerning becoming a warrant officer. I hope to visit other units in the near future.

Warrant Officer Candidate School at the Kansas Regional Training Institute was completed this past June. The candidates had to pass three exams, as well as physical training, leadership and military briefings. The candidates also had to create a class song and complete two painting projects, which consisted of painting the class rock outside of the Warrant Officer Candidate

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17 vehicles across eight states to deliver decommissioned military vehicles to South Carolina, where they were destined to become part of an artificial reef project.

Engineers from several Kansas Guard units conducted three-week overseas deployment training mission to Hohenfels, Germany. While in Hohenfels, they worked on a number of construction projects aimed at improving and expanding training facilities, as well as assisting with equipment repair.

These examples are by no means a comprehensive list of all the things Kansas Guardsmen have accomplished in recent months, but they give you a great idea of the spirit of our Guard members.

I know in your busy lives it’s easy to overlook a particular section when reading

the Plains Guardian, but I encourage you to take some time and look at pages 14 and 15 in this issue. These pages list the names of Soldiers and Airmen who have received a variety of awards and decorations in recent months. The awards themselves are a small testament of the dedicated service these men and women render to their state and nation when responding to a flood, giving aid following a tornado, or just serving far away from their home and family.

Take a few minutes to look at the list of names. See if there are any you recognize and, if so, give that person a call or send a note to say, “Thanks for what you do.” Medals are great, but the heart-felt expression of thanks—although I know they would never ask for such thanks—are worth more than any medal.

Soldier to Soldier

Effective communication is key

By Command Sgt. Maj. John Ryan
JFHQ-KS Land Component

My granddaughter recently asked me if I tweeted. I asked what are you talking about? At that point she realized I did not have a clue. She then asked me if I had a Facebook page. I asked her why would I need a Facebook page when I am standing here talking to you? I could see a smile appear on her face and I responded by saying if you need to talk to grandpa just call me. She then told me that she normally uses her phone to text.



Command Sgt. Maj.
John Ryan

So wanting to connect with my granddaughter I said text me something and she did. “LOL – LeAnna.” I said what kind of message is this and she said in this case LOL stands for (Lots Of Love). I smiled proudly and then asked the other case is and she said (Laughing Out Loud).

Now I don’t know about you, but I think that is what she wanted to do. I told her I got it and when I figured out how to reply on my phone I sent her this message SHMILY GPA. She asked what kind of message is this, and I told her “See How Much I Love You.” She got the biggest smile on her face and gave me a big hug and said, “Call me,” then began to LOL. Go figure.

What I am talking about is communication. The means we use to communicate is not as important as what we are communicating. Communicating has two basic elements to it. One is the transmit-

ting and the other is receiving. When transmitting a message we need to consider who the receiver or receivers are and how will they interpret the message. We need to be clear, leaving little room for misinterpretation on the part of the person receiving the message. As receivers, we need to understand clearly what the message being sent by the person transmitting is. So providing feedback to the sender will ensure you received the message clearly and, if not, the person can clarify the message.

Sometimes, as we talk to Soldiers, they hear what they want to hear. As an example, a Soldier told me they would like to work for the National Guard. I said we can look into that. The Soldier then (at a later date) said I’m going to work for the Guard because they told me they would find me a job. Most of us have similar types of things happen to us.

Why is communicating important today? The current changing environment we operate in today requires us to clearly communicate the need for our Soldiers to get Military Occupational Skill qualification or the Noncommissioned Officer Education System school, perform tasks efficiently, and maintain their medical and physical readiness, just to mention a few. We, as senior leaders, must communicate effectively. This will enable our Soldiers to be ready to carry out the mission as individuals and as a unit. Not communicating effectively can, in some cases, cause bad things to happen.

Oh, by the way, did you notice my granddaughter gave up on grandpa? I still don’t tweet or have a Facebook page and I rarely text from my phone. Let us not give up on our Soldiers. Communicate with them.

PLAINS GUARDIAN

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Commander-in-Chief Gov. Sam Brownback Adjutant General of Kansas Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli	Public Affairs Office Director Sharon Watson785-274-1192	
	Assistant Director Stephen D. Larson785-274-1194	
Editor Sharon Watson	Public Information Writer Jane Welch785-274-1190 FAX785-274-1622 e-mail: jane.e.welch1@us.army.mil	
Production/Graphics/Writer Stephen D. Larson	Videographer Senior Airman Matt Lucht785-274-1195	
Production Assistant Jane Welch	Staff Writer Sgt. Jessica Barnett785-274-1191	
The Plains Guardian may be read online at http://kansastag.gov For change of address, contact Jane Welch.		

Convoy takes 731st Transportation Company across eight states

By Sgt. Robert Williams
731st Transportation Company

Fifty-one Soldiers of the 731st Transportation Company convoyed with 17 vehicles through eight states en-route to Camp McCrady, Fort Jackson, S.C. The primary mission was to provide transportation assets in support of Operation Reef-Ex off the coast of South Carolina.

The 731st is a medium truck company within the 287th Special Troops Battalion, 287th Sustainment Brigade, comprised of Soldiers from Great Bend, Liberal, Hays and Wichita armories. The primary vehicle used by the 731st is the M915 Tractor, which is almost a carbon copy of the commercial tractor-trailer truck weighing approximately 14 tons. The M915 Line-Haul Tractor is used primarily in transportation units for logistical movement of supplies.

For a second consecutive year, the 731st has been called upon to deliver materials to the port in Charleston, S.C., to be used in the Reef-Ex project. On the way to South Carolina, the 731st made a stop at the Anniston Army Depot in Anniston, Ala., where the trucks were loaded with 21 M113 armored personnel carriers to be transported to Camp McCrady. Once there, the carriers will undergo the final demilitarization process before being utilized in the barrier-reef project.

The Soldiers conducted line-haul missions for five days, hauling more than 300 tons of material more than 1,000 miles. Materials hauled included M113 hulls, trailer frames and concrete pipes. The missions provided a very “real-world” training experience for the Soldiers, who successfully hauled materials that were unfamiliar to them and did it with-

out accident or injury. For seven new Soldiers, it was their first ever line-haul mission. Their driving proficiency was tested in many ways along the route. The weather played a factor for several days en-route to Camp McCrady. Driving through steady rains, the Soldiers had to negotiate periods of torrential downpours and strong winds while traversing through heavily congested city traffic in cities such as Memphis, Tenn., and Atlanta, Ga., logging more than 3,300 miles. “The training was amazing,” said Pvt. Alyx Powell, Detachment 2, 731st Transportation Company. “I learned probably more than I did during the course of my AIT (Advanced Individual Training). We drove through heavy traffic, heavy rain, and high winds. You don’t get that kind of training all the time and I loved it.” “For my first ever AT (annual training), it was great and I cannot wait until next year,” Powell said.

Powell, Medicine Lodge, had been out of Advanced Individual Training for two weeks before he left for his first annual training. “The opportunity to conduct innovative readiness training missions is key to progressive success of the unit and readiness of our Soldiers,” said Capt. Jay Simecka, Topeka, commander of the 731st Transportation Company. “This MOS (Military Occupational Skill) specific training provides the necessary elements to staying proficient and efficient as professional Soldiers. Our Soldiers displayed their mettle in completing each mission with skill and professionalism.” On May 8, the Soldiers got a much deserved day off and it was a particularly special day for six female Soldiers being



Sgt. Peter Parlock (right) teaches Spc. Jessie Worthington how to properly chain and binder an M113 hull at Camp McCrady, S.C., during the 731st Transportation Company’s annual training. Both men are with the company’s Detachment 3, Hays. (Photo by 1st Lt. Andrew Tapley)

honored on Mother’s Day. Activities moved to the coast with a day in the sun at Myrtle Beach, S.C. The Soldiers enjoyed a seafood dinner, shopping on the boardwalk and spending time on the beach. The Maintenance Section was able to conduct maintenance operations at a maintenance facility at Camp McCrady. The shop provided an ideal location for the team to fix several issues that arose with

the trucks and trailers. As a result of the diligent efforts of the maintenance team, all vehicles were kept fully mission capable during the duration of AT. For Staff Sgt. Pat Ortega, Garden City, a Guardsmen since 1980, this was his last annual training. He retires later this year. “I’ve seen good ones and I’ve seen bad ones, and this AT was one of the best,” said Ortega.



Kansas National Guardsmen of Detachment 2, 731st Transportation Company, Wichita, help stabilize an M113 armored personnel carrier as it is loaded onto the M872 trailer in support of Operation Reef-Ex at Camp McCrady, S.C., during the company’s annual training in May. (Photo by 1st Lt. Andrew Tapley)

A holiday, a birthday and a new MOS

Continued from Page 4 School building and the “Hang the Hat” sign in the dining facility. The candidates wrapped up their final weekend at the Regional Training Institute by volunteering in a community project, where they hung and finished sheetrock throughout the third floor at the men’s homeless shelter. WOCS classes began this project in past years, starting on the first floor, and this year’s class completed the final floor and the project. The next step for the candidates is to complete Phase III (the final phase) of WOCS, which is the annual training or “field” phase. This phase will be conducted at Camp Atterbury, Ind., and consists of warrior tasks and battle drill activities that provide leadership opportunities while emphasizing lessons relevant to the Operational Environment. These activities culminate in a field leadership exercise that draws heavily on recent lessons learned. The candidates will be evaluated on capstone events, which provide for expanded opportunities to apply flexible, adaptive leadership principles in stressful, sometimes ambiguous, situations that reinforce

and build upon previous classroom theory studies and discussion. Upon successful completion of Phase III, candidates graduated July 30 at the War Memorial in Indianapolis, Ind. Graduating candidates will become commissioned officers. The next step for them will be to attend their Warrant Officer Basic Course, where they will receive warrant officer MOS specific training. I wish them the best of luck in completing Phase III and the continuation of their basic course. Now that Phase II is complete at the KSRTI, now is the time for those interested in becoming a warrant officer to start working on you predetermination packet. It takes several months to obtain all the required documents to construct a packet, so don’t wait until the last minute. We have vacant positions in various warrant officer Military Occupational Skills. Contact Warrant Officer 1 Sam Bonham, Warrant Officer Strength Manager, at (785) 274-1823; samual.c.bonham@us.army.mil if you have further questions or would like more information concerning vacancies and the completion of the pre-determination packet.

Soldier’s dual careers are loud and filled with brass

By Master Sgt. Brent Anders, Spc. Alicia Murphy, Sgt. Chris Barlow and Spc. Tricia Draper, UPARs Sgt. Chris Barlow of Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, Abilene, Kan., balances two different careers: an artillery man in the Kansas Army National Guard and a music education major at Fort Hays State University. As a fire direction control specialist, Barlow handles fire missions from the battalion and forwards them to the launchers. “I receive a fire mission and then I make the decision of what mission goes to which launcher so as to fire the rockets,” Barlow said. On the civilian side, Barlow is a full-time student studying to become a secondary education band teacher. His specialty is playing the tuba. Barlow was an Army band member with the 35th Infantry Division Band, Olathe, Kan., from October 2005 to

March 2007. “I chose the tuba because I excelled at this particular instrument and I just love to play it,” said Barlow. Although these are two different career paths, there are points where they intertwine. “The discipline of being an artillery Soldier is the same as the discipline needed to be a dedicated musician,” said Barlow. Both careers have required multiple schools and courses to be properly trained. According to Barlow, receiving the original fire request and then choosing which launchers will receive the final fire mission, is similar to reading music. “In the artillery I have to decide which launchers get certain missions, in reading music I have to decide which parts are for me as the tuba player and which parts are for the rest of the band. And,” Barlow noted, “both artillery and the tuba make beautiful music when properly executed.”

International Officers visit capital



International officers from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., enjoy a light breakfast before a briefing on the role of the Kansas National Guard by Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, July 14, 2011, in Topeka, Kan. The officers visit the capital city once during their course of study to learn about state government and the National Guard. (Photo by Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

Recruiter is the first female drill instructor for the Kansas Guard

By Sgt. Jessica Barnett
Public Affairs Office

The words “drill sergeant” brings to mind flashbacks of fear and adrenalin for seasoned Soldiers. Most think back to basic training of in-your-face yelling and disorientation. For one Kansas National Guard Soldier, these words have a unique meaning she will be honored with forever.

Staff Sgt. Veronica Bartley, a recruiter for Emporia, Kan., with the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, Kansas Army National Guard, graduated drill sergeant school at Fort Jackson, S.C., May 26, 2011, as the first female drill sergeant of the Kansas Army National Guard.

