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# PLAINS GUARDIAN

VOLUME 56 No. 5      *Serving the Kansas Army and Air National Guard, Kansas Emergency Management, Kansas Homeland Security and Civil Air Patrol*      OCTOBER 2012

## Guardsmen partner with Armenians for humanitarian demining

**By Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Grieco  
U.S. European Command Public Affairs**

Four Soldiers from the Kansas National Guard worked with a civilian representative from the U.S. Humanitarian Demining Training Center to teach international Humanitarian Mine Action standards to members of the Engineering Companies of the Armenian Peacekeeping Brigades Sept. 18 to 28.

“In essence, we’re doing a train the trainer mission and trying to build their internal capacity,” said Martin Dumond, on-site training instructor from the HDCT, out of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

“Armenia, at this point, does not really have a national set of standard operating procedures for demining. We give them our training and, as a result, the idea is that they take the concepts to help develop their own national training programs.”

Dumond said the procedures taught in the HMA program are based around the approved international set of standards set down in Geneva, Switzerland. He said the goal is to show the Armenians the basic framework and then allow them to tailor that to fit their country’s needs.

“It’s a way of engaging with the Armenians in the humanitarian realm,” said Du-



**Sgt. 1st Class Travis Eichhorn, a Pittsburg, Kan., native and combat engineer with the Kansas National Guard, partners with a soldier from the Engineering Companies of the Armenian Peacekeeping Brigade during a simulated one-man demining drill. Kansas National Guardsmen and the U.S. Humanitarian Demining Training Center representative are instructing Armenian peacekeepers and engineer battalions on international demining standards as part of the Humanitarian Mine Action program and will assist the Armenian government in developing a national standard operating procedure for demining. (Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Grieco, U.S. European Command Public Affairs)**

mond. “If they can begin to follow internationally approved methodology and move in the direction of the international community recommends, we are accomplishing the mission. What makes this mission different than most is the Armenians are at a point where they are developing standard procedures and a training program, so we are building it from the ground up here.”

The officer-in-charge of the Kansas National Guard detachment in Armenia, Capt. Michael Liotta, said this is not the first partnership engagement Kansas has had with Armenia.

“I believe we’ve done this demining training almost three times, maybe more,” said Liotta, a Topeka native. “We also help them to set up their emergency management plans. The adjutant general of the Kansas National Guard is also in charge of emergency response management in Kansas, so we brought in Armenian first responders to tour and train in our facilities.”

Liotta said Kansas and Armenia are State Partnership Program nations through a cooperative agreement that was forged at the time Armenia declared independence from the Soviet Union.

“Bob Dole, a senator from Kansas was  
(Continued on Page 2)

## Leaders learn about harnessing today’s young workforce

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

The Kansas National Guard’s Equal Employment Opportunity office hosted a Leadership Training Seminar with Bruce Tulgan, an expert on generational differences in the workplace, at Nickell Armory, Topeka, Kan., Sept. 26.

Known for his expertise on leadership and management, Tulgan was asked to address the Kansas Adjutant General’s Department about ways for leaders to grow and improve, a topic deemed important in a recent statewide climate survey.

Tulgan told the attendees that the current workforce is made up of five generations, starting with the pre-baby boomers born before 1946.

Over the course of the seminar, he taught about different management styles to help leaders overcome generational differences in the workplace. The younger generation is looking for strong, hands-on leadership, he said. He recommended teaching them the basics of “followership” through one-on-one dialogue. And he noted many of them just want to know that someone is keeping score for them and that they are making a difference.

Tulgan also clarified that recent generations were raised on the idea that “everyone is a winner, everyone gets a trophy.” That’s a lie, Tulgan said, people do keep score. He said the younger generation wants to hit the ground running and know that someone is paying attention and keeping score for them. That attitude can work to the Guard’s betterment and the agency’s betterment.

“What you have here is an organization with a lot of systems in place for strong leadership and followership, but maybe people are not in the habit of practicing the day-to-day tactics. So maybe there are people that don’t have the competence and need to learn more,” said Tulgan.

“We would never put someone in a charge of a technical responsibility without teaching them the basic technical knowledge. But we put people in charge of people and only  
(Continued on Page 10)

## 184th Civil Engineer Squadron builds experience in Germany

**By Staff Sgt. Justin Jacobs  
184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs**

Forty-six Airmen of the 184th Civil Engineering Squadron, 184th Intelligence Wing, deployed to Oberammergau, Germany, in support of the NATO Training School in July for a two-week deployment for training. The squadron included a number of experienced Airmen as well as several new additions. Despite the inexperience of the new Airmen, motivation and enthusiasm were high. Senior enlisted members offered valuable guidance as they gave instructions for completing the tasks in front of them.

“It was impressive how the younger Airmen accepted the challenge of the projects, came together as a team, and put in the

long hours of hard work to get the jobs done,” said Maj. Brock Sissel, site commander, 184th CES.

The projects not only gave the new Airmen an opportunity to train in their civil engineer career field, it also provided an opportunity for new Guardsmen to get acquainted with other members of the squadron.

“I am pretty new to the squadron,” said Airmen 1st Class Aaron Lewis, heavy equipment operator, 184th CES. “It was good to work on projects that I wouldn’t normally have the chance to in my career field and be able to meet the other member of the squadron from different shops.”

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**Staff Sgt. Zach Whitener (left), 184th Communications Flight, and Tech. Sgt. Karey Haukom (right), 184th Civil Engineering Squadron, resurface a walkway at the NATO school located on base during a two-week training deployment at Oberammergau, Germany, July 17. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Justin Jacobs, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)**

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# Armenian delegation studies U.S. emergency call system

By 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht  
Public Affairs Office

Emergency response was the main focus as a four-member delegation from the Republic of Armenia visited Kansas emergency responder organizations. Armenia recently adopted a U.S. model for a 911 emergency system and Hovhannes Khangeldyan, head of Crisis Management Center, and his colleagues were eager to see real-world operations of this system.

“We are amazed and impressed with the high level of service that you are providing for your population for managing disasters,” said Khangeldyan.

The delegation started their tour at Shawnee County’s 911 center Sept. 12 to gain a better understanding of how the system worked. Capt. Lance Royer, deputy with Shawnee County Sheriff’s Department, gave the delegation a tour of the 911 center and the communication tower site. He was able to demonstrate what technologies are in place to track not only calls from land-line phones, but cell phones as well.

“They were interested in a lot of statistics,” said Royer. “They were interested in how our technology works and the software that we have in our communication center.”

After a tour of the center, the delegation had a round table discussion with Topeka and Shawnee County law enforcement leadership, giving them an opportunity to

share and ask questions about the staffing of the center and training of the operators, and gather more detailed information about the entire system.

“I think that partnerships are good to have because anywhere we have the same type of problems,” said Royer. “It is good to see what the other guy does, because maybe they have already solved a problem that you have in your area of expertise.”

The tour continued at the Kansas City Kan., Police Department, where they were able to see the system operating within a larger populated area. According to Capt. Robert Angell, Kansas City, Kan., Police Department, the 911 center handles approximately 30,000 calls a month.

“[The delegation] has explained the system currently in place in Armenia,” said Angell, “and it sounds as though their system is in an infancy and they are trying to figure out ‘How could we improve? What plans and procedures do you have in place that can help us?’”

The delegation gained as much information as possible from the two different centers and will use that knowledge to improve their emergency system for the future.

“I think that this is not only beneficial for Armenia, but for Kansas, too,” said Anahit Hovhannisyan, Armenian Education and Training Specialist. “Sharing information makes the cooperation level



**Maj. Henry Horn of the Kansas City Police Department speaks to the Armenian delegates with two coworkers during their tour of the Kansas City, Kan., Police 911 call centers Sept. 12, to explain how the system is used in Kansas. Armenia recently adopted a U.S. model 911 communication system for their country. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht, Public Affairs Office)**

higher and higher.”

The visit was arranged through the State Partnership Program, a National Guard Bureau program that pairs developing nations with state National Guard organizations to

foster mutually beneficial relationships, both military and civilian. Kansas has been partnered with Armenia since 2003 and has engaged in multiple exchanges by military and civilian agencies and organizations.

## Guardsmen partner with Armenians for Humanitarian Demining

Continued from Page 1

hurt in World War II and the doctor that tended to his wounds was Armenian,” said Liotta. “Apparently they stayed in contact over the years and when Armenia declared independency, the U.S. was the first country to recognize them and it was due in large part to that relationship between Bob Dole and the doctor.”

Liotta also said ever since the state partnership was formed between Kansas and Armenia, a Kansas National Guard officer has been stationed here to help facilitate partnership type engagements with Armenia.

One Guardsman said this opportunity was a chance for him to come face to face with his state’s international partner nation.

“You always hear about this partnership, but you never really see the other partner and this was a great opportunity to come out and meet the Armenians,” said Sgt. Michael Rogers, Pittsburg, Kan., native and combat engineer in the Kansas National Guard. “Now that we finally have a chance to come out and do some direct joint training with them, it has been amazing.”

Rogers said Kansas has always been very supportive of U.S. servicemembers and he sees this each time the Guard deploys. He said this training is a chance to show Kansas another aspect of the Guard.

“We are showing them we do something else in the world other than war, that we’re training people to do a humanitarian mission and save lives,” said Rogers. “It’s a big deal to me and I can really see it becoming a thing of pride for the people of Kansas.”

Sgt. 1st Class Jacob Nelson, a Wichita native and combat engineer in the Kansas National Guard, said landmines are dangerous if left unchecked and this training will enable the Armenians to remove these hazards from their country. He said even helping to train someone to remove these mines gives him a good feeling inside.

Rogers said it’s about helping the Armenians to return a piece of normalcy to their lives.

“Armenians just want to be safe and work a normal life, like we do,” said Rogers. “They want the chance to work their land, play soccer games, go out and enjoy life and this is part of it. They are truly respectful of their land. These people love being Armenian and you can really see it. In a way, Kansas is instilling pride in a whole other country.”

Rogers also said many Armenians already recognize Kansas and when they are approached by Armenian troops who see their unit patch, the Armenian soldiers instantly recognize their partners in Kansas.

“That just shows how close we are,” said Rogers.

During one portion of the class, Armenian and American members introduced themselves. Many of the Armenian peacekeepers had conducted deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq and even the Balkans.

“I was actually surprised to hear that,” said Liotta. “A few of these guys were with us in Iraq and I believe anytime our militaries can work together on a mission that’s a fantastic opportunity. It really shows that we’re all on the same team and can associate ourselves as being one.”

Liotta and Rogers both said they noticed the intense discipline, work ethic and determination of the Armenian soldiers. Both said they are highly impressed by this intense dedication to duty and country.

One of the Armenian students, Junior Sgt. Tigran Nikoghosyan, of the Engineering Company of the Armenian Peacekeeping Brigade, said this was not his first time encountering the Kansas National Guard.

“I remember and befriended Sgt. Travis Eichhorn from the 2008 visit,” said Nikoghosyan, referring to a Jan. 22 visit by the Kansas National Guard that was timed to correspond with the arrival of mine detection and disposal equipment provided by the U.S. “Having known him and recognized him from that visit, I instantly recognize the knowledge and skills these soldiers bring out here.”

Nikoghosyan said the field exercises were among his favorite portion of the training as it enabled him to physically apply the knowledge he has been studying in the classroom thus far. He said judging by his six years in the peacekeeping brigades, he can say Armenia is no stranger to international military-to-military cooperation and hopes to see such cooperation increase and magnify overtime.

“When it comes to cooperation, I would like not only to see the Americans come out to Armenia, but I would like to see some more Armenian specialists have the opportunity to study in America with U.S. troops,” said Nikoghosyan.

Another student, Pvt. Robert Abajyan of the Engineering Company of the Armenian Peacekeeping Brigade, said he feels the exchange of knowledge and skills through these

types of cooperative training exercises is essential when it comes to humanitarian mine action missions.

“As these contacts bring with them flows of information, new knowledge and experience cooperation these days plays a vital role in global security,” said Abajyan. “Honestly, you never know what may happen next, cooperation and joint-training such as this helps us to be prepared as professionals to face any mission Armenia or the world may ask of us.”

Abajyan said demining is a critical mission in today’s world as much of the world has unexploded ordnance and minefields scattered about. He said by conducting international demining missions lives are being saved around the world.

The Kansas National Guard are in Armenia assisting a U.S. European Command host nation to develop its own Humanitarian Mine Action infrastructure capable of eliminating landmine hazards, returning land for economic use, educating people on landmine hazards and assisting victims of landmines and other explosive remnants of war. In addition to the traditional demining, EUCOM also provides training in mine risk education, mine victim assistance and EOD courses in stockpile destruction.

Currently, future HMA events include conducting stockpile destruction and management in Cyprus, underwater explosive remnants of war disposal in Montenegro, mine victim assistance in Kosovo and Romania, underwater explosive remnants of war in Ukraine and explosive ordnance disposal in Albania.



**Soldiers from the Engineering Companies of the Armenian Peacekeeping Brigade conduct a simulated one-man demining drill as part of a training course taught by soldiers of the Kansas National Guard and a civilian representative from the U.S. Humanitarian Demining Training Center. (Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Grieco, U.S. European Command Public Affairs)**



# Chief, vice chief of National Guard Bureau confirmed

By Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Jim Greenhill  
National Guard Bureau

The U.S. Senate confirmed Army Lt. Gen. Frank Grass to be the next chief of the National Guard Bureau and Air Force Maj. Gen. Joseph Lengyel to be vice chief, July 26.

Grass, who also will be a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will be promoted to four-star general and Lengyel will add his third star with his promotion to lieutenant general.

The Senate action followed Grass’ July 19 hearing in front of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Grass told the committee the National Guard is an operational force at a historic peak of readiness, its ranks filled with seasoned Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen, and a critical partner to the Army and Air Force at home and abroad.

“Your National Guard,” Grass – deputy commander, U.S. Northern Command, and vice commander, U.S. Element, North American Aerospace Command – told senators, “is more ready, more capable and rapidly deployable than ever before in our nation’s history and also ready to respond to disasters in our states, territories and the District of Columbia.

“The past decade,” he said, “has also demonstrated that the National Guard is an operational force and a critical partner with the Army and the Air Force in all missions, all contingencies and on the North American continent.”

He attributed the transformation of the

National Guard to previous chiefs of the National Guard Bureau, directors of the Army and Air National Guard, adjutants general, senior enlisted and, he said, “Most importantly, the sacrifice and commitment of the Citizen-Soldiers, Airmen and their families.”

As chief, National Guard Bureau, Grass told senators, “I will work to ensure the capabilities gained since 9/11 are not lost and the investment not squandered.”

