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# PLAINS GUARDIAN

Serving the Kansas Army and Air National Guard, Kansas Emergency Management, Kansas Homeland Security and Civil Air Patrol

# State, citizens rush to aid of tornado-stricken town

By Steve Larson **Public Affairs Office** 

Coming on the heels of an unusually mild winter, severe storms and tornadoes struck Kansas the evening of Tuesday, Feb. 28, causing one death and injuries and property damage in a number of counties.

Hardest hit was the community of Harveyville in Wabaunsee County, where residents had little warning before an EF 2 tornado damaged or destroyed approximately 40 percent of the town, injuring 12 people, one fatally.

The storm system ultimately caused varying degrees of damage in the eastern half of the state, prompting Gov. Sam Brownback to declare a State of Disaster Emergency for 19 counties, including Butler, Chautauqua, Coffey, Cowley, Crawford, Douglas, Franklin, Harper, Kingman, Labette, Leavenworth, Marion, Montgomery, McPherson, Reno, Republic, Sumner, Wabaunsee and Wilson Counties.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the Kansans impacted by the storms," said Brownback, "especially those in the Harveyville area. The state will do what it can to help these affected communities get back on their feet."

The Kansas Division of Emergency



Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, talks with cadets from St. John's Military Academy, Salina, in front of the ruins of the Harveyville Methodist Church. The cadets were part of the hundreds of volunteers that converged on the town in the aftermath of an EF2 tornado that destroyed or damaged approximately 40 percent of the community the evening of Feb. 28. (Photo by Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

Management dispatched an Incident Management Team to Harveyville Tuesday evening to assist local authorities in coordinating disaster response activities. The agency's Public Information/Geographic Information vehicle deployed the morning of Feb. 29 to provide public information assistance and mapping support for emergency responders. Other state and local agencies that responded included the Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Task Force 2 - Northeast Region Search and Rescue Task Force, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Wamego Fire Department, American Red Cross, and the Salvation Army, along with law enforcement, fire departments and emergency responders from several other counties.

And then came the volunteers by the hundreds. Staged in Eskridge and shuttled to Harveyville, they were deployed throughout the town like an army to help bring order to the chaos. By Friday, more than 1,000 people had volunteered their time, energy and expertise to help the citizens of Harveyville.

"The outpouring of assistance we received so far has exceeded our expecta-

(Continued on Page 5)

## Adjutant General conducts "Stars Guardsmen return from a yearand Bars" town hall meetings

By 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht **184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs** 

Few Soldiers and Airmen get the chance to have a face to face conversation with the commander of their state's National Guard. Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general of Kansas, wanted to change this through open forum meetings

called the "Stars and Bars" and the "Stars and Stripes."

These forums allow Soldiers and Airmen to interact with the adjutant general in a small setting, asking questions or getting information from the source.

"This provides me an opportunity in an unfiltered environment to look at a lot of the key, critical issues in our organization, to ensure that I have a better understanding of that view from each group to make it the best organization that it can be in the future," said Tafanelli.

Tafanelli held forums at The Roost on McConnell Air Force Base, Wichita Kan., with the 184th Intelligence Wing, Feb. 4, 2012. During one of the sessions, he indicated that the Kansas National Guard was made up of 85 percent traditional Guardsmen. He stressed the importance and advantages of having so many Soldiers and Airmen with such a diverse set of skills and depth of knowledge in many different professions.

Capt. Michael Alldaffer, director of Equal Opportunity and a career traditional Guardsman with the 184th IW, of Wichita, Kan., was happy to hear Tafanelli's thoughts on how the Guard is made up.

"It seemed really important to him to embrace the concept of traditional [guardsmen] and what all we go through to make those commitments, not for just the weekends, but for deployments, as

Alldaffer said attending the "Stars and Bars" gave him some good information.

"When he is right there, it is unfiltered and you are hearing it straight from [the adjutant general]," said Alldaffer. "He is a relatively new TAG and to get his face

(Continued on Page 5)

# long deployment to Africa

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

More than 500 Soldiers of the Kansas National Guard's 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery and 35th Military Police Company were welcomed home to Kansas from a year-long deployment to the Horn of

The first of three groups of Soldiers from the deployment were received during a homecoming ceremony at Washburn University Lee Arena, Topeka, Kan., Feb. 9, 2012.

The two groups of Soldiers that followed met their family, friends and co-workers at

the Forbes Field Hanger 662, 190th Air Refueling Wing, Kansas National Guard, Feb. 20 and 25, 2012.

The fanfare started with a motorcycle escort, provided by the Topeka American Legion Post 421 riders, from Highway 70 all the way to each location, letting people along the route know that heroes were on their way back home.

As each group walked to their formation during their respective redeployment ceremony, family and friends waved their patriotic signs high up in the air in hopes that their loved one would see it as they cheered

(Continued on Page 2)



Retired Master Sgt. Mike Simmons with the Topeka American Legion Post 421 riders welcomes home Spc. Ronald George, a human resources specialist with Battery C, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, as his unit and the 35th Military Police Company head to their homecoming ceremony at Washburn University Lee Arena, Topeka, Kan., Feb. 9, 2012. (Photo by Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

## 134th Air Control Squadron reflects on South Asia deployment

By 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht

184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

As approximately 80 Airmen from the 184th Intelligence Wing's 134th Air Control Squadron prepared for their deployment to Southwest Asia in June 2011, Lt. Col. Christopher Mills, commander of the 134th ACS, evaluated his team with some small concerns.

"The tall order was that we had a lot of new people," said Mills. "We literally had people get back from technical school, get checked back into the unit and go with us on the deployment a week or two later."

Now, four months after returning from their five-month deployment, Mills says he couldn't be happier with the results.

"We had enough people, we deployed, we did the mission well and we brought everyone home. There isn't much else you can ask for as a commander," said Mills.

The deployment tempo was actually a benefit for training new Airmen. Capt. Brett Cleveland, chief of training for the squadron said, "Once you get over there, it is probably the most dynamic scenario you could possibly have for training

young troops. It is kind of like baptism by fire. They get spun up really quickly and we debrief after every mission, or after every session they have on scope, so there is a lot of learning going on daily."

This deployment presented a great challenge for the new and seasoned Airmen.

"We might have one or two people out of 33 that went in a position that they were experienced in," said Cleveland.

But for Senior Airman Kyle Rittel, technical controller from Salina, Kan., this deployment, his first, gave him a better understanding of his overall mission.

"Here at home, you do your job, but you don't understand how you fit into the big picture," said Rittel. "But when you go over there, you are forced to discover what your job is."

Rittel and other new personnel were a vital part of the success of the mission, as were the experienced noncommissioned officers and senior noncommissioned officers who mentored them. Senior Master Sgt. David Perez, radar noncommissioned officer in charge, used every opportunity



Approximately 80 Airmen with the 184th Intelligence Wings's 134th Air Control Squadron, commanded by Lt. Col. Christopher Mills, pose in front of a TPS-75 radar in Southwest Asia, Nov. 14, 2011. (Photo by Master Sgt. Eric Heiple, 134th Air Control Squadron)

to include his Airmen in maintenance troubleshooting.

"We had some unique opportunities for training out there, something that we are not going to have during annual training or times on the weekend," he said. "We tried to get the young guys involved in the decision making maintenance because that way, when they go up in rank, they can share their expertise and experience with the people that they will be training."

While deployed, the Airmen of the 134th ACS were also able to get some joint training. Many times during their deployment, members coordinated not only with the Air Force active duty component, but also with Navy and Army. The 134th worked heavily with the Navy on a daily basis to ensure that they were providing an accurate air picture for the joint forces air control command. This joint environment had some stumbling blocks along the way, but nothing that was detrimental to the mission.

"We had the Guard and the active cultures working side by side, but we also had the Army. Just like anything, it was just talking and after a month or so we worked everything out," said Mills.

In addition, the joint environment allowed the Airmen to see how other branches worked.

"We participated in simulation exercises with the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines," said Cleveland.

The 134th ACS faced a number of challenges before and during their deployment, even from the environment. When getting to the duty station, the radar tech found the arid climate was not friendly to electronic equipment.

"There was a lot of heat and a lot of dust, two things that electronics don't like," explained Mills. "So pulling the hat trick to keep it running wasn't just luck, it wasn't just good maintenance, it was smart and savvy maintenance."

This maintenance wasn't easy, but it was a job that Senior Master Sgt. David Perez didn't shy away from.

"The radars that we took over, I don't know how many millions of dollars we spent to get them up in operational condition. When we left, I think that the operational rate was almost 100 percent," said Perez

Equipment breakdown was something that the 134th was trained for and able to address, but what wasn't expected was the need to troubleshoot unfamiliar equipment. Staff Sgt. Kyle Armbrister, 134th ACS maintainer, was tasked with fixing a generator model that he hadn't seen or worked on before.

"It was like a self-taught type of thing and I picked it up pretty quickly. People started asking me about the generator," said Armbrister. "It made me feel good because I was able to walk away with more knowledge of that particular model generator, and I was kind of like the expert for the shop."

The 134th ACS returned home Nov. 17, 2011, to a crowd of family and friends. While deployed, they controlled 30,000 aircraft and completed a successful mission. Mills was happy with the training and experience gained by his young squadron.

"I think that the older generation has a lot to be hopeful for. These young guys are very smart and are very capable of responsibility," said Mills.

## Guardsmen return from a year-long deployment to Africa

**Continued from Page 1** 

and applauded their arrival home.

Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 161st FA and 35th MP Co. spent the last year conducting stability operations in Africa to strengthen partner nation and regional security capacity for long-term regional stability and to prevent conflict and protect U.S. and coalition interests.

The unit deployed March 2, 2011, after training at the Kansas Regional Training Center, Salina, Kan., followed by additional training at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

"Protecting freedom, making lives better and building partnerships is what the Kansas National Guard is all about," said Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general. "These Soldiers carried out this mission in the Horn of Africa with professionalism and a can-do attitude that has become the hallmark of our troops. We thank them for a job well done and say 'Welcome home!"

"The 161, you carried on a great tradition of people of our state," said Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback, as he addressed the second group. "This last year we had the Sesquicentennial. The person of the Sesquicentennial, the first 150 years, was a military man, Dwight D. Eisenhower. And he was considered the greatest Kansan of the Sesquicentennial. It was in no small part because he was president,

but because he was a military man. He served and he sacrificed and he gave, and he continued to give. On his shoulders and the shoulders of the World War II generation, that greatest generation, we stand, we build a great nation and we build freedom around the world and you carry that on."

"Protecting freedom, making lives better and building partnerships is what the Kansas National Guard is all about."

> - Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general

During the final homecoming ceremony, Lt. Col. Thomas Burke, battalion commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Matticks, command sergeant major of the 1-161, presented a Kansas flag to Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard. The flag, which had flown over the unit's headquarters at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa, was presented on behalf of the battalion. They received the flag during their deployment ceremony at the Bicentennial Center in Salina, Kan., from Lt. Gov. Jeffery Colyer, M.D., and Tafanelli. The flag was accompanied with a proclamation by Kansas Secretary of State Chris Biggs authenticating that the official flag of the state of Kansas was flown over the state capitol Oct. 5, 2010.

"It has been my pleasure to serve with the professionals of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery," said Burke. "Throughout this deployment, they have endured personal sacrifices to enable the safety of U.S. and coalition personnel and equipment abroad while successfully conducting over 50 military mentoring missions in nine African countries."

The battalion is headquartered in Wichita, with subordinate units in Dodge City, Great Bend, Lenexa, Liberal, Hutchinson, Newton, Paola, Pratt and Topeka. The 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery was the second of two teams that have been sent by the Kansas National Guard to the Horn of Africa.



Pfc. LeTicia Thompson, a member of the 35th Military Police Company, holds tight to her son, Julius, after her unit's welcome home ceremony at Forbes Field Hanger 662, 190th Air Refueling Wing, Kansas National Guard, Feb. 20, 2012. Thompson and her family have been separated for the last two years, as her husband deployed the year prior. (Photo by Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

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# On Mission: 170th Maintenance Company deploys to Kuwait

By Gary Demuth Salina Journal

The grandchildren of Staff Sgt. David Jermark know why grandpa is going away for a year and they're all right with it.

"They know grandpa has to go serve his country," said Jermark, who has five children and seven grandchildren. "They've handled it well. They know I'm always going to be there for them."

Jermark, a Green resident in Clay County, is a member of the Kansas National Guard 170th Maintenance Company, a subordinate unit of the 287th Special Troop Battalion of Hays.

Headquartered in Norton, with a subordinate unit in Colby, the 170th is preparing to send more than 80 men and women to

ing to raise to the needs of their nation. Too often our political leaders get bogged down in unimportant matters. We all have a responsibility to do good for our country."

Colyer said the National Guard in Kansas has had a great impact on the state in their critical commitment to American security

"As Kansans, we support every Soldier's sacrifice -- they provide freedom for us and most of the rest of the world," he said. "There are millions of Kansans, and these are among our very best. On behalf of Gov. Sam Brownback, I want to thank everyone in this unit for your service and to thank all of your families for the sacrifices they have made and will make to support you through the next year."



Staff Sgt. David Jermark, a member of the 170th Maintenance Company, of Green, kisses his granddaughter Maizy Gurney, of Clay Center, as he holds another granddaughter, Kaylee Liby, of Abilene, after the 170th Support Maintenance Company's deployment ceremony Feb. 12, 2012, in Salina, Kan. (Photo by Tom Dorsey, Salina Journal)

Kuwait on a base security mission for Operation Enduring Freedom.

It's the second time Jermark has been deployed overseas. In 2008, he was sent on a security mission to Iraq.

"That was an eye-opening experience, and it taught me how an entire brigade can come together to make a mission successful," he said. "I'm very glad to see the troops in Iraq come back home to their families. But we still have to keep our guard up and be continually aware of our surroundings."

Jermark's unit will depart for Kuwait in April for nine months after first completing about two months of training at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center in Hattiesburg, Miss. The unit has been in Salina during the last two weeks for annual routine training at the Great Plains Regional Training Center.

A deployment ceremony for the unit was staged at 10 a.m. Feb. 12, in Hangar 600 at the Salina Airport Authority, 2720 Arnold.

Joining the Soldiers, their commanders and family and friends at the ceremony were members of the American Legion Riders, who honored the Soldiers with a flag line, Sen. Jerry Moran, and Kansas Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer, each of whom made remarks to the departing unit.

"I'm joining all of you today to wish these Soldiers well," Moran told the several hundred people gathered for the ceremony. "It's amazing to me that throughout the history of the nation, we have individuals willThe 170th was among the first units to be deployed during the first Gulf War more than 20 years ago, said Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, and this is their first deployment since then.

"You made us proud then and you make us proud today," he said. "The National Guard is critical to our nation's security. We have strong leadership in this unit, who have worked hard and diligently for this mission. I know you are ready."

Capt. Scott Weber, commander of the 170th Maintenance Company, had a direct message to the families and friends of the departing unit.

"I ask that you love them, support them and believe in them," he said. "This is a great company. They will be well-trained in the task ahead of them. They'll make you proud."

The unit will be able to spend a few days with their families before leaving for Mississippi, which Sgt. Cody Breon plans to enjoy to the fullest.

Breon, a Phillipsburg native now living in Abilene, has been a member of the National Guard for seven years. Like Jermark, Breon also did a tour of duty in Iraq.

"It was a good experience for me to get over there and see it firsthand," he said.

Breon said he's glad to be going to Kuwait with the men and women of the 170th.

"This was my original unit when I joined," he said. "There's a lot of support and camaraderie in the unit. We train well together, and we look out for each other."

# Social Networking: 21st century communication

By Karen Brown

www. What Is Social Networking. com

Social Networking. . . . It's the way the 21st century communicates. Want to know what it really means?

Social networking is the grouping of individuals into specific groups, like small rural communities or a neighborhood subdivision, if you will. Although social networking is possible in person, especially in the workplace, universities, and high schools, it is most popular online. This is because unlike most high schools, colleges, or workplaces, the internet is filled with millions of individuals who are looking to meet other people, to gather and share firsthand information and experiences about cooking, golfing, gardening, developing friendships or professional alliances, finding employment, business-to-business marketing and even groups sharing information about the end of the Mayan calendar and the Great Shift to arrive Dec. 21, 2012. The topics and interests are as varied and rich as the story of our

When it comes to online social networking, websites are commonly used. These websites are known as social sites. Social networking websites function like an online community of internet users. Depending on the website in question, many of these online community members share common interests in hobbies, religion or politics.

Once you are granted access to a social networking website you can begin to socialize. This socialization may include reading the profile pages of other members and possibly even contacting them. The friends that you can make are just one of the many benefits to social networking online.

Another one of those benefits includes diversity because the internet gives individuals from all around the world access to social networking sites. This means that although you are in the United States, you could develop an online friendship with someone in Denmark or India. Not only will you make new friends, but you just might learn a thing or two about new cultures or new languages and learning is always a

good thing.

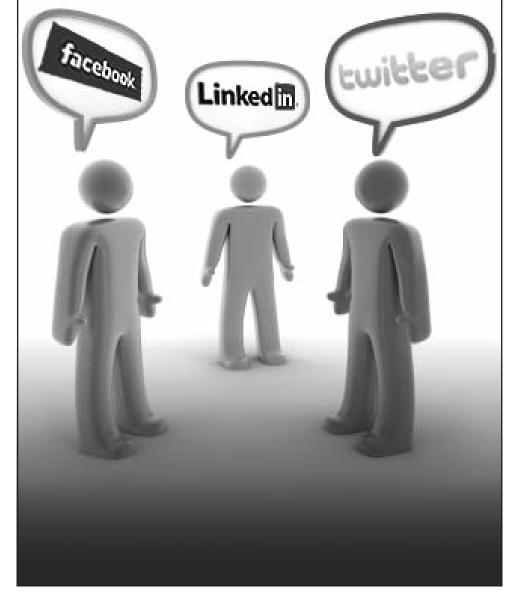
As mentioned, social networking often involves grouping specific individuals or organizations together. While there are a number of social networking websites that focus on particular interests, there are others that do not. The websites without a main focus are often referred to as "traditional" social networking websites and usually have open memberships. This means that anyone can become a member, no matter what their hobbies, beliefs, or views are. However, once you are inside this online community, you can begin to create your own network of friends and eliminate members that do not share common interests or goals.

As I'm sure you're aware, there are dangers associated with social networking including data theft and viruses, which are on the rise. The most prevalent danger though often involves online predators or individuals who claim to be someone that they are not. Although danger does exist with networking online, it also exists in the real world, too. Just like you're advised when meeting strangers at clubs and bars, school, or work -- you are also advised to proceed with caution online.

By being aware of your cyber-sur-roundings and who you are talking to, you should be able to safely enjoy social networking online. It will take many phone conversations to get to know someone, but you really won't be able to make a clear judgment until you can meet each other in person. Just use common sense and listen to your inner voice; it will tell you when something doesn't feel right about the online conversations taking place.