“I didn’t know [that I was going to be the first female drill sergeant] at all until I came back,” said Bartley, the first time she heard the news. “I was shocked when I found out. I didn’t realize that I achieved that. I hope I can live up to the expectation.”

While at Fort Jackson, Bartley had the privilege of being under the guidance of the first female commandant of drill instructors, Command Sgt. Maj. Teresa King, appointed in 2009.

Bartley joined the Guard Nov. 15, 2005, at the age of 17. She completed Basic Combat Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., in May of 2006. After attending a year at Allen County Community College, Iola, Kan., Bartley graduated Advanced Individual Training as a light wheel vehicle mechanic at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, graduating with high leadership honors.

During her first unit assignment with Company E, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment in Topeka, Kan., Bartley attended Warrior Leadership Course and Recruiting and Retention Noncommissioned Officer Course. In November 2008, Bartley started her recruiting career for the Guard, in Emporia. In the following two years, she attended Advanced Leadership Courses Phase 1 and 2, achieving the commandant’s list during Phase 1.

While at school, Bartley still had to meet her recruiting quota. The recruiting noncommissioned officer must “adapt and overcome” in an effort to meet their mission.

“Bartley illustrates the total NCO, specifically the Army value of selfless service because she took over 60 days out of her



Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, presents the Army Commendation Medal to Staff Sgt. Veronica Bartley in a brief ceremony June 23. Bartley completed the Army drill instructors course, making her the first woman to become a drill instructor for the Kansas National Guard, while maintaining her recruitment quota with the Kansas National Guard’s Recruiting and Retention Battalion. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)

recruiting cycle to attend the school, while still maintaining her mission,” explained her commander, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jack Hancock, of Company A, Recruiting and Retention Battalion.

As a drill sergeant, Bartley is a vital asset to the Recruit Sustainment Program; a program established for newly enlisted warriors to prepare them for the physical and mental rigors of boot camp. Bartley is now a subject matter expert on drill, ceremony and numerous other aspects of the current Basic Training environment, such as the new form of physical fitness, Physical Readiness Training.

Thus, she becomes a great source of knowledge for her fellow cadre and the KSARNG. She will be a mentor, coach and the “go to” leader for RSP Soldiers heading to basic training. Her tutelage will help en-

sure these young Soldiers are successful and become qualified Soldiers that the Recruiting and Retention Command can transition into their prospective unit.

As a role model to new recruits, Bartley has always made it a mission to uphold the standard for female Soldiers.

“I am always trying to set the standards for females,” said Bartley. “Any female I recruit and bring into the RSP program, I let them know that if they want to get anywhere in the Army they need to set the standard themselves. No one else can do it for them. And that’s the only way you can prove yourself in the military.”

Bartley was honored in a brief ceremony on June 23, 2011. Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, presented her with an Army Commendation Medal, an Adjutant General’s coin and a plaque.



Staff Sgt. Veronica Bartley, first female drill sergeant of the Kansas Army National Guard, teaches physical readiness training to new recruits during the Recruit Sustainment Program drill, June 11, 2011, in Iola. (Photo provided)

Brownback, Roberts visit flood stricken counties with adjutant general

Continued from Page 3
to work each day because they reside in St. Joseph, Mo.

Another hardship the city is facing is the decline in tourism due to the flood. Many have the misconception that the city is flooded. The city is open for business in-

cluding all the restaurants on the river. Only the river walk itself is being affected.

Atchison also geared up for its annual Amelia Earhart Festival, July 15-16. The festivities still went on as they do every year, with activities that normally take place on the Riverfront moved to Warnock Lake.



Flood waters are within a few feet of this bridge in Atchison. (Photo by Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

Playing it safe in the heat

By Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marvin Terhune
Safety Office

Summer has arrived in Kansas! What do you think of when the temperature hits the 100 degree mark? Do you think of activities that you can participate in with your family like camping, swimming or boating?

As the thermometer rises we think of ways to beat the heat and still stay active. Outside activities with our family are always fun as long as we plan for our activities.

It is always a good idea this time of year to keep up with the weather forecast. Know what is forecast for your area. Be sure to check for projected storms or high wind conditions if planning outdoor activities. A



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marvin Terhune

“surprise” weather front that pops up has ruined many family outings. Know where the emergency shelters are located in the areas that you will be visiting.

The kids have not gone swimming since last year; the heat index is pegging out and everyone wants to go to the lake. Take it slow! Everyone in the family is getting acclimated to the new season.

Make sure you prepare your activities, refreshments and food around the conditions. Always have light snacks prepared instead of heavy meals during the hot part of the day.

Have the kids drink plenty of water instead of soft drinks or other sugary drinks. Make them take a break for awhile and slow down a little during extreme heat. If you have infants or small children the risk factors with heat and the sun multiplies drastically.

Summer is a great time to relax and enjoy the outdoors as long as you have planned properly. Plan ahead and your family will enjoy the great outdoor life that Kansas has to offer!

Be safe!

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Contact:

Jane Welch
Public Affairs Office
2722 S. Topeka Blvd., Rm 108
Topeka KS 66611
(785) 274-1190; jane.e.welch1@us.army.mil

Training helps division create fully functioning command posts

By Staff Sgt. Patricia Leihy, UPAR
35th Infantry Division

The 35th Infantry Division Soldiers from Kansas, Missouri, Illinois and Nebraska took part in a training exercise titled Battle Command System of Systems Integration Training (BCSoSIT) June 6 to 12, 2011, at the Battle Command Training Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

The BCSoSIT exercise is comprised of three events designed to train a unit to utilize all of the systems that make up its command post. This includes the shelters, automated systems and the communications equipment that allow the 35th ID commander and his staff to command and control units assigned to him for combat or state civil support missions.

The 35th ID’s command post is the most modern and sophisticated command and control facility currently available in the U.S. Army. The BCSoSIT training events are designed to provide the division with the requisite skills to fully utilize its capabilities in support of federal or state missions.

The first two of the three events took

place June 6 to 12, involving a staff integration team made up of 15 civilians contractor experts from across the Army instructing and assisting 35th ID Soldiers in setting up the command complex and training the division staff to effectively utilize the capabilities this equipment and technology bring to the division.

To create a fully functioning division command post, there are several components that need to be established and integrated.

The shelter system is a Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter (DRASH) system that comes with medium or large shelters. The division was issued eight large and 11 medium shelter systems. Each shelter system is equipped with an Environmental Control Unit that contains its own generator, light sets and air conditioner/heater unit to provide life support for that shelter. Additional power requirements for the automation and other equipment placed within the shelter is provided by separate power generation systems that are brought in.

The ECU, tent and parts to assemble the tent are all loaded onto a trailer. The large

tent weighs 1,600 pounds, so the exact placement of where the tent needs to be has to be precise. There is no “scooting” this tent to put it in its right place.

Once the DRASH shelter systems and the additional power generation capability are in place the interiors of the shelters are fitted out with the tables, chairs and automated systems required by each staff section. The last component required to make the command post fully operational is the

integrated communication system that ties it all together.

The third event in the BCSoSIT training is a separate exercise event that the 35th ID will conduct as part of its Full Spectrum Exercise Sept. 11, 2011, at the BCTC Leavenworth. This is where all the systems and skills of the commander and his staff are exercised by the U.S. Army’s Mission Command Training Team in a seven-day exercise.



The battle command post is a modular system of tents and supporting components that allow military units to establish an operations center anywhere in the field. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Patricia Leihy, 35th Infantry Division)

Lock and load ’em: 35th Infantry Division transitions to M4 rifle

By Spc. Charles M. Nolen, UPAR
35th Infantry Division

“Lock and load your first 20-round magazine. Switch from safe to fire and watch your lane.”

These words echo from the tower as a range instructor guides Soldiers from the 35th Infantry Division through a live fire qualification range in Salina, Kan. The 35th ID honed their marksmanship skills during May drill with the new M-4 rifle.

“I’m excited to try the new weapon. I think the retractable butt stock and lighter weight will be more user-friendly than the M-16,” said Staff Sgt. Michael Cleith, 35th ID Public Affairs noncommissioned officer-in-charge, as he waited in the unseasonably chilly weather to try the new weapon. With this weapon qualification, the 35th ID will officially switch from the M-16 to the M-4.

The M-16 has a long and honorable history. In 1963, the M-16 replaced the M14 as the primary rifle of the infantry. The M-16 has been used by the U.S. military in every battle from Vietnam to Operation Iraqi Freedom and its popularity has not stopped there. More than 100 countries around the world and 15 NATO countries have adopted it, as well.

The M-16 is a gas-operated, magazine-

fed, assault rifle with a rotating bolt. The M-4 carbine was developed from versions of the M-16, the M-16A2 and the M-16A4. A telescoping stock, shorter barrel and an accessory rail on the upper receiver are just a few of the new features.

The M-4 weighs in at 7.5 pounds loaded, which is more than a pound lighter than the M-16. The barrel is nearly six inches shorter than its predecessor that gives the M-4 a marginal sacrifice in terminal ballistics and range, but greatly improves its maneuverability and handling. This is of key importance in close combat modern warfare.

“I like the M-4,” says Sgt. Richard Smith, 35th ID unit administrator. “I’ve shot both. The M-16 is long and bulky. The retractable butt stock and lighter weight are better suited to the wars we fight today.”

While Smith has never had any problem qualifying with the M-16 and didn’t notice any difference in accuracy, he thinks that the adjustable butt stock and lighter weight will make it easier for some Soldiers to qualify.

“The M-4 can be more easily tailored to each individual Soldier. I think that will help improve their scores and unit readiness.”



A Soldier of the 35th Infantry Division takes aim at a target downrange during weapons qualification for the M-4 rifle. The Soldiers of the division are transitioning to the M-4 from the M-16 rifle. (Photo by Spc. Charles M. Nolen, 35th Infantry Division UPAR)

“Big for a Day” event teams Kansas Guardsmen with youth

By Maj. John H. Tucker

Several members of the Hutchinson National Guard Armory took some time from their schedule May 16 to support the Big Brother and Big Sister of Reno County’s “Big for a Day” event at the Kansas State Fair Grounds in Hutchinson, Kan. More than 100 youth from the Reno County area took part in the event to find possible matches for youth members of the Big Brother and Big Sister organization.

Soldiers were teamed with the individual youth members for the two hour event that included games, arts and crafts, hot dogs and a display of emergency vehicles from Reno County agencies.

The Kansas Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion provided a promotional humvee along with a football toss. The HMMWV was well received by the youth and adults as many photos were taken to capture their opportunity to look at

an actual military vehicle. Staff Sgt. Eric Reichert was on hand to answer questions about the capabilities and uses for the humvee.

“The Big for a Day event is often the first opportunity these youth have to visit with Soldiers from their community,” said Reichert.

“The best part of supporting community events such as Big for a Day, is that when youth and adults drive past the Armory, they know there are local citizens working there that they can rely on,” said Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Brumley, readiness noncommissioned officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 635th Regional Support Group.

This was the fifth year in a row that members of the Hutchinson National Guard Armory have supported “Big for a Day” and the Soldiers look forward to more opportunities to support the youth of Reno County.



More than 100 youth from the Reno County area took part in the fifth annual “Big for a Day” event at the State Fair grounds in Hutchinson to find possible matches for youth members of the Big Brother and Big Sister organization. (Photo by Maj. John Tucker, 635th Regional Support Group)

AFRICOM, Rwandan soldiers promote regional stability with training exchange

By Spc. Michelle Lawrence, UPAR
35th Military Police Company

Soldiers of the United States attached to Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa have recently supported a series of missions to exchange soldiering skills with their Rwandan Defense Force counterparts and fellow partner nation members in Gako, Rwanda.

The Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas National Guard, provided expertise and advice, if requested, said Maj. Michael McCoy, a mission commander.

Some of the skills the U.S. and RDF soldiers practiced together were land navigation, convoy operations, troop leading and mission planning. U.S. and RDF officers planned the operational portions of this educational exchange while the enlisted soldiers combined their talents to lead the “hands on” field exercises.

“Both U.S. and Rwandan soldiers quickly picked-up on the ideas presented,” said Capt. Lance Fowler, a mission commander. “If it ever seemed like anyone was struggling with an idea, the Rwandans would come back the next morning and know it like they’ve known it their whole life. We were able to put our heads together and work as a team.”