As the channel of communications to the adjutants general of the 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia, Grass will also partner with Congress, the Army and the Air Force to ensure the Guard’s readiness and availability, he said.

“To the men and women and families of the Army and the Air National Guard ... you can know that I will be your strongest advocate,” Grass said.

Asked about the chief’s role on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Grass said, “As a member of the Joint Chiefs, I [will] definitely have to bring forward the adjutants generals’ and governors’ thoughts, concerns, on the homeland mission. ... I also need to be able to balance that with the federal mission and deployable forces and be able to give my best military advice to the secretary of defense as well as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs.”

Grass told senators he is an advocate of the National Guard’s 20-year-old, 64-nation State Partnership Program, which he was heavily exposed to during his tenure as director, mobilization and Reserve compo-

(Continued on Page 5)



Lt. Gen. Frank Grass testifies before the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services at a confirmation hearing for his appointment to the grade of general and to be Chief, National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C., July 19, 2012. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jim Greenhill, Army National Guard)

# Tafanelli receives federal recognition

Public Affairs Office

By order of the Secretary of the Army, and direction of President Barack Obama, Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, Kansas adjutant general, is extended federal recognition and appointed as a Reserve in the Army as major general, effective Sept. 22, 2012.

Tafanelli became the adjutant general Jan. 8, 2011.

As the adjutant general, he oversees the activities of the Adjutant General’s Department. This includes providing personnel administration and training guidance for over 7,700 Soldiers and Airmen in the Kansas Army and Air National Guard. As the director of Kansas Emergency Management, a division of the Department, he guides a professional core of personnel that prepare for



Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli

and respond to disasters.

In addition to the part-time Soldiers and Airmen, the department he leads includes about 2,300 full-time state and federal employees. Additionally, 105 county emergency managers and their staff receive guidance and training through the department. Tafanelli is also the director of Homeland Security for Kansas, where he works to ensure security in the state is a top priority. For budgetary and administrative purposes, he is responsible for the Civil Air Patrol.

Tafanelli was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Engineer Corps Dec. 17, 1982, through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Pittsburg State University. He has served in a variety of command and staff positions at all levels of the Army National Guard. His experience includes serving in engineer units and brigade and state level staff positions. In January 2002, he was selected to command the 891st Engineer Battalion ultimately leading this battalion in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

# Scammers steal military identities through social media

By Danica Lawrence  
Fox23.com

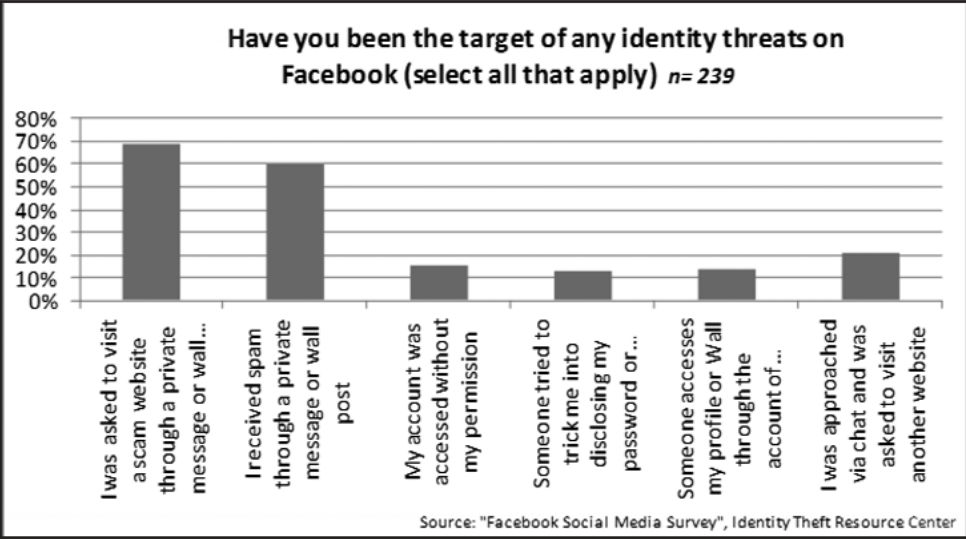
The Oklahoma Army National Guard is alerting military families about con artists stealing Soldiers’ identities, posing as them and asking for financial aid.

The Guard’s Major Geoff Legler told FOX23 News that two cases have been confirmed in recent months. Most recently, a scam artist posed as a Soldier trying to get home after being deployed. He stole a Soldier’s picture off Facebook or another social website and started posting on the Internet for financial help to get home.

“If you have any connection with the military you know that we send all our Soldiers home on our dollar,” said Legler. “We send them home for free after they are done being deployed.”

In another case, a scam artist targeted a fallen Soldier’s family out of Oklahoma City. He pretended to be someone raising money for that family.

“These con artists are the lowest of the low,” said Legler.



Jane Horton is the wife of fallen Oklahoma National Guard sniper, Spc. Christopher D. Horton. Spc. Horton was killed Sept. 9, 2011, in Afghanistan. Jane Horton was hurt hearing about scam artists targeting a military family who had been through what she has been going through.

“It’s absolutely disgusting that they would take advantage of a military family or the family of a fallen Soldier just for financial gain,” said Jane Horton.

Social media challenges took her by surprise after her husband was killed.

“It is hard being the spouse of fallen Soldiers,” said Horton. “As soon as the Soldier dies the family will get around 1,000 new friend requests. “It’s a very strange phenomenon; they like to add you on Facebook.”

She immediately started taking pictures off her account. She had to decide who to add and who to block.

“It’s hard to know who to trust,” said Horton. “They say ‘Oh I was best friends with your husband’ you get that a lot too; everyone wants to be best friends with the fallen Soldier.”

Horton said she feels smart about the way she has managed her social networking sites.

“It’s not just about me but it is about respecting my husband and his sacrifice and any money we do get that helps us with the funeral, I look at that like my husband paid for that with his blood,” said Horton.

The Guard encourages everyone to only accept friends who you know. Do not approve the option called “friends of friends” that would allow too many people to see your page. Horton customizes all her friends. She knows everyone who can see her Facebook page.

If you are approached by someone claiming to need money and claiming to be a Soldier of the military, then find out what branch they are with and contact that branch immediately. If you need to contact the Kansas Army National Guard, the number is 785-274-1190.

# Electronic payments required for TRICARE reserve select and re-tired reserve monthly premiums

TRICARE Management Activity  
Beneficiary Education and Support  
News release

To avoid losing coverage, Guard members enrolled in TRICARE Reserve Select or TRICARE Retired Reserve who pay monthly premiums by check need to switch to an electronic form of payment before Jan. 1, 2013.

Beginning that date, TRICARE will only accept monthly premium payments using recurring automatic payments by credit or debit card, or by recurring electronic funds transfer from a linked bank account.

Guard members who are currently TRR and TRS beneficiaries will be notified of the upcoming change directly by email and new beneficiaries will be informed in their welcome package in-

formation when enrolling.

The change is being made as a way to streamline account management and ensure continuous coverage for beneficiaries, said TRICARE officials.

Beneficiaries can contact their regional contractor to set up automatic payments and get more information. Contact information for each region is available online at [www.TRICARE.mil/contacts](http://www.TRICARE.mil/contacts). Sign up for TRICARE e-mail updates at [www.tricare.mil/subscriptions](http://www.tricare.mil/subscriptions).

Connect with TRICARE on Facebook and Twitter at [www.facebook.com/tricare](http://www.facebook.com/tricare) and [www.twitter.com/tricare](http://www.twitter.com/tricare).

The TRICARE Management Activity administers the worldwide health care plan for 9.7 million eligible beneficiaries of the uniformed services, retirees and their families.





# Adjutant General’s Department: an agency in transformation

By **Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli**  
**Adjutant General**

We are in a time of tremendous change. We are an agency in transformation with federal and state fiscal challenges which will call for a new culture and new strategy. Where exactly do we go from here?

**1. Assessment:** We are in the process of assessing what we absolutely need to sustain our organization’s core capabilities and responsibilities. The next few years will require us to be innovative and focus remaining resources on sustainable efforts. Many federal funding decisions affecting the Kansas National Guard and our federal homeland security and emergency preparedness grant dollars won’t be immediately known, but rather will be made over the next couple of years. State agency budget decisions won’t be finalized until the next state legislative session. Approximately \$490 billion is scheduled



**Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli**

to come out of the defense budget over the next 10 years. Sequestration, if it occurs, will further reduce defense spending. In addition, federal homeland security and emergency preparedness programs are proposed to take a 7.8 percent reduction in 2013. We have already taken a 65 percent reduction in homeland security grant funds in the last two years, of which 80 percent of these funds are passed on to local governments. We aren’t alone in being impacted by these fiscal constraints. Other state agencies may also be affected by potential budget cuts in their respective areas, so they may not be able to support efforts unrelated to their core tasks. This will mean more disaster response and planning projects could fall to our organization and we must be ready.

**2.) Sustainability:** We must go back to the basics and evaluate our core capabilities that are required, realizing a limited budget may force us to give up many things that would be nice to do, but are now unsustainable because of reductions in funding. To guide us in what we must sustain, we will focus on three priorities: our people, our capabilities and our infrastructure.

The people in our organization are our most valuable asset. We will continue to emphasize the importance of communica-

tion, accountability and training, as well as the importance of cross training. This ensures everyone on the team is in a position to step in for someone who may not be available for a period of time.

The Kansas National Guard, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, and Kansas Homeland Security each have unique capabilities, which no other entity at the state level provides. These unique and important capabilities have been expanded significantly since 9/11. While funds are getting tighter, continued delivery of these capabilities is a critical component of our state and federal mission. Examples of these critical capabilities include our Kansas National Guard’s Civil Support Team, our state emergency management response efforts, and our partnerships with our private sector critical infrastructure owners.

Maintaining our functional infrastructure is vital to carrying out our mission. We will continue to evaluate our needs and adjust as necessary. We are developing long-range strategies to dramatically increase the sustainability, resiliency and efficiency of our infrastructure.

**3.) Restructuring:** It is likely our organization will modernize aspects of how we do

business to better focus on our core capabilities. As we do this, we will have to enhance our internal and external partnerships and collaboration efforts.

We will need to rely on partnerships more than ever, sharing resources with other state agencies, the private sector and with other entities that help protect the public.

We must actively develop innovative initiatives and build new and efficient strategies. This includes re-constituting our organization and structures for new missions and 21st century challenges. We will continue to aggressively seek out new and enduring missions to ensure our continued relevance.

**4.) Relevance:** Since federal dollars will likely continue to dwindle, we must ensure the agency and the Kansas Army and Air National Guard remain a relevant part of the state and national security enterprise. To do this, we’ll have to go back to our core themes of saving lives, protecting property, providing military and emergency response coordination capabilities, and being a valued part of our communities.

I ask for your continued trust and hard work as we navigate the challenges ahead of us. I have complete faith in you and your commitment to the people of Kansas.

***“We are an agency in transformation with federal and state fiscal challenges which will call for a new culture and new strategy.”***  
**- Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli**  
***adjutant general***

## Be cautious near school zones

By **Chief Warrant Officer 4 Marvin Terhune**  
**Safety Office**

School has started, so kids are running all around with the excitement of the school year. We must refocus our driving near schools and anytime we are around a stopped school bus that has its stop sign out with its lights flashing. Remember that there are older kids that have a driver’s license for the first time and are driving to school, as well. If you live in a rural community, the annual harvest is going on. The slow-moving tractors, combines and grain trucks are out on the road in numbers. The changing of the weather also means the deer will be active in the twilight hours. What does this all mean to us?



**Chief Warrant Officer 4 Marvin Terhune**

The increased volume of traffic and pedestrians requires an increased attention span by you while operating a motor vehicle. Keep distractions at a minimum while driving. The call or text on your cell phone can wait, along with that hamburger you just bought at the drive-in, until you get to your destination. When you are driving, give it your full attention.

With daylight savings time changes coming in November, do not forget to change out the batteries in your home smoke detectors. Remember, to also test them to insure they are still working. Have a rehearsed fire evacuation plan as well as an established meeting place at your home. Practice with the kids to make sure they know how to safely get out of the house. Home fires increase as the weather becomes colder with people trying to stay warm. Several things to check out now are portable room heaters, fire place chimneys, heater/furnace filters and any other heating device that you have in your home.

Be prepared for the fall and cold weather and it won’t catch you by surprise.

## Changes at state WOCS

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

Fall is here and winter is just around the corner, so now is the time to start winterizing your outdoor equipment as well as your home. Don’t forget to have a winter emergency kit in your vehicle containing those essential items which you may need if you find yourself stranded. It’s not hard to lose control of your vehicle in the ice, snow or sleet and end up in a ditch for a period of time, so always be prepared.

This year’s Phase II Warrant Officer School course in Salina, Kan., has some new changes and challenges. The first, and probably most important change, is before candidates may begin Phase II, they must first attend and complete the pre-WOCS course March 15 to 17. This new requirement stems from the abundance of initial Army Physical Fitness Test failures throughout state Warrant Officer Candidate



**Command Chief Warrant Officer 5 Hector Vasquez**

School programs across the nation. It demands that candidates pass the test with at least a score of 70 points in each event to ensure that they are physically able to meet the rigorous challenges throughout school. In addition, candidates will be introduced to Training, Advising and Counseling Officers who will ensure they have a firm understanding of WOCS course requirements and standard operating procedures.

Other changes include shifting the start date of the fiscal year 2013 state WOCS class to April 19, instead of late February as in years past. Also, in an effort to reduce heat injuries, the 6.2 mile road march will be conducted during Phase II to allow candidates to acclimate to their respective environments. Finally, academic tests will now incorporate multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions on each exam. Candidates will not only be graded on their answers, but also on their grammar.

There is a traditional National Guard drill status training, advice, counsel officer/instructor position currently open at the Kansas Regional Training Institute. Although the primary duties of this position relate to TAC officer/instructor responsibilities, you will also be assisting the Regional Training Institute with operational and accreditation support. This

**(Continued on Page 22)**

## Soldier to Soldier NCOs lead in readiness

By **Command Sgt. Maj. James Moberly**  
**Joint Forces Headquarters**

I want to take this opportunity to provide an update of our current Enlisted Promotion System and notify all Soldiers of improvements that will be implemented with our 2013 promotion boards. We have approximately four months remaining in the current board cycle and continue to work diligently to promote noncommissioned officers and fill our vacancies from the current 2012 promotion lists. This is a critical time for Soldiers and units as we work to prepare for the 2013 promotion boards. We have entered the update season for administrative promotion points, as well as other vital documents such as Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Reports. All Soldiers and units must be aware that



**Command Sgt. Maj. James Moberly**

Kansas has been scheduled for an iPERMS server upgrade in December 2012. Prior to migration, the iPERMS queues must be emptied. Thus, all batches from unit/battalion/brigade levels will be suspended Dec. 1-20, 2012.