Once you are well informed and comfortable with your findings, you can begin your search from hundreds of networking communities to join. This can easily be done by performing a standard internet search. Your search will likely return a number of results, including MySpace, FriendWise, FriendFinder, Yahoo! 360, Facebook, Orkut, and Classmates.

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# Efficiency, effectiveness, preparedness critical to our success

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

The state legislature is wrapping up its session and while it's been another tight

and challenging year for the budget, our department has been fortunate. That's due in part to your efforts to

ensure we are operating in the most efficient manner possible with both state and federal funds.

On the federal side of the agency,



Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli

the Department of Defense recently announced proposed reductions currently in the president's budget, which if approved, would affect some of our Air Guard staff at the 184th Intelligence Wing and the 190th Air Refueling Wing. The 184th IW would lose 23 full-time positions and two traditional (part-time) positions. The 190th ARW would lose two traditional positions with the changes effective Oct. 1, 2012.

For some time, we anticipated this round of Department of Defense budget reductions would impact our state and recognize the possibility of more cuts as the Department of Defense is attempting to trim \$487 billion from the Pentagon budget over the next 10 years. We must continue to do everything we can to be as efficient as possible while remaining effective.

While our nation's financial struggles continue to be one of our greater challenges, the cyber security threat is also one we are consistently monitoring. Diligence in this area is required from all of us as end users of the extensive technology we now have at our fingertips. Although some of our restrictions, (i.e. no thumb drives) require extra steps be taken and may be a hassle, these measures are essential to protect some of our nation's most vital resources, our knowledge and information. We must take this individual responsibility seriously as we are all a part of the defense, whether on our federal computer network or home internet.

One of the great new tools we are all using more is social media and although it can be an excellent way to push out information and correspond with interested participants, we must be extremely diligent about the information we share as servicemembers and those involved in homeland security and emergency management. We are continually seeking ways to better use social media, but operational security issues are always a priority. Whether it's a photo of a deployment or a comment regarding schedules, we know those who can harm us are watching these sites daily for information.

On a different topic also requiring us to stay safe, Kansas has already seen strong storm systems across the state, one of them deadly. Every storm event in Kansas provides an opportunity to learn and improve

how we prepare, respond, and recover from devastating weather occurrences, both as individuals and as an emergency response agency. While there is a tendency to believe "it won't happen to me," we must instead consider that

"it very well could happen to me" and begin taking the steps necessary to stay safe during the next tornado, flood or other catastrophe that might affect us.

Preparation is the key and it requires only two things: 1) the belief that it's necessary (history in Kansas has proven this with Greensburg, Chapman, Reading, Harveyville and, most recently, Wichita) and 2) talking and planning with your family how to stay safe in the next storm. So many great resources are available to help with this planning including a new resource from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. This includes a new preparedness challenge at www.ksready.gov, which has a simple step we can take each month of the year to get our family more prepared, whether at home, in our cars, or at work or school. If you read the stories of

survivors from events like the Greensburg tornado, it's easy to see that the actions we take to prepare before an event are often the very thing that helps us make a lifesaving decision when it really counts. Take our preparedness challenge and get your family ready for the next disaster Kansas will face.

As an agency, we have several exercises

We must continue to do every-

thing we can to be as efficient

- Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli

adjutant general

as possible while remaining

effective.

this fall to help get many of our state response partners together to plan and walk through how we can better prepare for and respond to various emergen-

cies. One

exercise, called Amber Waves, will take place in Leavenworth in September. It incorporates several local entities as well as state and federal counterparts, including the Kansas National Guard, preparing for the potential of a terrorist attack using a radiological device.

Another exercise this fall at Crisis City in Salina will involve emergency responders and the Kansas National Guard's 73rd Civil Support Team. Each opportunity we have to work with our partners is another chance to ensure each responder knows what to expect when the event really happens.

With spring nearing an end and summer arriving soon, many of us will be traveling more, so please take a moment to update your vehicle's emergency kit and ensure you're ready for a safe and fun-filled summer.

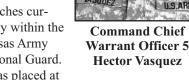
# **Warrant Officer Corps brick**

**By Chief Warrant Officer 5 Hector Vasquez State Command Chief Warrant Officer** 

The Kansas Warrant Officer Corps dedicated a black granite brick to the

Kansas Army National Guard Warrant Officer Corps Feb. 17, 2012. The brick was laser engraved with the "Rising Eagle" and all of the warrant officer branches currently within the Kansas Army National Guard.

It was placed at



the Museum of the Kansas National Guard at Forbes Field in Topeka, Kan.

Immediately following the dedication ceremony, we had our first ever Warrant Officer Call, which was a great time of fellowship among professionals within our corps. The turnout was better than I expected and I would like to thank all of the past, present and future warrant officers who attend these events for their support.

When I looked for a place to set the brick, I noticed that for every unit already represented at the museum, there was a warrant officer identified. If you find yourself in Topeka, please take the time

to go to the museum and look at the bricks, as well as visit the museum. The location where I placed the brick has room for warrant officers to buy an individual brick and place it near our corps brick, so that even if your unit isn't represented, you will always have a home.

The Warrant Officer Call went very well and there were about 30 warrant officers and family members that attended. Everyone had a chance to visit with each other and catch up, ask questions and express ideas. The Warrant Officer Call is a chance for me to visit with you all, as well as foster networking among warrant officers throughout the state. It also gave some of our new warrant officer candidates a chance to meet some of the warrant officers within our area. There were prizes given out at this event and I stated that if anyone wears a Rising Eagle belt buckle to the next event that they would automatically receive a prize.

I am planning to hold the next event sometime soon. It will be held in Salina, Kan. Once an exact date, time and location is set I will let everyone know. I strongly encourage everyone to make an effort to attend these events.

The 2012 Warrant Officer Candidate School course began the resident phase of training at the Regional Training Institute in Salina Feb. 25. We have 11 candidates that are in this year's class, eight of

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## **Soldier to Soldier** In the business of people

By Command Sgt. Maj. John Ryan **Joint Forces Headquarters** 

What's my business? Now, I know what you are all thinking. The command

sergeant major has finally fallen off the deep end. Well, that may be true, but let me state the question in another way. As a leader in the Kansas National Guard, what business am I in?

point, I am in the

Let me tell you. Command Sgt. Maj. From my view John Ryan

people business. You say what product do you produce? My answer is, as a leader, I produce responders.

You may now be thinking that I am talking in general terms, and you would be correct. Let me explain.

I (we) as leaders (noncommissioned officers and officers) mold our people, Soldiers, into a force that is ready to respond to the needs of their communities, state and nation. We build Soldiers to serve as leaders in their communities. We build Soldiers to respond to the needs of our state and our nation, defending the freedoms and the American way of life that we enjoy; building a force of Soldiers who are ready, reliable and relevant to respond when called upon.

Molding leaders is a weighty responsibility. Just like a business, we need to make sure our Soldiers know how to do

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# PLAINS GUARDIAN

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Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli Editor

Production/Graphics/Writer Stephen D. Larson

Sgt. Jessica Barnett

Jane Welch

**Production Assistant** 

**Public Affairs Office** Director Sharon Watson 785-274-1192 Assistant Director Stephen D. Larson 785-274-1194 Public Information Writer 785-274-1190 Jane Welch e-mail: jane.e.welch1@us.army.mil Videographer 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht 785-274-1195

785/274-1191

Sgt. Jessica Barnett The Plains Guardian may be read online at http://www.kansastag.gov For change of address, contact Jane Welch.

Staff Writer

# Service spring equipment safely

By Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marvin Terhune **Safety Office** 

Can you believe it is April already? I am

still waiting on winter to arrive. With the mild winter, the temperatures have been flirting with bringing us an early spring.

If you have "cabin fever," take advantage of the nice days to get a jump on your spring time tasks. Ensuring all of the lawn equipment is



Chief Warrant Officer 3 **Marvin Terhune** 

properly serviced, blades sharpened and weed eaters are restrung are ways to get out of the house while being productive. Now is the time to get caught up with the fire wood you will need for next year. Remember to wear personnel protective equipment

while performing maintenance on lawn equipment and cutting firewood. It is easy to get complacent as the temperature warms up. Don't let your guard down!

One of the things that always arrive this time of year is the "spring cleaning" tasks. You can prevent a trip to the Emergency Room with a few preventive tips.

When you purchase cleaning products, ensure you receive the Material Safety Data Sheet from the retail store. You can also locate most product MSDS information online. The MSDS will include important information as to first aid requirements for the product, protective equipment that must be worn while using the product and vendor contact information if you have questions about their product. Always know what products you can safely use together and what products can cause serious harm if combined.

Enjoy the early spring-like weather, but remember to enjoy the weather one day at a time because it can quickly change, so be prepared. Be safe.

### The six factors to a better heart

By Capt. Amy Blow **Occupational Health Manager** 

Sometimes, it is confusing what all goes into the term "heart health." Research has revealed some major contributors to risk

and the development of heart disease. It doesn't matter if you are young, old, male or female, everyone is vulnerable when it comes to heart disease.



American Heart Association, more

Capt. Amy Blow

women die of heart disease than all forms of cancer combined. Heart disease and stroke are also the number one causes of death and disability among people with type two diabetes. The American Heart Association lists six major controllable risk factors for cardiovascular disease. The more risk factors you have, the greater your chance of developing coronary heart disease.

High cholesterol is the first of the major controllable risk factors. Cholesterol levels can be affected by age, gender, family health history and diet. When too much LDL (bad) cholesterol circulates in the blood, it can slowly build up in the inner walls of the arteries that feed the heart and brain. Together with other substances, it can form plaque, a thick, hard deposit that can narrow the arteries and make them less flexible. If a clot forms and blocks a narrowed artery, a heart attack or stroke can result. A simple blood test, performed annually, can assess your level of risk. As the cholesterol numbers rise, so does the risk for disease.

The next risk factor is diabetes. Adults with diabetes are two to four times more likely to have heart disease or a stroke than adults without diabetes. That's because people with diabetes, particularly type two diabetes, often have some of the other risk factors well before their diagnosis of diabetes has been made.

Diabetes occurs when the body is unable to make or efficiently process insulin in the body which can cause blood sugar to rise to dangerous levels. Diabetes is treatable, but even when glucose levels are under control, it greatly increases the risk of heart disease and stroke. Patients with diabetes often have unhealthy cholesterol levels, including

high LDL cholesterol, low HDL ("good") cholesterol, and high triglycerides. This triad often occurs in patients with premature heart disease.

Another risk factor, high blood pressure, affects one in three adults in our country. High blood pressure is often referred to as a "silent killer," because it is mostly a symptomless disease. Blood pressure refers to the amount of pressure placed on the blood vessels in your body with each beat of the heart. Over time, the high pressure will stretch and weaken blood vessels, allowing cholesterol and plaque to build up in the existing scar tissue, decreasing blood flow and increasing risk for heart attack, stroke and many other life threatening conditions. People with diabetes and high blood pressure double their risk of heart disease.

Physical inactivity is another modifiable major risk factor for developing diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Exercising and losing weight can prevent or delay the onset of type two diabetes, reduce blood pressure and help reduce the risk for heart attack and stroke. It's likely that any type of physical activity—whether sports, household work, gardening or work-related physical activity—is similarly beneficial.

This leads us to the next risk factor-obesity. Obesity has been strongly associated with diabetes. Maintaining a healthy weight leads to lower cardiovascular risk, decreased insulin concentration and increased insulin sensitivity. Obesity and insulin resistance are closely related to other risk factors, including high blood pressure.

The sixth risk factor is tobacco use. Smoking causes 30 percent of all heart disease and strokes, 80 percent of all lung cancers and it cuts an average of 13 to 14 years off your life. Research shows if an individual quits smoking after a heart attack, their overall risk of having another one reduces by half immediately and continues to drop every year thereafter. Smoking robs you of good cholesterol while building up the bad cholesterol, temporarily raises blood pressure, increases the risk for blood clotting and makes it more difficult to exercise.

Now, armed with this information, you can be an informed patient! Your health care provider can perform testing to assess whether you have developed any of these risk factors. Let them know you would like a report of the results and be sure to follow up on any abnormal findings.

### State, citizens rush to aid of tornado-stricken town Brownback spoke with several residents

**Continued from Page 1** tions," said Harveyville Mayor Dustin

In addition to this support, donations of food, water and snacks for residents and emergency workers rolled in from Tyson Foods, Texas Roadhouse, Walmart and a host of other companies.

Brownback visited Harveyville on Thursday, March 1, inspecting the damage and talking with the residents about the storm, expressing his sorrow for their losses and offering words of encouragement. He also had high praise for the large number of volunteers that rushed to the town's aid.

"I've been around public life for a while," said Brownback, "and I've been in a number of these storms and it just never fails that people come together and help out. They show up immediately and they don't want any recognition for it. 'I'm just here to help' and that's what they do."

"We're less than 36 hours off of this incident and roofs are being rebuilt," said Brownback. "The place is getting cleaned

Brownback was accompanied by Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general and director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management; Kuntz; Doug Howser, Wabaunsee County sheriff; Amy Terrapin, Wabaunsee County emergency coordinator and other local officials.

during his hour-long visit, including the family of Richard D. Slade, the Harveyville man who died of injuries received when the tornado blew his house off its foundation.

"I know they (Brownback and Tafanelli) can't wave a magic wand and make it go away," said Kuntz, "but taking time out of their schedule to come here is really appre-

During the governor's visit, Brownback received a call from President Barack Obama, who took a few moments to speak with Kuntz, as well.

"I really hadn't anticipated that," said

By Saturday, March 3, the town's recovery had progressed to the point that many of the responding agencies withdrew, turning the operations completely back over to Harveyville and Wabaunsee County personnel. Volunteer operations were also sharply reduced and Kuntz declared that Sunday, March 4, would be a "day of rest."

"So much has been accomplished in the past few days," Kuntz said. "The volunteers and our residents have worked tirelessly removing debris and restoring services. We have designated Sunday as a day of rest and reflection for our community."

By Sunday, though much still needed to be done, the community of Harveyville was well on the road to recovery.

# **Department of Defense begins** prorating imminent danger pay

By Jim Garamone

**American Forces Press Service** 

Service members now will receive imminent danger pay only for days they actually spend in hazardous areas, Pentagon officials said.

The change, which took effect Feb. 1, 2012, was included in the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act, that President Barack Obama signed into law Dec. 31, 2012.

"Members will see the prorated amount in their Feb. 15 pay records," Pentagon spokesman Navy Capt. John Kirby said.

The act called for the DOD to pay service members imminent danger pay only for the time they spend in areas that qualify for the pay. In the past, service members received \$225 per month if they spent any time that month in an area where the pay was authorized. "This is a more targeted way of handling that pay," Kirby said.

Now, service members will receive \$7.50 a day for days spent in these areas. Personnel who travel to the designated areas for periods less than 30 days should keep track of the number of days they are in the area to verify that they are paid for the correct number of days, officials said.

The military services are working to waive or remit debts for members who may have been overpaid for January, officials said. The services can waive this "when there is no indication of fraud, fault, misrepresentation, or when members were unaware they were overpaid," Pentagon

spokeswoman Eileen Lainez said.

Proration is based on a 30-day month, which translates into a rate of \$7.50 per day. It does not matter if the month is 28 or 31 days long, officials explained; if service members serve in affected areas for the complete month, they will receive the full rate of \$225 per month.

The Defense Department defines imminent danger pay areas as places where members are subject to the threat of physical harm or imminent danger because of civil insurrection, civil war, terrorism or wartime conditions.

Service members who come under fire, regardless of location, will receive the full monthly hostile-fire pay amount of \$225.

Service members will receive notification of the change via emails, on the MyPay system, on social media sites and via the chain of command.



# **Adjutant General conducts "Stars** and Bars" town hall meetings

**Continued from Page 1** 

seen and have a sit down with the troops and answer questions ... is fantastic."

The adjutant general's "Stars and Bars/Stripes" program kicked off in Topeka, Kan., for company grade level officers, Nov. 5, 2011, and Jan. 7, 2012, for sergeants first class of the Kansas Army National Guard.

Although these were not the first of these forums, what made these different was that the Department of Defense had released suggested force restructuring and budget items just the day before. Consequently, Tafanelli spent a good amount of time fielding questions and concerns about how the DoD suggestions were going to affect the Kansas National Guard.

"He was straightforward and told us what was going to happen," said 1st Lt. Andrew Jamerson, an officer with the Medical Group, of Wichita. "If it goes through letters and emails it sounds different, with extra jargon that doesn't catch

your eyes. Having gone through the meeting is going to help me prepare for the budget challenges that we are going to face."

As a result of the open dialogue, Tafanelli heard a variety of ideas on the needs for company grade officers and left the meeting with a training strategy that he hadn't heard before.

"Maybe there is a niche for the Air National Guard here that can be a primary unit and bring in the active component at the lower level to get some initial training," said Tafanelli. "This is something that I haven't thought of before."

Jamerson said he enjoyed the opportunity that the forum provided.

"I wouldn't approach [Tafanelli] at a meeting or even go to his office to ask questions because I don't think that it would be my place," he said. "So, having this setting opens it up for opportunities for me to ask some questions and share my concerns."



Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli fields questions from company grade officers from the Kansas Air National Guard's 184th Intelligence Wing at the second "Stars and Bars" forum held at The Roost on McConnell Air Force Base, Wichita, Kan., Feb. 4, 2012. Officers had the opportunity to have a face-to-face conversation with the adjutant general and hear information regarding the future of the Kansas National Guard. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)



# Give help | Give hope

Give an Hour provides free mental health services to help heal the invisible wounds of war. To receive services or join our network of volunteer providers, visit www.giveanhour.org.

# Soldier accepted to United States Military Academy at West Point

By Cadet Andrew Haanpaa Company A, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment

Every year more than 50,000 young men and women from around the nation apply to the United States Military Academy at West

Point. Of those applicants, only
1,400 get a bid of acceptance. Pfc.
Nebyou Aberra of Company A, 2nd
Combined Arms
Battalion, 137th
Infantry Regiment became one of the chosen few.
West Point is



Pfc. Nebyou Aberra

home to a long line of traditions and history. Two United States Presidents, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Ulysses S. Grant, numerous famous generals and 47 Congressional Medal of Honor recipients have graduated from what some have called the "Long Gray Line," referring to the academy's alumni.

Aberra completed Basic Training and Advance Individual Training in 2011 before enrolling at the University of Kansas. He was in his second year of a computer engineering degree before getting the news from West Point.

The acceptance process includes not only large amounts of paperwork, but also physical testing, a letter of recommendation from his current commander and an interview with a USMA liaison officer. This process takes almost a year to complete.

Aberra will arrive at West Point in July. From there, he will study four years at the academy before taking a commission as a second lieutenant for a four year contract.