While previous U.S.-Rwandan soldiering exchanges were exclusively managed by RDF officers, recent missions have included RDF noncommissioned officers, Fowler said.

“This strengthens the relationship between the officer and enlisted soldiers,” Fowler said. “We were able to work through any issues, and we all asked questions to make sure we were on the same page.”

According to McCoy, the U.S. and RDF soldiers were united by a shared belief of what it means to be a soldier.

“The basic idea is that we are soldiers and want to serve our country,” McCoy said. “We aren’t doing it to get rich, and we sacrifice time away from our families to protect



U.S. and Rwanda Defense Force soldiers conduct a map reading exercise on a hill top in Gako, Rwanda, May 3. The soldiers were challenged to determine their location and other visible points utilizing various land navigation methods. The U.S. Soldiers, all assigned to the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, a Kansas National Guard unit currently deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, were invited by the Rwandan government to practice their joint soldiering skills. (Photo by 1st Sgt. Timothy Prine)

our countries.”

This dedication quickly led to a level of trust between the groups and by one account, the RDF didn’t want to see the U.S. Soldiers leave.

“The hardest part of leaving is that you’ve built these relationships and friendships and then you’re gone,” said 1st Sgt. Tim Prine, first sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-161 FA.

According to Fowler, the mission gave his team a sense of accomplishment and an understanding of the scope of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

“We got a sense of what CJTF-HOA is about,” Fowler

said. “Camp Lemonnier is great. It’s got everything that a Soldier would want in a deployed environment, but getting the chance to see another country and interact with a different military force and seeing the results gave me a sense of purpose.”

In February, CJTF-HOA supported a similar training-exchange with the RDF when Soldiers assigned to the 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion met to practice medical airlift procedures. Prior to this, CJTF-HOA partnered with leaders of the Capitol City of Kigali and the U.S. Embassy to Rwanda to renovate a school in the Kicukiru District, located outside Kigali.

Coffee ceremony opens dialogue with Ethiopian women

By Sgt. Jessica Wright,
35th Military Police Company

A traditional coffee ceremony was hosted on Camp Gilbert, Ethiopia, for prominent women in the Dire Dawa community.

The coffee ceremony, hosted by the female Soldiers of both the 35th Military Police Company, Kansas National Guard, and Civil Affairs Team 4023, was an important means of building international relations, working relationships and friendships between the Army and the locals in Ethiopia.

“It gave us an opportunity to meet with key female leaders from the community,” said Sgt. Rebecca Beeson, 35th Military Police Company.

Coffee ceremonies are traditionally bestowed by the matriarch of the household and are a mark of honor and social importance. Although coffee is a chief export of Ethiopia, the coffee ceremony is more often about the social gathering than it is about the coffee.

Many topics were discussed during the ceremony. Soldiers discovered that Sept. 11

is the Ethiopian New Year and that the current year in Ethiopia is 2003.

Like many Ethiopians, Kedir, a local interpreter for Camp Gilbert, said he remembered watching the destruction of the World Trade Center on television. He said that he was in shock and first thought that it [the video footage] was part of a preview for a new movie.

“I couldn’t believe the footage was real,” he said.

Another important topic of discussion was education.

“Many of the girls in the rural areas of Ethiopia begin marrying at the age of 12 or 13,” explained Lemlem Bezabeh, Dire Dawa Bureau of Health. “More recently, females have begun attending higher grades in school and are even beginning to obtain college degrees.” She said education is the key to continuing this trend.

The ceremony closed with group photos and a discussion of a possible upcoming soccer match between the female Soldiers and women of the Dire Dawa community.



Members of the Dire Dawa community in Ethiopia and female Soldiers from the Kansas National Guard’s 35th Military Police Company discuss a variety of topics during a traditional coffee ceremony held June 4, 2011. (Photo by Spc. Hans Weidisch, Civil Affairs Team)

Guardsmen, African soldiers share mechanic techniques

By Spc. Michelle Lawrence, UPAR
35th Military Police Company

A team of mechanics assigned to the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery exchanged ideas on vehicle repair with Armed Forces for the Defense of Mozambique soldiers in Maputo, Mozambique.

The soldiers traded ideas on vehicle electrical systems troubleshooting, draining an air compressor, balancing tires on a machine and learning about different kinds of tools.

According to Spc. Matthew Umbarger, communication between the two groups never posed an issue.

“Whenever a question arose, neither side hesitated to ask anyone,” said Umbarger.

“While language was a seemingly large barrier to get past, patience, understanding and the help of an interpreter got us through,” said Spc. Ricky Delcour.

Once the partner nation soldiers knew that they could easily communicate with one another, they began to develop a respect for each other’s technical skills.

“We have our way we troubleshoot and repair stuff and they have their own way,” said Sgt. 1st Class Kurt Narron, 1-161 FA mechanic and mission commander. “As we built this partnership,

“We have our way we troubleshoot and repair stuff and they have their own way. As we built this partnership, we combined our way and their way.”

Sgt. 1st Class Kurt Narron

we combined our way and their way.”

By the end of the mission, the teams had repaired 11 of 13 FADM vehicles.

“One vehicle had been sitting for three years, but the U.S. and FADM soldiers repaired it using parts from another wrecked vehicle,” Narron said. “The FADM drove it around the last few days the U.S. Soldiers were there.”

Delcour said the event was a learning experience for everyone.

“Most people aren’t going to get to go to Mozambique and do different things with different armies,” he said. “We did. I liked being able to see how they operated day-to-day compared to us. It was a different experience.”



Soldiers from the Armed Forces for the Defense of Mozambique test a starter motor. The soldiers partnered with mechanics from the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery to increase their vehicle capabilities. (Photo by Spc. Matthew Umbarger)

“Nun’s flag” on display at Museum of the Kansas National Guard

By retired Lt. Col. Doug Jacobs
Command Historian

There is a new display in the Museum of the Kansas National Guard in Topeka, Kan. Gracing a wall in the wing dedicated to the 35th Infantry Division is a United States flag.

While a U.S. flag may not seem an unusual item to find in a museum devoted to the history of the Kansas National Guard – not even one bearing only 48 evenly spaced stars in its blue field – this flag has an unusual history of its own.

Chaplain Charles H. “Harry” Washburn was with the 35th Infantry Division, serving with the 137th Regiment Medical Company as the regiment worked its way across

Belgium and got caught in the Battle of the Bulge. The whole medical unit was captured and forced to care for the wounded German soldiers; others of the regiment were killed.

The medics were later rescued by the American Army and continued east into Germany, where they helped free the victims of Auschwitz. The regiment stayed in Hamelin, Germany, the town famous for the Pied Piper of Hamelin, for a short respite.

Just before Memorial Day, 1945, while in Hamelin, the commanding officer, Col. Albert Butler, requested that Washburn locate a regimental flag to be flown at half staff on Memorial Day to honor their fallen soldiers.



This flag, hand-sewn by German nuns from bedsheets, nuns’ clothing and a Nazi banner in the closing months of World War II, is on display in the 35th Infantry Division wing of the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, Forbes Field, Topeka. (Photo by retired Lt. Col. Doug Jacobs, command historian)

KSARNG unit teams with 1st Infantry

Continued from Page 1
and outside of the vehicles. With audio and video monitoring inside the tanks and BFVs, leadership inside the tower was able to monitor the communication inside the vehicles and watch the crews as they engaged targets. This new level of transparency will improve crew performance and safety through the training process.

With current deployments sending most of the infantry and armor forces from the “Big Red 1” overseas, the division came to the Kansas National Guard to ask for assistance to ensure that the DMPRC testing would be done to standard and on time. According to Mark Wilson, a senior advisor to the division from Program Executive Office of Simulation, Training, and Instrumentation (PEO STRI), “Without the assistance from the Kansas National Guard, this range acceptance would have either been delayed or accepted with less than favorable means.”

What made this effort even more challenging was the fact that during this time, the Combined Arms Battalion was in the process of redeploying over 500 Soldiers from a deployment to the Horn of Africa.

Even though more than half of the battalion was deployed, the remaining armor and infantry Soldiers rose to the challenge of conducting a live-fire exercise.

“It was an outstanding opportunity to practice our gunnery skills and to allow our young Soldiers to participate in a gunnery event,” said Staff Sgt. John Stubbs,

tank commander and noncommissioned officer in charge of Company C, stationed in Lenexa, Kan. Stubbs said the outstanding train-up gave them opportunities not usually seen by National Guard or active duty armor units.

“Without the grading and pressure typically found in a standard gunnery exercise, we were able to concentrate on command and control with live rounds,” said Stubbs. “Usually we don’t get to choose the scenarios we fire, but in this case we were a part of the planning from the beginning.”

The crews trained hard for a week using simulators and “dry-fire” practices in preparation for the live-fire exercise. The crews then fired engagements using their main guns and machine guns. The engagements included single tank and BFV scenarios, platoon-level coordinated attacks, and coordinated assaults where BFVs and tanks had to work together to eliminate targets. In the end, the tests were successful and the government moved forward in accepting the range from the companies contracted to create it. Wilson mentioned that the ability to use the range for helicopter gunnery will be tested in August.

The hard work and cooperation between the Kansas Army National Guard and the 1st Infantry Division provided the military forces within Kansas a new and advanced training opportunity that is sure to keep Kansas Soldiers at the top of their professions.

A search could not locate a flag of this size anywhere in the area. The only alternative was to have the flag made from scratch.

So Washburn asked the nuns in a convent in Hamelin if they could make the flag in a week, giving them a small replica of the American flag. The nuns agreed very willingly to do this. They had an old foot-pedal sewing machine which they thought could do the job.

For materials, they suggested using their bed sheets for the white stripes and stars. They pulled out some of their blue surge uniforms, proposing these could be used for the blue field. However, they were at a loss to think of what to use for the red stripes. Washburn looked around town and found a Nazi banner, which he pulled down off the balcony of a nearby building. The nuns agreed, reluctantly, to use this material.

The regimental American flag was completed within the week as promised, and looked glorious until Butler noticed that the nuns had sewn on 48 white stars on one side only, much as was done for a German banner that only shows one side. It was explained that this was a flag which flew

from a staff and the nuns agreed to sew on another set of 48 white stars on the other side of the flag. It was beautifully done and very durable, even today. In appreciation for their kind work, Butler and Washburn gave the nuns 20 pounds of sugar and 50 pounds of white flour, food they had not tasted for more than five years!

The “Nun’s Flag” was flown in Hamelin, Germany, to honor Memorial Day, May 31, 1945, and was used by the regiment throughout the rest of the war. Washburn kept the flag after the war. It has been flown on many other Memorial Days in all the cities and parishes where Washburn and his wife, Winifred, have lived.

Washburn passed away on Oct. 16, 2002, at age 86. Winifred now lives in Pasadena, Calif. It was decided by the Washburn family to donate the “Nun’s Flag” and Washburn’s memorabilia to the Museum of the Kansas National Guard.

The flag was presented by Winnie, Washburn’s daughter, Harriet Washburn Priska, and his sons, John and George Washburn, June 2, 2011. A formal dedication is planned in the near future.

Program inspires kids to “Stay on Track”

By Sgt. 1st Class Lisa Baker
KSNG Counterdrug Task Force

Sixth and seventh grade students from Capital City School in Topeka, Kan., were filled with excitement as they prepared for their rocket launch, May 23 and 24.

Students built and painted the rockets weeks prior as a culmination activity to the “Stay on Track” program sponsored and instructed by the Kansas National Guard Drug Demand Reduction section. “Stay on Track” is a 14-week program that focuses on health education, decision-making and goal-setting. It also includes sections on improving communication skills, interpersonal relations and media influences.

The program will enter its fourth year of instruction at Capital City during the 2011-2012 school year.

“We are a school for special needs and our students require a lot of individualized attention as we direct them toward positive behaviors,” said Deborah Ronnebaum, Life Skills Coordinator for the school. “The program’s focus on drug education and interactive activities has proven to be a great blend for our student population. Combined, the information from ‘Stay on Track’ and the skills of Sgt. 1st Class Lisa Baker makes this essential in our curriculum.”

Military instructors give the students

facts about substances and what it will do to their bodies based on science. They spend the majority of time working on “life skills” to increase the protective factors and reduce the likelihood these kids will turn to drugs. Mentorship is the primary objective as the KSNG Drug Demand Reduction section spends time with kids in Kansas.

“It is fun and I am learning things about drugs and hope I can share them with my friends,” said a graduate of the program. “The activities are fun. We are learning to work together.”