We realize this is right smack in the middle of update season for EPS points. We were not given a choice in this scheduling; we will and must adjust and drive on and take care of our Soldiers. Enlisted personnel will work all enlistment promotion point issues prior to the 2013 board just like they have always done in the past. Do not wait until the last minute to update your Soldier’s information. Units are highly encouraged to get all of your updates into the queue in November.

We must always be careful to strictly follow the rules of NGR 600-200 (Enlisted Personnel Management) and AR 600-8-19 (Enlisted Promotions and Reductions) to ensure a fair and equitable system to fill enlisted vacancies. This ensures that we don’t put Soldiers at risk of reduction and reassignment for improper promotions outside of these regulatory requirements and our authorized force structure.

**(Continued on Page 17)**

## PLAINS GUARDIAN

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Education FYI:  
Post 9/11 GI Bill transferability

By Capt. Matt Hapke  
State Education Officer

At least once a day, I get asked a question about the transferability option of the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Many Soldiers and Airmen would like to share their education benefits under this program with their spouses and/or children and would like to know how to do it.



Capt. Matt Hapke

The Post 9/11 GI Bill is a program available to those servicemembers who have served on active duty during the Global War on Terror. There are several types of qualifying service, but not all active duty is considered as qualifying service. Active Guard and Reserve service, activation for deployment or mobilization and prior service in the active components of the Army or Air Force all qualify as service to determine eligibility for the Post 9/11 GI Bill. All this service must have been conducted since Sept. 11, 2001.

Many Soldiers and Airmen have served on Active Duty for Operational Support or Active Duty for Special Work. These types of active duty service are not considered by the Department of Veterans Affairs as qualifying service. While some people may have heard of their friends or colleagues receiving higher benefits because of this type of service, it is not within policy to allow it at this time and should not be planned for.

The Post 9/11 GI Bill is based on a tier system for payments. It takes into account all qualifying service added together. This is different from some other programs which only compute benefits for the single, longest period of service. For one year of service you receive 60 percent of the benefit. 80 percent is gained with two years of service and 100 percent is gained for three years of qualifying service.

As with other GI Bill programs, a servicemember is allowed up to 36 months of any one benefit. In certain circumstances, different programs can be combined for a total of 48 months. To determine how many months you have used or have left, be sure to contact the education office.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill pays out in three separate ways; amounts are given for beneficiaries at the 100 percent tier who attend school full-time. First is a tuition and fees payment that will pay full tuition and fees for all public schools at the in-state tuition rate. It is paid directly to the school. The second payment is a monthly housing allowance which is based on the Basic Allowance for Housing at the sergeant with dependents level for the zip code of the school. For those students who are attending school in only an on-line capacity, the allowance is equal to half of the national average BAH for a sergeant with dependents. This year that amount is \$684. This benefit will not be paid to the spouses of servicemembers currently on active duty. However, it will be paid to the children of the sponsor, regardless of the servicemember’s current military status. The last payment is an annual books and supplies stipend of \$1,000 that is paid proportionally based on credits enrolled in.

There are a few additional eligibility requirements you need to meet to transfer your Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits. First, you must transfer your benefits while you are in uniform and in current service. Once you are out of service, you may modify your transferred benefits and delete beneficiaries, but you will not be able to add beneficiaries or perform the initial transfer. Also, you must have at least six years of service in the Armed Forces, active or reserve duty, on the date of approval and agree to serve four additional years from the date of election. If you became eligible for retirement between Aug. 1, 2009, and July 31, 2012, you may not be required to serve a full four additional years. If this is the case or if you have had at least 10 years of service and you are precluded by either standard policy or statute from committing to four additional years, please call the education office for more details on your eligibility requirements.

Your dependents may be your spouse, one or more of your children or any combination of the two as long as they are enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System and are eligible for benefits at the time of the transfer. Your spouse may use the benefit immediately, while you are in service or after your separation and

(Continued on Page 6)

Chief, vice chief of National Guard Bureau confirmed

Continued from Page 3

nent affairs, at U.S. European Command and at other points in his career.

“For a very small amount of money, it’s been a tremendous program around the map,” Grass said, noting deployments by SPP partner countries and the enduring nature of both the partnerships themselves and individual, career-long relationships between Guard members and their partner country counterparts. “[I] saw the value every day, saw the relationships that were built over the last 20 years, especially in what used to be Eastern Europe during the Cold War.”

Grass’ biography tells a quintessential National Guard story – a quintessential American story:

In 1969, he enlisted in the Missouri Army National Guard. He served as a traditional Citizen-Soldier, juggling a civilian career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and family life with monthly drills at a National Guard armory. He was promoted to staff sergeant, and his awards include the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development ribbon. Twelve years after enlistment, in 1981, he was commissioned.

On July 19 - almost 43 years after enlistment and after a career that has seen full and part-time service in his local community, for his state and at the federal level; enlisted and commissioned; domestic and

overseas - Grass found himself testifying to the committee, nominated to be a four-star general, to be the 27th chief of the National Guard Bureau and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His wife, Patricia, sat among the spectators. The couple have five children and seven grandchildren.

“My service in the National Guard would not have been possible without her tremendous family support,” Grass told the committee.

Grass will succeed Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, the first four-star general and first to be appointed to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the National Guard’s more than 375-year history.

Lengyel, the senior U.S. defense official in Egypt, will be the first three-star vice chief of the National Guard Bureau. The position of vice chief was re-established and elevated to the three-star level by the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act.

Lengyel is a command pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours, mostly in the F-16 Fighting Falcon. His 30-year career has included extensive service with the Texas Air National Guard and key assignments as commander, 455th Expeditionary Operations Group, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan; commander of the Air National Guard Readiness Center at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland; and vice commander, First Air Force, Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

Impact of statewide climate survey

By Chief Warrant Officer 4 Sandra Lashley  
Equal Employment Manager

The first ever statewide workplace climate survey was distributed in November-December 2011 to traditional and full-time Kansas Guardsmen and women, both Army and Air, and to Kansas state employees. Responses were received from 2,070 individuals out of 7,084 surveys sent out or 29 percent of those polled. The results of that showed the top five areas of concern are

- 1. Communication
- 2. Leadership and accountability
- 3. Budget and funding
- 4. Training, and
- 5. Counseling and evaluations

Over the past few months, Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, has implemented several programs to address these areas of concern. He and Command Sgt.



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Sandra Lashley

Maj. Scott Haworth, senior enlisted advisor of the Kansas National Guard, have made numerous visits to units across the state conducting “Stars and Bars” town hall meetings with company grade officers and warrant officers and with sergeant first classes and above, giving these groups an opportunity to communicate with him first hand.

To address leadership and accountability, the adjutant general brought in Bruce Tulgan, internationally recognized expert on young people in the workplace, to present a four-hour workshop to leaders from all levels of the Kansas National Guard, emergency management teams and state employees. Tulgan’s workshop addressed leadership today with the generational differences in the workplace. He also discussed the process of accountability and improving morale by improving accountability.

The Equal Opportunity Office has been given a directive to continue the program to bring in exceptional trainers in the area of leadership and accountability. The plan is to provide resources for continuing education in these areas to further address concerns brought out in the statewide survey.

State Chaplain’s Corner

“Stand Down...Stepping Up”

By Chaplain (Col.) William Jenkins  
Kansas National Guard State Chaplain

We are in the midst of the Army suicide stand down. Our training will increase our ability to identify suicide threat factors, expand our awareness of available resources for persons at risk and will strengthen our resiliency.



Chaplain (Col.) William D. Jenkins

Relationships and finances are the two biggest common denominators present in most suicides across the Army and 60 percent of Army suicides are by troops who have never deployed. The old cliché about suicide being a permanent solution to a temporary problem is always true. No relationship is worth a human life nor is any financial situation so dire that the only way out is suicide.

As a grief counselor, I can attest that suicide is the most heinous and selfish act that one person can ever thrust onto another human being. Suicide is always wrong and is always against every moral imperative.

Being proactive and having a strong support system are essential elements in building personal resiliency. Suicide prevention begins with solving relationship problems or any other problem before it gets to the crisis point. It means living within our means and not turning to alcohol or any other drug for solace. An ounce of prevention really is worth a pound of cure and seeking help early is evidence of true strength. Your National Guard chaplains are always there to assist you regardless of duty status or time of day.

Having a battle buddy was drilled into us in basic training and has continually been reinforced by our noncommissioned officers. Our Warrior Ethos states that “We will never leave a fallen comrade.”

In the National Guard, we have a greater challenge because we see each other only one weekend a month. As battle buddies and leaders, we have a responsibility to know every one of our troops in our section, squad, etc. and, if they are going through some rough times, to stay in contact with them and support them by guiding them to appropriate resources.

The National Guard is a family and we support each other because that is who we are!

Stand down...stepping up...we are the Guard...on guard to prevent suicide!

2012 National Cavalry Competition



Cavalry Trooper Sgt. Richard Smith, of the Kansas Adjutant General’s Mounted Color Guard, slices through one of 20 Idaho potatoes while riding his Cavalry Mount Twister during the Mounted Saber Course of the U.S. Cavalry Association’s 2012 National Cavalry Competition held at Fort Riley, Kan., Sept. 19 to 23. (Photo by Dori Luzbetak)



# 184th Civil Engineer Squadron builds experience in Germany

Continued from Page 1

From day one, the civil engineers hit the ground running. One team was assigned to demolish 600 feet of perimeter security fence, while another team reworked more than 1,400 brick pavers. In addition, approximately 4,000 square feet of composite geo-grid parking lot pavers were removed and replaced. Electricians upgraded the lighting and ceilings in the recreation center’s library and game room.

“We are here to complete as many projects as possible and to train our Airmen in career specific jobs as well as cross train in jobs that they normally wouldn’t do,” said Master Sgt. Mark Rush, first sergeant, 184th CES.

The primary project assigned to the 184th Civil Engineer team was installing the foundations and floor slab for two large wood structures. Two additional rotations of Air Force Civil Engineers from South Dakota and Wyoming completed the structures.

The foundation construction included trenching and pouring the foundation for a new pavilion. Heavy equipment operators used an excavator to dig out a trench that would hold the concrete footings for the pavilion. Teams of engineers tied and placed more than 14 tons of rebar to strengthen the concrete. Once the rebar was placed, the team poured a total of 110 cubic yards of concrete to complete the footings and floor slab.

Other projects called for the demolition of a coal bunker, which measured 12 feet deep and had a reinforced 14 inch thick concrete ceiling. A team also replaced 15 feet of an old stone retaining wall and repaired several hundred feet of mortar joints. In total, the cost of the projects the Civil Engineer teams completed totaled \$265,000.

The 184th Civil Engineers worked extremely hard completing many projects and came away with a boost in morale as the squadron formed a tighter bond.



Airman 1st Class Travis Rogers, 184th Civil Engineering Squadron, removes ceiling tiles in the library and game room of the NATO Training School Recreation Center at Oberammergau, Germany, July 18. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Justin Jacobs, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

# 170th Support Maintenance Company conducts Quick Reaction Force battle drills

By Sgt. Jason Lee  
170th Support Maintenance Company UPAR

The night was cool and overcast, an ordinary night for members of the 170th Support Maintenance Company, part of Task Force Badger, 27th Infantry Brigade, at the Seaport of Debarkation/Embarkation. In the motor pool, members of the Quick Reaction Force gathered for a safety briefing. The gunners adjusted their gunner restraint systems, drivers settled in and truck commanders rechecked all the vehicle communications. Soldiers at the Entry Control Points readied their areas and checked over their equipment. The Soldiers were ready for a known, but uncertain mission.

The Soldiers’ calm night abruptly changed when “protesters” entered the base, claiming to be mistreated by the Soldiers. The protesters marched towards an entry control point shouting and holding signs that read, among other slogans, “Americans go home.” The Soldiers at the gate remained calm and quickly called the situation up to the Command Post. The Quick Reaction Force,

led by Staff Sgt. Robert Griffiths, was immediately notified and dispatched to the scene. The gate personnel received additional support from a nearby entry control point. The Soldiers began to rapidly place concertina wire between them and the protesters while attempting to defuse the situation.

“I saw a group of people coming towards my gate,” said Sgt. Benjamin Spahr, noncommissioned officer in charge of the entry control point. “I got on the radio, called up the situation to my higher command and our QRF elements. We separated ourselves from the protesters and protected our location by putting the wire across the road.”

The protesters shouted, threw water bottles and kicked over road signs as Soldiers continued to assure them that they would listen to what they protesters had to say. As the situation grew more intense, reinforcement Area Reaction Force teams were called in from nearby Kuwaiti Naval Base. The two elements worked together to defuse the situation and disperse the angry crowd.

“We received a call stating that the SPOD/E had seven to 10 protesters outside the gate,” said Staff Sgt. Sean Smith, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry. “At that point, we had our Quick Reaction Force elements up and running and responded out to the SPOD/E. When we arrived everything seemed to be under control and the gate was on lockdown.”

At another gate, the sound of gunfire rang out toward Soldiers manning the ECP. A quick, but detailed and ef-

fective description of the driver was given over the radio network. QRF and ARF teams quickly reacted and gave chase. Personnel in guard towers remained vigilant and reported on the chase every time the vehicle came in sight of their eagle eye tower view. The QRF and ARF elements followed the vehicle on a short-lived chase. The vehicle came to a stop and the driver was apprehended.

The scenarios above were not a real-life situations, but rather a battle drill conducted by 2nd Platoon, 170th Support Maintenance Company and members of Company A, 2-108th Infantry to test the communication and response time of the two elements.



A group of 2nd Platoon, 170th Support Maintenance Company Soldiers place concertina wire between themselves and a group of protesters at an entry control point during a Quick Reaction Force battle drill conducted at the Seaport of Debarkation/Embarkation Aug. 23. (Photo by Sgt. Jason Lee, 170th Support Maintenance Company UPAR)

It is important to conduct battle drills because as time goes by Soldiers may find themselves becoming complacent. Battle drills help reinforce training techniques and give the Soldiers added ability to react quickly to several different types of situations.

“Overall, this battle drill was very effective,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kevin Herrman, platoon leader, 2nd Platoon, 170th Support Maintenance Company. “The Soldiers performed well. We have some good points and some things we have to work on, but overall they did an outstanding job.”

All elements involved felt the battle drills were effective and a good learning experience and a success.

“I think the hardest thing for a drill like this is having the two units work together towards achieving one objective,” said Lt. Col. Michael Murphy, commander, 27th STB. “The two units worked very well together for the first time out. I really think we have to continue to work together and respond as one Area Security Force and I think that this drill is the first step in merging the two elements.”