# Soldier to Soldier In the business of people

**Continued from Page 4** 

their job, that they have the right leadership skills and to make sure they are medically fit to do the job. Then we need to make sure they are in the correct position, i.e. grade and military occupational skill to be effective for our business.

Noncommissioned officers are the quality control for our business. Yes, I said our business, because you are not in this by yourself. We, all noncommissioned officers, are responsible for making sure our Soldiers know their job, have the right tools to be good leaders and that they are medically fit and meeting the standards. This equates into soldier readiness.

Soldier Readiness is the noncommissioned officer's responsibility and we should not take this responsibility lightly. Because we are responsible, we need to know and do our job. As team/squad leaders, you need to know each of your Soldiers and their families. You need to know if you are short people in your squad and make sure a request for fill in for that position and where it is in the process.

You need to know if your Soldiers have a good "for record" Army physical fitness test, when they are due one, or if they need one and when they are going to take the test. You need to have a plan to assist those who do not pass, getting them ready to pass. You need to know if any of your Soldiers have a medical problem and what is being done to get them fixed ensuring that they provide the right documents to you so it can be inputted into the system. You need to know if they need a Physical Health Assessment, annual requirement and work with your platoon sergeant on getting your Soldiers to the physical health assessment.

You need to know if your Soldiers have the correct noncommissioned officer education course for their grade and get them into the system to go to school. You need to know if your Soldiers are non-duty Military Occupational Skill qualified and get them into the school to get them qualified. You need to know if you have any E-1 through E-3s who are due to be promoted and be asking where the promotion is.

As a platoon sergeant, you need to be doing all of the above mentioned things and tracking them plus doing your counseling on the Soldiers you rate. These should be accomplished at least quarterly, setting up a time with the Soldier and preparing for the counseling. (Note: this will make doing the Soldiers Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report easier). You need to make sure your Soldiers have time to do those administrative and supply actions that need to be done. You need to make sure the section work plans are done. You need to spot check on the platoon and section training to make sure your Soldiers are receiving good training. You need to work with the first sergeant to make sure your Soldiers are being taken care of.

As a first sergeant, you need to do all of the above mentioned things plus manage the Unit Manning Roster, make sure you are going to feed all the Soldiers in your company. You need to manage the additional duty roster, know where the company requests for fill are at in the process. You need to know, understand and communicate the commander's intent down to your noncommissioned officers so they know and understand the intent. You need to be recommending and advising your commander on all enlisted matters and keeping him informed on the morale of the Soldiers in your company.

Yes, we are in the people business, building the future leaders and responders for our communities, state and nation, ensuring they are ready to lead the young Soldiers that will come after us. If we fail to do our jobs, mentoring our Soldiers making sure they are doing the right things to be successful, then they will not be successful and we will not be successful. As I said, being a noncommissioned officer is not easy, yet I know that you are up to the challenge.

Now let's go do the right thing.

# Kansas National Guardsman receives national scholarship

The Council of College and Military Educators has announced that Kansas Na-

tional Guardsman Sgt. 1st Class Chris Foster is one of five awardees of the 2012 CCME Joe King Scholarship.

The CCME Joe King Scholarship is a \$1,000 national award presented annually to five service members across all bran



Sgt. 1st Class Chris Foster

bers across all branches and components of military service.

The scholarship is offered to service members who exhibit superior levels of motivation, character and integrity in pursuing higher education. Criteria for consideration for the Joe King Scholarship includes student grade point average, letters of recommendation attesting to the motivation, character and integrity of the service member, and the quality of an essay written by the service member.

"It is a tremendous honor to receive this award and to be recognized for my academic work," said Foster. "The CCME is an outstanding organization filled with educators and veterans who are dedicated to innovation and improvement in the area of adult education for military members and their spouses. I would encourage any Soldier or spouse who is seeking a degree to apply for the CCME Joe King scholarship. This scholarship is not just for active duty Soldiers, it is for National Guard Soldiers, as well."

Foster, 37, is attending graduate school at Kansas State University in Manhattan. He is scheduled to graduate with a Master of Science degree from Kansas State College of Education in May 2012. Foster hopes to use his graduate degree to serve the Kansas National Guard in positions of greater responsibility and to secure a beneficial second career after his retirement from military service.

Foster completed his Bachelor of Science degree at Kansas State University in 2008. He has served in the Kansas Army National Guard for more than 18 years, including eight years as a platoon sergeant and readiness noncommissioned officer. He is currently assigned as an operations noncommissioned officer with the 235th Regiment in Salina.

Foster lives in Lindsborg, Kan., with his wife, Carrie, and their five-year-old son, Clayton.

# Warrant Officer Corps brick

**Continued from Page 4** 

which are from Kansas. If you are in Salina during their class, please stop by and see them. Hopefully, we can get a bunch of us to attend the class song and rock design presentations. If you haven't ever seen this, it is truly something to witness as the candidates can get pretty ingenious with their song and rock design.

The candidates are scheduled to graduate from Phase III of WOCS at Camp Atterbury, Ind. The ceremony will be held at the War Memorial in Indianapolis, Ind. If you haven't been to this memorial, you should check it out. It is very prestigious and the second largest war memorial in the United States

Becoming a warrant officer is a great honor and a privilege. The warrant officer's role has been changing over the last 10 to 20 years and although once known as the "Quiet Professionals," today we are leaders, systems integrators and subject matter experts all rolled into one.

Leadership has become the single most important factor in today's Army. Remember, you are not just technical experts anymore. You are leaders in today's wartime Army. The warrant officer has served since July 9, 1918, and has evolved from one specialty – the mine planter – to approximately 60 specialties throughout nearly every branch in the Army. You may be a Black Hawk pilot conducting a lowlevel night vision goggles air assault mission, or a maintenance officer overseeing the work of 50 mechanics ensuring a convoy rolls. However, no matter what role you are filling, you know that to be successful you will have to assert your leadership skills on a daily basis and apply all

that you have learned.

We are volunteering to lead the most valuable resources our nation has – its sons and daughters. It is our responsibility to ensure that we lead them well. This will take much of our time, but as leaders, we have accepted this responsibility.

Warrant officers constantly need to stay abreast of modernizations and changes influencing our trade, ensuring we have the most current practices used within our field. Read the regulations that apply to our specialty. We may never see the level of professional military education offered to warrant officers that is offered to others, so we must make a life-long commitment to learning. We must know how to mine and analyze data so we can provide the right advice at the right time. Also, we must make it our responsibility to be Soldiers who provides timely, sound and accurate information.

Finally, always remember that we did not get to this point in our lives alone. I am certain that many of you, if not all, sought out someone's advice, counsel and mentorship. Mentorship is one of the keys to our success, so please don't forget to pass it down.

As you press ahead as Army warrant officers, always keep in mind how important it is to take the good, the bad and the ugly that you experience and use it in a positive way to help improve and develop yourself, our organization, our Corps and our Army.

Again, thank you all for your support and service and if there is any warrant officer news such as promotions, graduations, retirements or changes that affect warrant officers, please send them to me at hector.vasquez @us.army.mil or 785-274-1903 and I will get them added in future articles.















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## First Kansas National Guard female chief warrant officer 5 retires

By Pfc. Brandon C. Jacobs 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Rosanna Morrow, Topeka, budget officer for the United States Property and Fiscal Office, Kansas Adjutant General's Department, retired March 14, 2012, after serving the National Guard for more than 36 years. In that time, she served in the Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas National Guard in fields ranging from supply to recruiting and retention.

Morrow was joined by her friends, family and comrades at a ceremony in Nickell Armory in Topeka, where she received the Legion of Merit Medal presented by Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard.

"This is one of those bittersweet moments," said Peck. "She has made great accomplishments and great contributions during her service."

Presentations of awards were also made by Col. Terry Fritz, head of the United States Property and Fiscal Office, Kansas Adjutant General's Department, and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Hector Vasquez, command chief warrant officer, on behalf of the Kansas National Guard Warrant Officer Corps.

"I never had to worry about budget, because Rosanna was always there,"said Fritz. "Everything was always correct. Everything was always done. I imagine there are a few program managers out there that are a little nervous about this day, too. Not everyone out there knows it, but I know it. Rosanna kind of took care of you guys. She made it look easy."

Representatives of the 235th Training Regiment presented Morrow with a case containing their colors and insignia, saying she will always be a part of the unit.

Morrow was promoted to chief warrant officer 5 in 2006 while serving as the military personnel technician for the Kansas Army National Guard director of personnel. She is the first female Soldier to attain the rank and only the third Soldier to rise that high in the warrant officer corps in the

In 1975, Morrow became the fifth female to enlist in the Oklahoma National Guard.

"I needed a part-time job, and didn't really expect anything of it," she said.

When she joined, only 4.6 percent of the Army was comprised of women, compared to the 23 percent that serve today.

"There were very few military occupational specialties women could do at the time," said Morrow.

Morrow worked her way up the ranks until 1978 when she transferred to the Texas Army National Guard as a staff sergeant.



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Rosanna Morrow, Topeka, budget officer for the United States Property and Fiscal Office, Kansas Adjutant General's Department, is presented the Legion of Merit Medal for her exceptional service of more than 36 years in the Army National Guard in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, during her retirement ceremony at the Nickell Armory, March 14, 2012. (Photo by Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

"I met every gate, passed my physical fitness test and did everything required of me," said Morrow.

Her hard work and dedication paid off when, in 1980, she was promoted to sergeant first class and selected as a battalion supply sergeant. During her time with the Texas National Guard she earned several service and achievement awards for efforts supporting local communities and unit functions.

Morrow moved to Kansas in 1990 and was selected to attend warrant officer candidate school, where she was one of three females in her class. She graduated in 1991 with leadership and academic honors from a program that had a 52 percent dropout rate. One of Morrow's most memorable

moments with the National Guard was receiving the Distinguished Honor Graduate award for her class.

After graduation, she was assigned to the Kansas Military Academy as a military personnel technician. It was for her duties there and at Headquarters, State Area Command, where she worked as a recruiting and retention specialist, that she received the Distinguished Performance Award from the adjutant general of Kansas.

In 2006, Morrow was selected as the Kansas Army National Guard Outstanding Warrant Officer of the Year.

Morrow, who has mentored many Soldiers over the years, offered this sage advice: "Let others guide and mentor you, then pass it on."

### **Museum of the Kansas National Guard**

UNIT BRICK PATIO PROJECT

With the purchase of 30 new bricks by individuals in a unit, the Museum Board will purchase two specially painted and engraved header stones to outline your unit area. This can be your unit crest or your own design.

Regiment, Brigade, Wing and Division level unit represented, but companies or deployed unit symbols can also be engraved.

The goal is to have every Battalion/Squadron,



To purchase header bricks, e-mail your design to the Museum with check or money order.

- \$150 for 8x8 color engraved stone for Company/Battalion/Squadron
- \$200 for 8x12 color engraved stone for Regiment, Brigade, Wing and Division

The 35th Division Annex and Brick Patio area is complete and available for the project. This is the time to honor your unit, your service or your family by ordering your inscribed brick. This tax deductible gift helps support the museum. These engraved bricks make great Birthday or Holiday presents.

To purchase individual bricks for your unit area, return your desired inscription and check or money order payable to the Kansas National Guard Museum to the address below. Please indicate which unit area you wish to have your brick placed.

Exterior Brick (\$50 each) Inscription is 3 lines, max; 14 characters per line

Indicate which unit area this brick belongs to: \_

Kansas National Guard Museum ATTN: Unit Brick Project 6700 S Topeka Boulevard, Bldg 301 P.O. 19285

Topeka, KS 66619-0285

Questions? Please contact the museum at kngmuseum@aol.com or museum board project officer Robert.bloomquist@us.army.mil

# Airman receives special mission

By 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

When Staff Sgt. Everardo Lopez deployed with the 134th Air Control Squadron, 184th Intelligence Wing, Kansas National Guard, he was prepared to work with radio frequency transmissions for his primary job. Arriving at his deployed duty station in Southwest Asia, his job responsibilities changed dramatically.

Lopez was selected to be a part of a new concept called the Air Defense Liaison team. This team was tasked with providing air picture and intelligence to the host nation for their war effort. Working on a different mission than his unit, Lopez worked in an alternate location, giving him a different perspective of the 134th ACS deployment.

"I struggled at first because I really didn't understand the purpose of the mission. I was going from place to place and I wasn't part of my unit. I didn't really have the group feeling that I would have had if I would have worked with my unit. But after a while I started to see the importance of my job and the security that I provided," said Lopez.

Due to the sensitivity of his mission, Lopez wasn't allowed to share many specifics.

"The mission operation center was considered the Pentagon of the host nation. It was

where every single part of their (host nation's) military was located. This place had generals from their Army, Navy and Air Force everywhere. It was kind of a high end job because I dealt with their generals every single day," said Lopez. "It was interesting when you were walking through the chow hall and a colonel or a general would know your name because you are a part of the mission that they hold in such a high esteem."

When asked why he was selected for this mission Lopez shrugged and couldn't answer the question. But Lt. Col. Christopher Mills, commander of 134th ACS, knew Lopez was a good fit for this tasking.

"It was the emotional maturity that he brought to the table. We knew that he would do a good job," said Mills.

With the ADL team having few people, sickness, leave and absences were large obstacles to overcome.

"A lot of my team got sick so I was basically running the mission for probably two to three weeks. That was pretty cool because I got to be the operations person for a while and I got to learn what the air defense job was. It was a real good learning curve," said Lopez.

Mills added, "You have a staff sergeant doing a job of a higher officer, helping advise at a operational level. He really did a great job."

I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives.

I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud
of him.

- Abraham Lincoln

# Afghanistan receives gift that keeps on giving from ADT

By Spc. Leslie Goble Combined Joint Task Force 1 - Afghanistan

The citizens of Alingar, Afghanistan, may not know what Arbor Day is, but they have much to look forward to as they plant recently received trees.

The Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4, which operates in Laghman Province, worked with the Ismail Dawlatzai, director of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock; the Alingar Agriculture Extension Center and a local nursery to purchase approximately 2,400 saplings for the people of Alingar District.

The fruit and nut bearing trees - pomegranate, almond and persimmon - were given to the village elders.

The saplings have potential to bring a little independence to citizens who have to travel great distances, mostly by foot, to the markets to get fruit from vendors.

"We will make a small garden for our family and neighborhood, and with these trees we won't have to travel as far to get fruit to feed our children," said one grateful elder.

The freshly planted trees will take several years to mature and produce fruit.

"Our hope is that everyone is able to take a few trees back to their village and start a nursery for their families and neighbors," said 1st. Lt. Andrew Webster, native of Pittsburg, Kan., and project manager in the Kansas ADT.

The distribution took place at the Alingar extension center where the DAIL had a "shura," a consultation, with the elders of Alingar District.

"I want to thank the members of the Kansas ADT for all they have done here," said Dawlatzai to the elders in the shura. "All the projects they have completed have been for the people of Laghman to use."

All the village elders who received trees attended classes to make sure they understood how to plant and maintain the trees. Each elder was given roughly 15 trees to plant throughout their village.

The Kansas ADT is also planning the same tree distribution event for the district of Alisheng. They will buy roughly the same amount of trees, but they will be given to around 45 schools in the district. Each will receive about 50 trees.

The immediate effect the trees had was visible on the faces of the happy villagers. In the near future, the trees will be mature and the fruit and nuts will be harvested. That is a future the village elders are excited about, one in which they can take care of their families with pride.



1st. Lt. Andrew Webster, Pittsburg, Kan., project manager in the Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4, and Ismail Dawlatzai, director of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, distribute fruit bearing trees at the Alingar Agriculture Extension Center, Feb. 1, 2012. Approximately 2,400 saplings were given to 200 elders from villages around Alingar district. (Photo by Spc. Leslie Goble, Combined Joint Task Force 1 – Afghanistan)

# Topeka Eagle Squadron, Civil Air Patrol helps develops character

By Capt. Michael H. Mathewson Topeka Eagle Squadron, Civil Air Patrol

The Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron of the Kansas Wing of the Civil Air Patrol is using electronic media to expand its ability to include and educate its members.

The squadron conducted a Squadron Leadership School in March 2012.
The school is part of the Civil Air Patrol's professional development program. CAP Senior Member James Sagstetter, from Rochester, Minn., attended the school by Skype. Sagstetter was unable to attend a Minnesota Wing

Squadron Leadership School as a traditional student. However, from his home, he was able to view all 12 hours of lesson material and interact with his fellow students in Topeka, Kan.

"I really enjoyed my experience and felt that I was part of the class," said Sagstetter. "However, I did miss not being able to go to lunch with the rest of the class and someone else ate the candy that I earned by answering questions."

CAP Lt. Col. Shirley Rodriguez, the char-

acter development officer for the Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron, working in conjunction with CAP Lt. Col. Mike Madden, commander of the Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron, and CAP Capt. Paul Bayless, deputy commander for cadets, presented a character development class to the

> squadron's cadets from her home in Port Saint Lucie, Fla. Rodriguez, a retired sergeant major of the Kansas Army National Guard, is currently working as a contractor in Afghanistan.

On the first attempt, the cadets could see and hear Rodriguez on the large screen on the front wall. However, she could only see and hear the cadets when they stood in front of the camera and held the microphone.

"For the next session it will be easy to set up additional cameras and microphones," said Madden.

"This is great and we will set it up as a monthly event," said Bayless.

"I am very happy that this works," explained Rodriguez. "I cannot wait until the next time that you can do this."

# 190th Maintenance Group earns Maintenance Effectiveness Award

By Tech. Sgt. Angela Brees 190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The 190th Maintenance Group of the 190th Air Refueling Wing is adding another trophy to their crowded case: the Maintenance Effectiveness Award for 2011 in the category of Aircraft Maintenance (Small). The 190th competed against other Guard maintenance units to take the prize. The group now goes on to compete against active duty and reserve Air Force units.

"I am honored to work with such an outstanding group of professional maintainers," said Col. Anthony DeJesus, 190th Maintenance Group com-

mander. "This award by the National Guard Bureau is a testament to the 'Standard of Excellence' Kansas Coyotes are known for."

2nd Lt. Paul Deveaux, maintenance officer for the Maintenance Squadron, drafted and submitted the award package. He was confident that the 190th would take top honors.

"Our flight hours, our mission capable rate, three different deployments while supporting missions at home, the testing of the Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures pod and Automated Air Refueling ... It would have been hard to imagine another unit winning," he said.

#### It keeps going and going...

The wing flew 6,114.8 flying hours for the period of consideration, transporting more than 1,047 passengers and transferring slightly more than 30 million pounds of fuel. That's more than 2,000 flying hours above last year's total. Additionally, the wing achieved a Mission Capable rate of 83.1 percent, exceeding the Air National Guard standard of 75 percent during normal operations.

Deveaux credits the successes to the flexibility of the maintenance crew.

"Our maintenance crews share a willingness to help each other out, a willingness to deploy and to test out new equipment," he said. "It's their 'bend, never break' mentality that makes them so successful."