Rockets were used as an interactive activity to demonstrate some of the social skills that were learned during the program. Students had to use written and verbal instructions during construction, hoping that when launch day came their rocket would fly high. Students tapped into their decision making and goal setting skills to decide what type and placement of fins on their rockets and how that would affect their goal of a successful launch and flight.

Students had an opportunity to use their newly learned communication skills during group work and the building phase. Individuality was displayed with the designing and painting of their rockets. Students experienced success as all rockets launched, despite dodging thunderstorms throughout the day.



Up and away! Seventh grade participants in the “Stay on Track” program at Capital City School, Topeka, conducted by the Kansas National Guard Drug Demand Reduction section, launch rockets constructed during the 14-week program. (Photo courtesy of Gretchen Hellebust)

Deployed Kansas Airman wins Army road march competition

By Staff Sgt. John Wright
455th Air Expeditionary Wing

For most people, jogging 3.3 kilometers — a little more than two miles—under the hot Afghan sun in less than 25 minutes might seem like an accomplishment. Try doing it in body armor that weighs nearly 40 pounds while carrying an M-4 assault rifle and 9 mm pistol, each with several magazines of ammunition.

This was just one phase of a two-day Army competition held at Forward Operating Base Sharana, June 3-4, in which Master Sgt. John Bogart took first place. Bogart is a engineering assistant with the 577th Expeditionary Prime Beef Squadron located at Bagram, Afghanistan. Bogart heard about the competition through his commander and decided to see how he measured up.

“I run marathons for the All National Guard Marathon Team,” said the Wichita, Kan., native, who is deployed from the Kansas National Guard’s 184th Civil Engineer Squadron. “I thought it would be interesting to see where I stood physically against the Army and I also wanted to represent my squadron.”

The competition was organized and run by the Army’s 176th Engineer Brigade and is broken down into two groups: enlisted service members and noncommissioned officers. The top NCO from each of the four battalions in the brigade and one NCO from the 577th Expeditionary Prime Beef Group is selected to compete.

The first challenge is a road march: 3.3



Master Sgt. John Bogart, 184th Civil Engineering Squadron, Kansas National Guard, surges out in front of the pack in a 3.3 kilometer road march during the Task Force Hammer Third Quarter Noncommissioned Officer Board competition at Forward Operating Base Sharana June 3. The competition was hosted by the Army’s 176th Engineer Brigade. Bogart finished with a top time of 24:43 and was the overall competition winner. (Photo provided)

kilometers of heat, sweat and pain that tests the resolve of competitors.

“The elevation and hills that you had to conquer for the run were extremely challenging,” said Bogart. “It was hard to breathe and run with all the gear on.”

The 38-year-old Guardsman met the challenge head on, taking first place in the run with a top time of 24:43, a time that drew praise from the event’s organizer, Army Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Milford, 176th Engineer Brigade.

“Sergeant Bogart was impressive on the road march,” said Milford.

After the run, competitors then had to participate in a marksmanship stress shoot with the M-4 and 9 mm weapons. Each person had to run carrying a full “jerry can” of water (roughly five gallons) 50 yards, set it down and run back to get another jerry can and repeat the process.

“Once done, you run over to your M-4 and shoot a target that was 20 meters away,” Bogart explained. “The target was a picture of two targets where one figure was in front of the other. The objective was to shoot the head of the object that was being obscured from the object in the front.”

Upon completing the M-4 shoot, competitors had to perform the entire process over again, only this time shooting the 9 mm. Each weapon also had blanks in the magazines to cause malfunctions to test the competitors’ knowledge of clearing a malfunction.

Land navigation was up next. “It’s a challenge in itself to walk up and down the hills,” Bogart said. “But you also had to know your pace count. You were giving a distance and a bearing and you had to walk the bearing with a compass.”

The ground pounding didn’t end there. The determined senior NCO then had to walk the 3.3 kilometers back to the compound, where a combat lifesaver test with multiple scenarios awaited. Bogart was

more than up to this particular challenge having been a self aid buddy care instructor in the past.

According to the sergeant, the most challenging part of the first day was still yet to come: he had 30 minutes to write a 250-500 word essay on leadership.

“It was a definite challenge because I have never been a person to write essays with correct grammar, sentence structure and flow,” Bogart explained. “However, I was thankful the question dealt with leadership because as an NCO that’s something that’s easy to write about.”

Day two presented what Bogart described as a very daunting task. He had to appear before a board consisting of four Army command sergeant majors, an Air Force chief master sergeant, and two Army first sergeants. The board asked more than 30 questions covering a wide range of topics from the Air Force Professional Development Guide.

As board president, Milford was impressed with the Air Force master sergeant’s answers.

“He is a very professional and knowledgeable NCO and you can tell he takes his profession very seriously and takes care of his Airman,” the veteran soldier said.

Bogart’s achievement was also lauded by Master Sgt. Timothy Horvath, 877th Expeditionary Prime Beef Squadron first sergeant.

“To compete against the high level of NCOs from the Army he competed against, I am extremely proud of the professionalism and effort he put into preparing and executing in the event,” Horvath said. “I think it speaks volumes to the caliber of NCO the Air Force produces.”

Horvath also explained how the competition showcased that the joint force is on the same page in terms of training and integration.

“We are truly one force, one fight,” said Horvath. “All the participants were encouraging each other, swapping stories and asking questions about missions. It was clear to me the brotherhood and mutual respect went beyond what our service component is. We are all here as a team to support one another.”

As the competitors waited for the board to announce the overall winner, Bogart said he began to wonder if he had done enough to at least place respectably.

“I really thought I had lost,” Bogart admitted. “Everyone represented their battalion and squadron very well. When they announced that I won, a huge rock fell off my shoulders. I could breathe again.”

A final honor was still to come for Bogart. In recognition of his achievement, Army Brig. Gen. Lester Simpson, 176th Engineer Brigade commander, awarded the sergeant the Army Commendation Medal.

“It was so surreal,” Bogart reflected. “Standing in front of everyone as an Air Force member made me feel really proud.”

Mystery illness fells Airman

By Maj. DeAnn Barr
184th Intelligence Wing

One week after maximizing his annual physical fitness test score, Senior Master Sgt. Bob Bledsoe, 184th Intelligence Wing, Kansas National Guard, began to feel a tingling in his fingers and extreme sensitivity to cold. Thinking it a little odd, he did what most healthy people do – nothing.

A week later, however, while coaching his high school football team in Western Kansas, the wind began to gust strongly and Bledsoe found he could hardly hold his balance. He felt oddly dizzy while walking. For a guy who rarely missed a day of work, once he needed crutches to avoid falling, he thought it was time to head to the doctor.

Initially, his family doctor diagnosed him with probable multiple sclerosis, but as the rapid degeneration continued it was soon ruled out. Within three weeks of his superlative score on the annual PT test, Bledsoe was in a wheelchair and his facial features began to turn numb. Baffled and concerned, local doctors secured him an appointment within two weeks at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

Within a day, diagnostic testing at Mayo

ruled out MS and honed in on inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, or IDP, a condition where the immune system erodes the myelin that covers nerve endings and prevents brain signals from connecting.

With the correct diagnosis, treatment began immediately. Although the medication was extremely expensive and not entirely covered by insurance, Bledsoe was grateful to begin seeing small progress. Within three weeks of the three-hour long treatments he began to walk with crutches again. Soon he was walking on his own.

To say the experience was life-altering would be an understatement.

“The outpouring of support makes you truly appreciate everyone around you, from family to friends to the second family in the Guard,” said Bledsoe. “Their support was amazing, and there is no way to thank people for all they have done.”

Bledsoe has been out of treatment for two months and is hoping all the progress remains constant. He has been returned to full military status and is more appreciative than ever for his good health.

“We will just deal with things as they come up, but for now, it’s good to be back.”



A mysterious illness that began as a tingling in his fingers put Senior Master Sgt. Bob Bledsoe into a wheelchair within a three-week span. (Photo by Maj. DeAnn Barr)

Suicide is not just a deployment issue

By Chaplain (Capt.) John Potter
Full-Time Support Chaplain

The news media frequently portray suicide as a deployment issue. The all-too-common perspective is that only battle-hardened veterans experience suicidal difficulties. A service member goes down range, encounters the realities of war, develops post-traumatic stress issues and begins to question the value of life. While these situations do occur, life in uniform isn’t always that cut and dried.

In calendar year 2010, the Army National Guard reported 114 suicides. A majority of these Soldiers never deployed. That statistic seems to get little attention, but it is very telling. Suicide issues apply to everyone in uniform.

Common issues, such as ending a relationship, financial difficulties, feeling hopeless, increasing alcohol use, or with-

drawing from friends, family, and society are warning signs that any Soldier can experience. These factors can happen to any person regardless of rank, time in service, or combat experience.

Remember ACE: Ask, Care, and Escort. When you recognize the warning signs, ask your buddy if he/she is considering suicide. Care for your buddy by removing any means that could be used for self-injury and actively listen to his/her situation. Escort your buddy to the chain of command, a chaplain, a medic, a behavioral health professional, a counselor or a doctor. Never leave your buddy alone. Make sure that you connect your buddy with a resource for help.

Suicide is not isolated to the combat zone. Warning signs are common and can impact any service member. Do your part to prevent suicide, it just might save a life.

Photographers capture priceless and poignant moments

By Sgt. Jessica Barnett
Public Affairs Office

Deployments are a very emotional time for service members and their families. Many are so overwhelmed that taking pictures of these cherished milestones can be forgotten as they reach for their child’s first hug or feel relief when their son is home again.

A former military spouse created a foundation of photographers to help military families capture these unforgettable images. Operation: Love ReUnited offers free photography sessions to service members and their families during a deployment. Each family gets two free sessions per deployment that can be used before, during, or after the deployment. The photographers agree to ship a 4x6 album (one per deployment) to the service member’s deployment location. This is done in hopes of boosting morale while away from loved ones. For a homecoming photo session, families will receive a compact disc of the images.

Founder of Operation: Love ReUnited, Tonee Lawrence of Denver, Colo., realized the need for the program back in 2006, when her husband and father of three returned from his deployment and she wasn’t able to capture the long-awaited faces of her little boys when they saw their father for the first time in months.

To capture these emotional moments, Lawrence has recruited more than 600 photography businesses across the nation, some with multiple photographers working on their behalf. To many service members, photos of family and friends are the life connection and morale boosters that make the time away from home a little bit easier to overcome.

“Many of us know firsthand, as children, spouses and parents of the military, how ‘real’ a deployment is,” said Jeni Turner, OpLove: Reunited regional coordinator for the Kansas City area. “It’s not just a short story on the nightly news; it’s not just a ‘support your troops’ e-mail forward...it’s a family, broken apart to help our country for what feels like the longest year of their life. As photographers, we gladly carry the burden of sealing their moments of departure and homecoming in photographic history. It’s the least we can do for the men and women who stand tall and defend our homeland.”



1st Lt. Lindsey Davis, platoon leader and pilot with the Company G, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion), takes in the moment as he embraces his wife, Brigid, and dog, Izzy, at his homecoming from a yearlong deployment to Iraq with the Kansas National Guard, at Forbes Field in Topeka, Kan., April 22, 2011. (Photo by Jeni Turner, Jenifriend Photography)

Operation: Love ReUnited helps families find participating photographers in their area through its website at www.oplove.org. Families type in their ZIP code, contact the photographer and make an appointment for photos.

“I’m very grateful to OpLove and Jeni for the priceless gift of our photographs,” expressed Brigid Davis, wife of 1st Lt. Lindsey Davis, of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion). “At that moment, all I could see or think of was Lindsey. My emotions were bursting. Now I can relive that moment over and over.”

The Operation: Love ReUnited website is set up only to help deploying or deployed families locate a photographer for two free sessions and the families are not obligated to purchase anything.

If you are a member or family member of the United States military, and are interested in having very special and touching images with a patriotic edge taken of you and/or your family before a deployment or during, and at your reunion, please contact a photographer in your area by finding them at www.oplove.org.

Kansas fliers supporting FEMA missions along Missouri River

By Lt. Col. Dennis L. Pearson, CAP
Mission Public Information Officer

Members of the Kansas Wing of the Civil Air Patrol began assisting the CAP Missouri Wing June 10, 2011, with providing aerial photo reconnaissance of the extensive flooding along the Missouri River.

Flights assist the Missouri Wing CAP as it supports the FEMA Regional Response Coordination Center. Aircrews fly routes from Kansas City to the Iowa border and from Kansas City to Booneville, Mo.