Soldiers of the 170th SMC prepared for this battle drill by conducting several shorter battle drills throughout the months working at the SPOD/E.

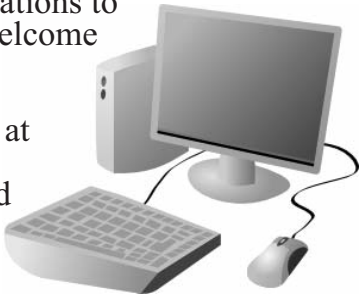
As Soldiers of the ARF and SPOD/E continue to do their daily missions they know and understand that battle drills are, and always will be, an important and vital part of the tasks and missions they and other Soldiers face on a daily basis.

## 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, 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](mailto:jane.e.welch1@us.army.mil).

Also if you are a retired Guardsmen and are not receiving a free copy of the Plains Guardian at your home or your address has changed, please contact Jane Welch at the Public Affairs Office at 785-274-1190 or [jane.e.welch1@us.army.mil](mailto:jane.e.welch1@us.army.mil) to be added to the mailing list.



## Post 9/11 GI Bill transferability

**Continued from Page 5**

can use it for up to 15 years after your last separation from active duty. Your children may use the benefit after you have served 10 years, during and after your service, but must be at least 18 years of age or have received a high school diploma or equivalent, until their 26th birthday.

To transfer the benefit, go the milConnect page at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect>. After signing in, clicking Okay on the user agreement, log in and click on the “Transfer Education Benefits” selection under the “Quick Links” on the right side of the page. This will take you to a page with your dependents in DEERs. If it is not correct, call the education office and we can

point you in the right direction. Please select the boxes after ensuring you understand and meet all requirements and select the number of months that you wish to transfer to each person. It is recommended that you give at least one month to every eligible family member as you can remove the benefit later, but you cannot add a beneficiary after you leave service. Also, the start and end dates do not have to be completed. Simply roll your cursor over that area for a description. When you are done, click on “Submit” and you will receive more instructions that will be emailed to your AKO account.

If you have any concerns please contact me at [matt.hapke@us.army.mil](mailto:matt.hapke@us.army.mil) or 785.274.1081.



# 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion tackles National Training Center

By Maj. Rodger Woods  
169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

At 1:30 a.m. Forward Operating Base Santa Fe was under attack. Three Soldiers at the entry control point were wounded and needed to get moved to an already full battalion aid station. The battalion commander and command sergeant major were casualties of indirect fire. The initial insurgent attack had been repulsed, but help from the nearest Stryker Company was still 15 minutes away. Information from the companies was flowing into the battalion tactical operations center as the Quick Reaction Force was preparing for a second attempt to breach the perimeter.

The situation was grim, but soon the sound of Stryker Combat vehicles could be heard across the desert as they arrived at FOB Santa Fe. The Black Hawk pilots radioed that they were inbound.

The 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion had successfully defended the Entry Control Point, treated casualties, used tactical communication networks to request support from nearby units and request medevac, conducted QRF operations, exercised command and control, and maintained personnel accountability. With that, the lights came on and the Observer Coach Trainers started a hot-wash.

From June 3 to 23, nearly 300 Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers from the 169th CSSB, 137th Transportation Company and 1077th Ground Ambulance Company participated in National Training Center Rotation 12-08 at Fort Irwin, Calif. They teamed up with the 1074th Medium Truck Company from the Nebraska Army National Guard, and the 443rd Combat Heavy equipment Transport Company, a U.S. Army Reserve company also from Nebraska.

“As a CSSB, our mission was to provide logistical support to combat brigades, and command and control for logistics companies,” said Lt. Col. Matthew Bedwell, commander of the 169th. “Working with companies outside the Kansas Guard is a reality in today’s modular logistics force structure. The process of creating a team in an operation environment is something that is impossible to replicate in a traditional training environment.”

Rotation 12-08 was a Mission Readiness Exercise for the 4/2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team, an active duty



**The 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion prepares equipment and personnel to move from the Rotational Unit Bivouac Area to Forward Operating Base Santa Fe, both located at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., June 8. (Courtesy photo)**

brigade based in Fort Lewis, Wash., in preparation for an upcoming rotation to Afghanistan.

“NTC was their last key training event before deployment,” Bedwell noted. “We were committed to ensuring that they received the logistics support they needed to have a successful training event.”

The scenario used during the rotation was intended to replicate as closely as possible a deployment to Afghanistan. From the moment Soldiers stepped off the airplane, through the draw of pre-positioned equipment and ammunition, to the unit movement to the FOB, the intent was to replicate a real-world Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration process.

The NTC battlefield included numerous Afghan role-players, skeptical reporters from ‘International News Network,’ and the world class opposing forces played by the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

“They thought of everything,” was a phrase often heard during the rotation.

Soldiers with multiple deployments under their belts were impressed with the way in which the National Training Center replicated the deployment experience, and younger Soldiers got a good taste of what a real world deployment might be like.

In addition to logistics support convoys, Soldiers from the 137th PLS Company and 1077th GAC participated in the best lanes training the Army has to offer. With everything from Hollywood special effects to wounded Soldiers role-played by am-

putees, the lanes threw everything at the participants.

“We are entering a phase in the Army where we have mid-career and senior NCOs with multiple combat deployments to Iraq or Afghanistan,” Command Sgt. Maj. Craig Tunheim said. “This was a tremendous opportunity to ensure all those hard earned lessons are passed on to the next generation of Soldiers.”

Since its inception, the focus of the National Training Center has been to prepare Soldiers for real world missions. The 169th CSSB had plenty of opportunity.

The 137th, 443rd and 1074th Transportation Companies, along with ambulance crews from the 1077th Ground Ambulance Company conducted more than 50 tactical convoys during the 12 days the 169th CSSB was on the battle field, driving more than 15,000 total miles.

Under current Army Sustainment doctrine, a CSSB provides support to multiple brigades. The 169th is the first CSSB to exercise this capability on the NTC battlefield by not only providing sustainment support the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, but also the host nation as replicated by the 11th ACR.

During the final meeting with the 916th Support Brigade, higher headquarters for logistic units during the rotation, the deputy operations officer noted that the pace and number of missions for the 169th and subordinate companies had been the most in recent memory.

# Engineers sharpen their skills during annual training

By Spc. Kevin Stuart  
242nd Engineer Company UPAR

The sounds of diesel engines filled the air in Coffeyville and Salina, Kan., July 14 to 28 as the 242nd Engineer Company fired up their heavy equipment for their annual training. This training however, was unlike other annual trainings. While most companies go out to the field or train in different states, the 242nd Eng. Co., part of the 891st Engineer Battalion, took part in construction projects at home in Coffeyville and at the Unit Training Equipment Site in Salina.

In Coffeyville, the 242nd expanded the motor vehicle storage compound, a lot where military vehicles are secured. The MVSC was expanded to allow for the storage of more vehicles and other equipment vital to the work the company does. The 242nd Engineers are heavy equipment operators, or horizontal construction engineers, who put their skills to use on military construction projects and assist civil authorities in the wake of disasters. The equipment they use includes bulldozers, hydraulic excavators, 20 ton dump trucks, and semi-tractor trailers to haul vehicles. Currently at the MVSC in Coffeyville, the trucks are so close together that the Soldiers have to fold in the mirrors in order to get out of the trucks.

In Salina, the 242nd expanded the MVSC at the Unit Training Equipment Site, which repairs vehicles that cannot be fixed at a unit’s home station.

“Projects like this at annual training are a win-win situation for the company and National Guard,” said Capt. Chad Hines, company commander. “The company benefits through additional operator experience and the ability to evaluate how the unit works collectively on a project from reconnaissance to completion, while the Kansas Army National Guard benefits by receiving improved facilities from the hard work completed.”



**Sgt. David Carver and Staff Sgt. Justin Zimmerman, horizontal construction engineers with the 242nd Engineer Company, perform a technique known as side-by-side dozing or “hogging dirt,” as they help expand the motor vehicle storage compound in Coffeyville, Kan., during annual training. (Photo by Spc. Kevin Stuart, 242nd Engineer Company UPAR)**

# Kansas Guardsmen assist Army battalion to prepare for deployment

By 2nd Lt. Christopher Kessler  
1077th Ground Ambulance Company

The 1077th Ground Ambulance Company participated in combat exercises at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., in June 2012. When the company arrived at Fort Irwin the command team of Capt. David Paul and acting 1st Sgt. Juaquin Orosco were notified that the 1077th GAC would be splitting up and a detachment of 19 Soldiers would be moved to Forward Operating Base Denver in support of the 702nd Brigade Support Battalion. This presented a great training opportunity for these Soldiers, as they were going to work with equipment that they had not had an opportunity to use at home station, as well as support a Role Two Battalion Aid Station.

While the main body of the 1077th GAC stayed and supported the missions at Forward Operating Base Santa Fe under the 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, the detachment of 19 Soldiers, led by 2nd Lt. Christopher Kessler and Staff Sgt.

Mark Alligood, were moved to FOB Denver. The main task for the new command team was integrating the National Guard detachment into an active duty unit that was training in preparation for their deployment to Afghanistan.

The 702nd BSB already had Standard Operating Procedures in place the Soldiers from the 1077th GAC were not familiar with. However, upon arrival the 702nd BSB was hit with a mass casualty drill and the 1077th Soldiers seamlessly integrated. All Soldiers immediately took up the tasks of performing ambulance evacuation, working medical tables in the Battalion Aid Station to treat patients and carrying litters. It was like they had been a part of the 702nd BSB the whole time.

During this drill, more than 40 patients were treated, stabilized and released back to their units or evacuated to a Role Three facility. At one point during this notional mortar attack, three 1077th GAC Soldiers - Spc. Kien Trieu, Pfc. Michael Carnes and  
(Continued on Page 24)



**Medics of the 1077th Ground Ambulance Company practice Ground-Air Exchange Point Evacuation Operations during a mass casualty exercise at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., June 3-23. (Courtesy photo)**



# 287th Sustainment Brigade trains on new equipment

By Sgt. Michael Mathewson  
 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 287th Sustainment Brigade, Wichita, Kan., spent part of their annual training in Salina, Kan., Aug. 11-18, familiarizing themselves with their newly-issued Standardized Integrated Command Post System.

Roland Bourquois, communications electronics command logistic representative, based at Fort Riley, Kan., explained that the Standardized Integrated Command Post System was tailored for battalion and brigade command posts.

“It comes complete with all its tentage, environmental and power trailer mounted,” said Bourquois.

The tents are fully lined, including flooring. Heating, cooling and electrical power units are mounted on the same trailer. The individual staff sections have their own structures that connect to a large central structure.

“This system provides a good working environment,” said Staff Sgt. Allen Bingham, communication, information technologies noncommissioned officer for the 287th Sust. Bde. “Being able to work in a climate-controlled, dust-free environment enhances my ability to do my mission.”

Supporting the Headquarters and Headquarters Company for the first time was the newly activated 369th Signal Company. This was the 369th’s first chance to set up and operate their equipment in a field environment. Their trailer and ground satellite dishes provide the brigade staff sections improved real time communications and data streams.



Headquarters and Headquarters Company 287th Sustainment Brigade, spent part of their annual training in Salina, Kan., Aug. 12 setting up their newly issued Standardized Integrated Command Post System with its large central structure interconnected with multiple smaller structures and environmental and power unit. (Photo by Sgt. Michael Mathewson, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

# Flu season is upon us

By Capt. Amy Blow  
 Occupational Health Manager

- Influenza (cold) prevention tips:
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the used tissue in the trash. If a tissue is not available, sneeze or cough into the inside of your elbow, not your hand.
  - Wash your hands often, especially post coughing or sneezing. Use soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
  - Stay away from people who are sick.
  - Symptoms can include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. If you feel sick, contact your health provider.
  - If you are sick, limit your contact with other people as much as possible. Stay home from work or school.
  - Clean high-touch surfaces daily (such as doorknobs, telephones, handles, light switches and desks with household disinfectant. Also clean contaminated surfaces such as bedside tables, bathroom surfaces and kitchen counters.
  - Try to stay in general good health. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids and eat healthy food.
  - Get the seasonal flu vaccination each year, much research goes into the production, it is safe.



Capt. Amy Blow

# 772nd Eng. Co. conducts annual training

By Sgt. 1st Class Jason Lane  
 772nd Engineer Company UPAR

Soldiers of the 772nd Engineer Company (Mobility Augmentation Company) assembled at the Pittsburg Army National Guard Armory July 14, to kick off their annual training period.

The 772nd started their movement to Fort Riley, Kan., July 15 where they would spend the next 12 days training on their collective Mission Essential Task List missions. The convoy to Fort Riley was approximately four hours of driving including two stops to let the Soldiers stretch their legs and re-energize themselves before attacking the next leg of their journey. Once the convoy arrived at Fort Riley, they occupied their barracks and settled in for the next day’s work.

Up with the sun, the Soldiers ate breakfast and headed to the Maneuver Area Training and Equipment Site motor pool to perform preventative maintenance checks and services on the equipment they would be using for their training. The equipment the platoons were working on consisted primarily of the M113A3 Armored Personnel Carrier.

With the completion of PMCS pre-combat checks, the platoons headed off for their training missions, which included emplacing a wire obstacle, emplacing a hasty road crater utilizing heavy explosives, conducting a presence patrol and conducting a road reconnaissance. While these were the primary focus of their efforts, the Soldiers of the 772nd also trained on reacting to improvised explosive devices, movement to contact and moving as a fire team.

This training went on for three days. The company then conducted individual weapons qualifications and crew-served weapons familiarization training in Salina, Kan., at the Great Plains Joint Training Center Range Complex. This afforded the Soldiers a chance to hone their basic rifle and marksmanship skills on their assigned weapons and crew weapon systems.

Next on the agenda for the company was its live fire demolitions range. The range was conducted in such a manner as to train the Soldiers on how they would emplace the charges in a combat environment. The platoons swapped out between providing security for the emplacing element and actually emplacing the charge.

The primary focus of the range was to emplace a hasty road crater to prevent traffic from using the road. Prior to conducting this range, the Soldiers of the 772nd conducted a day of preparation for the operations that would take place on the range. This preparation included how to prime and place charges, the measures need to conduct demolitions operations safely and the procedures for providing security for the emplacing element. The charges detonated



Pvt. Christian Abbott and Pvt. Dustin Riley, combat engineers with the 772nd Engineer Company, attach the mock detonation cord from the cratering charges to the mock ring main as part of emplacing a hasty road crater utilizing heavy explosives lane training during annual training at Fort Riley, Kan., July 16. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jason Lane, 772nd Engineer Company UPAR)

during the exercise included 15 pound and 40 pound shape charges, 40 pound cratering charges, C-4 and Bangalore torpedoes.