That flexibility led to three successful deployments in 2011. The Maintenance Group served as the lead tanker unit in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in the Central Command theater and deployed in support of European Command and Pacific Command efforts. The tankers also flew monthly aero evacuation missions, transporting more than 100 wounded service members

Blazing the trail for the future...

The 190th became the lead unit to adapt the Large Aircraft Infrared Countermea-

fleet and was the first unit to test it in an operational environment, flying it in and out of Afghanistan. Air Force Research Lab also

selected the wing for a second time to test their Automated Air Refueling system. By early December 2010, the unit performed 20 sorties and test runs supporting the equipment.

Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Bullington of the Maintenance Squadron thinks a combination of proactive leadership and great work ethic contributes to the wing being selected to conduct multiple tests on the KC-135.

"Our past performance and positive results, coupled with our members' can do attitude, makes the 190th ARW an easy sell to depots looking for a place to modify aircraft," said Bullington.

This is the second time in three years the wing has been selected for the award. Deveaux attributes the group's continued recognition to the attitude and work ethic demonstrated from every member of the team.

"From the top down, leadership helps set the tone, but it's everyone's attention to detail, their camaraderie, willingness to help out and do more than what it is required – that's what enables us to achieve what we achieved," he said. "This award is proof that we truly are a great unit."

# Warrant Officer Class 12-001 continues Phase II Training



Five Kansas Soldiers and two Oklahoma Soldiers continue their Warrant Officer Candidate School training at the 235th Regiment in Salina, Kan. These Soldiers are currently completing Phase II of the course and will graduate in July after the successful completion of Phase III.

"We have a promising class of warrant officer candidates. It took a lot of initiative for these candidates to get this far and they have a challenging road ahead of them," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Stephen Patterson.

In the coming months, the WOCS candidates will complete a two-mile ruck march, a four-mile road march, Army Physical Fitness Test and several hours of classroom instruction.

"Kansas WOCS was the first program to receive the "Best Practices" designation during a recent accreditation," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Hector Vasquez. "I believe we have the best regional training institute in the United States, as well as the best tactical officers and instructors in the National Guard."

Vasquez also said he is excited to see the Warrant Officer Corps increase. (Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Veronica K. Almazan-Chapman, Headquarters, 235th Regiment UPAR)

## 170th Maintenance Company completes pre-mobilization training

By Sgt. Jason Lee 170th Maintenance Company UPAR

The 170th Maintenance Company, Norton, Kan., completed premobilization training at the Great Plains Regional Training Center in Salina, Kan., Jan. 23 to Feb. 12, 2012, before heading to Camp Shelby, Miss. At Camp Shelby they will receive further training before they depart to Kuwait as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Approximately 78 members of the 170th Maintenance Company trained with the Premobilization Training Assistance and Evaluation team on various tasks, as well as attending classes, to help the unit understand their mission overseas.

"I am very happy with the progress and attitude of the Soldiers of the 170th," said Capt. Scott Weber, commander of the 170th Maint. Co. "Every day our unit wakes up ready for what the day brings. All of the Soldiers have a strong, positive attitude. I like what I see and I know they will continue with their positive attitude all the way through our training and mission."

Throughout the training in Salina, the unit completed individual and crew-serve weapons qualifications, land navigation, Humvee Rollover training, combatives, counter intelligence training, reacted to contact (mounted and dismounted), resiliency training and media engagement training among other required tasks that the mobilization team and state of Kansas re-

quired for the company to depart to Camp Shelby, Miss.

"The 170th did very well, especially considering the weather they had. The unit had the least amount of make-up training that we have had in a very long time," said Command Sgt. Maj. James Moberly, PTAE noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "The Soldiers' morale was very good. Friday night, the third of February, everybody was soaking wet, it was below freezing, and the Soldiers kept with the training and completed it."

Although the 170th Maint. Co. faced uncertainty with their mission and the deployment, the unit was determined and the training came first.

"Over the last couple of months there has been a lot of unknowns about the future of this unit and where they were headed and what they were going to do," said Moberly. "Through all of that the unit has remained very flexible and positive and did what was asked of them. What I liked most about the 170th is that they were ready and willing to train and they were where they were supposed to be in the proper uniform."

After the completion of the training in Salina the Soldiers will spend a couple of months of continuation training at Camp Shelby, before departing to Kuwait. The unit will fall under the 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, out of New York.

"This is a small team with excellent lead-

ership. This deployment is a great opportunity for this unit. It makes me feel very good as their former battalion commander to see this unit come together and be as tight as they have become. That will keep

them safe," said Lt. Col. Matthew Bedwell, former 287th Special Troops Battalion commander. "It will keep them very disciplined and they will be able to execute their mission at a very high level."



Spc. Kody Stebens, a motor transport operator for the 170th Maintenance Company, of Topeka, Kan., coaches Capt. Scott Weber, commander of the 170th Maint. Co., of Wamego, Kan., as he fires the M249B machine gun with a AN/PAS-13 thermal weapons sight at the ranges at Fort Riley, Kan., Jan. 30, 2012. (Photo by Sgt. Jason Lee, 170th Maintenance Company UPAR)

# Resiliency Center wins Platinum MarCom Award for training video

By Sgt. Jessica Barnett Public Affairs Office

The Resiliency Center, along with their collaborators Mind and Media Inc., received a Platinum MarCom Award for their training video "Resiliency: Mission Ready for Life," Nov. 9, 2011.

The MarCom Platinum is the highest level of the MarCom awards. Of the 5,000 MarCom entries, only the best of the best earn the Platinum award.

MarCom Awards is a creative competition for any individual or company involved in the concept, writing and design of print, visual, audio, web materials and programs. Entries come from corporate marketing and communications departments, advertising agencies, public relation firms, design shops, production companies and freelancers. To be in such company underlined the fact that the video has an entertainment value on top of preparing Soldiers and their families for what stress military life might bring.

"Resiliency, Mission Ready for Life," was created to add to Flash Forward, a course cre-



Rick Selig, program developer; Steven Rexer, administrative program specialist, Joint Forces Headquarters; and Sgt. 1st Class Gordon Lamb, R3 coordinator for joint personnel of Joint Forces Headquarters, pose with their Platinum MarCom Award for their training video "Resiliency: Mission Ready for Life." (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Hanson, Visual Information, Joint Forces Headquarters)

ated by the Resiliency Center in 2009.

The DVD is a training tool to teach service members and their family how to be resilient in life. The skills covered are practical, and can be implemented immediately, and can make life better. There are tips for improving the ability to handle stress physically, as well as emotionally and for strengthening your relationships.

"The antiquated definition of resiliency is 'to bounce back," said Rick Selig, program developer. "But it's evolving to not only be able to bounce back, but be able to thrive and grow as a result of having that stress."

This is not the first time the Kansas Resiliency Center has been nationally recognized. More than 23 states and other military services have taken the Flash Forward Resiliency course. Several states are using the curriculum to teach their Guardsmen the skills and practices to become more resilient.

To receive the DVD or to find out more about resiliency training, please contact Steve Rexer, administrative program specialist, at 785-274-1439 or steve.rexer@us.army.mil.

## Agricultural assistance for citizens of Alishang

By Capt. Wes Topel Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4 Public Affairs Officer

Members of the Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4 gathered with Alishang residents for a ribbon cutting ceremony marking the official opening of the new Al-



Mohammed Dawaltzai, Laghman director of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (left), assists Jawed Bilal, construction contractor (center) and Mohammed Rifiq, Alishing assistant sub-governor, cut the ribbon for the dedication of the new Alishang Extension Center on Jan. 18, 2012. (Photo by Sgt. Maj. Darrin Yuhn, Kansas Agribusiness Development Team 4)

ishing Agricultural Extension Center.

The newly opened center provides the office space for both the Agriculture Extension Agent and the District Land Recorder and allows citizens a place to go for current agricultural related information, training and assistance in order to enhance their farming practice.

Distinguished guests included Mohammed Rifiq, Alishang assistant sub-governor and Mohammed Ismail Dawaltzai, Laghman director of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock.

The facility includes an office building, storage building and courtyard with a surrounding boundary wall. Construction began in September 2011 and the ADT made monthly visits to the site to inspect the ongoing progress of the construction contractor, Jawed Bilal.

"It's hard to imagine this once bare piece of ground with a dilapidated building actually becoming the extension center we have today," said Sgt. Maj. Darrin Yuhn, Clay Center, Kan., project manager. "The contractor did an outstanding job!"

With the necessary final inspection complete, the arrival of Rafiq and Dawaltzai signaled the beginning of the ribbon cutting ceremony. During the brief ceremony, both men expressed their appreciation to the ADT for funding the new facility and to Bilal for the outstanding work of his construction crew.

The final act of the ceremony was the transfer of the facility keys from Bilal to Dawaltzai.

# 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. de-

changes of command, deployment and welcome home 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 interested in receiving a free copy of the Plains Guardian at your home, please contact Jane Welch at the Public Affairs Office at 785-274-1190 or jane.e.welch1@us.army.mil to be added to the mailing list.

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## Kansas Na



**Land Component** 

### Topeka Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas

JFHO -Land Component 1979th Contingency Contract Team 105th MPAD 1989th Senior Contingency Contract Team 137th Chaplain Spt Team **United States Property and Fiscal Office** Central Issue Facility **Rec and Ret Det** KS ARNG FMS JFHQ - Air Component

FMS #9 **Combined Support Maintenance Shop** 















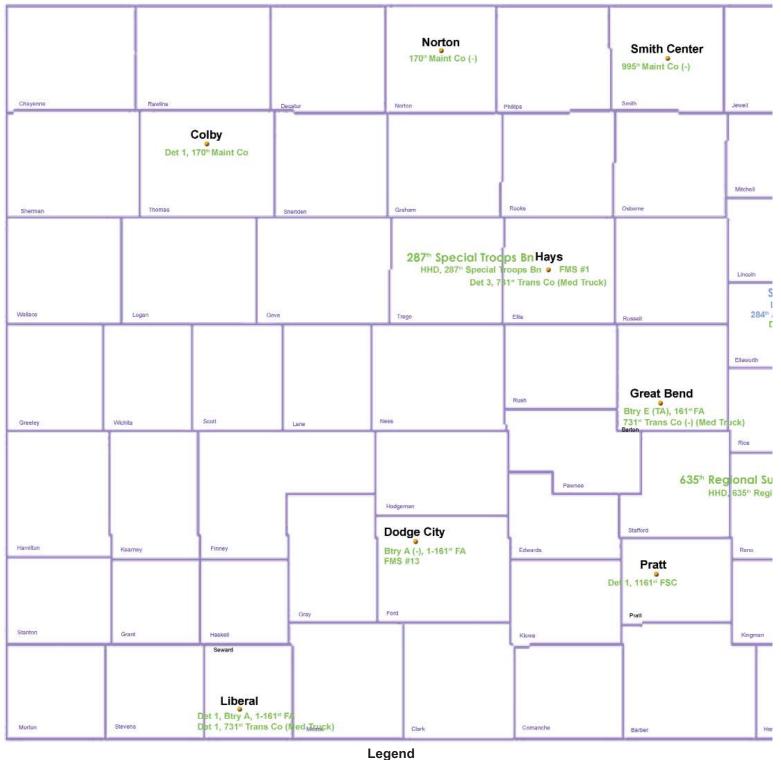








Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas, Topeka



ATEAM = Advanced Turbine Engine Army Maint ARW = Air Refueling Wing

Avn = Aviation Bde = Brigade

Bn = Battalion Btry = Battery

CAB = Combat Arms Battalion Cmd = Command

Co = Company

CSSB = Corps Support Sustainment Battalion

Det = Detachment

Div = Division Eng = Engineer

FA = Field Artillery Flt = FlightFMS = Field Maintenance Shop

FSB = Forward Support Battalion

FSC = Forward Support Company GSAB = General Support Aviation Battalion

Gp = GroupHET = Heavy Equipment Transport

HIMARS = High Mobility Artillery Rocket System

HHB = HQ and HQ Btry HHC = HQ and HQ Company

HHD = HO and HO Detachmen HHS = HQ and HQ Service Btry HSC = Headquarters Support Company

HQ = Headquarters

KSRTC = Kansas Regional Training Center

Lg = Logistics MAC = Mobile Augmentation Company

MATES = Maneuver and Training Equipment Site

Maint = Maintenance Med = Medical

MP = Military Police MPAD = Mobile Public Affairs Detachment OCS = Officer Candidate School

Trp = Troop UTES = Unit Training Equipment Site WMD = Weapons of Mass Destruction

TDA = Table of Distribution and Allowances Trans = Transportation

Rec and Ret = Recruiting & Retention RSMS = Readiness Susta

Rgmt = Regiment

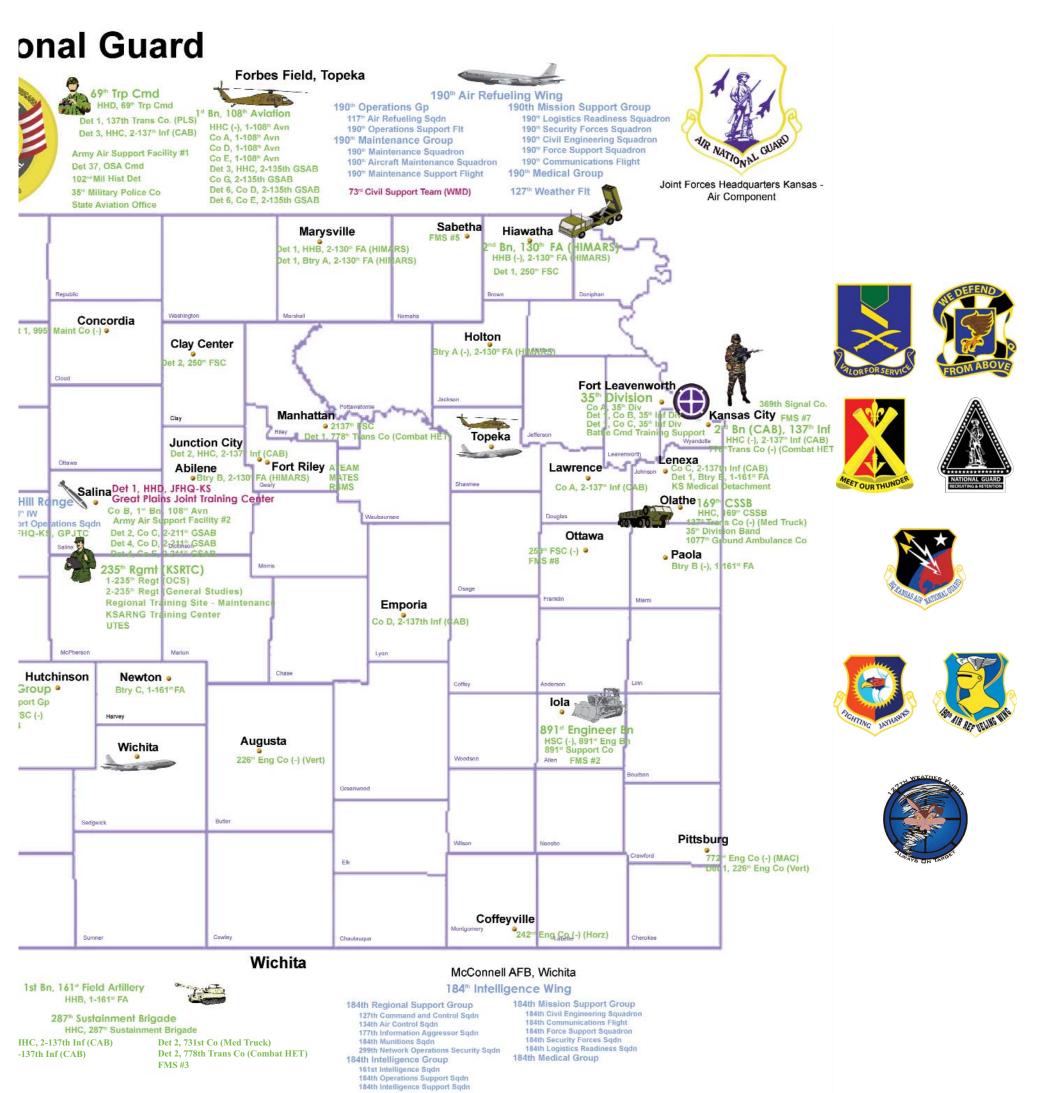
Spt = Support Sqdn = Squadron TA = Target Acqui

# Kansas Army National Guard Unit Listi

State Command Sergeant Major, Topeka	785.274.1010
HHD, Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas, Topeka	785.274.1534
102nd Military History Detachment, Topeka	
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Topeka	
73rd Civil Support Group (WMD), Topeka	
United States Property and Fiscal Office	785.274.1202
Central Issue Facility	785.274.1313
KSARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion, Topeka	785.274.1091
KSARNG Medical Detachment, Lenexa	913.492.3920
Mission Training Complex, Fort Leavenworth	913.758.5516
State Aviation Office, Topeka	785.861.3975
Det. 37, Operations Support Aviation	785.861.3830
Surface Maintenance, Topeka	
FMS#1, Hays	785.625.2118
FMS# 2, Iola	620.365.4042
FMS# 3, Wichita	316.267.7763
FMS #4, Hutchinson	620.728.4280
FMS #5, Sabetha	785.284.2901
FMS #7, Kansas City	913.279.7851
FMS #8, Ottawa	785.242.8754
FMS #9, Topeka	785.274.1370
FMS #13, Dodge City	620.225.6363

] 2351 Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas - Land Component .......785.274.1535 ] Det 287th Sustainment Brigade, Wichita ......316.681.6200 HHHHC, 287th Sustainment Brigade, Wichita ......316.681.6200 369th Signal Company, Kansas City ......TBD 995th Maintenance Company, Smith Center .......785.282.3971 HHC, 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Olathe ..............913.782.8512 HH778th Transportation Company, Wichita .......316.943.1135 1077th Ground Ambulance Company, Olathe .......913.254.7821 

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## **Kansas Air National Guard Unit Listing**

ion, Fort Leavenworth	913.758.5048
th Infantry Division, Fort Leavenworth	913.758.5048
5th Infantry Division, Fort Leavenworth	660.259.7731
3 Co., 35th Infantry Division, Fort Leavenworth	
C Co, 35th Infantry Division, Fort Leavenworth	
ning Regiment, Salina	785.822.6612
al Training Site - Maintenance, Salina	785.822.3363
D, Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas, Salina	
VG Training Center, Salina	785.826.3733
1 Troop Command, Topeka785.	.861.3910/3917
ilitary Police, Topeka	785.861.3958
ttalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, Kansas City	913.279.7823
Support Company, Manhattan	785.539.1252
talion, 108th Aviation, Topeka	785.861.3571
2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment (GSAB), Topeka	785.861.3521
C Co, 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment (GSAB), Salina	785.822.3482
th Regional Support Group, Hutchinson	620.728.4249
talion, 161st Field Artillery Regiment, Wichita	316.943.4219
161st Target Acquisition, Great Bend	
Forward Support Company, Hutchinson	620.728.4267
ttalion, 130th Filed Artillery, Hiawatha	785.742.5600
Forward Support Company, Ottawa	785.242.4369

Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas - Air Component	785.274.1475
Director of Staff, Topeka	785.274.1472
Military Personnel Management Officer, Topeka	
Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, Personnel Manager, Topeka	785.274.1474
Personnel Craftsman, Topeka	785.274.1475
184th Intelligence Wing, Wichita	
184th Intelligence Wing Headquarters, Wichita	316.759.7003
184th Mission Support Group, Wichita	316.759.7402
184th Intelligence Group, Wichita	316.759.7702
184th Medical Group, Wichita	316.759.7380
184th Regional Support Group, Wichita	316.759.7906
190th Air Refueling Wing, Topeka	
190th Air Refueling Wing Headquarters, Topeka	785.861.4791
190th Operations Group, Topeka	785.861.4172
190th Maintenance Group. Topeka	785.861.4437
190th Medical Group, Topeka	785.861.4521
190th Mission Support Group, Topeka	785.861.4594
127th Weather Flight, Topeka	785.861.4932

# Retirees honored by 635th Regional Support Group

By Sgt. Iris Marston

635th Regional Support Group UPAR

The 635th Regional Support Group in Hutchinson, Kan., hosted a retirement ceremony March 3, 2012, for three of its Kansas Army National Guard veterans: Lt. Col. Kevin Schenker, Chaplain (Maj.) Raymond M. Gillett and Master Sgt. Rod Moyer.