Three Kansas Wing aircraft have provided 15 hours during five sorties. Mission base is located at Charles B. Wheeler Downtown Airport, Kansas City, Mo. Kansas CAP members participating are Col. Timothy Hansen, Lt. Col. John R. Shelton, Chaplain (Maj.) Randolph Colby, Maj. Alan M. Simon, Maj. Donald R. Whitney, Capt. Douglas D. Dutton, Capt. Daniel L. Marvin, 1st Lt. Patricia A.

Crockett, 1st Lt. George Tom Page, 2nd Lt. Jack E. Gonzenbach, and 2nd Lt. Mary Ann Teschan.

Recent training for aircrews also involved flying pre-flood aerial photo reconnaissance flights for the Kansas Army National Guard two weeks before the Northern Tide mission from Salina to the Kansas City area, and up to Atchison.

Aircrews provide aerial reconnaissance of flood progression of the Missouri River and other rivers. They photograph the condition of levees and note overtoppings, breaches, seepage, and sand boils; hazards to roads, bridges, dams, power plants, and water treatment facilities; report potential hazardous material spills, assess the impact to communities and the area around Rosecrans Air National Guard Base.

The missions are expected to continue for several weeks due to the ongoing nature of the flooding along the Missouri River.

Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 3 conducts spur ride

Continued from Page 2

ride,” said Hidalgo. “To find out I’m the first female Kansas Air Guardsman to receive spurs, just brings it closer to home.”

The competition remained fierce, with the ultimate prize of having Wheeler pay for the winning team’s Stetsons.

In the end, Team Sweets, comprised of Spc. Richard Tyson Kane of Scott City, Kan., a truck crewman; Staff Sgt. Timothy Schloetzer of Harveyville, Kan., a truck commander; and Sgt. Chase Taylor of Leavenworth, Kan., a gunner, all with the ADT, took the top spot by a slim margin. The clincher for Team Sweets was their quick ruck-march times; they were the only team to earn all points available in that category.

With the conclusion of the spur ride, the teams retired to their hooches to rest and refit for the traditional dinner. The candidates capped their day serving a meal to the cadre and current spur-holders, and the

good-natured jibes, an undercurrent of the event, continued. Each team was prompted to sing the team theme song they’d sung numerous times that day, to the obvious delight of the gathered crowd and chagrin of the team. Everyone smiled as the cadre got their final ribbing in and the candidates knew the day was concluding with their spurs all but on their boots.

Twenty-seven members of the 3/6 Kansas Cavalry Agribusiness Development Team 3, from specialists to lieutenant colonels, male and female alike, earned their spurs.

Two Soldiers earned special recognition Sgt. Paul Olson of Manhattan, Kan., a truck gunner for the ADT, was chosen as most motivated by his peers, and Spc. Jason Cook, Wichita, also a truck gunner for the ADT, was chosen as most motivated by the cadre. The Soldiers received a special plaque commemorating their achievement.

Retirements

Kansas Army National Guard

Col. Frederick Good, HHC, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka
Col. Matthew Raney, HSC (-), 35th Div, Fort Leavenworth
Lt. Col. Charles Eberth, 35th Div, Fort Leavenworth
Lt. Col. Stephen Smith, HSC (-), 35th Div, Fort Leavenworth
Chief Warrant Officer 5 Keith Rogers, 35th Div, Fort Leavenworth
Chief Warrant Officer 4 Indulis Dambro, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Sgt. Maj. Pat Pierson, 35th Div, Fort Leavenworth
Sgt. Maj. Melvin Smith, 69th TC, Topeka
Master Sgt. Aniello Burr, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Master Sgt. Ricky Combes, HHC, 287th SB, Wichita
Master Sgt. James Haynes, HQ, 235th Regt (RTI), Salina
Master Sgt. Charles Kuhn, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Charles Cherry, 35th MP Co, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Dinah Johnson, Det 1, 1161st FSC, Pratt
Sgt. 1st Class Fred Jones, 137th Trans Co, Olathe
Sgt. 1st Class Judson Jones, Co D, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Emporia
Sgt. 1st Class William Neff, HHC, 169th CSSB, Olathe
Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Staver, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
Sgt. 1st Class Todd Willbanks, Co D, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Salina
Staff Sgt. Donnel Groshong, Det 1, 778th Trans Co, Manhattan
Staff Sgt. Terry Hirsch, HHB, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Staff Sgt. Terry Jameson, HHB, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha
Staff Sgt. Brett Lassiter, HHC, 287th SB, Wichita
Staff Sgt. William Lorenz, Det 1, Btry A, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Concordia
Staff Sgt. Mitchell Marker, 170th Maint Co (-), Norton
Staff Sgt. Susan Middleton, Det 6, Co D, 2nd Bn, 135th Avn, Topeka
Staff Sgt. Lisa Newman, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
Staff Sgt. Donald Shearmire, Det 1, 1161st FSC, Pratt
Sgt. Raymond Alexander, Det 1, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
Sgt. Chad Allerheilgen, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence
Sgt. Cecil Cooper Jr., Det 2, 250th FSC, Clay Center
Sgt. Lane Doner, Det 1, Btry A, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Concordia
Sgt. Michael Hanson, HHD, 635th SG, Hutchinson
Sgt. Travis Harrison, 778th Trans Co, Kansas City
Sgt. Timothy Hill, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
Sgt. Gary Kenney, BCTS, Fort Leavenworth
Sgt. Daniel Martinez, Btry C, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Abilene
Sgt. Christopher Moore, FSC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola
Sgt. Timothy Rozell, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita
Spc. Jerry Curry Jr., Det 1, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Liberal
Spc. Gregory Harris Sr., 2137th FSC, Manhattan
Spc. Jason Myers, 2137th FSC, Manhattan

Kansas Air National Guard

Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Doviak, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Patrick Louis Cochran, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Eldon Jackson, 190th ARW, Topeka
Tech. Sgt. Phillip Edward Cockrell, 190th ARW, Topeka
Tech. Sgt. Thomas Hopper, 190th ARW, Topeka



Staff Sgt. Ryan L. Pierce (left front), Newton, Kan., and Sgt. 1st Class Eric Kaltenborn, Manhattan, Kan., watch spur ride candidate Senior Airman Melissa Hidalgo Mendez demonstrate her weapon skills with the M16 rifle. Hidalgo, an Air Force medic from Topeka, Kan., attached to ADT 3, became the first Kansas female Air Force National Guardsman to earn her spurs with the cavalry by completing the spur ride. (Photo by Senior Airman Ronifel S. Yasay, Laghman Provincial Reconstruction Team)

Kansas National Guard engineers work on overseas projects

**By Staff Sgt. Brian Blandamer
242nd Engineer Company**

Approximately 70 Kansas National Guard Soldiers from the 242nd Engineer Company (Horizontal), Coffeyville, Kan., augmented by Soldiers from the 772nd Mobility Augmentation Company, Pittsburg, Kan.; the 226th Engineer Company (Vertical), Augusta, Kan.; and Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Forward Support Company of the 891st Engineer Battalion, Iola, Kan., conducted a three-week overseas deployment training mission to Hohenfels, Germany, April 9 to 30, 2011.

The Soldiers primarily worked within the Hohenfels Training Area, participating in troop construction program projects in order to improve and enhance the training environment at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center. The major projects the 242nd Engineer Company tackled were expansion of the current CH47 landing pad, various Improvised Explosive Device training lane improvements, Class IV yard motor pool repair, and initial work on berm construction at Forward Operating Base Schwend. The units' maintenance personnel also worked countless hours repairing engineer equipment, as

well as supporting the base maintenance team with unit services and repairs of organizational equipment.

The CH47 pad expansion is a multiphase, multirotation project designed to park five CH47 Chinook helicopters, thus increasing aviation capabilities at the HTA. The project requires more than 4,000 loads of fill material to be hauled to the site by 20-ton dump trucks from a distant borrow pit. The material is then spread, compacted and brought to grade. The 242nd Soldiers hauled in excess of 480 loads of dirt fill for the project and will cap off this year's TCP cycle for this project when it returns in August.

The 242nd's mission for this phase of the IED Training Lane North project required the unit to emplace three culverts and replace one culvert that had been damaged before the lane could be made operational. The unit also improved drainage along the lane and dressed up the area with improvements to the traffic lanes and traffic circles.

Because of their exceptional performance, Soldiers were rewarded with two days off to visit the local German towns of Nurnberg and Regensburg to sample German culture and authentic German food.



Staff Sgt. Jared Ludwig and Sgt. Timothy Shoulders, 242nd Engineer Company, Kansas National Guard, load a 20-ton dump truck with fill dirt for the CH47 pad expansion project in Hohenfels, Germany. (Photo by Spc. Maureen McWilliams, UPAR, 242nd Engineer Company)



Staff Sgt. John Lyon directs Sgt. Vernon Valentine where to dump rock as Sgt. Donald Vining and Spc. Daniel Fogle observe. The rock will be compacted to allow for a stable base for a culvert at the IED Lane north project area in Hohenfels, Germany. (Photo by Spc. Maureen McWilliams, UPAR, 242nd Engineer Company)



Pvt. Jessie Ryherd (left), Spc. Steven Taylor and Pfc. Tamara Roberts install a new wiring harness on a HMMWV in Hohenfels, Germany. Ryherd, Taylor and Roberts are with the Kansas National Guard's 891st Engineer Battalion. (Photo by Spc. Maureen McWilliams, UPAR, 242nd Engineer Company)

772nd Engineer Company conducts successful annual training

By Sgt. 1st Class Jason L. Lane, UPAR

The 772nd Engineer Company conducted annual training from June 4 to 18, 2011. During this training, the Soldiers conducted a 72-hour field training exercise, completing preventative maintenance

checks and services on all assigned equipment in the unit's motor pool. Unit leaders spent many hours inventorying their equipment in preparation for the 772nd's Company change of command.

After a day of mandatory briefings and

safety oriented training, Soldiers of the 772nd began conducting PMCS of the equipment on ground. This task took two days to complete as portions of the company were attending separate annual trainings in Germany, and over half of the company had either been deployed and recently returned or are ramping up to deploy soon.

But the small numbers of Soldiers present were up to the task. While they were checking the equipment, they were also making sure that designated vehicles were equipped with the proper emergency items to more efficiently mobilize in the event of a natural disaster.

The field training exercise was conducted at a local law enforcement shooting range in Pittsburg, Kan. The first order of business was to conduct a reconnaissance of the training area and establish a command post. Soldiers conducted rehearsals and refresher training on the nine line medical evacuation procedures, receiving and giving operation orders, reaction to near side and far side ambushes, reaction to direct and indirect fire, small unit tactical

movement techniques, and proper procedures to call in situation reports.

The Soldiers conducted a total of six missions, including one night mission. These missions ranged from military presence patrols and force-on-force skirmishes. With the knowledge gained from rehearsals, the Soldiers were given their orders. The missions were all small unit infantry oriented. The Soldiers were equipped with M-4 carbine paintball rifles. During the night missions, the Soldiers used night vision goggles. This allowed them to gain experience of operating in an environment similar to a real combat mission.

Following the exercise and after action reviews, members of the 772nd went back to the police shooting range to conduct community service operations. Range upkeep operations included picking up all the trash around the range, mowing and weed eating around the operational area, repairing broken target brackets and constructing new weapons racks. Though the group was small, the Soldiers accomplished a great deal and received quality training.



Cadet Dustin Dice operates a skill saw during range clean up/upkeep mission at the Pittsburg, Kan., Police Department shooting range. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jason Lane, UPAR, 772nd Engineer Company)

Discipline is the soul of an army. It makes small numbers formidable, procures success to the weak and esteem to all.
— George Washington

Flooding gives Kansas Guardsmen their chance to serve

**By Sgt. Jessica Barnett
Public Affairs Office**

Soldiers from the Kansas National Guard’s 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery deployed to Doniphan County, June 28, 2011, to provide security patrols in Elwood, Kan. The tasking came through the Kansas Division of Emergency Management at the request of the mayor of Elwood and county emergency management officials.

“We enacted our voluntary evacuation

and we have several houses that are empty,” said George Mitchell Jr., mayor of Elwood, Kan. “Our four man [police] force would be worn out by the time things could settle down. The Soldiers were offered to us, so I went ahead and requested them to help patrol and protect properties that are vacant at this time.”