“It was motivating to witness the amount new sergeants and specialists rose to the occasion of training new Soldiers on the fine art of military demolitions. Due largely to their success, and supervision from company leadership, the 772nd AT demolitions range was safely conducted and was a great success,” said Staff Sgt. Bruce Curry Jr., training noncommissioned officer for the 772nd Eng. Co.

While most of their major training items were complete for the AT period, one last event still needed to be checked off. The 772nd was tasked with hosting a M2 .50 caliber machine gun familiarization range for the 891st Engineer Battalion. The Soldiers conducted range operations and Preliminary Marksmanship Instruction for most of the day with no injuries and very successful range operation.

It was then time to start cleaning up the equipment and getting ready to travel back to Pittsburg. The M113A3s were inspected and turned in for storage. Equipment was packed, billets were turned in and the convoys were on the road to the armory.

# Smiles get brighter at 184th Intelligence Wing

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

There’s something new at the 184th Intelligence Wing dental office: a new traditional Guard dentist, Maj. Mark Sheils. Sheils started with the 184th IW in September 2011 and knew that he had a few challenges ahead of him.

“There hadn’t been a dentist down here for going on five years and it was an opportunity to come down,” said Sheils.” The 184th Medical Unit had Health Services Inspection coming up and I was aware of that. I got wind that they needed a dentist and I heard that it was a good unit, so that is how I got down here.”

“It is nice to have someone in house that if you have issues that you can

come over and get your questions answered,” said Staff Sgt. Nicholas Delaney, 184th radiology technician.

“Instead of having to go to the dentist across base or off base we have someone in house that can explain the situation.”

With not having a Guard dentist for five years and preparing for HSI, the dental office has been busy seeing patients. Since Sheils has joined, he and his staff have ensured that everyone in the wing has a dental chart that is up to military standards.

“We have to be at a certain deployable strength and it was a challenge of getting everyone up to snuff or up to that standard and I think that we did that well,” said Sheils.



Maj. Mark Sheils, dentist for the 184th Medical Group, is the first dentist the wing has had for a very long time. Understanding the unit’s need for a dentist, Sheils travels from Fargo, N.D., to attend monthly unit training assemblies. (Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

“It is a madhouse down here, now that they are trying to get the five year medical and dental exams on the same month, I would say that we see 40 to 50 patients here on Sundays,” said Delaney.

Even though the 184th IW has its own dentist, it doesn’t mean that Guardsmen can use that service in place of their private dentist. A form 2813, a yearly dental evaluation form, is still required to be turned in to the medical group.

“I am only doing a military dental exam here, I am not their primary dentist,” said Sheils. “What we are looking for is someone that can be deployed and not have an immediate problem with their teeth or oral health.”

One thing that is very evident after talking with Sheils for a couple minutes, his accent indicates that he isn’t from Kansas.

“I have a private practice up in Fargo, N.D., I have been in practice there for about 15 to 20 years now,” said Sheils.

Like many others, Sheils travels a great distance every drill weekend to be a part of the 184th IW.

“I am a home body and this was a major step for me to come down here but it has been good though. It is fun to come down here and meet people,” said Sheils.

“I have to give him props because that takes a lot of dedication and a lot of service before self,” said Delaney. “You know, he isn’t here to make the money but he is here to make sure that the people of the 184th are taken care of.”



# Soldiers train to be more resilient in their military lives

By 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht  
Public Affairs Office

As Soldiers return from deployments or deal with military life, they are bound to face challenges. The Kansas National Guard understands these challenges and has taken steps to help Soldiers be better prepared to work through them.

Eighty five students gathered in Salina Kan., Aug. 20-23 to learn the tools that can help them through difficult times, as well as prepare them as Resilience Training Assistants and promote the skills throughout the unit.

“The course was about teaching us to be more ‘resilient’ in our lives,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Marvin Terhune, state safety officer. “We covered myths and facts about resiliency. This usually translates to us just knowing when to slow down, know when to ask for help and educate ourselves to the process of bouncing back when things seem they are not going our way.”

The skills learned during this four-day course not only can help the Soldier deal with military life, but can also translate to life skills in general.

“The importance really goes beyond the Guard,” said Sgt. 1st Class Gordon Lamb, resilience trainer. “These are life skills, applicable to every facet of life. These are skills



**Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general of Kansas, addresses 85 students about the importance of resilience and the tools that are needed to help their fellow Soldiers during a Resilience Training Assistants class held in Salina, Kan., Aug. 20. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht, Public Affairs Office)**

that we should be teaching our children.”

“The concept of resilience is about bouncing back and growing from life’s challenges,” said Lamb. “It’s about taking on stress and using it to grow stronger, the same way you would exercise a muscle.”

This course was designed for noncom-

missioned officers through the rank of major to help them identify and work through challenges before those challenges become problems. Soldiers spent time identifying their leadership strengths and weakness and concentrated on adaptive thinking techniques, problem solving and communi-

cation strategies.

With the diverse group of NCOs and officers, Terhune was surprised at some of the similarities.

“I was surprised though when in the class we identified the top five strengths for everyone and put a sticky note on the wall under each of the 24 strengths identified. With most of the class being made up of senior NCOs it was interesting to see that so many had identified themselves as having the same character strengths.”

The National Guard has mandated two hours each quarter for resilience training but this shouldn’t be considered everyday training, according to Lamb.

“We don’t see this as a ‘check the block training,’” said Lamb. “The reality is that we are trying to make a culture change. For someone to be truly successful, they have to use these skills on a daily basis.”

For Terhune, the skills he learned will benefit not only the people involved in the training but everyone in the Guard.

“Not only do I feel like this training would help Soldiers’ professional career,” said Terhune, “but will help them become better communicators with their families and friends. Knowing this enables us to help out by remaining optimistic and by sometimes just being a good listener.”

## 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment welcomed home from Kuwait

By Steve Larson  
Public Affairs Office

Approximately 250 Soldiers of the Kansas National Guard’s 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment returned to families and friends in August after a year-long deployment to Kuwait.

The Soldiers returned to Kansas in two groups, the first arriving Aug. 11 and the second a week later, from their mobilization station at Fort Hood, Texas. Both groups were enthusiastically received at welcome home ceremonies in Topeka.

“It’s a great day in Kansas and it will be an even greater day in about five minutes, everyone,” Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer, MD, told the Soldiers and the audience during the first ceremony. “It is a joyous day and that is because these woman and men have done such a fantastic job serving the United States of America.”

“To our Soldiers, I want to say ‘Thank you for a job well done,’ said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general. “We’re very proud of what you accomplished and we’re certainly glad to have you back in Kansas.”

Looking over the crowded school auditorium at the second ceremony, battalion commander Lt. Col. David Leger said,

“That long ride was definitely worth it.”

“This ceremony marks the end of over two years of blood, sweat and tears, thousands of hours of equipping, manning and training the men and women who mobilized with the 108th assault helicopter battalion in August 2011,” said Leger. “It also involved the personal sacrifice of time away from our families and our jobs and required significant adjustments in all our daily routines.”

Outlining the course of events from the previous year, Leger told the audience how just two days before they were to be validated for the mission by the 1st Army, the battalion received word they would not be deploying to Iraq.

“The men and women of the battalion handled the disappointment as professionals,” said Leger.

Three weeks later, they received word they would be going to Kuwait.

“The deployment to Kuwait revealed challenges and unique training opportunities,” Leger recalled. “The men and women of the battalion vigorously met the challenge.”



**The first group of Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment enter Lee Arena at Washburn University, Topeka, Kan., for their home coming ceremony, Aug. 11. (Photo by Jane Welch, Public Affairs Office)**

“These fine men and women of the 108th have truly been magnificent and a commander’s dream,” said Leger. “I can’t thank them enough for their dedication to duty, their persistence in the face of adversity, their discipline and desire to exceed the standard.

Following the conclusion of each ceremony, there was a general rush as Soldiers

and families sought out each other, reuniting with smiles, tears and prolonged hugs.

“There are a lot of mixed emotions,” said Sgt. Justin Shreve, Carbondale. “I’m very happy, just happy to be home.”

And for many, there was likely the soon-to-be fulfillment of long-standing desires.

“Going to get a big steak, sir,” said Shreve.

## Kansas National Guard conducts suicide intervention training

By Steve Larson  
Public Affairs Office

Suicide prevention is a priority in the Kansas National Guard and throughout the military. In the past year, two members of the Kansas National Guard have taken their own lives.

As part of its observance of Suicide Prevention Month, the Kansas National Guard Chaplain Support Office conducted an Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training for Kansas National Guardsmen which started Sept. 14 in Salina, and will continue over the next several months at numerous locations around Kansas.

“ASIST is a two-day course which gives people the skills necessary for suicide first aid,” explained Chaplain (Maj.) John Potter, Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas. “They become the suicide intervention officers/subject matter experts for our Kansas National Guard units.”

Potter said that each company-size unit is required to have one suicide intervention officer.

“What they will learn are the warning signs, what to look for that might indicate a person is contemplating suicide,” said Potter.

Potter said a large part of suicide intervention is just being available to listen.

“Sometimes we want to just immediately pull them in and say ‘Well, now, you don’t want to kill yourself,’ but you have to listen first,” said Potter. “You have to find out why they want to die, you have to travel with them down that dark road. Then you can discern what level of treatment may be necessary for them. Maybe all they need is someone to talk to or maybe there are other steps necessary to save that person’s life.”

Potter said the suicide intervention officer will also learn about the kinds of resources available in their communities to help people who are feeling suicidal. The goal is to have 10 percent of the entire Kansas Army National Guard trained in suicide first aid.

The class will be conducted by certified ASIST trainers, including Potter, Chaplain (Maj.) Richard Dunn, Sgt. Shawn Evans and Sgt. Mike McClellan.

In addition to the course, members of every Kansas National Guard unit will be going through four suicide prevention training modules over the course of the next three months to enhance awareness and encourage action by the individual Soldier.

## One veteran to another



**Sgt. Maj. Thomas Sprague (left), 35th Infantry Divison, shows a modern weapon to Jim Graff, Middletown, Ill., during the 35th Division Association Reunion Sept. 6 and 7. Graff was a member of Company C, 134th Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division, during World War II. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Hanson, 35th Divison Public Affairs)**



# Guard members inducted into KU ROTC Wall of Fame

**By Steve Larson  
Public Affairs Office**

Retired Brig. Gen. Roosevelt Barfield and Col. John Campbell, commander, 635th Regional Support Group, Kansas National Guard, were inducted into the Jayhawk Battalion Alumni Association’s Wall of Fame Sept. 15, as part of the eighth annual University of Kansas Army Reserve Officers’ Training Corps Department’s Family Day events. The induction ceremony was held in the Military Science Building on the Lawrence campus.

“In my opinion, no one is ever completely responsible for the recognition they receive,” said Campbell. “Most accomplishments are the culmination of the efforts and guidance of subordinates, mentors and leaders. This is certainly true in my case. I have been blessed to have all three: superior followers, exceptional mentors and remarkable leaders.”

“I am honored by this selection, but more importantly grateful for the efforts of those around me,” Campbell said. “Without them, I would never have accomplished the things in my life that have earned recognition.”

The event was held in conjunction with the JBAA’s Family and KU’s weekend salute to military veterans.

saw tours of duty in Afghanistan and Djibouti. His final military assignment was as the acting deputy director of Operations for the Operations and Logistics Directorate for the United States Africa Command in Stuttgart, Germany.

Campbell received his military commission in 1986 through the University of Kansas ROTC program. He served in various positions within the Kansas Army National Guard including Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery as battery executive officer and battery commander. In 1993, he deployed to Kuwait as the fire support officer for the 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment for Operation Intrinsic Action. In 1996, he deployed to Sarajevo, Bosnia, as the commander of Battery E, 161st Field Artillery (Target Acquisition) in support of Operation Joint Endeavor. He has served in numerous other positions, including battalion executive officer for the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery and as the operations officer for the 130th Field Artillery Brigade during its deployment to Baghdad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and, most recently, as the battalion commander for the 2nd Battalion, 235th Regiment.

Campbell’s military education includes



**Retired Brig. Gen. Roosevelt Barfield (left) and Col. John Campbell (right), commander of the 635th Regional Support Group, were inducted into the Jayhawk Battalion Alumni Association’s Wall of Fame Sept. 15 as part of the eighth annual Army Alumni Day events. The induction ceremony was held in the Military Science Building on the University of Kansas campus, Lawrence, Kan. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)**

Other inductees at the ceremony included retired Maj. Gen. Jeffrey J. Schloesser, former 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) commander.

Barfield began his military career by enlisting in the Kansas Army National Guard in 1977 at the age of 17. He received his commission from the University of Kansas in 1981 in the Air Defense Corps. While completing his degree in history from KU, he served as Redeye section leader, an anti-armor platoon leader, company executive officer, and commander in various units of the 137th Infantry Regiment in the Kansas Army National Guard. While in the Kansas National Guard, Barfield’s assignments included positions with the 35th Division, 69th Infantry Brigade and with the Battle Command Training Program at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Barfield also served with the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va., and U.S. Army. During his military service, Barfield

the Field Artillery Officer Basic and Advance Courses, the Combined Arms Services and Staff School and the Command and General Staff Officers Course. He is currently attending the U.S. Army War College. His civilian education includes a bachelor’s degree in Human Resources from the University of Kansas.

His military awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with six oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Army Forces Expeditionary Medal, the South West Asia Service Medal (one Campaign Star), the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the NATO Service Medal (former Yugoslavia) and the Combat Action Badge.

Campbell and his wife, Meegan, reside in Overland Park, Kan.

# Leaders learn about harnessing today’s young workforce

**Continued from Page 1**

do a little bit of leadership training.”

“And often we teach them how to do some extra paper work and give them some words of wisdom about how to inspire,” continued Tulgan. “But we probably don’t do enough work on teaching managers the boring basics of having regular conversations with their people, regular structured dialogue, taking notes and keep track in writing.”

The top five concerns identified from the November-December statewide climate survey were: communication; leadership and accountability; budget and funding; training – type, availability, funding and

time to conduct it; and mentoring, counseling and evaluations.

Multiple initiatives are in the works, such as guest speakers like Bruce Tulgan, to help address these areas of concern, including a series of articles in upcoming issues of the Plains Guardian on topics such as awards writing, promotion processes, how to request training, mentoring and counseling, career planning, and how to develop and maintain a section leader’s book.

Training videos on these topics will also be created with the help of the Visual Information department to be used at the unit level for professional development training.