Their combined service equaled 78 years of service to the United States Army. Additionally, each directly served their fellow comrades in an important capacity in the state of Kansas.

Schenker is a 31-year veteran. During his assignment with the 635th RSG he served as the unit equal opportunity advisor. He was instrumental in assisting with the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, as they returned from deployment in Egypt and the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery as they trained for their deployment to Africa.

Gillet is a 24-year veteran. He is an advocate for the U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program who has worked on behalf of military personnel and their families. He strives for fairness for everyone in the program. He said during the retirement ceremony he plans to continue to be an advocate for the Wounded Warrior Program.

Moyer is a 23-year veteran who has worked with military families in their time of need as the Kansas coordinator for Military Funeral Honors. This included Kansas Guard families as well as active duty and reserve personnel. He used his expertise to personally train five young Soldiers as color guard for the 635th RSG change of command when Col. John Campbell became the commander in July 2010.



(Left to right) Master Sgt. Rod Moyer, Lt. Col. Kevin Schenker and Chaplain (Maj.) Raymond M. Gillett pose for a picture during their retirement ceremony hosted by the 635th Regional Support Group in Hutchinson, Kan., March 3, 2012. (Courtesy photo)

## **NGB** visits Great Plains Joint Training Center

By Sgt. Jessica Barnett Public Affairs Office

A National Guard Bureau training validation team visited the Great Plains Joint Training Center as part of the collective Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Enterprise training site validation program, March 5, 2012.

"For about two to three years now, we have been working towards being a validated site under the joint training auspices of the National Guard Bureau," said Lt. Col. Greg Platt, operations officer for the Great Plains Joint Training Center, Detachment 1, Joint Forces Headquarters.

About 19 months ago, NGB asked sites across the country to submit a packet for validation as one of the collective sites recognized by NGB for CBRN training. They had more than 40 applicants and the GPJTC made it to the final round. As a result, NGB sent out their joint training validation team to confirm the information provided, visiting and viewing the sites and asking questions about past training held at the GPJTC.

"We are looking to train a multi-echelon interagency where we would have a major catastrophe and bring in all the national and regional assets to one large collective training event," said Maj. Pirom Srinual, joint collective training branch, National Guard Bureau.

"We are looking for sites that already have the infrastructure in place to host a large scale exercise and that have already hosted such exercises previously where a lot of the infrastructure is already in place," said Srinual. "We don't want to have to come in and build new infrastructure. We want to go in and tap into and leverage existing capabilities

that are already being built for others, but can be leveraged for our urban training venues."

The GPJTC held a couple of large combined CBRN training operations before the validation probes even began. Joint training personnel from NGB visited the GPJTC during both exercises, so they were already familiar with GPJTC capabilities.

"We had hosted Vigilant Guard 2009 in Kansas. We ran a foreign animal disease, continuing operations, Joint Task Force command and a domestic terrorist response out here at Crisis City," said Platt. "The National Guard Bureau's J7 joint training element came out as part of a hosting element to watch the operation. They were very impressed with that. It was after that training that they asked us to submit a packet for validation."

During their confirmation, the team visited multiple sites including the Smoky Hill Weapons Range, Crisis City, Army shooting ranges, Nickell barracks facilities, the Salina Airport Authority, Kansas State University's unmanned aircrafts systems, the Bicentennial Center and the Salina County Emergency Management facilities.

"If we are one of the ten validated sites, we will be a nationally recognized site to train the Homeland Response Forces, the Chemical - Enhanced Response Force Package and the Civil Support Teams," said Platt. "As part of that validation process, National Guard Bureau funds will be coming into the state to help us prepare for that training, which is very important."

For more information of the GPJTC or to schedule a training event, contact Lt. Col. Greg Platt at gregory.platt@us.army.mil or 785-826-3706.

# Impact Award recognizes excellence

By Sgt. Iris Marston 635th Regional Support Group UPAR

Perhaps the single most regrettable mistake made is when we overlook and under-appreciate the people we have in our lives. This includes members of our Guard family. It is great to know that is not always the case.

During the March drill in Hutchinson, Kan., Col. John Campbell, commander of the 635th Regional Support Group, took the opportunity to recognize and appreciate the hard work of nine members of the unit by presenting them with an impact award, the Army Commendation Medal.

The awards were presented for going above and beyond their duties for responsibility, care and accountability of records and equipment which resulted in positive results during the 635th RSG Organizational Inspection.

Recognized at the Kansas Army National Guard Armory in Hutchinson, Kan., March 3, 2012 were Staff Sgt. Timothy Bemis, Staff Sgt. Robert Botkin, Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Brumley, Master Sgt. Mark George, 2nd Lt. Kathleen Nece, Capt. Loren Dreyer, Capt. Courtney Langley, Maj. Teresa Bingham and Maj. John Tucker.

Each were mindful of the responsibilities they have and executed them with great care for the good of the Kansas Army National Guard, the state of Kansas and the United States of America.

Col. John Campbell, commander of the 635th Regional Support Group, pins Capt. Courtney Langley, training officer for the 635th RSG, with an Army Commendation Medal for going above and beyond her duties during their drill, March 3, 2012. (Photo by Sgt. Iris Marston, 635th Regional Support Group UPAR)



# Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron learns about preparedness

By Capt. Michael H. Mathewson

Civil Air Patrol, Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron

"Are you, your family and pets prepared for a zombie outbreak?"

That question was asked of the Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, Topeka, senior members,

"I liked the idea that if you

are ready for zombies, you

- 1st Lt. Dyann Berglund

Meriden, Kan.

are ready for anything."

cadets and guests by Devan Tucking-Strickler, human services officer for Kansas Division of Emergency Management.

"If you are prepared for a zombie outbreak, you are prepared for a tornado, flood or fire," said Tucking-Strickler.

Tucking-Strickler's presentation

was part of the group's monthly training in March. Using this science fiction-based approach created an environment to foster thinking and discussion about building a disaster kit, creating a disaster plan and being prepared for the unexpected.

For about 30 minutes, Tucking-Strickler conducted a freewheeling class where she asked as many questions as were asked from the squadron members.

"I am very impressed by the questions that were asked," said Tucking-Strickler.

Tucking-Strickler reviewed the need to have on hand at least one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, as well as a three-day supply of nonperishable food for each person that could be prepared without the use of a stove or microwave. Tucking-Strickler reminded the group that dehydrated food would require extra rations of

water to prepare and that canned foods would require a manual can opener.

Tucking-Strickler also noted that thinking about a disaster plan involved more than just taking care of one's family.

"Do not forget your pets," said Tucking-Strickler "Pets should have

a disaster kit just like other members of the family. They will need food and water and their shot records. Pet shot records are needed for pet entry into most shelters."

Afterward, several of the participants expressed their appreciation for the instruction.

"The class was really fun," said Cadet/Airman Adrian Appelhanz, Topeka.

"I liked the idea that if you are ready for zombies, you are ready for anything," said CAP 1st Lt. Dyann Berglund, Meriden, Kan.



Cadets of the Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, raise their hand to answer a question from Devan Tucking-Strickler, human services officer for Kansas Division of Emergency Management, from Valley Falls, during a class on emergency preparedness, March 5, 2012. (Photo by Capt. Michael H. Mathewson, Civil Air Patrol, Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron)

# Capt. Gregory accepts command as Capt. Rolf steps down

By 1st Lt. Barry Gomes, Company A, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment

Capt. Bryan Gregory took command of Company A, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment during a change of command ceremony Feb. 3, 2012, at the company armory in Lawrence, Kan.

During the ceremony, Capt. Zachary Rolf turned over command to Gregory.

Rolf completed a successful two year command, including a deployment to the Horn of Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Rolf will now assume the duties and responsibilities as the assistant operations officer for the battalion.

"For the past two years under my command, you have worked as a team to make

this unit what it is," said Rolf, as he addressed the company for the last time as the commander. "Thank you for all the hard work and dedication you have displayed in your leadership, I only ask that you continue to do the same."

Gregory is no stranger to the battalion. He served in several positions as a platoon leader and company executive officer. Recently, Gregory served as the battalion logistics officer and battle captain during the battalion's deployment to the Horn of Africa.

"I am honored to take command of this unit," said Gregory. "I have always admired it from a distance. Now I get the opportunity to lead it and continue to build what my predecessors have started."



Capt. Zachary Rolf, outgoing commander of Company A, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, returns the company guidon to Lt. Col. Robert Wood, commander of 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry, as he relinquishes command at the unit armory in Lawrence, Kan., Feb. 3, 2012. Also pictured are (rear left) 1st Sgt. Paul Purdham, first sergeant of Co. A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf. Regt., and (front left) incoming commander Capt. Bryan Gregory. (Photo by Lynn Rolfe III)

# Directorate Facilities Engineering receives award of "Excellence in Paving"



Lt. Col. Eric Blankenship (far left), facility plans and program manager; Timothy Driggs (middle right), project manager; and Maj. Kenneth Weishaar (far right), chief of facilities management branch, pose for a picture with a Pavers Inc. representative (contractor, middle left) after accepting an award of "Excellence in Paving" for best Portland Cement Concrete overlay project from the Missouri/Kansas Chapter American Concrete Pavement Association on behalf of the Directorate of Facilities Engineering. They accepted the award during the 32nd Annual Portland Cement Concrete Pavement Conference held in Kansas City, Kan., March 1, 2012. The same project has been nominated the national award to be unveiled in August. The project was a \$2 million military construction project, which consisted of milling and overlaying the existing Army Aviation Support Facility #2, Salina, Kan., taxi-way/ramp area and to improve the parking lot with new concrete pavement. These areas were severely deteriorated and well past their useful life. The project took advantage of the existing material from the milling to be recycled in the base construction. DOFE received this award due to the extremely complex schedule of this project and the new construction and design methods that were used. (Photo by Richard Dechant, deputy director of Plans and Programming)

# Kansas Civil Air Patrol color guards compete for state title

By Capt. Michael H. Mathewson Topeka Eagle Squadron, Civil Air Patrol

Civil Air Patrol cadets from across Kansas assembled for the Kansas Wing Color Guard Competition in Salina, Feb. 18, 2012.

Competing color guards were from the Southeast Composite Squadron, Cherokee; 77th Composite Squadron, Emporia; New Century Composite Squadron, Olathe; Lawrence Composite Squadron, Lawrence, and the Emerald City Composite Squadron, Wichita. Each team consisted of four members plus an alternate.

The competition was based on cumulative points in a number of events, including physical fitness, in-ranks inspection, aerospace quiz bowl, indoor presentation, outdoor presentation and timed drill maneuvers.

"The color guard program reflects the best of the cadet program," explained CAP Capt. Quentin Laws, St. Louis, Mo., Cadet Program Management Officer of Wing Headquarters.

The competition was judged by Air Force ROTC Cadet Robert Samson, chief judge, and Army ROTC Cadet Kiara Ocasio, both members of the Kansas State University's Pershing Rifles. Also judging was CAP Capt. Kenton Fryman, wing cadet activities officer of the Flint Hills Composite Squadron, and resident of Manhattan, Kan.

The Pershing Rifles are a nationally com-

petitive drill team made up of Army and Air Force ROTC cadets. Both Samson and Ocasio have been competing with drill teams since they were in the ninth grade in their respective schools. Ocasio was a member of the Junction City High School Junior ROTC drill team in Junction City, Kan.

"This team has been together since January and this is their first competition," said CAP 2nd. Lt. Timothy Thornton, Lawrence team sponsor of the Lawrence Composite Squadron,

"We hope to learn a lot from the competition today," said Cadet/ Airman Virginia Smith, of Cherokee, Kan., and a member of the Southeast Composite Squadron.

The Southeast Composite Squadron is a school squadron that formed in September. At Smith's school the students take Civil Air Patrol as a class, as other schools would take a Junior ROTC.

"The competition was neck to neck between Emporia and Lawrence all the way to the end," said CAP Lt. Col. Rick Franz, chief of staff with the wing Headquarters Squadron, and resident of Salina, Kan. "However, the aerospace quiz bowl took Emporia over the top."

Civil Air Patrol Squadron color guards are in demand in the local areas. They often perform at high school football and basketball games. They are often asked to by veterans groups to lead Independence Day and Veterans Day parades.



Kansas State University Air Force ROTC Cadet Robert Samson, chief judge, inspects Lawrence Composite Squadron member Cadet Airman Jimmy Page's dress uniform as part of the Kansas Wing Color Guard Competition in Salina, Kan., Feb. 18, 2012. (Photo by CAP Capt. Michael H. Mathewson, Topeka Eagle Squadron, Civil Air Patrol)

# **Annual Training in South Dakota**

By Maj. John Tucker 635th Regional Support Group

The Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 635th Regional Support Group, Hutchinson, Kan., will conduct Annual Training 2012 from June 2 to 17 in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The 635th RSG will serve as the command and control headquarters for a projected 2,350 participants made up of National Guard, Army Reserve and Navy Reserve units located in 37 states. The 635th RSG and 109th RSG will be augmented with personnel from other allied nations such as Australia, Canada, Denmark, New Zealand, Suriname and the United Kingdom.

Hosted by the South Dakota Army National Guard, the Golden Coyote Exercise is a three phase scenario-driven exercise. The exercise enables commanders to focus on Mission Essential Task List requirements, warrior tasks and drills. The exercise provides commanders a relevant training opportunity to train their units for overseas contingency operations and homeland defense missions in a realistic training environment while at the same time providing valuable services to the public. In addition, personnel are able to participate in numerous warrior training tasks and battle drills, such as urban combat operations, land navigation, first aid, combat life saver certification, leaders reaction course, Virtual Convoy Operations Trainer, Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer and convoy operations training lanes.

Last year, Golden Coyote helped improve the forest and infrastructure of many local Black Hills communities. Through the Innovative Readiness Training program, medical treatment was provided to more than 400 patients in support of Indian Health Services and 189 truckloads of firewood material was hauled to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation throughout the Golden Coyote exercise.

If any Soldiers are looking for alternate Annual Training opportunities contact Sgt. Major Terry Goscha at 620-728-4210 or terry.goscha@us.army.mil for additional details.

# Armed Forces Appreciation Day: New law assists military spouses

By The Governor's Communications Office

Flanked by members of the United States military, Kansas Governor Sam Brownback signed a bill March 1, 2012, designed to assist military spouses to get jobs when their spouses are transferred to the state. The bill requires a state licensing agency to issue a license to a nonresident military spouse in order for the spouse to lawfully practice a regulated profession in

"So many times a military spouse struggles to get a job because of the paperwork and application process involved in getting a professional license. This new law tears down that barrier and helps our businesses find quality, well-trained professionals," Brownback said.

The new law requires state licensing agencies to issue the license under two circumstances:

- \* If the military spouse is seeking a license in a profession that has an endorsement or reciprocity statutes in another state.
- \* If the military spouse meets several qualifiers, including:
  - holds a current license in another state with equal licensing requirements
  - has not had her/his licensed limited, suspended, revoked nor has been censured nor had her/his application to practice denied
  - has not been disciplined by a licensing

entity or isn't subject to an unresolved complaint

- submits a signed affidavit stating all information on application is true and

A state agency may require a military

spouse to complete additional steps if that person hasn't actively practiced her/his occupation during the previous two years. The person is entitled to all rights provided and subject to all obligations required under state law, except if



Gov. Sam Brownback signs into law a bill March 1, 2012, designed to assist military spouses at the Governor's ceremonial office in the Capitol building in Topeka, Kan., followed by signing a proclamation declaring March 1, 2012, as Armed Forces Appreciation Day. The bill will help military spouses get jobs when their spouses are transferred to the state. (Photo by Governor's Public Affairs Office)

her/his license is revoked or suspended in another state, it then is automatically revoked or suspended in Kansas, with no right to a hearing.

The governor also signed a proclamation declaring March 1 "Armed Forces Appreciation Day" at the Statehouse as well as a statement of support for the Guard and Reserve. Members of the Governor's Military Council, as well as leadership of Fort Riley, Fort Leavenworth, Forbes Field and Mc-Connell Air Force Base, joined the governor for the signings.

"There are Kansans serving our great country here at home and overseas, in all services and components. Today is an opportunity for us to show our deep gratitude for their service and sacrifice and the sacrifices made by their families and to pledge our support for them in peace, in crisis and in war," Brownback said.

Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the state's adjutant general, echoed the governor's support and appreciation for our country's

"The men and women in uniform who serve our country often do so at great sacrifice to themselves and their families," said Tafanelli. "Many have given their lives to protect our freedoms. I urge every Kansan to take some time on this day to say 'Thank you' to at least one of these fine individuals."

# Topeka Military Relations Committee honors military personnel

By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson Headquarters and Headquarters, Joint Forces Headquarters Detachment UPAR

A Kansas National Guard Soldier and Airman were among the six local military personnel who were honored by the Topeka Military Relations Committee, Feb 28, 2012. The ceremony took place during the scheduled meeting of the Topeka City Council.

Pfc. Kenneth Nichols, of Topeka, Kansas Army National Guard and Capt. Joseph Blubaugh, from Silver Lake, Kansas Air National Guard, were selected by their respective military services to receive the Topeka Military Relations Committee Military Person of the Year Award.

Nichols is a military policeman with the 35th Military Police Company, based in Topeka, Kan., and is currently attending Washburn University.