Elwood and Wathena, Kan., officials issued a voluntary evacuation for their cities, as the Missouri River hit 29 feet, June 27. By the end of June, an estimated 400 resi-

dents have left Elwood as a precaution.

“We are roving around making sure there is no looting going on,” said Sgt. Derrick Maschmeier, a fire direction control specialist for multiple launch systems with Battery A, 2-130th FA, and resident of Hanover, Kan. “We are driving around making sure everyone is safe. If the time comes to have to evacuate everybody, we’ll just take action and help everybody evacuate the town.”

As residents leave, they notify the city to let the Soldiers know what homes and businesses need to be patrolled.

“The response we are getting [from the community] is tremendous,” said Mitchell. “With the Guard being here, I believe they are at ease knowing that their property is protected and that the levee is being pro-

tected, as well.”

These Soldiers are in addition to 10 that have been on duty in Doniphan County since early June monitoring levees for possible problems such as sand boils, soft spots and animals burrowing holes.

“It’s good to just be here for the community,” said Capt. Jonathan Hines, battalion intelligence officer for the 2-130th FA, and an Olatha, Kan., resident. “They love having us here. They are feeding us like kings. They love seeing us around.”

“They asked specifically for us to come out here and drive around to provide the security presence,” he continued. “So the fact that we answered their call looks good on the National Guard and I think it’s gratifying for us to be here where we are needed and do what they need.”



Sgt. Cody Lee and Pfc. Roy Lockhart, members of Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, monitor a federal levee in a gator, June 13, 2011. (Photo by Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

Army officers begin their careers at Officer Candidate School

**By 1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza, PAO
Officer Candidate School, 235th Regiment**

Each year, Soldiers from across nine different states come to Salina, Kan., to face the first hurdle of their career as commissioned officers in the United States Army. These Soldiers, now holding the rank of officer candidate, are attending the first phase of Officer Candidate School.

On June 14, 2011, Soldiers at OCS celebrated the Army’s 236th birthday. OCS cadre and officer candidates marked the occasion with a birthday cake and a ceremony commemorating the long tradition of Army leadership.

Just the day before, the candidates awoke at 4:30 a.m. to the not-so-soothing sounds of their company platoon trainers rousing them from their bunks. The candidates moved with a purpose, hoisted their assault rifles, strapped on their fully loaded rucksacks and headed out on a five-mile road march, well before the sun had risen. The candidates would complete the road march before 8 a.m., right around the time when most people were just getting to work.

Yet that day was nothing compared to the candidates’ initial introduction to OCS. Assisting the candidates on their journey towards the coveted “gold bar” of an Army second lieutenant, are over 100 staff and cadre. During this time in Salina, the instructors at OCS hope to mold these Soldiers into competent, assertive and confident leaders ready to take charge of a platoon-sized element in combat.

Shortly after a polite and crisp opening ceremony, 130 candidates were assembled to meet their platoon trainers (known as TACs) for their traditional “smoke session.” The sunny June afternoon, at 94 degrees with 98 percent humidity, became a grueling test of mental and physical endurance. The candidates were guided through exercises for hours under the hot Kansas sun. Candidates perspired straight through their Army Combat Uniform while performing pushups, sit ups, high-knees, sprints and various other exercises de-



Capt. Jason Inskeep, Salina, Kan., oversees the training of two officer candidates (Photo by 1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza, PAO, Officer Candidate School, 235th Regiment)

signed to shock the candidate into a high-stress environment. The TACs also got inventive, guiding the candidates through exercises with names like “bear crawls,” “buddy carries,” and “mountain climbers.”

During an average day, candidates must not only follow orders, but also lead anything from a squad to a company-sized element. Candidates attend many indoor classes on military procedures and leadership, yet during their breaks, they are “motivated” by their TACs in sessions of rigorous physical exercise.

Today, the candidates celebrate moving one step closer to joining the proud fraternity of commissioned officers, leaders of Soldiers, and defenders of the Constitution of the United States of America.

Event highlights dangers of hazardous materials in the home

**By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office**

The average home is filled with substances that, when not used properly, can do great harm. Some we know about – insecticides, gasoline, household cleaners. Some, we give little thought to – glue, batteries, hairspray. These products can pose immediate dangers to adults, children, even pets and they can also pose dangers to the environment if not disposed of properly.

To heighten awareness of hazardous materials found in the home, workplace, schools, and even on the sports field, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management’s Technological Hazards Section hosted a Hazmat/Radiological Awareness Family Day June 29, at Gage Park, Topeka.

“We often don’t take the time to read labels carefully and may overlook words like ‘Danger,’ ‘Poison,’ or ‘Warning’ on a product label,” said Angee Morgan, deputy director of KDEM. “That can lead to unnecessary

injury and, in some cases, death.”

“Our homes and workplaces are filled with a variety of products that make life easier and provide great benefits,” Morgan continued, “but everyone should consider the potential dangers we usually don’t think about so that we can use these products safely and enjoy the benefits they offer.”

Participating agencies included the Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas National Guard Wolf Creek Response Unit, Kansas Emergency Geographic Information System Team, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, State Fire Marshal, Shawnee County Household Hazardous Waste, Shawnee County Recycling, Environmental Protection Agency, Topeka Police Department and Topeka Fire Department.

The event included information booths; static displays of emergency response vehicles and equipment demonstrations; a clown, games, face painting and balloon animals for the kids.



Harry Heintzelman, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, talks to a group of kids about the dangers of hazardous materials that can be found in the average household at the Hazmat/Radiological Awareness Family Day at Gage Park. The June 29 event was sponsored by KDEM’s Technological Hazards Section. (Photo by Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

Retired? Keep up with us by email

In an effort to keep our retirees better informed on what is happening in the Adjutant General’s Department, the Public Affairs Office has put together an e-mail distribution list.


Individuals on this distribution list will receive agency news releases, death notifications, Guard member retirements, invitations to changes of command, deployments, ceremonies, etc.


If you would like to be added to the list please e-mail your request to Jane Welch at jane.e.welch1@us.army.mil.


Also if you are a retired Guardsmen and are not receiving a copy of the Plains Guardian at your home, please contact the Public Affairs Office at 785-274-1190 to be added to the mailing list.




Awards and Decorations

KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
Bronze Star

Capt. Brian R. Henning, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Capt. Zachary J. Kittle, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
1st Lt. Kraig L. Buffington, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
1st Lt. Kevin M. Hubbard, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
1st Lt. Jason W. Hulse, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
1st Lt. Douglas D. Vaughn, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
1st Sgt. John L. Short, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class Marion J. Dohle, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class James D. Grayson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class Christopher M. Hargis, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class Loren W. Spohn, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class Michael G. Walls, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Jeremy W. Blevens, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Jason D. Christian, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Dustin M. Housel, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. William B. Kerby, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Chadwick S. Moran, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Stephen M. Graham, 226th Eng Co, Augusta

Meritorious Service Medal

Master Sgt. Joel T. Paige, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Elton B. Bender, Co C (Ord), 2nd Bn, 235th Rgt, Salina
Sgt. 1st Class Samual C. Bonham, R&R Cmd, Topeka
Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Brumley, Jr., ADT #2, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. Diane D. Dougherty, BCTC, Fort Leavenworth

Army Commendation Medal

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jamie L. Jones, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Charles J. Becher, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class Charles L. Cherry, Counterdrug, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Travis A. Eichhorn, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Gary W. Hanshaw, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery H. Richardson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. 1st Class John J. Simon, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Eric S. Brodersen, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Michael D. Carlson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Christopher W. Daugherty, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Sean J. Fisher, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. David H. Herbert, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Craig A. Pack, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Brandon P. Pawloski, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Carrie D. Seeger, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. David H. Herbert, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Jeremy J. Wilson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. James W. Bergen, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Markus L. Chamberlin, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. Brandon E. Diamond, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Jerry Doby, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Robert S. Helmer, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Jerrod D. Hottman, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. Shane D. Johnson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Toby W. Long, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Scottie L. Love, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. Christopher A. Moore, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. Matthew A. Pierson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Aaron R. Plumley, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Michael G. Rogers, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Donald L. Thompson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Donald F. Vining, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Joshua L. Wilson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Spc. Brian E. Anderson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. James J. Barclay, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. John C. Barnes, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jeremy A. Blackburn, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Justin N. Botkin, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Heath E. Bresee, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kurt T. Chance, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Brett M. Cole, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Adam R. Culbertson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jacob R. Daniels, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Robert T. Dutton, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Timothy M. Edwards, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Ruth A. Fix, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Regan M. Gillespie, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Tristan S. Greer, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Matthew R. Harp, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christopher J. Heller, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christina L. Hull, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Cory J. Larsen, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Josey W. Leck, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Justin L. Lero, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Anthony W. McAdams, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Spc. Michael L. Meyer, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Johnny R. Moore Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jason R. Newport, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Mark A. Newton Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. William D. Rogers, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kenneth R. Rood, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. William H. Rusk Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Meghan E. Salisbury, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Anthony L. Strickland, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kyle L. Taylor, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Steven M. Taylor, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Bryant A. Thomas, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Derek A. Thompson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Nicholas E. Thompson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Anthony L. Throckmorton, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Joseph A. Wellman, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kyler A. Wellman, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. John D. Wilson Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Joshua D. Bales, 226th Eng Co, Augusta


Army Achievement Medal

Staff Sgt. Eric S. Brodersen, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Michael D. Carlson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Jason D. Christian, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Robert W. Graham, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with

1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Dustin M. Housel, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Staff Sgt. Amy J. Umbarger, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. James R. Bowles Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. Samuel L. Frantz, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. Jesse J. Gould, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. Timothy A. Hill, Counterdrug, Topeka
Sgt. Samuel H. Huff, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. Shane D. Johnson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. Aaron J. O'Hara, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Dale F. Ouderkirk, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. Matthew A. Pierson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. Bret M. Ploutz, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Michael G. Rogers, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. William M. Smith II, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Spc. Emily B. Aki, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. James J. Barclay, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. John C. Barnes, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jonathan B. Belosic, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Johnny G. Best II, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Crystal A. Booth, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Mark A. Brull, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Timothy W. Charboneau, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Laura L. Daniels, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Robert T. Dutton, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Spc. Christopher D. Ellis, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Benjamin L. Force, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Vincent E. Gonzales Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Matthew R. Harp, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Spc. Jonathan A. Hejny, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christopher J. Heller, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Daniel H. Lampson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christopher J. Lee, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Justin L. Lero, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Lee R. Maier Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Shayden D. Mason, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christopher D. McGhee Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Benjamin R. Michler, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Byron D. Mohammed, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Spc. Harold G. Nichols IV, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Shane L. Nickelson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Curtis E. Odell, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Spc. Nichole F. Palmer, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Spc. Glenn E. Porter, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Celia J. Prince, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Trent L. Ramsey, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. William E. Rauch, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Josey W. Leck, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Corey M. Redfern, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Stephen M. Reed Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Spc. David A. Reed, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. James R. Reynolds, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jacob D. Rion, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Joshua A. Robinson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Spc. Kenneth R. Rood, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Spc. Corey J. Sanders, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Lewis C. Sexton, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Spc. Samuel B. Sexton, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jessica G. Sifuentesgalarza, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Spc. Johnny K. Speer Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Spc. Brittany T. Stewart, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Spc. Nicholas A. Stipp, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
Spc. Anthony L. Strickland, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Troy L. Sullivan, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Nathan J. Swartz, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kyle L. Taylor, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Bryant A. Thomas, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Nicholas E. Thompson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kevin A. Valot, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Joseph A. Wellman, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kyler A. Wellman, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jason W. Westphal, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. John D. Wilson Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Cole D. Younger, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Joshua D. Bales, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Christian D. Markley I, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Kevin J. Murphy II, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Henry W. Silvey, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pvt. Joshua A. Busher, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pvt. Lance L. Longie, 226th Eng Co, Augusta

Good Conduct Medal


1st Sgt. John L. Short, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class Travis A. Eichhorn, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Michael D. Carlson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Chadwick S. Moran, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. James W. Bergen, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. James R. Bowles Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Trisha C. Cramer, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Brandon E. Diamond, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Jerry Doby, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Jesse J. Gould, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Stephen M. Graham, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Samuel H. Huff, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Aaron J. O'Hara, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Matthew A. Pierson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Michael G. Rogers, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Donald L. Thompson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Donald F. Vining, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Joshua L. Wilson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Emily B. Aki, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Brian E. Anderson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. James J. Barclay, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. John C. Barnes, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jonathan B. Belosic, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jeremy A. Blackburn, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Crystal A. Booth, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Justin N. Botkin, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Heath E. Bresee, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Mark A. Brull, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kurt T. Chance, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Timothy W. Charboneau, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Adam R. Culbertson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jacob R. Daniels, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Laura L. Daniels, 226th Eng Co, Augusta