**Bruce Tulgan, a keynote speaker on leadership and management specializing in generational differences in the workplace, talks to leaders of the Kansas Adjutant General’s Department during a leadership training seminar Sept. 26. at Nickell Armory, Topeka, Kan., hosted by the Equal Employment Opportunity office. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)**

# FSC, 891st Engineer Battalion conducts annual training

**Spc. Tanner Hendrickson  
Forward Support Company, 891st Engineer Battalion**

Soldiers from Forward Support Company, 891st Engineer Battalion, conducted annual training July 14 through 28. The first half of the training took place at the battalion’s headquarters in Iola, Kan., completing services and repairs on equipment for Headquarters and Headquarters Company and the Forward Support Company, as well as additional preparation for convoy movement to Salina, Kan.

While the majority of the company stayed in the rear during the first week of annual training, the recovery section went to Salina to conduct recovery training on their equipment at Regional Training Site – Maintenance. The company convoyed to Salina July 19 for training at KSRTI.

High-Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicle Egress Assistance training was conducted for the company the first day by the Premobilization Training Assistance and Evaluation Team. Soldiers were placed in a Humvee simulator, turned upside down and around to give them the feeling of being in an actual rollover situation, and trained how to evacuate the vehicle.

The newer enlisted Soldiers of FSC were given driver’s training while at KSRTI. The Soldiers were trained on the 4x4 2.5-ton Light Medium Tactical Vehicle, 6x6 5-ton Medium Tactical Vehicle trucks and a command and control vehicle. This training was conducted on range roads and on the off-road driving course made available by KSRTI. Soldiers were given a written test for vehicles they were trained on and were finally licensed.

The company’s mission from July 23 through 25 was operation of the M16 qualifying range for the battalion. The Soldiers’ responsibilities over the three-day period included loading magazines, acting as range safety officers and running the computer that operated the range targets.

After a day of rest July 26, the company convoyed back to Iola and completed their annual training July 28.



**Spc. Harold Nichols, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with Forward Support Company, 891st Engineer Battalion, of Independence, Kan., gives a class on Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services on a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle during drivers training at annual training in Salina, Kan., July 20. (Spc. Tanner Hendrickson, Forward Support Company, 891st Engineer Battalion)**







## KANSAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



# Community relationships proved vital in school district's recovery

By Steve Larson  
Public Affairs Office

May 22, 2011, began as a day to celebrate for school superintendent Dr. C.J. Huff. It was graduation day for 465 high school seniors, the largest graduating class in the district's history.

"It was a great ceremony," said Huff, "and we were really excited because we always struggled with graduation rates... like so many school districts." Huff said the ceremony began at 3 p.m. and ended at 5 p.m. "Just like clockwork."

And then, the storm sirens blew. It was 5:17 p.m. and the city was Joplin, Mo. At 5:34 p.m., an EF5, multiple-vortex tornado struck the town and for the next 38 minutes tore a path as much as a mile wide eastward through the southern part of the city.

"We don't talk about the tornado in Joplin," Huff told his audience. "We talk about 'that storm,' we talk about 'the event of 5-22.' It's kind of a weird thing. It's kind of like that evil that remains unnamed in Harry Potter. We just don't talk about it."

Huff was in Topeka Sept. 25 as the keynote speaker for the fifth annual Safe and Prepared Schools Conference. The annual event is an educational forum for teachers, administrators, emergency management, first responders and others interested in fostering a safe learning environment for Kansas students. The conference is sponsored by the Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools, Kansas Homeland Security, Kansas Attorney General's Office, Kansas Department of Education and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

For more than an hour, Huff shared his story of that day in 2011 and the hours, days, weeks and months that followed as the city and the school district came to grips with the lives lost and the massive damages to the city and the school district he oversees.

"Eight thousand homes were damaged or destroyed," said Huff. "Four hundred businesses were damaged or destroyed, 18,000 vehicles damaged or destroyed. One hundred sixty-one people perished."

Although it is a story Huff has shared many times and will continue to share, the memories and the emotions are still fresh and raw. Many times throughout his presentation, his voice broke, his eyes filled with tears.

Huff said initially he was not sure how much damage the school system had sustained. "I was even told our high school was salvageable. Somebody looked at it and said 'I think we can fix it,'" Huff said. "No way."



**Dr. C. J. Huff, superintendent of the Joplin, Mo., school district, shares his story of the tornado that struck the town in May 2011 and the vision he had that allowed school to resume on time in the fall. Huff was keynote speaker at the fifth annual Safe and Prepared Schools Conference Sept. 24 and 25 in Topeka. (Photo by Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)**

"We found ourselves in a place where what we'd had, there was no longer a meaningful way to get back to it," said Huff, "and where we're going from this point forward had yet to be determined." Huff said they were "kind of in a no man's land."

Huff knew action had to begin immediately if the people and the district were ever to recover. During his first post-storm meeting with key leaders, Huff outlined three tasks.

"One: Take stock of our people. Take care of our school family, make sure everybody is okay."

Huff said there is no worse feeling than when a child is lost. "It happens every year once a year that we'll have a kid who will get off at the wrong bus stop or they'll go home with a friend after school, they'll get in a car with the wrong person, an aunt or uncle instead of mom or dad," said Huff. Fortunately, in those cases, the child was always found safe. But that was not the case in May 2011.

"We lost eight members of our school family," said Huff, "one staff member and seven students."

For those who survived, there remained many problems. The tornado affected more than 4,200 students in some way, about 54 percent of the student body. "Three thousand students lived in the path of the

storm," said Huff.

Huff said most of them lost almost everything they owned. He related how on the Tuesday morning after the storm a father and mother came with their two young daughters into one of the distribution sites set up after the disaster. "They had no shoes, no socks, soaked head to toe. All you can do is put your arms around them. 'We're going to take care of you.' So that's what we did."

The second task listed on the whiteboard at that first meeting was "Take stock of our facilities. What did we have to work with?"

They found that nine schools had been damaged or destroyed, making 600,000 feet of educational space unusable. The district's administration building was also heavily damaged.

Task three was to secure all the district's valuables – school records, cash boxes, technology and other assets that now lay open and exposed to the weather and looters.

To address these tasks, Huff said he asked himself two questions: "What is the district's role in this crisis?" and "What resources do we have available?"

Huff said it was decided the district's role was three-fold: To get the kids out of the rubble, to give the adults 'space' to respond to the crisis and to give the community a goal, a focus and a vision. "Something beyond our current reality."

That vision was to begin school on time in the fall. "School starts in 84 days," he told his staff. "Let's get to work."

To engage his staff and the community, Huff commandeered a clock that had been purchased for the district's football coach to count down the time until the first game of the fall season. Huff programmed the clock to count the days, hours and minutes until school would begin.

"We hung the clock in the front entry of the command center where everyone would come," said Huff. "Every volunteer, every contractor, every architect, every staff member, every board member, every administrator, every community member who came into our building saw that clock so that everyone knew where we were at. Everyone worked to hit that deadline." He said they took the clock to every meeting and every community event that summer.

Huff admitted that, as the final days drew near, "That clock became 'that damn clock.'" But school did resume on time in the fall.

The answer to the second question was found in something that Huff said was key for anyone in the audience who might

someday face a similar challenge: "Our people and our relationships."

Huff said that prior to the storm, the district had an initiative in place called Bright Futures to address the causes for school drop-outs and find solutions. Over the course of that campaign, a number of relationships were forged that proved vital in the recovery of the Joplin community and its school district.

"The relationships we have in the community prior to the storm is probably the most important thing you can do to be prepared for a disaster of this magnitude," Huff advised, that such relationships tap into the community's time, talents and treasures in multiple ways.

Huff shared a pre-storm story about visiting "one of the poorest schools in the districts" for a program. As the children sat 'criss-cross applesauce' on the floor of the gym, he noticed all 230 students were wearing stocking caps of all shapes and colors. He asked about it and two older women were pointed out to him.

"They didn't have a lot of resources, but they knew how to knit," said Huff. "They heard about a need for hats and gloves for the kids and so between Thanksgiving and Christmas they had knitted a stocking cap for every kid in that school."

He cited the story as just one example of the more than 269 partnerships that were made prior to the storm, partnerships with businesses, faith-based organizations, human services agencies and members of the Joplin community.

Huff said he had learned several major lessons over the course of the year that followed about what really matters most.

"Vision matters," he said. "Set the vision first, then chart the course."

"Communication is key," he continued. Leaders need to communicate their vision with their staff and local officials, but to the public as well. He urged his audience to join their state School Public Relations Association, adding that members of the Missouri and National associations had provided communication support for weeks following the disaster.

Huff also said the use of social media was instrumental in keeping communication lines open. In the first days after the tornado, when cell phones and land lines were down "Facebook was huge. We found hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of kids and accounted for the status of hundreds and hundreds of staff members through Facebook."

Huff said that social networks in place prior to the storm became channels through which needs were communicated and quickly met.

Huff said he also learned to be bold in making a vision and to celebrate daily.

"It creates a culture of hope, communicates progress towards the vision, anchors the team and, most importantly, generates momentum." Huff said it was difficult at times, but they found something to celebrate every day, even if it was just the fact "the kids were going back to school in 54 days."

Although it is a story Huff has shared many times, it is a story he intends to keep sharing as long as anyone will listen. "To keep people engaged, you have to keep telling your story."

Huff believes that the story of Joplin is a story people want to hear and one they need to hear.

And for Huff, one of the primary things that has been reinforced for him is "Putting people first matters."

"Our mantra became 'Take care of our school family.' I read somewhere 'People don't care how much you know. What they really want to know is how much you care.'"

For those at the Safe and Prepared Schools Conference, it was clear that Huff cared a lot and he always will.



**The Joplin, Mo., high school was one of nine schools damaged or destroyed by the EF5 tornado that struck the community May 22, 2011. One hundred sixty-one people died in the tornado, including one member of the Joplin school district staff and seven students. In all, the school district lost 600,000 square feet of educational space. The district's administration building was also heavily damaged. (Courtesy photo)**





# State Fair Preparedness Day showcases emergency responders

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett  
Public Affairs Office

Each September, emergency management agencies across the United States observe the month as “Emergency Preparedness Month” to highlight the need for everyone to be prepared for natural and man-made disasters of all kinds.

To bring awareness to Kansans and how to prepare for the unexpected, emergency response organizations came together for Preparedness Day at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson, Kan., Sept. 10. The event was sponsored by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management.

“Being prepared for disasters involves simple actions each of us can take to protect ourselves and our families from the devastation that a tornado, wildfire or winter storm can bring,” said Gov. Sam Brownback during a Sept. 7 press conference. “This year Kansas has experienced each of these situations, along with extreme temperatures and drought conditions.”

“We urge Kansans to take time this

month to think about what you would do if a disaster struck your neighborhood. It’s up to each of us to do our part to be prepared. The simple actions we take now can save lives,” concluded Brownback.

Numerous state and local agencies, along with community emergency response organizations, provided disaster preparedness and public safety information, as well as displayed emergency response equipment for the public to see.

“We never know when a disaster is going to strike, whether it’s a flooding event, severe weather, severe wind or a tornado,” said Michael Cappannari, external affairs officer with FEMA Region 7. “We are here sharing the importance of having an emergency supply kit, a family emergency plan, and just highlighting the importance of being prepared.”

Home emergency kits should include a gallon of water for every person per day, nonperishable foods, flashlights and batteries, a battery-powered radio, a first aid kit, medicines, an alternate heat source, blan-



**Kansas Search and Rescue Dog Association K9s demonstrate their agility training on an obstacle course at Preparedness Day at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson, Kan., Sept. 10. The dogs specialize in air-scenting, water, disaster and human remains detection, as well as trailing/scent discrimination. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)**

kets and other necessities to sustain a family for a minimum of three days. Information on building a home emergency kit can be found on line at <http://www.ksready.gov>, <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family> and at <http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>.

Kansas Division of Emergency Management has developed the Kansas Preparedness Challenge to guide Kansans in preparing for a disaster by completing one preparedness action each month. The challenge offers prizes to those individuals and families who take the suggested actions. For more information on the challenge, go to [www.ksready.gov](http://www.ksready.gov).

“Responders can’t always get to everybody immediately. Emergency management can’t get to everybody immediately,” said Devan Tucking-Strickler, human services officer of KDEM. “So, if you are prepared with a disaster kit and everything to have yourself prepared for seventy-two hours if something happens, you have those essentials with you.”

The public was able to see fire trucks, search and rescue dog demonstrations and much more from various emergency preparedness partners.

Hutchinson’s Fire Department brought out a ladder fire truck to explore. The Fire Department also brought out their Smoke House, a house which teaches kids fire

safety and injury prevention. During simulated fires children were taught what to do in the case of a fire and showed them common hazards that can be avoided.

Another great crowd pleaser was the Kansas Search and Rescue Dog Association. K9s specialize in air-scenting, water, disaster, and human remains detection, as well as trailing/scent discrimination, demonstrated their capabilities through their agility training. K9 handlers also discussed about how they train the dogs for such tasks.

“The State Fair works out really really great because it’s such a huge gathering place for people that we are able to hit a large population at one time,” said Tucking-Strickler.

Agencies and organizations that participated in at Preparedness Day include the Adjutant General’s Department/Kansas Division of Emergency Management/Kansas National Guard, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas Fire Marshal, Kansas Highway Patrol, Reno County Emergency Management, Reno County Sheriff’s Department, Hutchinson Fire Department, Hutchinson Police Department, Citizen Corps, Community Emergency Response Team, Kansas Search and Rescue Dog Association, National Weather Service and

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**A banner proclaiming it is Kansas Preparedness Day is hoisted for all to see from the ladder of a Reno County fire truck Sept. 10 at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)**



**External affairs officers from FEMA Region 7 hand out useful emergency preparedness information at Preparedness Day at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson, Kan., Sept. 10. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)**

## Table-top exercise conducted in preparation for spring event

By Ann Marie Bush  
The Topeka Capital-Journal

A tornado has torn through Chelsea County, heavily damaging two cities and an airport. It isn’t known how many people have been killed or injured. There may be several missing. A train has been derailed in Coal City.

This is when the Northeast Incident Management Team, as well as hazmat and search and rescue teams, are needed.

About 65 people from numerous state agencies and emergency response organizations gathered Sept. 18 in the Nickell Armory, Topeka, for a table-top emergency management exercise. The cities weren’t real. They were on a much smaller scale — tiny cars and houses placed on tables.

Alan Radcliffe, the Northeast Incident Management Team leader, said people from 23 counties took part in the daylong training exercise.

The Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Northeast Incident Manage-

ment Team, Geospatial Information Systems, Task Force 2 Search and Rescue Team, Northeast Hazmat Team, and Check-in Status Recorder team took part in the exercise to learn how to respond better during disasters.

The table-top exercise cost about \$5,000, Radcliffe said and all of the funding was provided through federal homeland security funds.