Blubaugh is the wing executive staff officer and commu-

nity and affairs manager for the 190th Air Refueling Wing at Forbes Field, Topeka. He is active with the American Cancer Society and the Combined Federal Campaign.

The Topeka Military Relations Committee was formed in 2003 by a group of Topeka businessmen to promote the military within the community. The awardees were selected for their performance in uniform and for their service to the local community.

The ceremony, hosted by David H. Fisher, Jr., chairman of the

Topeka Military Relations Committee, began with the presentation of the colors by a color guard composed of members of the Kansas Army and Air Guard, Marine Corps



Pfc. Kenneth **Nichols** 



Capt. Joseph Blubaugh

Reserve and Coast Guard. An invocation given by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) William D. Jenkins, Kansas National Guard State Chaplain, followed.

During the ceremony the honorees were introduced in turn by a member of their chain of command. Following the introduction, Topeka Mayor Bill Bunten presented the awards.

"I want to thank the Kansas National Guard and the citizens of Topeka," said Nichols. "I also want

to thank the Washburn University students and facility."

"I am very honored that the members of the 190th would nominate me for this award. Thank you," said Blubaugh.

### Lawrence Girl Scouts surprise Kansas National Guard troops

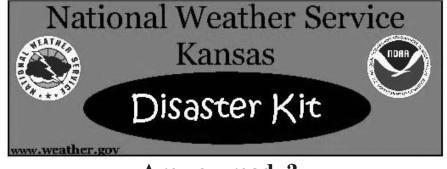


On March 3, 2012, Girl Scouts from Troop 1915 of Lawrence, Kan., surprised Soldiers of Company A, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment with a visit at the Lawrence armory. The third and fourth grade girls came to pass out free Girl Scout cookies and give cards to the Soldiers.

During the visit the Girl Scouts had an opportunity to sit down with a group of Soldiers and ask questions. Many questions pertained to places the Soldiers had been, what they take with them on deployments and what the Soldiers miss most from home when gone.

The visit lifted the morale of the men and great thanks go out the girls and what they are doing within the community.

(Photo by Cadet Andrew Haanpaa, Company A, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment)



### Are you ready?

When Disaster strikes, it pays to be prepared. Having a Disaster Kit prepared will save you time and could save your life. A disaster kit should be in your designated shelter and it would also be helpful to have a smaller version in a small backpack or other containers that are easily carried if you d to evacuate your home. Disaster kits should be reviewed annually to be kept up-to-date wit your family's needs. Items in your kit should include, but are not limited to:

### Staple Items

3 day supply of water (1 gallon per person per day) 3 day supply of nonperishable, ready to eat food items and manual can opener

high energy foods, e.g. peanut butter

juices, dried Milk

sugar, salt, pepper First Aid Kit (see list for individual items) Flashlight and extra batteries, or ones that generate their own energy by shaking them

Battery operated or Hand crank radio NOAA All-Hazard Weather Radio Clothing- Think about the climate: warm and/or

cool season clothes

Shoes Sanitation and hygiene items (such as hand sanitizer, moist towelettes, and toilet paper)

Matches in waterproof container Whistle Blankets

Other tools (e.g. hamm

Cash and coin Photocopies of important documents, personal ID's and credit cards

er, pliers)

Baby needs Special Needs

Prescription medications, eye glasses

Contact lens solution, etc Games to pass the time (e.g. Pet food and extra water

### First Aid Kit

Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes 2-inch and 4-inch sterile gauze pads Hypoallergenic adhesive tape Triangular bandages Scissors & tweezers

2-inch and 3-inch sterile roll bandages Waterless alcohol-based hand sanitizer

Antiseptic wipes Petroleum jelly or other lubricant Latex gloves

Anti-bacterial ointment Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever Antacid (for upset stomach)

Cold pack CPR breathing barrier, such as a face shield Assorted sizes of safety pins

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## International military officers learn about state government

By Sgt. Michael Mathewson

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Joint Forces Headquarters UPAR

Led by a police motorcycle escort, a chartered bus stopped in front of Memorial Hall at the corner of 10th Street and Jackson in Topeka Feb. 9 and let off more than 45 international military officers from Fort Leavenworth's Command and General Staff College, International Military Student Division. The stop was the first on a day-long exploration of Kansas government and military structures.

As the morning began, Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general, addressed the officers on his dual role as head of the Kansas National Guard and Kansas Department of Emergency Management. He also explained the state and federal missions of the National Guard and how the Guard moves from one mission to the other.

"We are here as part of the Field Studies Program," said Maj. Darius Bernotas, Republic of Lithuania. "This is a chance for us to see the American people, learn about American culture, government and the way of life. I hope to build relationships that I will take back with me in the hopes of a better working relationship between our two countries."

"I Googled Kansas before I left home and was expecting snow," he added.

"It is a very prestigious posting," said Maj. Changho Lee, Republic of Korea. "I had to go through a very competitive process of testing and review boards. As well as the military education I expect to receive, I am looking forward to the experiences my family and I will receive."

Lee's wife is also an officer in the Korean army.

"My next posting will be with the Joint Forces Command," said Lee. "There I will be working very closely with my American counterparts. As such, I am looking for a greater understanding of the American culture and hopefully will build meaningful relationships."

After Tafanelli's briefing, Kris Kobach, secretary of state explained the organization and workings of the state legislature. Later, the officers heard from the Honorable Richard Greene, chief judge of the Kansas Court of Appeals. They walked to the capitol building where they had their photo taken with Governor Sam Brownback, followed by a tour of the House and Senate chambers.

"We are building relationship with these officers and countries that will last for years to come," said Tafanelli.



International officers studying at Fort Leavenworth's Command and General Staff College, International Military Student Division, walk toward the Kansas Statehouse during their visit to Topeka, Kan., to learn about state government. (Photo by Sgt. Michael Mathewson, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Joint Forces **Headquarters UPAR)** 

# Musical actor balances theatre, school and National Guard

By Joe Vinduska

**Hilltopics of Barton Community College** 

At 6'6" and 240 pounds, 18-year-old Barton freshman Tyler Wassenberg has become used to being a focal point. Whether it's his turn to be platoon leader in the Kansas National Guard, or gracing the silver stage, the Abilene native knows what it's like to have all eyes on him. Which is a good thing, because he has the title role in Barton Community College's upcoming musical "Li'l Abner," and with his larger than average stature and role, he will undoubtedly experience more than his fair share of the spotlight.

Wassenberg began his foray into musical performance when he was in second grade as a dog in a children's theatre production of "Annie."

"I basically had to just bark," he said. "That was one of the worst times I've ever had in my life, but for some reason after that, I was hooked, and I've been in at least one musical every year since then."

Similar to his casting as Li'l Abner, Wassenberg said he's generally been cast in roles that lend themselves to his vertically impressive build.

"I'm type-cast a lot," he said. "I've been cast as Abe Lincoln as well as Little John from Robin Hood."

The young performer has also dabbled in improvisational comedy and is an avid trombonist. He plans to get his master's degree in musical performance for trombone.

In addition to his musical endeavors, Wassenberg is enlisted in the Kansas Army National Guard as a motor transport operator in the Detachment 3, 731st Transportation Company, out of Hays, Kan. His grandfather, Gerald C.



Spc. Tyler Wassenberg, a member of the Detachment 3, 731st Transportation Company, has the title role Barton Community College's production of the musical "Li'l Abner." (Photo by Joe Vinduska, Hilltopics Barton **Community College)** 

Wassenberg, was a chief warrant officer 3 in Vietnam as a member of the Kansas National Guard and his father, Sgt. 1st Class Kurt Wassenberg, a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 69th Troop Command, has been serving for 27 years.

"It's just something my family has always been a part of, and I enjoy being a part of that legacy," he said. "When I was finally 17, I couldn't sign the papers fast enough."

The young actor said the National Guard helped him overcome some minor stage fright issues, while his dealings in theatre have helped him with some elements of shyness in his personality.

"In basic training I was a platoon guide leader at one point, so I was thrown in front of everybody and everybody looked to me for leadership, and I think that has really helped me in preparing for Li'l Abner," he said. "You can't be shy and timid in basic training ... especially if you're one of the tallest guys there."

Wassenberg said he is hoping to continue pursuing his musical interests as well as his military career.

"My goal is to go active duty Army and volunteer for deployment after I graduate," he said. "I would like to be stationed in Fort Riley and be close to family, raise a family and become a part of the Army for the rest of my life, but still continue to do community theatre shows."

Wassenberg thinks the community should take advantage. "It's different than a movie," he said. "Everyone should

see a musical at least once or twice in their life because it's different to actually see the story line take place in front of you instead of watching it on a screen."

# Severe Weather Awareness Week helps teach preparedness

By Jane Welch **Public Affairs Office** 

Gov. Sam Brownback signed a proclamation Feb. 24, 2012, designating the week of March 12 to 16 as Severe Weather Awareness Week.

During Severe Weather Awareness Week, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, in coordination with the National Weather Service, Kansas Emergency Management Association and other state, local and volunteer agencies and organizations, host events designed to make the public more aware of severe weather and how to prepare for and respond to emergencies.

"We've had a pretty mild winter," said Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and the adjutant general, "but we have to be ready for changes in weather patterns. I urge everyone to take time to check their emergency kit at home and in their car, to make sure they have an emergency plan that everyone in the family knows and to practice that plan."

In 2011, Kansas communities suffered through 68 tornadoes, strong damaging winds, very heavy rain and large hail, sig-

nificant flash flooding or other extremes. Three lives were lost that were attributable to Kansas tornadoes in 2011.

"Storm season" usually occurs in the months of March through August, making Kansas Severe Weather Awareness Week the ideal time to prepare for severe weather. However, severe weather can strike at any time, as demonstrated by the Harveyville EF2 tornado in late February.

### Prepare an Emergency Kit

Because Kansans live with the threat of severe weather year round, everyone is urged to practice their own severe weather safety plan at home, work, school or other locations during this week. Individuals should know where to seek shelter should severe weather threaten and know how long it will take to reach that shelter. Attentive preparation is a duty that should be practiced all year long and not just during storm season.

Although the threat of a tornado seems to receive the most attention, thunderstorms and high winds frequently cause more damage and occur more often than tornadoes. Flooding, particularly flash flooding, claims the lives of more people than any other weather emergency.



Gov. Sam Brownback signs a proclamation designating the week of March 12 to 16 as Severe Weather Awareness Week in the governor's ceremonial office at the State Capitol, Topeka, Kan., Feb. 24, 2012. Severe Weather Awareness Week will help the Kansas Department of Emergency Management teach Kansans preparedness. (Photo by Governor's Public Affairs Office)

## Music and art: two universal languages connect in Djibouti

By Spc. Michelle C. Lawrence 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery UPAR

Service members from Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa communicate daily with Djiboutians, but some CJTF-HOA members communicate via a different medium. The media in particular are music and art, and both are programs now in full swing through collaboration with the Institute of the Djiboutian Arts.

The program gives Djiboutians and Americans a new way to exchange cultures and enhance music and art skills and knowledge by meeting to paint and play instruments together.

Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Matticks, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, said he was given an idea from a civil affairs captain to help bridge the language barrier. The captain introduced Matticks, a high school music teacher in his home town of Hastings, Neb., to the director of the Institute of Djiboutian Arts and the program was born.

"That's when I thought it would be cool to get a group together, like the U.S. Embassy's English Discussion Group, but through music," said Matticks, who is also a member of the Camp Lemonnier Chapel praise band.

A small group of service members began visiting the institute to play with a local Djiboutian band called "Ardoukoba," made up of previous and current students from the institute, Matticks said.

Language seemed to be the only barrier between the Djiboutians and Americans, Matticks said. But what he found most interesting was how an Ardoukoba guitarist would begin playing a tune, and the rest of the Djiboutian band would start feeding off of it. Matticks and other U.S. service members would fill in with the band, creating a natural song at that very moment.

"We were in the process with them," said Matticks. "It was exciting to see that creative process from that group. We couldn't understand a word they were saying to each other, but we could tell what they were doing by the way they were playing."

Matticks said he immersed himself in the band.

"For me it was an honor to be involved in that creative process," he said. "I learned more from them on creativity



Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Matticks, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, and Samatar Ali, tenor saxophone player, warm up by playing the Djiboutian national anthem at the Institute of Djiboutian Arts in Djibouti, Djibouti, Jan. 8, 2012. Matticks and other service members from Combined Joint Task Force — Horn of Africa visited the institute to share music and art with the local citizens. (Photo by Spc. Michelle C. Lawrence, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery UPAR)

than they probably learned from me."

After the servicemembers worked with Ardoukoba for a few months, the director at the institute wanted to expand the program by involving students.

"The students were very interested in American music," said Matticks. "They wanted to learn all these songs. It was easy for us to teach it to them and we wanted to learn how they come up with what they do."

According to Deck Abdousalam, alto saxophone player at the Institute of Djiboutian Arts, the interest is mutual.

"We asked them to come play with us because we wanted to learn from them," said Abdousalam. "Our hope is to get a good life from this school and to be experts for this kind of music."

Music is not the only form of art at the institute. Canvases and paintbrushes are also used to express passion there. Lt. Col. Peter Buotte, CJTF-HOA planning and engagements officer in charge, works beside the students to bring out their culture.

"It shows in the drawings how we share artwork," said Yassin Hassan, an art student at the institute.

The interaction between all the artists is a mutual exchange, said Buotte. A natural, non-verbal correspondence occurs with each session bringing out various cultures in the drawings and paintings.

"I enjoy interacting with Djiboutian artists on a weekly basis," said Buotte. "When I make art or music with them, it is not work. I consider it an elevated form of play."

The outreach between the students and service members has created a prime opportunity for the two cultures to maintain musical and artistic evolution together.

"Musically, everyone is adding to the composition," said Buotte. "Visually, we frequently improvise on group composition as well."

Matticks said he hoped the visits would continue between the students and servicemembers to broaden the insight of cultures and break through the language barrier.

"I'm amazed that it works," said Matticks. "Somehow it just does. We don't have to be able to talk to each other to make music and art. Music and art really are universal languages."

# Volunteers needed at National Guard Museum for KC-135 display

By Tech. Sgt. Emily Alley 190th Public Affairs

A KC-135 from the 190th Air Refueling Wing at Forbes Field is expected to make its last journey in the next few months. For an aircraft that traveled around the world, it will be a short trip.

The aircraft will eventually come to rest at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, down the street from the 190th ARW, with the help of volunteers who plan to help pour the cement for its display and tow the plane to the museum. Like the other displays, it will help tell the story of the National Guard.

The work of the Museum of the Kansas National Guard is made possible by volunteers.

"We have volunteers from all military ranks, from privates to generals," said his-

torian Doug Jacobs. "We have some who aren't retirees, but like military history."

Jacobs, a retired Army lieutenant colonel, has swept the floors and cleaned the plumbing at the museum. Volunteers range in age from 12 to 85. Younger volunteers are often involved in a summer mentorship program, while many older volunteers host and provide tours. Those in between can do maintenance work. Many mow the lawn, trim the trees and shovel snow in the winter. The museum also hosts special events, such as an annual D-Day commemoration and reenactments. One volunteer spent a day sewing and repairing uniforms and canvas displays.

Military retirees and volunteers are uniquely suited to explain the history and displays in the museum to guests. They've lived the stories the artifacts tell.

The museum hosts coffee and pancake breakfasts, where volunteers often discuss their past experience. Bob Henderson, who has volunteered at the museum for two years, worked in an aircraft testing lab in World War II. He joined the Army Air Corps in 1945.

"I love it. The other volunteers consider me one of them," said Henderson, who enjoys the military history and sense of community he found at the museum.

Many of the volunteers are in their 60s and 70s and Jacobs would like to see more recent conflicts represented.

"The old volunteers are passing away. Now, the Kansas National Guard has been deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait, and we want to tell their stories, too," he said. To learn more about volunteering to help with the KC-135 display, contact Col. Anthony DeJesus, 785-861-4868, anthony.dejesus@ang.af.mil; Chief Master Sgt. Danny Roush, 785-861-4072,

danny.roush@ang.af.mil; Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Drewelow, 785-861-4535, kevin.drewelow@ang.af.mil; or Master Sgt. Shad England, 785-861-4468, shad.england@ang.af.mil.

The Museum of the Kansas National Guard is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The museum is located at 6700 S.W. Topeka Blvd., at Forbes Field, Topeka, Kans.

For more information on the museum please call (785) 862-1020 or go to http://www.kansasguardmuseum.org/.

# 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment father, son serve together

By Cpl. Christopher Calvert 13th Public Affairs Detachment

For many service members, deploying overseas results in an extended period of time away from loved ones. During these moments, troops need support from their friends and families more than ever. For one father and son, deployment has brought them as close as they have ever been.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Johnathan Keck, a property accounting technician, Basehor, Kan., and son, Pfc. Justin Keck, a unit supply specialist Manhattan, Kan., both assigned to 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, have been deployed together at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, for more than five months.

"You can't miss the family too much when you have a family member here with you," said Pfc. Keck.

Upon graduating from high school, the elder Keck said he had the suspicion Justin was contemplating joining the military as he had.

"I most likely influenced him to join," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Keck. "My advice to him was to go to college first and get his degree. Now that he's joined, we work well together, we have some

joint experiences, and we have more in common now than before."

Pfc. Keck said his father did influence him to join and also motivated him to enlist in the quartermaster branch, as well.

"I joined because I got lost on the way to college," he joked. "I'm in the Army with my dad and it's great. I don't have to worry too much about him getting in trouble, because I'm right here with him."

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Keck said that it is actually him who keeps his son in line, not the other way around.

"Sometimes Justin will say 'Hey dad,' "Chief Warrant Officer 3 Keck explained.
"I'll have to correct him and tell him 'No, we're in uniform, it's chief.' It's me who doesn't have to worry about him getting in trouble because I'm here."

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Keck said not only has joking between the two helped keep morale high, this deployment has also strengthened the bond between father and son.

"We've definitely built a stronger relationship," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Keck. "We've been so close for so long now, we even live in the same tent. It's very unique, and I'm very thankful he's here with me."



Kansas Army National Guardsmen, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Johnathan Keck (right), a property accounting technician, Basehor, Kan., and son, Pfc. Justin Keck (left), a unit supply specialist, from Manhattan, Kan., are both assigned to the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, Kuwait, Feb. 11, 2012. (Photo by Spc. Bradley Wancour, 13th Public Affairs Detachment)

### From the Pages of History

# 35th Infantry Division constituted to serve in World War

By Retired Lt. Col. Doug Jacobs Command Historian

The 35th Division was constituted July 18, 1917, as one of the 17 National Guard divisions authorized for service in World War I under the command of Maj. Gen. William Wright. The division was organized Aug. 25, 1917, from units whose traditions date back to the 19th century and the Indian Wars. The division was organized at Camp Doniphan, Okla. (today, a part of Fort Sill), from the National Guard of Kansas and Missouri. The division was made up of regiments which had been on active federal service since March and April 1917. The 35th consisted of three machine gun battalions, three field artillery regiments, four infantry regiments, one engineer regiment and one signal battalion with a total strength of 26,373.