Spc. Robert T. Dutton, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Timothy M. Edwards, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christopher D. Ellis, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Benjamin L. Force, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Regan M. Gillespie, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Mathew O. Glasgow, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Vincent E. Gonzales Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Tristan S. Greer, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Matthew R. Harp, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jonathan A. Hejny, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christopher J. Heller, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Dwane A. Hendley, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christina L. Hull, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Casey D. Jameson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kenneth W. Jarred, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Daniel H. Lampson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Cory J. Larsen, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Josey W. Leck, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christopher J. Lee, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Justin L. Lero, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Charles G. Lewis I, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Lee R. Maier Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Shayden D. Mason, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Cody D. McClellen, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christopher D. McGhee Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Michael L. Meyer, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Byron D. Mohammed, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Timothy J. Montgomery Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Johnny R. Moore Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jason R. Newport, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Mark A. Newton Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Harold G. Nichols IV, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Shane L. Nickelson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Nichole F. Palmer, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Glenn E. Porter, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Celia J. Prince, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Trent L. Ramsey, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. William E. Rauch, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Stephen M. Reed Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. David A. Reed, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. James R. Reynolds, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jacob D. Rion, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Joshua A. Robinson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
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Spc. William H. Rusk Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Meghan E. Salisbury, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Corey J. Sanders, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Samuel B. Sexton, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jessica G. Sifuentesgalarza, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Andrew K. Snider, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Brittany T. Stewart, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Nicholas A. Stipp, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
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Spc. Nathan J. Swartz, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kyle L. Taylor, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Steven M. Taylor, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Bryant A. Thomas, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Scotty L. Thomas, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Derek A. Thompson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Nicholas E. Thompson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Anthony L. Throckmorton, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kevin A. Valot, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Joseph A. Wellman, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kyler A. Wellman, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jason W. Westphal, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. John D. Wilson Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Cole D. Younger, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Joshua D. Bales, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Christian D. Markley I, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Kevin J. Murphy II, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Henry W. Silvey, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pvt. Joshua A. Busher, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pvt. Lance L. Longie, 226th Eng Co, Augusta

Afghanistan Campaign Medal

Capt. Brian R. Henning, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Capt. Zachary J. Kittle, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
1st Lt. Kraig L. Buffington, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
1st Lt. Kevin M. Hubbard, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
1st Lt. Jason W. Hulse, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
1st Lt. Douglas D. Vaughn, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jamie L. Jones, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
1st Sgt. John L. Short, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class Charles J. Becher, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class Marion J. Dohle, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class Travis A. Eichhorn, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class James D. Grayson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class Gary W. Hanshaw, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class Christopher M. Hargis, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery H. Richardson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class John J. Simon, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class Loren W. Spohn, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class Michael G. Walls, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Jeremy W. Blevens, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Eric S. Brodersen, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Michael D. Carlson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
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Staff Sgt. David H. Herbert, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Dustin M. Housel, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. William B. Kerby, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Chadwick S. Moran, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Craig A. Pack, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Brandon P. Pawloski, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Carrie D. Seeger, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Amy J. Umbarger, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Jeremy J. Wilson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. James W. Bergen, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. James R. Bowles Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Markus L. Chamberlin, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Trisha C. Cramer, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Brandon E. Diamond, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Jerry Doby, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Samuel L. Frantz, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Jesse J. Gould, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Stephen M. Graham, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Robert S. Helmer, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Jerrod D. Hottman, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Samuel H. Huff, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Shane D. Johnson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Toby W. Long, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Scottie L. Love, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Christopher A. Moore, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Aaron J. Ohara, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Dale F. Ouderkirk, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Matthew A. Pierson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Bret M. Ploutz, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Aaron R. Plumley, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Michael G. Rogers, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. William M. Smith II, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Donald L. Thompson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Donald F. Vining, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Joshua L. Wilson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Emily B. Aki, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Brian E. Anderson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. James J. Barclay, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. John C. Barnes, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jonathan B. Belosic, 226th Eng Co, Augusta

Spc. Johnny G. Best II, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jeremy A. Blackburn, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Crystal A. Booth, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Justin N. Botkin, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Heath E. Bresee, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Mark A. Brull, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
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Spc. Dean Conner, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Adam R. Culbertson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
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Spc. Laura L. Daniels, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Robert T. Dutton, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
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Spc. Regan M. Gillespie, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Mathew O. Glasgow, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Vincent E. Gonzales Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
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Spc. Matthew R. Harp, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
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Spc. Christopher J. Heller, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Dwane A. Hendley, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Ronald L. Holmquest Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christina L. Hull, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Casey D. Jameson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kenneth W. Jarred, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Cody A. Lakey, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
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Spc. Cory J. Larsen, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Josey W. Leck, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
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Spc. Justin L. Lero, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Charles G. Lewis I, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Joshua R. Lowry, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Lee R. Maier Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Shayden D. Mason, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Anthony W. McAdams, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Cody D. McClellen, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc

Spc. Adam R. Culbertson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jacob R. Daniels, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
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Spc. Christopher D. McGhee Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Michael L. Meyer, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Byron D. Mohammed, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Timothy J. Montgomery Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Johnny R. Moore Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jason R. Newport, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Mark A. Newton Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Harold G. Nichols IV, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Shane L. Nickelson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Nichole F. Palmer, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Bryan N. Pierce, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Glenn E. Porter, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Celia J. Prince, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Trent L. Ramsey, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. William E. Rauch, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Stephen M. Reed Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. David A. Reed, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. James R. Reynolds, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jacob D. Rion, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Joshua A. Robinson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. William D. Rogers, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kenneth R. Rood, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. William H. Rusk Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Meghan E. Salisbury, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Corey J. Sanders, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Samuel B. Sexton, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jessica G. Sifuentesgalarza, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Andrew K. Snider, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Nicholas A. Stipp, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Anthony L. Strickland, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Troy L. Sullivan, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Nathan J. Swartz, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kyle L. Taylor, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Steven M. Taylor, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Bryant A. Thomas, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Scotty L. Thomas, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Nicholas E. Thompson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Anthony L. Throckmorton, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kevin A. Valot, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Joseph A. Wellman, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kyler A. Wellman, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. John D. Wilson Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Cory L. Winkler, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Michael G. Woods, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Cole D. Younger, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Joshua D. Bales, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Shane M. Harris, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Christian D. Markley I, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Kevin J. Murphy II, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Chadd M. Pierson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Henry W. Silvey, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Carmel C. Solis, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pvt. Joshua A. Busher, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pvt. Tyler R. Gay, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pvt. Lance L. Longie, 226th Eng Co, Augusta

Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device



Capt. Brian R. Henning, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Capt. Zachary J. Kittle, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
1st Lt. Kraig L. Buffington, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
1st Lt. Kevin M. Hubbard, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
1st Lt. Jason W. Hulse, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
1st Lt. Douglas D. Vaughn, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jamie L. Jones, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
1st Sgt. John L. Short, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. 1st Class Charles J. Becher, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. 1st Class Marion J. Dohle, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. 1st Class Travis A. Eichhorn, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. 1st Class James D. Grayson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. 1st Class Gary W. Hanshaw, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. 1st Class Christopher M. Hargis, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery H. Richardson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. 1st Class John J. Simon, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. 1st Class Loren W. Spohn, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. 1st Class Michael G. Walls, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Staff Sgt. Jeremy W. Blevens, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Staff Sgt. Eric S. Brodersen, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Staff Sgt. Michael D. Carlson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Jason D. Christian, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Staff Sgt. Christopher W. Daugherty, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Staff Sgt. Sean J. Fisher, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Staff Sgt. Robert W. Graham, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Staff Sgt. David H. Herbert, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Staff Sgt. Dustin M. Housel, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Staff Sgt. William B. Kerby, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Staff Sgt. Chadwick S. Moran, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Staff Sgt. Craig A. Pack, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Staff Sgt. Brandon P. Pawloski, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Staff Sgt. Carrie D. Seeger, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd

M device
Staff Sgt. Amy J. Umbarger, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Staff Sgt. Jeremy J. Wilson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. James W. Bergen, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. James R. Bowles Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Markus L. Chamberlin, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. Trisha C. Cramer, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Brandon E. Diamond, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Jerry Doby, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Samuel L. Frantz, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. Jesse J. Gould, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. Stephen M. Graham, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Robert S. Helmer, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. Jerrod D. Hottman, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. Samuel H. Huff, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Shane D. Johnson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Toby W. Long, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Scottie L. Love, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. Christopher A. Moore, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. Aaron J. O'Hara, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. Dale F. Ouderkirk, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. Matthew A. Pierson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Bret M. Ploutz, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. Aaron R. Plumley, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. Michael G. Rogers, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. William M. Smith II, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. Donald L. Thompson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Sgt. Donald F. Vining, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Joshua L. Wilson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Emily B. Aki, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Brian E. Anderson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. James J. Barclay, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. John C. Barnes, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jonathan B. Belosic, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
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Spc. Kurt T. Chance, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Timothy W. Charboneau, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Brett M. Cole, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Spc. Dean Conner, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Adam R. Culbertson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jacob R. Daniels, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Laura L. Daniels, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Robert T. Dutton, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
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Spc. Tristan S. Greer, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Matthew R. Harp, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jonathan A. Hejny, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christopher J. Heller, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Dwane A. Hendley, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Ronald L. Holmquest Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Spc. Christina L. Hull, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Casey D. Jameson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kenneth W. Jarred, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Cody A. Lakey, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Daniel H. Lampson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Cory J. Larsen, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Josey W. Leck, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christopher J. Lee, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Justin L. Lero, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Charles G. Lewis I, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Joshua R. Lowry, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Lee R. Maier Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Spc. Shayden D. Mason, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Anthony W. McAdams, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Spc. Cody D. McClellen, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christopher D. McGhee Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Michael L. Meyer, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Benjamin R. Michler, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Spc. Byron D. Mohammed, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Timothy J. Montgomery Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Johnny R. Moore Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jason R. Newport, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Mark A. Newton Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Harold G. Nichols IV, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Shane L. Nickelson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Curtis E. Odell, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Spc. Tommy Olivas, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Spc. Nichole F. Palmer, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Bryan N. Pierce, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Glenn E. Porter, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Celia J. Prince, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Trent L. Ramsey, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. William E. Rauch, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Janeva J. Reasor, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Spc. Corey M. Redfern, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Spc. Stephen M. Reed Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. David A. Reed, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. James R. Reynolds, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jacob D. Rion, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Joshua A. Robinson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. William D. Rogers, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kenneth R. Rood, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. William H. Rusk Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Meghan E. Salisbury, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Corey J. Sanders, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Lewis C. Sexton, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Spc. Samuel B. Sexton, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jessica G. Sifuentesgalarza, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Andrew K. Snider, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Johnny K. Speer Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Spc. Brittany T. Stewart, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Spc. Nicholas A. Stipp, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Anthony L. Strickland, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Troy L. Sullivan, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Nathan J. Swartz, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kenneth M. Taylor, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Spc. Kyle L. Taylor, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Steven M. Taylor, 226th Eng Co, Augusta

Spc. Bryant A. Thomas, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Scotty L. Thomas, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Derek A. Thompson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Spc. Nicholas E. Thompson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Anthony L. Throckmorton, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kevin A. Valot, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Joseph A. Wellman, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kyler A. Wellman, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jason W. Westphal, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Spc. Adam N. Williams, 226th Eng Co, Augusta, with 2nd M device
Spc. John D. Wilson Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Cory L. Winkler, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Michael G. Woods, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Cole D. Younger, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Joshua D. Bales, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Shane M. Harris, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Christian D. Markley I, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Kevin J. Murphy II, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Chadd M. Pierson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Henry W. Silvey, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Carmel C. Solis, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pvt. Joshua A. Busher, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pvt. Tyler R. Gay, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pvt. Lance L. Longie, 226th Eng Co, Augusta