“This is the first Kansas region to come together in this manner,” Radcliffe said in a news release. “We had a workshop in July with 30 participants, and we’ll meet again for a full-scale exercise in the spring.”

The groups are currently looking at various locations to host a full-scale exercise, he said. A lot of space is needed because the equipment the groups use can fill a football field.

Radcliffe was on the incident management team in Harveyville after a tornado struck the town in February. The team was

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# Huey donation provides new training possibilities at Crisis City

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett  
Public Affairs Office

The morning air was filled with the thumping of CH-47 Chinook helicopter blades as it sling-loaded a UH-1 Huey helicopter to the Crisis City’s training ground Sept. 6. Provided on permanent loan to Crisis City by the Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range, the 601st Aviation Support Battalion, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, airlifted the aircraft to its new home.

Crisis City is a state of the art first responder, emergency management, military, civil and private industry training site 10 miles southwest of Salina, Kan., operated by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management.

An aircraft venue at Crisis City was a long time coming. It finally came to fruition as a formal request was made for a downed aircraft venue by the 601st ASB for upcoming training. With that request, Brian Darnell, the exercise specialist for Crisis City, made a call to Detachment 1, 184th Regional Support Group, 184th Intelligence Wing, who manages the largest and busiest Air National Guard bombing range in the nation.

“We have quite a few Hueys out on the target area. Brian and Chief [Master Sgt. James] Weldy came out and looked at all of them and chose one that was in good shape. A couple days later, the 601st from Fort Riley came over and made sure it was structurally sound to airlift out,” said Lt. Col. Russ Allen, commander of Det. 1, 184th RSG, 184th Intel. Wing. “Two days later, Fort Riley came out and picked it up

with another helicopter and brought it over to where it is now.”

With the Huey in place at Crisis City, the 601st was able to complete all their required training missions on location during the week of Sept. 10.

“The one big mission we did here was a downed aircraft mission, to where if an aircraft goes down, they bring us on the ground to set up a perimeter and we make sure it’s safe for the recovery team to come in and secure the aircraft,” said Spc. Matthew Allen, Company B, 601st Aviation Support Battalion, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kan. “This type of training is pertinent to our [aviation] battalion. We have sling-loaded before, but to have an actual aircraft here definitely increases the training because it brings a realistic aspect to it,” said Spc. Allen. “For the [Down Aircraft Recovery Team] guys, the guys that actually hook up the aircraft, it was good for them to have the aircraft there to have actual hands-on experience.”

With the new venue, units will also be able to do egress training, evacuating an aircraft in an emergency situation; extrication training; aircraft recovery; search and rescue; along with sending out a downed aircraft recovery team.

“It’s all this joint training that we do out here between the Air Force range, the Army range and Crisis City. Crisis City now has the helicopter for all the training they do. They don’t just train civilians. They train active duty Army units, the Army Guard and Air Guard come out, too. It’s a benefit to not just us, but it’s a benefit to all the different

units that come out,” said Lt. Col. Allen. “In the end, the Air Guard will get an added capability in training out here at some point as well as all the other units. Our job at the de-

tachment is to train the war fighter and this was an opportunity for us to do just that indirectly by putting this helicopter on loan to  
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A Chinook helicopter from Fort Riley airlifts a decommissioned UH-1 Huey helicopter to a training site at Crisis City Sept. 6. The Huey is on permanent loan to the facility and will be used for a variety of training exercises. (Photo by Chief Master Sgt. James Weldy, Detachment 1, 184th Regional Support Group)

## October is Zombie Preparedness Month in Kansas – Really!

By Steve Larson  
Public Affairs Office

The unthinkable...the unimaginable...decaying undead monsters with a craving for brains. Zombies! Are you prepared for the unexpected?

That is the question the Kansas Division of Emergency Management posed to the public in October during “Zombie Preparedness Month,” an emergency preparedness campaign with the theme “If you’re prepared for zombies, you’re prepared for anything.”

To that end, Gov. Sam Brownback signed a proclamation Sept. 28 designating October as “Zombie Preparedness Month in Kansas.”

Why zombies?  
“One of our primary missions is to encourage the public to take action and be

prepared for whatever disasters may come our way,” said Angee Morgan, KDEM deputy director. “Admittedly, talking about emergency preparedness may not be the most exciting thing in the world to some people. However, Halloween is coming and there have been a number of films and television programs about zombies in recent years, so they’re already in the public’s mind. Zombie Preparedness Month is a fun and engaging way to get people on board with emergency preparedness.”

“How do you prepare for a zombie apocalypse?” said Morgan. “You assemble a home emergency kit with all the supplies you need to survive on your own for a minimum of three days, you make an emergency plan and you practice it with your family so everyone knows what to do. And those are

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Olympic gold medalist and University of Kansas sprinter Diamond Dixon (left) is menaced by “zombies” Tina Fike (right) and Stephanie Bell following a proclamation signing ceremony in the Kansas Statehouse Sept. 29 designating October as Zombie Preparedness Month. Diamond was in the governor’s office to be recognized for her achievement. (Photo by Jane Welch, Public Affairs Office)

## KDEM looking ahead to coming year

By Steve Larson  
Public Affairs Office

Angee Morgan, deputy director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, was the guest speaker Sept. 14 at the annual conference of the Kansas Emergency Management Association in Topeka.

“It’s nice to look back over the year and celebrate your accomplishments,” said Morgan.

As the lead agency for emergency preparedness in the state, KDEM assists county emergency managers prepare for and mitigate against potential disasters and coordinates response and recovery operations for the state.

“Our biggest success is the continued



Angee Morgan

*“There’s a lot of teamwork ... to make our counties successful.”*

*Angee Morgan  
KDEM deputy director*

cooperation and commitment that we have to our mission,” said Morgan. “We support each other. We know what our mission is and we make it a priority to perform that mission. There’s a lot of teamwork and a lot of effort and personal accountability within our division structure to make our counties successful, to be able to respond and anticipate their needs.”

Morgan said the main focus for the division right now is attaining accreditation.

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## Kansas Hazard Mitigation Team receives Silver Jacket award



Jacob Gray, State Hazard Mitigation Officer for the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, accepts the Silver Jackets 2011 State Team of the Year Award on behalf of the Kansas Hazard Mitigation Team from KDEM Deputy Director Angee Morgan. Gray was vice chair of the team, which consists of members from KDEM, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Kansas Department of Agriculture, National Weather Service and the U.S. Geological Survey. The award was presented by the Silver Jackets Program, a program of the National Flood Risk Management Program. The goal of the program is to mitigate flooding and other natural disasters throughout the United States. The Kansas team received the award because, according to the citation, it “exemplifies many of the goals of the Silver Jackets Program.” (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

## Huey donation at Crisis City

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Crisis City.” With Crisis City and Army firing range located inside the Great Plains Joint Training Center, units are able to complete multiple facets of training in one visit. “I like Crisis City because it tests my ability to leave Fort Riley using tactical convoy operations from Fort Riley to [Crisis City], tests my command maintenance, how well my mechanics are doing on vehicles, and once we get here we have everything we want here,” said Lt. Col. Allen Lancetta, commander of the 601st ASB. “We have all the small arms ranges, air ground integrations lanes, as well as Crisis City which has a [Military Operations in Urban Terrain] site I can utilize. We have done air assaults the last couple of days, air ground integration, down aircraft recovery

teams, as well utilize the MOUT terrain to engage targets which are our convoys for the last three days. “Everything is here, everything is right here. I can keep my Soldiers here and wake them up at 6:30 a.m. for training,” said Lancetta. “The best part about being here is that we are focused on training, we can get it done. We can accomplish the training events here that would normally take us a month to a month and a half at Fort Riley because there we are competing for ranges. We can come here from Monday to Friday and the ranges are ours. It’s a great facility.” “I think that the people here at Crisis City are great. This is a great training area that has a lot of things to offer. It gets us away from our barracks and out here away for a week to train and solely focus on training,” said Spc. Allen.

## State Fair Preparedness Day

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the Federal Emergency Management Agency. “I like the fact that we all come together here. We have fire, police, the SWAT guys, CERP and the dogs. Just all these different entities coming together just as they would

for any kind of major disaster or any kind of major event happening in Hutchinson, Reno County, or across Kansas,” said Officer Stephen Schaffer, member of the Reno County Emergency Response Team. “Just to show people that we can together and work together and play together.”

## Zombie Preparedness Month

Continued from Page 13

the same preparations you make to be ready for tornadoes, severe storms, floods, fire and any of the other disasters we usually face in Kansas. So, if you’re ready for zombies, you’re ready for anything.” KDEM sponsored a number of events in 2011 with the same theme that drew a good response from the public. This year’s cam-

paign will culminate in a Zombie Preparedness Day and Spooktacular Safety Fair in Gage Park Oct. 20. The event will feature a number of state and local emergency preparedness and first response agencies in addition to volunteer organizations that will provide information on how to be prepared for disasters and emergencies. Even zombies.

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## State agencies test Continuity of Operations plans

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett  
Public Affairs Office

When a disaster disrupts life in a community, citizens naturally turn to their local government to assist them. However, sometimes those same disasters affect government operations, so how does a city or state government take care of its citizens when its ability to respond is affected?

Approximately 20 state agencies reviewed and exercised their continuity of operations plans Aug. 29 in a tabletop exercise at Nickell Armory in Topeka. During the discussion-based exercise, participants tested their current COOP plans using a fictional disaster scenario.

“As those responsible for the health and safety of Kansans, we have a duty to respond in times of disaster, even when those disasters affect us,” said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafarielli, the adjutant general and director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. “We have to plan ahead and say ‘What would we do if this happened? How will we do our jobs? How can we continue to help the people we serve?’ This exercise will help us look at the plans we have in place and see if they address those ‘What if’ questions and where our plans need to be refined.”

The exercise included several modules that will focus on notification, communications, alternate facilities and mission essential functions.

“We spent the last six or seven years as different state agencies writing plans in case we would have a fire or power outage and can’t get to our facilities and continue or essential services we provide to the public,” Angie Morgan, deputy director of Kansas Division of Emergency Management. “So we are testing and reviewing those, making sure they work and educating our people so we will be prepared should something happen to one of our facilities.”

In 2007, the state saw the reality of a disaster happening to them after Greensburg, Kan., was hit with an EF5 tornado, which sparked the consideration effort in creating COOP plans.

In exercising multiple agencies’ COOP plans at the same time, offices were able to iron out issues of sharing resources and competing for the same facilities if more than one facility were ever effected by a disaster at the same time, prior to a real time event occurring.

“The exercise team has done a great job of making it a reality, a real exercise for us,” said Morgan. “One of the most common things we could have happen is a power outage due to a fire or something like that where we wouldn’t be able to access our facility for an extended period of time. So we keep it very realistic.”

The exercise also helped agencies identify where they would go, what they would need to do along with what has to be done in the first 72 hours, two weeks, 30 days, or long term if it is a real catastrophic events.

*“This exercise will help us look at the plans we have in place and see if they address those ‘What if’ questions and where our plans need to be refined.”*

*- Maj. Gen. Lee Tafarielli  
adjutant general and director of the Kansas  
Division of Emergency Management*

## Table-top exercise conducted

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there for about four days.

“We come in to assist,” he said. “We manage things.” But the team doesn’t take control from the locals, Radcliffe said.

“These are the town that have been hit,” Radcliffe said as he points to three separate areas set up on tables around the armory’s gymnasium. “You can have a PowerPoint, but this is more realistic. This is about as real as you can get without actually having a tornado go through.”

Todd Manns, owner of The Blue Cell based in Aurora, Colo., provides the tabletop towns for safety organizations across the country. Manns was in Topeka to help with Tuesday’s training exercise.

The Blue Cell offers tools, ideas, training and real-world application of emergency management planning concepts.

“We are primarily a training company,” Manns said. The company’s employees actually take place in emergency situations. For example, Manns said he served at the fires in Colorado this summer.

The Blue Cell created Chelsea County, USA, and offers the simulation environment along with an online environment. The fake county has a Facebook page and also allows trainees the chance to make telephone calls and radio calls, which are answered by Manns and other team members.

James Steele, operations liaison for Shawnee County, attended the exercise. “It’s an excellent exercise because it brings so many facets and organizations together,” Steele said. “It is a chance for us to see the pros and cons. It’s a time to give the newer people in the IMT a taste of an event before it becomes a real event.”



Mark Engholm (standing) makes a point during a discussion with the Northeast Kansas Incident Management Team during a table-top exercise in Nickell Armory, Topeka, Sept. 18. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)



# 190th Civil Engineers and medics train for a domestic disaster

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

Intense earthquakes struck Wisconsin in mid July. Infrastructure lay in ruins. Gang violence and anarchy terrorized the citizens.

At least, that was the scenario during July’s PATRIOT exercise.

The event was hosted by the National Guard Bureau and staged at Volk Field, Wis. The goal was to evaluate domestic disaster response in a large-scale exercise in a uniquely joint environment.

In addition to hosting the exercise, the scenarios were authored on behalf of the National Guard by Lt. Col. Tamra Buettgenbach, chief nurse executive from the 190th Air Re-



Senior Airman Spencer Walker, a member of the 190th Civil Engineering Squadron, secures a simulated victim during the Patriot exercise hosted by the National Guard Bureau at Volk Field, Wis. The scenario involved an intense earthquake that struck Wisconsin mid July. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Emily Alley, 190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs)

fueling Wing’s Medical Group, who served as the joint exercise control group director. She incorporated the various federal and civilian agencies and had the challenge of reconciling the different response procedures of the different entities.

“I have to see what everybody brings to the table, what their agency does. It has to stay fluid,” said Buettgenbach. “But that’s why you do this kind of exercise, to see how they overlap.”

More than a thousand players participated from various state and organizations, including the Army and Air National Guard, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Civil Air Patrol.

“I feel like I’m better prepared,” said Airman 1st Class Jeni Douglas, an optometrist assistant from the Medical Group. “I see how people work together, how I fit in. I’m more confident. We’re an important part of the team.”

About a dozen of the participants were Airmen from the 190th Air Refueling Wing’s Civil Engineering Squadron and Medical Group. Their role was integral to the domestic scenario of exercise, which incorporated mock civilian hospitals and patients.

Douglas and the Airmen played the role of fictional “Sunshine General Hospital” staff, which provided patients in need of aircraft evacuation. Members of the

Civil Air Patrol, and plastic medical mannequins, played the role of patients.

Starting before sunrise each morning of the exercise, the Airmen prepared role player “patients” by assigning them names and maladies. By 6 a.m., Civil Air Patrol members began arriving at the moulage tent to be dressed for the exercise. The half-awake middle schoolers lay on stretchers in the cool morning air of the open tent of Sunshine General. They were dressed with gauze, fake IVs, eye patches and bags of candy that represented medication. The patients were assigned conditions ranging from gunshot wounds to cancer to high blood pressure.