The 35th Division trained at Camp Doniphan until the beginning of April 1918 when it moved to the ports of New York and Philadelphia for embarkation to Europe. Once in France, the 35th was attached to the British 30th Division for training, but placed under the administrative control of the U.S. II Corps. From June 11 to Sept. 2, the 35th was assigned to the French XXXIII Corps for front line training.

On June 18, 1918, elements of the division moved into positions in the southeastern portion of the Western Front near Epinal, France. Two days later, elements of the 69th Brigade, 35th Division, which consisted of the 137th and 138th Infantry Regiments, took over front line sectors. One month later, the 35th Division's other brigade, the 70th, relieved the 69th Brigade. From July 27 to Sept. 2, the division occupied the Wesserling and Gerardmer sectors.

The division then went into reserve for the 1st U.S. Army under the command of Maj. Gen. Peter A. Traub until Sept. 15 when it moved to the Meuse-Argonne Front. During the night of Sept. 20, the 35th moved into forward positions in preparation for the Meuse-Argonne offensive. At 5:30 a.m., Sept. 26, the division launched its at-

tack and for the next four days kept up the attack against heavy German resistance. The division suffered so many casualties that it was relieved and placed in reserve.

Two week later, the "Santa Fe Division" reentered the front line, where it served until shortly before the Armistice. The division returned to the United States in April 1919 and was demobilized on May 30.

The 35th Division did not return to the National Guard force structure until Sept. 13, 1935. With its reorganization, the 35th became a three-state division under the 4th U.S. Army consisting of the 134th, 137th, 138th and 140th Infantry Regiments from Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

With war clouds on the horizon, the division was inducted into federal service Dec. 23, 1940. It trained at Camp Robinson, Ark., and took part in the Louisiana maneuvers of 1941. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor and with the declaration of war, the 35th was rushed to California, where it performed coastal defense duties. While in San Luis Obispo, Calif., the division was reduced from four regiments to three and redesignated as the 35th Infantry Division. The 138th Infantry was relieved from its assignment to the division and sent to the Aleutian Islands. The division then moved to Camp Rucker, Ala., and Camp Butner, N.C., for further training. It participated in the Tennessee Maneuvers of November 1943 to January 1944 and in May 1944 the 35th Division sailed to England where it continued to train and prepare for the invasion of Europe.

The Santa Fe Division landed on Omaha Beach, Normandy, France, between July 5 -7, 1944, except for the 635th Tank Destroyer Battalion, which was activated and trained at Camp Robinson then detached and sent to Europe. It landed on Omaha Beach D-Day plus one. The division entered combat July 11 and fought in the Normandy hedgerows north of St. Lo. After repelling a series of German counterattacks the division entered St. Lo. Continuing its advance, the 35th took town after town in a drive spearheaded by the 4th Armored Division. By the middle of September, the 35th had reached the city of Nancy.

As part of the 3rd Army, the Santa Fe Division kept up the pressure against the German army, forcing it to fall back toward

Germany. During the battle for Aachen in November, Staff Sgt.

Junior J. Spurrier, Company
G, 134th Infantry, earned
the Medal of Honor for
gallantry in action. On
Dec. 8, the 35th crossed
into Germany and continued to advance until it
was relieved on Dec. 20
after 162 days of almost
constant action.

The 35th's rest period was interrupted by the German offensive in the Ardennes. The division moved into Belgium and took part in the fighting to relieve Bastogne. The 1st Battalion, 134th Infantry broke through the German ring and was one of the first units to reach the 101st Airborne. The 35th then went on the defensive against the continued German attack. During a five day period, the division artillery fired more than 41,000 rounds. After another two weeks of fierce fighting the division stopped the German advance.

On Jan. 23, 1945, the 35th moved south to the Alsace region of France to help stop a German attack in the 7th Army sector. One week later, the 35th made one of the longest tactical moves of the war when it deployed 292 miles by rail and truck to Masstricht, Holland.

The 35th relieved the British 155th Brigade on Feb. 6 in positions along the Ruhr River in Germany. The Santa Fe Division then spearheaded the 9th Army's drive into the German heartland. After crossing the Rhine on March 25, the division advanced eastward until April 26 when it moved to Hanover, Germany, for occupation duty.

The 35th returned to France for rest and was alerted for movement to the Pacific Theater. However, with the victory over Japan the division returned to the United States in September 1945 and was inactivated on Dec. 7, 1945, at Camp Breckinridge, Ky.

The 35th Infantry Division reorganized in late 1946 and early 1947 as a Kansas-Missouri division. The 35th resumed its peacetime status and continued to recruit and train. In April 1963, the 35th Infantry Division was inactivated along with three other National Guard divisions. The lineage of the Kansas portion of the 35th passed to the 69th Infantry Brigade until 1984. On March 1, 1984, Detachment 1, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry was reorganized into Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 35th Infantry Division (Mechanized). Work began in earnest to recruit and train new members for the division staff, to develop initial division goals and to make preparation for the division reactivation ceremony.

Ultimately, the division was reorganized, consisting of Kansas' 69th Infantry Brigade, Kentucky's 149th Armored Brigade, Nebraska's 67th Infantry Brigade, and division support elements from the Colorado Army National Guard and the Missouri Army National Guard.

On Aug. 25, 1984, the 35th Division reactivation ceremony was held at Fort Leavenworth. More the 500 troops represented units from the five states and more than 1,500 guests attended.

Lineage and Honors of the 35th Infantry Division (Santa Fe) compiled and reprinted from documents in the Archives of the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, located at Bldg. 301, Forbes Field, Topeka, Kan.

# Kansas Teen Council conducts first meeting of the year

By Kassidy Seaba

Kansas National Guard Teen Council

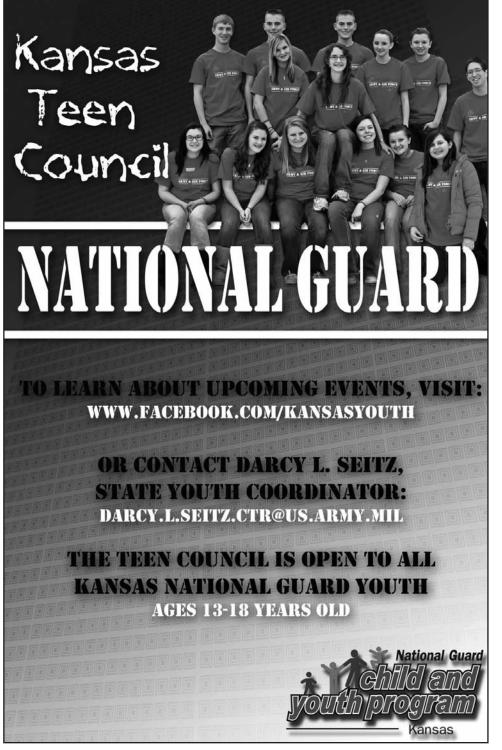
The Kansas National Guard Teen Council met on Jan. 7, 2012, for leadership training and community service. This was the first time that they were able to get out in the community and share the council's purpose and mission.

They started the day by working with Sgt. 1st Class Shelly Mann, a member of the Drug Demand Reduction program, to improve their leadership skills with the Challenge Course and low ropes obstacles. From this practice, they gained more confidence to lead activities or games.

After enjoying a pizza lunch, the council members went to the Children's Discovery Museum and volunteered to work with children of all ages. They divided up at different stations and were in charge of the activities and keeping the children safe. Some of them were hands-on at the building station, helping kids create using wood and hammers and others helped with art and window drawings.



Tyler Prine and Alison White, members of the Kansas National Guard Teen Council, help children select oil pastels for their art project while they volunteer at the Kansas Children's Discovery Center at Gage Park, Topeka, Kan., Feb. 7, 2012. (Photo by Shealee Crosby, Teen Council photographer)



### Awards and Decorations

Meritorious Service Medal



Lt. Col. James Bunch, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Lt Col Thomas Burke HHB 1st Bn 161st FA Wichita Lt. Col. Peter Jaramillo, HHD, 69th TC, Topeka, with 1st Oak

Lt Col Thomas Tessendorf HHB 1st Bn 161st FA Wichita Maj. Kyle Chansler, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Maj. Michael McCoy, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Mai, Justin Nusz, 35th MP Co, Topeka Maj. Mark Penrod, HHC, 287th SB, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Maj. William Yanek II, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Capt. Kyle Bell, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Capt. Kevin Cadena, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Capt. William Chuber, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Capt. Lance Fowler, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Capt. Douglas Iverson, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Capt. Jeffrey Mann, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Capt. Michael O'Crowley, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Capt. James Pope, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Capt. Grant Watson, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Capt. Feng Zhang, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka, with 1st Oak

1st Lt. Zachary Bailey, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City 1st Lt. Sara Blackman, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson 1st Lt. Nicholas Carlson, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge

1st Lt. Barry Gomes, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend 1st Lt. Jonas Johnson, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita 1st Lt. Lisa Whiteface, 35th MP Co, Topeka 2nd Lt. William Joest Jr., Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola 2nd Lt. Louis Latimer, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita 2nd Lt. Tyson Winingham, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Chief Warrant Officer 3 Daniel McLaughlin, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson

Warrant Officer 1 Jason Bolieu, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita

Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Matticks, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita

Sgt. Maj. Gary Peterman, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita 1st Sgt. Thomas Becher, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson 1st Sgt. Darrian Campbell, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton 1st Sgt. Todd Daniels, 35th MP Co, Topeka 1st Sgt. John McMahan, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge

1st Sgt. Steven Sprawka, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola 1st Sgt. Brent Wallace, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City

Master Sgt. Paul Johnston, HHD, 69th TC, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Master Sgt. Randy McCall, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita

Master Sgt. John Speer, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. 1st Class Micheal Alsup, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Sgt. 1st Class Shannon Bronson, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Sgt. 1st Class Jon Depiesse, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Sgt. 1st Class Charley Finley, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA,

Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Gallagher, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Sgt. 1st Class Jody Henson, Co C (Ord), 2nd Bn, 235th Rgmt,

Sgt. 1st Class Lloyde Mattix, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA,

Sgt. 1st Class David Medina, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Sgt. 1st Class Michael Mulligan, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson

Sgt. 1st Class James Pyatt, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Richardson-Cline, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola

Sgt. 1st Class David Schild, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Sgt. 1st Class Michael Wilson, JFHQ-HHD, Topeka Sgt. 1st Class Curtis Woodbury, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City

Staff Sgt. Jamie Baxter, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Staff Sgt. Jesse Brinker, HHD, 69th TC, Topeka Staff Sgt. Bradley Carney, 35th MP Co, Topeka Staff Sgt. Myra Kennedy, HHB, 1st Bn. 161st FA. Wichita Staff Sgt. Matthew Weller, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great

Sgt. Shawn Collins, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Sgt. David Dean, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Sgt. David Halsey, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Sgt. Christopher Moore, FSC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola Sgt. Cody Phillips, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita

### **Army Commendation Medal**



Maj. John Sherrill, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Capt. Shawn Johnson, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita 1st Lt. Patrick Reed, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton 1st Lt. Benjamin Ronning, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson 1st Lt. Benjamin Wilson, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson 1st Lt. Wendy Wylie, 35th MP Co, Topeka 2nd Lt. Brian Blackman, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson 2nd Lt. William Gardenhire, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA,

Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Hansen, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA,

Sgt. 1st Class Marc Henry, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Indermuehle, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st

FA, Newton Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Laiter, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. 1st Class Carline Long Jr., HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA,

Wichita Sgt. 1st Class Kurt Narron, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson

Sgt. 1st Class William Witzke, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Staff Sgt. Keith Adams, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Staff Sgt. Gerald Allen Jr., Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge

Staff Sgt, Christopher Angleton, Btrv C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton

Staff Sgt. Joe Aragon, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Staff Sgt. George Baker, 35th MP Co, Topeka Staff Sgt. Kristina Baldwin, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Staff Sgt. Marsha Bullins, 35th MP Co, Topeka Staff Sgt. Roger Burbank, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Staff Sgt. Douglas Burkard, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Staff Sgt. David Coleman, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Staff Sgt. Darvl Davis, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita

Staff Sgt. Alexandro Deleon, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA,

Staff Sgt. Dennis Dewitt, 35th MP Co, Topeka Staff Sgt. Dennis Dinkel, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Staff Sgt. Brian Ehrler, 35th MP Co, Topeka Staff Sgt. Eric Ferrer Jr., 35th MP Co, Topeka Staff Sgt. Jeromy Fisher, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Staff Sgt. Gerald Gibson, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Staff Set Richard Gooch Btry B 1st Bn 161st FA Paola Staff Sgt. Jerry Gregory Jr., 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Staff Sgt. Ben Guhr, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Staff Set Robert Himelrick III 35th MP Co. Toneka Staff Sgt. Dawn Ho, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Staff Sgt. Tony Kirk, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola

Staff Sgt. Brandon Kuker, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson

Staff Sgt. Chadley Kuker, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge

Staff Sgt. Jon Lavigne, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Staff Sgt. Robert Longacre, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Staff Sgt. John McGraw, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Staff Sgt. Brian McKinney, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend

Staff Sgt. Jerry Mead, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Staff Sgt. Terry Mead, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Staff Sgt. Gary Merrick, 35th MP Co, Topeka Staff Sgt. Wavne Messalle, Btrv A. 1st Bn. 161st FA, Dodge

Staff Sgt. Timmy Morris, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Staff Sgt. Wesley Poell, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Staff Sgt. Roger Redmond, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City

Staff Sgt. Matthew Schmitt, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Staff Sgt. John Schulz, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Staff Sgt. Jenny Smith, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Staff Sgt. Diana Starr, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Staff Sgt. Kyle Stevens, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Staff Sgt. Patrick Stevens, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Staff Sgt. Timothy Stock, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Staff Sgt. Kristina Williams, 73rd CST (WMD), Topeka, with

5th Oak Leaf Cluster Sgt. Tracy Barragan, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Sgt. Rebecca Beeson, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. Glenn Carter, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Sgt. Bounma Chanthalangsy, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge Sgt. Megan Clasen, HHC, 287th SB, Wichita

Sgt. Louis Colling, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Sgt. Sarah Cowell, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Sgt. Filiberto Donjuan, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Sgt. Allan Earles, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Sgt. Jacob Fields, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Sgt. Casey Gile, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. Todd Gingrich, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton

Sgt. Marcus Glaser, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Sgt. James Hartzfeld, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. Justin Hawks, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Sgt. Joshua Haybarker, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. Joshua Hulse, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Sgt. Eurik Hunt, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Sgt. Mary Hunt, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Sgt. Steven Jameson, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Sgt. Michael Jeanson, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Sgt. Tiffany Joy, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. Jessy Lake, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. Jorge Lamas, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Sgt. Patrick Lane, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Sgt. Joel Lara, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Sgt. Paul Mains, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Sgt. Russell McCall, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson

Sgt. Shaun O'Brien, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Sgt. David Ohlde, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. Allen Payton, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. Casey Pennock, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Sgt. Michael Pohlman, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Sgt. Leon Prather, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita

Sgt. Eric Randle, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA. Dodge City

Sgt. Kristin Ricard, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 3rd Oak Leaf Sgt. Jason Riddle, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Sgt. Shane Rockers, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Sgt. Erik Schroeder, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson

Sgt. Sarah Shafer, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster Sgt. Bangone Sihongheune, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Sgt. Patrick Stapleton II, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Sgt. Terry Stokely, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Sgt. Nathaniel Taylor, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Sgt. Denny Tellez, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Sgt. Richard Tillery Jr., 35th MP Co, Topeka

Sgt. William Towell, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Sgt. Trudy Vanderhall, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. Tracy Waller, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Sgt. David Ward, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Sgt. Jay Wilson, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf

Cluster Sgt. Jessica Wright, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Tyler Abel, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Scott Baethke, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Donald Bess, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton

Spc. Greg Collier, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Shannon Couch, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Levi Davidson, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Brenda Deters, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Michael Dressler, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Ismael Garcia, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend

Spc. Travis Grogan, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Travis Lamer, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Isaac Leihy, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Logan Littell, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Douglas Martin, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Steven McBryde, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Stephan Mermis, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Cleofas Moreno, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson

Spc. Wayne Morrison, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Spc. Benjamin Moser, 1161st FSC. Hutchinson Spc. Joel Nagle, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Israel Reyes, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City

Spc. Donna Schild, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Bronson Shipman, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Nicole Sively, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Phillip Snyder, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Spc. Matthew Umbarger, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Jeremiah Vague, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Lance Webster, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Jeremiah Wickstrom, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Spc. Andrew Wieland, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Tyler Wing, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Nicholas Worthen, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend

Spc. Bradley Youngers, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Pfc. William Bazer, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Navy Commendation Medal

Capt. Brian Webb, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita

### **Army Achievement Medal**

1st Lt. Mario Oliva, 35th MP Co, Topeka 1st Lt. Ryan Strotkamp, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City 2nd Lt. Matthew Ayres, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita

2nd Lt. Kelly Draffen, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson 2nd Lt. Erin Kelley, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. 1st Class Sylvania King, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. 1st Class Eddie York, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Staff Sgt. Wallace Austin, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Staff Sgt. Ronald Bloodworth, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City

Staff Sgt. Robert Cannon, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge Staff Sgt. Donald Dickey, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola

Staff Sgt. Justin Piland, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Staff Sgt. Maurice Thomas, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. David Beams, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Sgt. Brigham Bentley, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Sgt. Jonathan Bentley, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City

Sgt. Pleasure Brown, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Sgt. Danny Cheatham, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. Jacob Cloud, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Sgt. Sean Cody, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Sgt. Craig Cox, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Sgt. Robert Davis, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Sgt. Robert Diebert, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. Todd Ensz, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Sgt. Nickey Finley, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Sgt. Kevin Fischer, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. Richard Fisher Jr., 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Sgt. Timothy Greenwood, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Sgt. Raymond Greer III, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Sgt. Francisco Herrera, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Sgt. Leonard Herrman, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Sgt. Brian Holloway, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Sgt. Jeffery Keith, 1161st FSC. Hutchinson Sgt. Korie Kerr, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. Todd Klein, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Sgt. Steven Koehn, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Sgt. Keith Kuhns Jr., Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Sgt. Jason Lee, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Sgt. Shawn Littrel, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Sgt. Jerry Lofland, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Sgt. Jason Lutz, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Sgt. Joshua Mack, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Sgt. Thomas McDonald, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. Gerald McDonnell, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Sgt. Sean McGuire, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Sgt. Hector Medina, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend

Sgt. Thomas Miller, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Sgt. Anthony Moore, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Sgt. Timothy Pollock, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Sgt. Matthew Reed, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Set. Russell Reiff, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. Christopher Schmidt, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. Clifton Shaw, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Sgt. Andrew Sloan, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. Dana Smith, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. Scott Squires, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City

Sgt. Michael Stine Jr., Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Sgt. Michael Taylor, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. Timothy Thomas, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Sgt. Shannon Thys, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Sgt. Joseph Timmer III, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend

Sgt. Darryl Trimmell, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Sgt. Andrew Waters, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Sgt. Duaine Williams Jr., 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Sgt. Marcus Williams, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Sgt. Jeff Wilson, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Alejandro Alcala, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City

Spc. Samith Alonso, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Kyle Altman, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Anthony Arnold, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Jason Arnold, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. William Baker, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Julya Barnes, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson

Spc. Christopher Barnhurst, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Jonathon Beauclair, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge

Spc. Jonathon Benavidez, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Ana Benitez, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Brandon Bennett, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson

Spc. Jose Betancemontes, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Charles Beuttel, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Michael Bowen, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Nicholas Bowen, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. John Bowman, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Jesse Boyd, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola

Spc. Evan Brandt, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Travis Brawner, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Alexander Brettmann, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Nicholas Broyles, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Travis Buck, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Spc. Patrick Burch, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Charles Buss, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Thomas Cahill, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Bryan Callaway, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Zachary Carroll, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola

Spc. Wilbur Carter, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. John Countryman, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Rose Crooks, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Spc. Andis Crow, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Charles Davis, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Sean Deaton, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Ricky Delcour Jr., 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Cody Deneault, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Spc. Daniel Dennett, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Brian Dewberry, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Kevin Diers, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Spc. Kali Dimitt, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson

Spc. Brion Dinkel, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Christopher Doffsotta, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Casey Dole, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Steffany Douglas, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Gregory Drummond, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Mitchell Erickson, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Nathan Esfeld, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Aaron Ewing, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Justin Farabee, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola

Spc. Colton Feldman, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Dustin Feldman, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Matthew Feldt, Btrv A. 1st Bn. 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Christopher Ferguson, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. George Foster, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Bryan Fuller Jr., Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Jacob Gaede, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton

Spc. Nicholas Garcia, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Ronald George, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Christopher Gray, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Leland Grumbein, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Alan Halvorsen, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Jordan Hamel, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Blake Hamilton, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Spc. Brandon Harbert, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Billy Harp II, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Leymon Harris, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Jonathan Hartle, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Lyle Hawthorne, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Patrick Hill, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. James Hilty, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City

Spc. Seth Hinkle, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Christopher Horns, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Justin Hueston, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Brandan Huffman, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Andrew Hughes, Btrv A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City

Spc. Michael Hurd, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Michael Inch, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Ginger Jenkins, Btry C, 1st Bn. 161st FA. Newton Spc. Brian Johnson, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Troy Johnston, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Bryant Jones, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Joshua Kappel, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City

Spc. Matthew Kasper, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Kyle Kegley, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Joshua Kenworthy, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Ron Keys, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Karina Kinderknecht, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson

Spc. Robbie Knapp, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Benjamin Kolas, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Andrew Kopaczewski, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Dalton Lampson, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Jeremy Leach, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend

Spc. Andrew Lindemann, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita Spc. Benjamin Lister, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Brent Loescher, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Phillip Loth, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Jeremy Macan, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. James Mace, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. David Mackey, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Bobby Maley, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Ethan Maley, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Nathan Maley, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Elizabeth Mansur, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. James Martinez, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Ramex Martinez, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Mitchell May, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Travis Mayer, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Casey McCoy, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Eric McFarland, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Orin McMahan, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Michael McVeigh, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Stephen Melton, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Raul Mendoza, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City

Spc. Ricardo Mendoza-Maddox, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Joshua Meyer, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Shane Miller, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Roman Monteiro, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Lindsay Morris, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. John Morrissey, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Jameka Mutazammil, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Quentin Neal, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. James Noonan, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Roy Nuessen, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Aron Ochsner, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Robert Ortiz, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Travis Orton, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Luke Paasch, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Brandon Patillo, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Jarrett Payne, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Michael Pearce, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Jacob Penning, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Justin Pennington, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. David Percival Jr., Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. James Peterson, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Colt Pfautz, Btry B, 1st Bn. 161st FA. Paola Spc. Victor Ramirez-Ceballos, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City

Spc. James Ramsey, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Phillip Reese Jr., Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Autumn Riddle, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Travis Roberts, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Eric Roland, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Jesse Roper, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Andrew Rott, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Craig Ruhl, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Cheryl Ryan, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Brett Sagel, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Travis Sanders, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton

Spc. Ian Saxton, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Kalen Schultz, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Christopher Shields, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Victoria Sierra, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Spc. James Skeens Jr., 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Andrew Skipper, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Mathew Slagle, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Christopher Smith, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Spc. Johnpaul Smith, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Christopher Spencer, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Perrell Stanley II, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Donald Stewart, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Michael Stinger, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Kyle Stitt, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson

Spc. Aaron Stoesz, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Jackie Sullivan, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Kimberly Tansey, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Dustin Thompson, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Jesse Thompson, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola

Spc. Justin Thompson, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Phillip Thompson, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Anthony Thornton, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Colton Trotter, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Nicolas Vanwyhe, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. Steven Vasquez, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola

Spc. Joseph Verschelden, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Patrick Walker, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Spc. James Ward Jr., Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Eric Ward, 35th MP Co, Topeka Spc. Chase Weber, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. Robert Wells, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola

Spc. Eric White, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Spc. James Willett, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Justin Willingham, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Sean Wing, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Tyronne Woodson, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Nathan Wright, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Spc. Andrew Yoder, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Spc. Matthew Yoder, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson

Spc. Kenneth Young, 35th MP Co, Topeka Cpl. Seth Warkins, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Pfc. Jesse Bahr, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Pfc. Heather Bloesser, 35th MP Co, Topeka Pfc. Ronald Bowen, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Pfc. Bobby Cole, 35th MP Co, Topeka Pfc. Stephen Crenshaw, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Pfc. Chase Day, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City

Pfc. Joshua Delaney, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Pfc. Brittney Ecret, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Pfc. Francisco Erives, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Pfc. Jake Fockelmann, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Pfc. Brian Gordon, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Pfc. Kenneth Harman, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Pfc. Michael Kelly, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Pfc. Steven Knauss, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Pfc. Aaron Langley, Btry E (TAB), 161st FA, Great Bend Pfc. Adam Lewis, 35th MP Co, Topeka Pfc. Mark Lewis, 35th MP Co, Topeka Pfc. Hector Martinez, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Pfc. Jake Mathews, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City

Pfc. Athena Miller, 35th MP Co, Topeka Pfc. Michael Moodie, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Pfc. Zachary Myers, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Pfc. Marshall Nely, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Pfc. Victor Ochanda, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Pfc. David Quintero, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Pfc. Leo Rogers, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City

Pfc. Jeffrey Saylor II, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Pfc. Skylar Seals, Btry A, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Dodge City Pfc. Darryl Shirey, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Pfc. Donald Thomas II, Btrv C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Pfc. Chad Thompson, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola Pvt. 2 Jesus Arredondo Jr., 35th MP Co, Topeka

Pvt. 2 Zachary Butter, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Pvt. 2 Dustyn Crockett, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Pvt. 2 Clint Pierson, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Pvt. 1 Michael Wells, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Pvt. 1 Dalton Willingham, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola

### KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

### Meritorious Service Medal



Lt. Col. Frances Oleen, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Maj. Richard Moon, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf

Cluster

Chief Master Sgt. Richard Meador, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Chief Master Sgt. Danny Roush, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Senior Master Sgt. Keith Guffy, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Senior Master Sgt. Michael Swed, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Patrick Cochran, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Kevin Nutter, 190th ARW, Topeka Tech. Sgt. Stacy Harvey, 190th ARW, Topeka Tech. Sgt. Barrie Janssen, 184th IW, Wichita

Air Force Commendation Medal



Maj. Daniel Skoda, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Master Sgt. Robert Bolin, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Air Force Achievement Medal



Chief Master Sgt. Danny Walker, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka Tech. Sgt. Wayne French, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Leaf Cluster
Senior Airmen Benson Cessna, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st
Oak Leaf Cluster

Senior Airmen Patrick Heptinstall, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Senior Airmen Aaron Rowley, 190th ARW, Topeka

### **Retirements**

Kansas Army National Guard

Chaplain (Col.) Donald Davidson, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Lt. Col. Dana Shopfner, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Master Sgt. Ricky Budden, BCTS, Fort Leavenworth Sgt. 1st Class Don Morton Jr., Det 1, 170th Maint Co, Colby

Sgt. 1st Class Arnold Tijerina, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Staff Sgt. Dana Burdick, Det 1, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA. Lenexa

Staff Sgt. John Longfellow, Det 1, 1161st FSC, Pratt Staff Sgt. Lavel McCord, Det ,1 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Staff Sgt. Pete Rios, Det 2, Rec & Ret Bn, Salina Staff Sgt. Nancy Sisk, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. Robert Frankowski, Det 1, 731st Trans Co, Liberal Sgt. Kevin Linscheid, Co D, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Emporia

Sgt. Travis McCracken, 2137th FSC, Manhattan Spc. Anthony Lago, Det 1, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson Spc. Raymond Moore, HHC (-), 2nd CAB, 137th Inf,

Spc. Joseph Russell, Det 2, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Junction City

#### Kansas Air National Guard

Senior Master Sgt. Rob Sauer, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Russell Hansen, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Anthony Harbour, 190th ARW, Topeka Tech. Sqt. Timothy, Green, 184th IW, Wichita

# Full-time student, mother and wife takes on Kansas City marathon

By Sgt. Catherine Herr 69th Troop Command

Running a marathon requires an abundance of motivation and preparation as Sgt. Michelle Ferrer, a human resource noncommissioned officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 69th Troop Command in Topeka, Kan., has learned.

She is training for her second full marathon in addition to completing the Sunflower State Games 5k last summer, the Waddell-Reed half marathon in Kansas City last October and the Frostbite 5k last February.

Not only does she physically and mentally prepare for these races, she is a full-time student, mother and wife. Although her husband, Staff Sgt. Eric Ferrer, deployed to Africa last February, Ferrer has been able to balance the pressures of her husband's absence, along with the demands of school, work, being a mother and preparing for marathons. Ferrer attributes her success in balancing everything to using her

running as a stress management tool.

Ferrer has combined her enjoyment of running with the development of her master's thesis at Washburn University. She is considering looking for volunteers in the Kansas Army National Guard to take part in a study in the fall involving the relation of physical fitness to mental fitness.

Ferrer's schedule includes a strict regime of physical and psychological foundation that includes training, diet and mental preparation. Ferrer has trained for both of her full marathons with the Washburn University Running Club.

This year she will be running the 2012 Christie Clinic Marathon in Champaign, Ill. She says she reviews her training plan daily and feels such a sense of accomplishment already for her commitment to running this marathon. Her only goal is to finish strong, knowing that she did everything she possibly could to train for it. If you are interested in taking part in her study, please contact Ferrer at michelle.ferrer@washburn.edu.



Sgt. Michelle Ferrer, a human resource noncommissioned officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 69th Troop Command in Topeka, Kan., competes in the 2011 Waddell and Reed Kansas City Marathon Oct. 15, 2011. Ferrer completed the race in a little more than two hours. (Courtesy photo)

## Winners of the Kansas Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition

The Best Warrior Competition for the Kansas Army National Guard was held in Salina, Kan., at the Great Plains Regional Training Site Nov. 3 to 5, 2011. The competition has two categories, the best noncommissioned officer and the best Soldier.

There were five noncommissioned officers competing for the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and four Soldiers (specialist and below) who competed for the Soldier of the Year. The noncommissioned officers and Soldiers competed in three days of events starting with the Army physical fitness test and weigh in, day and night land navigation, a written essay, a written test, a six-mile road march carrying a 35 lb ruck and M16, 10 warrior tasks, M16 zero and M16 qualification, a uniform inspection, a mystery event and appearance board. The competition was both physically and mentally challenging and all the contestants did very well.

Each competitor was selected to represent their command at the State competition through a series of competitions starting at the company, battalion and brigade levels.

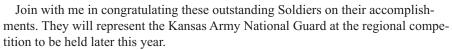
I am pleased to announce the winners of this year's Best Warrior competition are:

#### Soldier of the Year

Pfc. Christopher Pulaski, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment

#### NCO of the Year

Staff Sgt. Eric Cooper, 235th Regiment



Command Sgt. Major John J. Ryan Command Sergeant Major Kansas Army National Guard



The Kansas Air National Guard 2012 Outstanding Airmen of the Year review board took place in January to select this year's recipients. The Outstanding Airmen of the Year program seeks to recognize the very best Airmen the state of Kansas has to offer.

The competition this year was fierce. Board members reviewed the leadership, job performance, community involvement and personal achievements of the candidate's nomination packages from the 184th Intelligence Wing and the 190th Air Refueling Wing.

The following Airmen were selected by Brig. Gen. Bradley Link, assistant adjutant general – Air and commander of the Kansas Air National Guard, as the 2012 award recipients after receiving recommendations from this year's board members.

### Airman of the Year

Senior Airman Morgan Burns, 190th ARW

**Noncommissioned Officer of the Year** Staff Sgt. Anthony Garner, 184th IW

**Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year** Senior Master Sgt. Lurina Lovegrove, 184th IW

#### **First Sergeant of the Year** Master Sgt. Charles Ballard, 184th IW

**Honor Guard Member of the Year** 

Tech. Sgt. Barbara DiPoli, 190th ARW

**Honor Guard Manager of the Year** Tech. Sgt. Nate Miles, 190th ARW

**Overall Kansas Airman of the Year** 

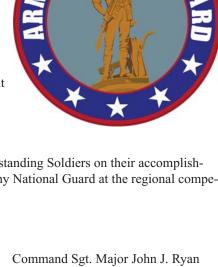
Senior Master Sgt. Lurina Lovegrove, 184th IW

Special thanks to the following enlisted leaders for their assistance with this

Chief Master Sgt. Danny Walker, Chief Master Sgt. Sid Baldwin, Chief Master Sgt. Russ Brotsky, Chief Master Sgt. Brian Saunders, Chief Master Sgt. Ivan Perez and Senior Master Sgt. Wendy Davis. Congratulations to this year's winners!

Chief Master Sgt. James Brown Kansas Air National Guard State Command Chief

VIR NATIONAL GUARD



### Service members become U.S. citizens in Africa



Sgt. Joel Lara (center) of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard, recites the Oath of Allegiance to the United States in front of fellow Soldiers and Sailors with U.S. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Kelan Scott, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5, during a naturalization ceremony held Jan. 25, 2012, at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. Having other service members in attendance during the ceremony was meaningful to Lara, a native of Panama.

"It feels good and I am happy," he said with a smile. "The people here are my brothers and sisters, and I am an American with them now." (Photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Caya, CJTF-HOA Public Affairs)

# Kansas Army National Guard hosts meet and greet with WWE Superstar Kofi Kingston™

By Jane Welch Public Affairs Office

The Kansas Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion hosted a meet and greet for members of the military with WWE® Superstar Kofi Kingston<sup>TM</sup>. It was held Feb. 3, 2012, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Pioneer Room, Capital Plaza Hotel, Topeka.

Kingston<sup>TM</sup> is a former Intercontinental and WWE® Tag Team Champion and can be seen every week on the cable series Monday Night Raw on USA Network.

The WWE® Raw World Tour wrestled at the Landon Arena, Kansas Expocentre, Topeka, Kan., that same evening. The following night they performed at the Intrust Bank Arena in Wichita, Kan.

The Kansas Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion also had military equipment on display outside the Kansas Expocentre in conjunction with the WWE® Raw

During the opening ceremony in Topeka the Kansas Army National Guard administered the oath of enlistment/reenlistment to five individuals.



WWE® Superstar Kofi Kingston™ signs an autograph for a young fan at a meet and greet hosted by the Kansas Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion at the Capital Plaza hotel, Topeka, Kan., Feb. 3, 2011. (Photo by Jane Welch, Public Affairs Office)



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# Kansas Army National Guard couple deploys together

By Spc. Bradley Wancour 13th Public Affairs Detachment

For military marriages, deployment normally means a year-long separation. This is not the case for Sgt. 1st Class Brian Dale, a Black Hawk helicopter maintenance platoon sergeant, Company D, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, Kansas Army National Guard, and Staff Sgt. Danielle Burke, a human resource specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-108th Aviation.

"We get to see each other every day, which is the main benefit," said Dale.

Burke agreed and went on to explain how having her husband nearby allowed her to unwind after a difficult day.

The Topeka, Kan., natives have been married for roughly nine months, said Burke.

Soon after they were married, the unit deployed and has been in theater for more than four months. Burke and Dale have already experienced some of the advantages of being deployed together.

"He's my support system, so it's good to have him here so I can talk to him if I get frustrated at work or if I just had a bad day," Burke stated.

While they are hesitant to admit it,

there are certain challenges to being in a deployed environment with one's spouse that many people may not realize, Dale explained.

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"We're always in uniform, so we have to maintain our professionalism all the time, which means we can't even do simple things like hold hands," Burke said.

While they do get to see each other in a professional setting, the deployed environment makes spending quality time together difficult, Burke stated.

"We know we have it better than most married Soldiers," said Dale. "So I feel bad saying there are disadvantages because at least we get to see each other."

Other difficulties arise from the workload each spouse has to shoulder while in a deployed environment, Dale stated.

"We still have our mission, so our hours may not be the same," said Dale. "It can be hard knowing she is so close but the job won't allow us to see each other."

Both Burke and Dale understand the difficulties and accept them, just like the traditional military couple deals with the challenges of spending a year apart. Overall, they are optimistic about their deployment and are happy to be able to spend time with each other.



Sgt. 1st Class Brian Dale, a Black Hawk helicopter maintenance platoon sergeant with Company D, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, and Staff Sgt. Danielle Burke, a human resource specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-108th Aviation, both natives of Topeka, Kan., pose for a photo at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Feb. 11, 2012. (Photo by Spc. Bradley Wancour, 13th Public Affairs Detachment)

## Marriage Enrichment Workshop

May 18-20, 2012 Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview - Wichita 400 W. Douglas Avenue Wichita, KS 67202

Registration closes on May 8, 2012 at 2 p.m.!
Lodging, breakfast and lunch will be provided.
Childcare will be provided.

All attendees (including your children) must be registered in DEERS.

Retreat will begin at 7 p.m. Friday evening and conclude by noon on Sunday.

Limited to the first 30 couples!

Register by calling (785) 274-1514 or email to mike.mcclellan@us.army.mil.