Combat Action Badge



1st Lt. Kraig L. Buffington, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class James D. Grayson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class Christopher M. Hargis, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class Michael G. Walls, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Dustin M. Housel, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. William B. Kerby, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Brandon P. Pawloski, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. James W. Bergen, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Brandon E. Diamond, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Shane D. Johnson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Scottie L. Love, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Matthew A. Pierson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Michael G. Rogers, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Joshua L. Wilson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Brian E. Anderson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. James J. Barclay, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. John C. Barnes, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
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Spc. Christopher D. McGhee Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
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Spc. Johnny R. Moore Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jason R. Newport, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Mark A. Newton Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Shane L. Nickelson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Trent L. Ramsey, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Stephen M. Reed Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
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Spc. Kenneth R. Rood, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. William H. Rusk Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Lewis C. Sexton, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
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Spc. John D. Wilson Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Michael G. Woods, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Joshua D. Bales, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Christian D. Markley I, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Kevin J. Murphy II, 226th Eng Co, Augusta

Combat Medical Badge



Spc. Corey M. Redfern, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jamie L. Jones, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
1st Sgt. John L. Short, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class Charles J. Becher, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class Travis A. Eichhorn, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class James D. Grayson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. 1st Class Gary W. Hanshaw, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
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Sgt. Scottie L. Love, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Matthew A. Pierson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Bret M. Ploutz, 226th Eng Co, Augusta

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Sgt. Aaron R. Plumley, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
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Sgt. William M. Smith II, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Donald F. Vining, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Joshua L. Wilson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Brian E. Anderson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jonathan B. Belosic, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jeremy A. Blackburn, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Justin N. Botkin, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kurt T. Chance, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Timothy W. Charboneau, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Brett M. Cole, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jacob R. Daniels, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Robert T. Dutton, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christopher D. Ellis, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Mathew O. Glasgow, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Vincent E. Gonzales Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Tristan S. Greer, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jonathan A. Hejny, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christopher J. Heller, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christina L. Hull, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Casey D. Jameson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Daniel H. Lampson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Cory J. Larsen, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Josey W. Leck, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christopher J. Lee, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Justin L. Lero, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Charles G. Lewis I, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Lee R. Maier Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Michael L. Meyer, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jason R. Newport, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Mark A. Newton Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. William E. Rauch, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. David A. Reed, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jacob D. Rion, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. William D. Rogers, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kenneth R. Rood, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Lewis C. Sexton, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Johnny K. Peer Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Nicholas A. Stipp, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Anthony L. Strickland, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kyle L. Taylor, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Steven M. Taylor, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Bryant A. Thomas, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Derek A. Thompson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Joseph A. Wellman, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kyler A. Wellman, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Joshua D. Bales, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Carmel C. Solis, 226th Eng Co, Augusta

Driver and Mechanic Badge (Mechanic)



Sgt. Jerrod D. Hottman, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Bret M. Ploutz, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Brett M. Cole, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christopher D. Ellis, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christopher J. Lee, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Byron D. Mohammed, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. William D. Rogers, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Steven M. Taylor, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Joseph A. Wellman, 226th Eng Co, Augusta

Driver and Mechanic Badge (Driver-W)



Staff Sgt. David H. Herbert, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Staff Sgt. Jeremy J. Wilson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. James W. Bergen, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. James R. Bowles Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Jesse J. Gould, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Jerrod D. Hottman, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Samuel H. Huff, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Bret M. Ploutz, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Sgt. Donald F. Vining, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Brian E. Anderson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jonathan B. Belosic, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Crystal A. Booth, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Justin N. Botkin, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Timothy W. Charboneau, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Brett M. Cole, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Adam R. Culbertson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jacob R. Daniels, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Laura L. Daniels, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christopher D. Ellis, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Kyler A. Ellman, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Matthew R. Harp, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christopher J. Heller, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Casey D. Jameson, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Josey W. Leck, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christopher J. Lee, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Justin L. Lero, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Charles G. Lewis I, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Joshua R. Lowry, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Lee R. Maier Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Christopher D. McGhee Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Byron D. Mohammed, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Johnny R. Moore Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Harold G. Nichols IV, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Glenn E. Porter, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. James R. Reynolds, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jacob D. Rion, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. William D. Rogers, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Samuel B. Sexton, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Johnny K. Speer Jr., 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Steven M. Taylor, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Joseph A. Wellman, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Jason W. Westphal, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Adam N. Williams, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Spc. Michael G. Woods, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Joshua D. Bales, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Shane M. Harris, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
Pfc. Christian D. Markley I, 226th Eng Co, Augusta

KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Meritorious Service Medal



Lt. Col. Nina Draffen, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Lt. Col. William Hefner, 190th ARW, Topeka
Senior Master Sgt. Perry Crabtree 190th ARW, Topeka
Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Doviak, 190th ARW, Topeka
Master Sgt. Eldon Jackson, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Air Force Commendation Medal



Maj. Michael Robinson, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

**By Master Sgt. Jeffrey Norling
190th Medical Squadron**

The May 21 tornado that hit Reading, Kan., destroyed the home of 190th Air Refueling Wing member and Kansas state trooper Master Sgt. Jeffrey Norling—that's me.

This whole thing has been quite an experience, which I will surely never forget – as much as we all want to.

As a trained storm spotter, I was monitoring the storm outside of town with my son, AJ. We were watching the NASCAR showdown race while listening to the NASCAR scanner (Clint Bowyer, of course), as well as the fire/EMS/police scanner in my office, since we knew bad weather was possible. My wife, Shelly, was soaking dishes, and my daughter, Rachel, was on the computer. I overheard my best friend Scott, the Reading fire chief, spot a funnel cloud, which was a remnant of an EF-1 that hit just northeast of Emporia. He hollered on the radio that he needed any and all available storm spotters to spread out and surround Reading.

AJ and I grabbed the laptop and air card to view radar images, my county radio, and my Kansas Highway Patrol radio. I asked and pleaded that Rachel and Shelly come with us. Shelly said, "No," that she would stay, and if they heard we were actually in any way going to have a tornado hit, they would go to the storm shelter in the backyard.

My son and I drove to a hill a mile and a half southwest of town for a full 360-degree view of the area. It was post-sunset and the sky to the west had a dim glow to it. We watched funnels drop out of the sky several times with no ground contact or debris.

The wall cloud rotated and dropped lower as it approached. To our northwest, we saw two tails drop down – just over a mile away. AJ and I stared at it for a second, before I said, "This is going to be bad. That is a double!"

"It's on the ground!" I hollered on the county and KHP radios that the tornado was entering town.

Within a second more, it hit a barn and some trees, darkening the funnels and growing in width. The two twisters swirled around each other like dough hooks on a blender. As it went directly north of our location, we saw sparks from the power lines that were being ripped apart.

Once the tornado entered town, all we could do was watch from the hill. I'm trained to prevent harm and when there is nothing you can do to change or stop it, it's a crippling feeling. I had to tell AJ that Mom and Rachel may not be there when we got back, and that it was a real possibility they could be hurt, dead or missing. He and I said several one-word outbursts as we drove north on the road toward town.

Softball-sized hail was raining down on us, as well as shredded leaves, grass and dirt. We had to stop, so I pulled under a

large row of hedge trees to slow down the hail and prevent damage to my windshield. It passed after about a minute.

We came across some friends, a local farmer and his son. They were headed off their property to storm spot, too. But their SUV was now upside-down in the ditch and they were crawling out. They waved us on to town to check on Reading.

I crossed the tracks on the west side of Reading, turned east on Front Street and immediately knew Reading took a direct hit. The southwest corner of town is where the tornados came in. It was eerie. By now darkness had fallen and the stars were out, and the moon was peeking through the edge of the storm as lightning flashed on the eastern sky.

I drove to some fallen walnut trees on Front Street, about 50 yards from my house. I spotted Shelly waving her arms at me. A huge sense of relief overcame AJ and me, to include some tears. I asked her if she and Rachel were okay. I then asked about the house, and she said simply, "It's gone. The whole thing — it's gone."

I walked around the large fallen trees and could barely see the remnants of my home in the glow of a flashlight. I radioed the KHP dispatcher that my house took a direct hit and that my patrol car was somewhere under part of my house.

After that, things moved quickly as we started to look for our pets and survey the damage. I asked Shelly if she was safe in the shelter. She explained that one of Rachel's friends a block away from the west side of town and her boyfriend were so scared that they ran across the field between our homes, and met Shelly at the back door of our house. They started to make a run for the shelter, about 45 feet away, when debris and hail started to pound down. So, Shelly told everyone to get into the shower stall in our bathroom.

I looked at the location she had taken the kids and was in awe. It was one of the only pieces of the house still standing with any integrity at all.

She had wrapped all of them in a heavy comforter, stayed low to the floor, and watched as the roof was ripped off and the walls around her shook. The house had lifted and twisted a bit when everything just simply blew up.

Now, it is cleanup time, prayer time, and the fact that I still have my wife and youngest child still alive on this Earth is due to one thing — He above!

Stuff is stuff. It can and will be replaced. There have been so many different blessings since we lost our home.

There are pieces of our lives that changed forever that night. It still wakes me up at night. There are pieces of our lives we will never recover, but with all of your support and prayers, and simple understanding of how truly blessed we are, we will succeed!

Kansas Guardsmen receives car to replace one lost to tornado



Master Sgt. Jeff Norling, a member of the Kansas National Guard's 190th Air Refueling Wing and a Kansas Highway Patrol trooper, starts his 2004 Suzuki Forenza for the first time. The car was donated to Norling and his family during a press conference at the Nickell Armory in Topeka, Kan., June 8, 2011. It was donated through the Cars 4 Heroes nonprofit organization. (Photo by Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

**By Sgt. Jessica Barnett
Public Affairs Offices**

Master Sgt. Jeff Norling and his son, Aaron, 16, were returning from storm spotting, May 21, 2011, as they witnessed a tornado rip through their home town of Reading, Kan. His wife, Shelly, and youngest daughter, Rachel, 15, survived the tornado by taking refuge in their home's master bathroom – the only room that remained after the tornado. Due to the devastation left behind, the Norling family lost nearly everything.

To help the Norling family get back to normal life as much as possible, Cars 4 Heroes donated a 2004 Suzuki Forenza to Norling, a member of the 190th Air Refueling Wing, Kansas National Guard and Kansas Highway Patrol, during a press conference at the Nickell Armory in Topeka, Kan., June 8, 2011.

Norling and his family have always given back to their community, therefore, receiving something himself was unexpected.

"The giving that we have received is overwhelming. This just about takes the cake," expressed Norling. "We would have never expected something like this. I am still kind of in shock really, over the whole situation. We are just so thankful to receive a vehicle to help fulfill some of the requirements of being a parent - getting the kids to and from everywhere."

Norling was picked out of hundreds of deserving applicants to receive a car due to his heroism, said founder Terry Franz, known as "Car Santa" to many.

"Jeff is a true hero in every sense of the word, as is his family through their support and understanding as he leaves for long periods of time for deployments halfway around the world. In particular, Jeff deployed as a medical technician to Iraq in 2005 and Afghanistan in 2009. In addition to his almost 17 years of military service in the Army and Air National

Guard, Jeff is also a 10 plus year veteran trooper in the Kansas Highway Patrol."

Cars4Heroes/Cars4Christmas is a non-profit organization that provides free basic transportation to disadvantaged individuals and veterans who are not able to obtain it on their own.

Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, is grateful for the continuing support given to local National Guard members by the Kansas community and non-profit organizations.

"It's our privilege and honor to serve our fellow citizens when a disaster strikes," said Tafanelli. "Sometimes, the tables are turned and it's a member of the Guard family who needs help. In those cases, I have never been disappointed by the outpouring of support we receive from our fellow Kansans and organizations such as Cars 4 Heroes. On behalf of all Kansas Guardsmen, thank you."

In attendance at the ceremony was Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose, director of Joint Forces Headquarters, along with many Guard and Kansas Highway Patrol peers.

"I've known Master Sergeant Norling from my many years of service at the 190th Air Refueling Wing, and it's wonderful to know he's being helped during this difficult time, especially since he's been the one helping many others during his time in the Kansas Air Guard and as a Kansas Highway Patrol trooper."

If you would like to donate to Cars 4 Heroes please go to www.cars4christmas.org/donate-form for more information. Cars, boats, trucks, motorcycles, or RV are appreciated along with monetary contributions. Free towing anywhere in the nation is included if necessary. Your vehicle donation truly can make an amazing difference to a person in need. Vehicle donations are eligible for a tax deduction once the vehicle has been given away.



The remains of Master Sgt. Jeffrey Norling's house sits on his Kansas Highway Patrol car following a tornado that struck Reading, Kan., June 21. (Photo by Lt. Richard Mahoney, Kansas Highway Patrol)