The 190th ARW Airmen transported the patients, some lifted on stretchers and others walking wounded, to the aircraft.

Senior Airman Melissa Hidalgo Mendez, an aerospace maintenance technician with the 190th ARW Medical Group, served as the ambulance driver and ensured that live patients on stretchers were properly loaded and unloaded.

“When you’re working with real patients you have to be real careful,” she said. Hidalgo Mendez assisted with a demonstration of patient movement for Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, Director of the Air National Guard. “It’s a great exercise and not just for the Medical Group, because it’s a united effort. We’re a small part of the big picture of what the National Guard does locally and nationwide.”

The Medical Group was assisted by civil engineer Senior Airman Spencer Walker, helped dress and transport patients. His favorite part of the exercise, he said, was carrying patients into the huge C-17 that transported them to the next phase of treatment.

Senior Airman Steven Sweeny, also from the 190th ARW Civil Engineering Squadron, enjoyed transporting patients because of the opportunity to see a different function of the Air National Guard.

Although the civil engineers weren’t medics, they had the opportunity to practice a response to an emergency. The Airmen and the array of agencies they supported during the exercise are better prepared to respond to a domestic disaster.

## Army Aviation Support Facilities receive major upgrades

By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment’s facilities in Topeka and Salina, Kan., received some major upgrades. With small finishing touches left on the first phase, personnel are already enjoying and utilizing the new additions.

**Army Aviation Support Facility #1 Remodeling**

Building 636, Forbes Field, Topeka, Kan., has served as the Army Aviation Support Facility #1 for many years. It has seen many different unit changes and aircraft including the 137th Transportation Company (Heavy Helicopter) flying the CH-54 Tarhe (Skycrane), and Detachment 1, 24th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) using the UH-1 Iroquois (Huey).

However, the building itself has remained the same over the years, but that is now changing. The new flight operations/flight planning room became operational July 25, the first part of an extensive building remodeling program. The AASF #1 currently supports elements of the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment and Company G, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion), who both fly the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. The facility also houses Detachment 37, Operational Support-Aviation Command, the Kansas Army National Guard’s fixed wing flight detachment, who fly C-12s.

Flight operations is now operating out of a space that was a vehicle garage and sheet metal shop.

“The new office has combined into a very functional area what was once contained in four or five different rooms spread throughout the building,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Timothy Brundage, tactical operations officer for 108th Avn. Regt., of Tonganoxie, Kan. “Now the crews have their aviation life support equipment locker rooms, flight planning, weather and flight operation all in one area. This has



The new Army Aviation Support Facility #1 combined room located in Topeka, Kan., as viewed from the northwest corner with the flight operations staff working in the elevated level by the windows. (Photo by Sgt. Michael Mathewson, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

sufficiently improved our ability to support the state.”

“Although we are still moving in we are fully operational and are supporting missions,” said Brundage.

The north-facing wall, once solid, now has windows that face the flight line.

“This allows us to monitor the flight line,” said Staff Sgt. Scott Rohrs, operations noncommissioned officer for Co. G, 2nd Bn., 235th GSAB, of Gladstone, Mo. “In the old room, to do a ramp check, we used to have to walk down the hall and then go outside to visually check the aircraft. Now I can view the flight line from my desk.”

Monitors have been mounted on the walls in both the flight planning and operations area. This allows for various methods of tracking aircraft while on missions. It may also be used for message boards for crew and passengers. There are plans for computer kiosks where traditional Soldiers



**Brig. Gen Eric Peck, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard (center), cuts the dedication ribbon at the Army Aviation Support Facility #2 as Lt. Col. Steven O’Neil (left), acting State Army Aviation Officer and facility commander of AASF #1, and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Leo Blasi, acting facility commander of AASF #2 (right) hold it steady during the dedication ceremony Aug. 17. (Photo by Sgt. Michael Mathewson, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)**

could work on their computer-based training.

“The 127th Weather Flight will be providing weather briefers during drill weekends,” said Rohrs. “We have set aside an area just for them. It will provide us weather and training for them.”

The rest of the building will be Phase II of the remodel, which should be complete during Fiscal Year 2013.”

The formal dedication of the new flight operations was held Aug. 7.

**Rededication of Army Aviation Support Facility #2**

The Kansas National Guard’s Army Aviation Support Facility #2, Salina Municipal Airport, Salina, Kan., was rededicated in a ceremony Aug 17. This total renovation



**Salina, Kan., based flight crewmembers receive a new flight briefing/classroom as part of the Army Aviation Support Facility #2’s upgrades that became operational Aug 20. (Photo by Sgt. Michael Mathewson, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)**

started last October and was completed in June. The facility is home to Company B, 1st Bn., 108th Avn. Regt. and Detachment 2, Company C and Detachments 4, Companies D and E, 2nd Battalion, 211 Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion).

In remarks to an audience of current and former aviation members, Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, spoke about the history of the facility and how it took the efforts of many people to remodel the facility.

Following his remarks, Peck cut the ribbon opening the facility. For the ribbon cutting, Peck was assisted by Lt. Col. Steven O’Neil, acting State Army Aviation Officer and facility commander of AASF #1 in Topeka, Kan., and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Leo Blasi, acting facility commander of AASF #2 in Salina, Kan.

“We received this facility from a fixed base operator more than 10 years ago,” said Peck. “Over those years we have done a number of self-help projects to improve this facility. So it was time to empty the building and start from scratch.”

“This remodel will greatly improve our ability to support our mission, whether it is in support of training or in the event of a state emergency,” said Blasi.

“The operations section is now in a more functional location,” said Sgt. 1st Class Richard Bowman, a flight operations specialist at AASF #2. “We have flight planning, operations, with radios and aircraft dispatch all within the same area. We can now see the ramp, which allow us to monitor aircraft movement.”

In addition to the office for the facility commander and operations section, there are classrooms with up-to-date projectors and monitors, along with offices for the instructor pilots and safety officers, an Aviation Life Support Equipment locker rooms, break room and an area for the aviation technical supply.



# Safe, fun and educational

By CAP Capt. Michael Mathewson  
Kansas Civil Air Patrol Wing Public Affairs Officer

It was a beautiful day to go flying. The Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron conducted single engine orientation flights for four of its cadets, June 23. The “O” flights started and ended at Philip Billard Municipal Airport in Topeka, Kan.

The Cadet Orientation Flight Program introduces youth to general aviation through hands-on orientation flights in single engine aircraft and gliders. The program’s motto describes what cadet flying is all about: “Safe, Fun, Educational.”

Veteran “O” flight pilot Civil Air Patrol Capt. Doug Dutton, director of operation, Howard Williams Composite Squadron of Salina, Kan., flew the red, white and blue Civil Air Patrol Cessna 182 from its home base in Salina to Topeka. Dutton made all the take-off and landings, but once in the air the cadets had control of the airplane, although always under Dutton’s close supervision.

Flying in the morning were Cadet/Senior Airman Adrian Appelhanz, his brother Cadet/Airman Jonathan Appelhanz and their cousin Cadet/Airman Aidan Dollahon, all residents of Topeka. Cadet/Airman Thomas Pugh, also from Topeka, flew after lunch.

Jonathan Appelhanz was the first to sit in the right front seat. After take-off, Appelhanz was at the plane’s controls as they flew to Emporia, Kan. On the ground they changed positions with Adrian Appelhanz in the front seat.

“We had the seat all the way forward and I still couldn’t touch the pedals,” said Appelhanz.

After about an hour in the air, they landed at New Century near Olathe, Kan. It was now Dollahon’s turn to fly the airplane back to Topeka.

“It was the first time that I have been in a small plane and it was great,” said Dolahon. “I can’t wait until next time.”

In addition to being a Civil Air Patrol Cadet, Pugh is also a member of Aviation Explorer Post #8, base at Billard. Because of his previous flight experience, Dutton and Pugh flew more advance maneuvers.

“We flew S turns and then did slow flight,” said Pugh.

Lt. Col. Michael E. Madden, squadron commander and resident of Tecumseh, Kan., explained that the “O” flights are federally funded through the Air Force and are at no cost to the cadet. Madden said each cadet under 18 is entitled to at least one flight per year, twice a year if the funding is available.



Civil Air Patrol Capt. Doug Dutton conducts a preflight briefing for (left to right) Cadet/Airman Jonathan Appelhanz, Cadet/Senior Airman Adrian Appelhanz and Cadet Airman Aidan Dollahon prior to take-off for the their first orientation flight at Phillip Billard airport in Topeka, Kan., June 23. (Photo by CAP Capt. Michael Mathewson, Kansas Wing Public Affairs Officer)

# Civil Air Patrol Cadet Olympics

By CAP Capt. Michael Mathewson  
Kansas Civil Air Patrol Wing Public Affairs Officer

During the annual Civil Air Patrol Kansas Wing conference May 26, while the senior members sat in training sessions, the cadets participated in the Cadet Olympics at the St. John’s Military School’s athletic field, Salina, Kan.

Civil Air Patrol Maj. Danny Philips, commander of the Howard Williams Composite squadron in Salina, Kan., and a St. John’s facility member, explained that the Olympics was made up of six events to test both the mind and body of the cadets.

“In the past Saturday afternoons during the conferences, cadets have had their time fully-occupied while the seniors were in their training classes,” said Philips. “This gives them something fun to do.”

“This is something that we have been trying to do for some time,” said 1st Lt. Makayla White, assistant logistics officer of the Kansas Wing and former wing cadet, Lawrence, Kan.

The events included running an obstacle course, a leader development challenge of crossing an obstacle, a drug resistance course, physical fitness, land navigation and building and launching rockets made of Styrofoam cups.

The squadrons were broken up and the cadets were assigned to one of six teams. This made the teams even, introduced cadets to others outside of their home squadron and required the cadets to quickly come together as a team.

The combination of mind, body and leadership was apparent at the physical fitness station.

“This station was a timed event of run-



Civil Air Patrol Cadet/Senior Airman Thomas Pugh, a member of the Topeka Eagle Squadron, is assisted over the climbing wall during the obstacle course leg of the Cadet Olympics at the St. John’s Military Academy, Salina, Kan., May 26. The Cadet Olympics was part of the Kansas Wing’s annual conference. (Photo by CAP Capt. Michael Mathewson, Kansas Wing Civil Air Patrol Public Affairs Officer)

ning, pushups and sit-ups,” said White. “As a team, they had to run for a distance four times, for example if one person ran down and back that was two legs. If five cadets did 10 pushups each, that was 50 pushups. Not all the teams grasped this concept.”

When the Olympics were over, one team won, but no one remembers which one, but what everyone remembered is they had fun.

“I enjoyed the obstacle course and the river crossing,” said Cadet/Senior Airman Thomas Pugh, a member of the Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron. “Next year, I want to do all three days of the conference.”

“All the cadets that I spoke to said that they would like to do this every year and so would I,” said White.

# Update of the Army Guard Enlisted Promotion System

Continued from Page 4

From March 15 to Oct. 15, 2012, we have filled 323 NCO positions, which is approximately 30 percent increase over the same time last year. We are currently tracking 181 NCO vacancies. However, there are currently only 50 open EPS control numbers against these vacancies.

There are always exceptions such as hard to fill career fields and exhausted promotion lists, but overall we are doing okay managing and completing our NCO promotions in an accurate and timely manner. Some of the exceptions include unit reorganizations, unique positions that we don’t have the enlisted development pipeline to fill and exhausted EPS lists where we run out of qualified Soldiers in a promotable status. We will be implementing several improvements and aggressively addressing individual Soldier and unit responsibilities to help alleviate the exhausted EPS list issue.

A major contributor to exhausted EPS lists in many career fields is directly related to the lack of timely promotion of our junior enlisted Soldiers. I hold battery and company commanders and first sergeants directly accountable for this. Not properly promoting our junior enlisted Soldiers in a timely manner is a failure of Soldier care at the most basic level.

Infantry recruits that ship immediately upon enlistment to One Station Unit Training, successfully graduate and are awarded their primary Military Occupational Specialty and maintains themselves in a promotable

status should be promoted to the rank of specialist at two years’ time in service. A delay in promotion to specialist often delays a Soldier’s consideration for promotion to sergeant by one or more years because they must have 12 months time in grade as of the EPS Board Criteria Eligibility Date to be considered for promotion. This adds to our challenge of filling all of our NCO vacancies with the best qualified because we are eliminating a portion of our Soldiers from consideration on an annual basis.

We are currently implementing some changes that will be effective with the 2013 board process. These improvements are implemented with the intent to increase the efficiency and timeliness of filling our NCO vacancies in a fair and equitable manner with the best qualified NCOs including:

1. Completion of NGB Form 4100s electronically via the new 4100 website. This is the primary means of signing 4100s effective Oct. 1, 2012, in preparation for the 2013 promotion board. The system will update every Friday until Dec. 31, 2012, and Soldiers will be able to sign their 4100s until Feb. 1, 2013. Deployed Soldiers will still use paper copies of their 4100s as in the past.

2. We will no longer send out letters offering promotions to promotable Solders. For most positions, once the EPS control number has been approved, the first promotable Soldier on the list will be verified and a promotion order will be issued with

the requirement, as applicable, that the Soldier has 30 days to report to their new duty station to allow them to properly clear their previous unit. Exceptions to this process include unique assignments such as flight medic and instructor positions.

3. Regulation allows supplemental boards for the junior NCO grades. We will conduct a semi-annual supplemental board for specialist to sergeant and sergeant to staff sergeant promotion consideration during the 2013.

4. We will establish a minimum promotion score for the 2013 sergeant major and first sergeant Best Qualified lists. Soldiers being considered for these two ranks/positions must score at or above the minimum score to be on the final published list.

5. We are updating the exhausted EPS procedures as allowed by a recently approved NGB policy. We will add a final step, a statewide vacancy announcement process, which will allow us to advertise and select individuals for NCO positions

that cannot be filled through the EPS process regardless of MOS qualifications, EPS and other criteria such as time in grade/time in service.

6. We will formally establish a timeline to fill our NCO vacancies. Units and battalions will have two working weeks to fill NCO vacancies through priority placement and lateral transfers before they must request an EPS control number. The standard will be that 90 percent of EPS control numbers are filled with promotion orders issued within 30 days of the control number request.

We must all continue to work diligently to efficiently and fairly fill our NCO vacancies. NCOs must work and lead their Soldiers to ensure that our best qualified remain in a promotable status at all times. This, combined with units aggressively working the processes to fill their NCO vacancies, will ensure that 90 percent of our NCO vacancies are filled with official transfer/promotion orders issued in less than two weeks.

## Join the Civil Air Patrol

The Kansas Wing of the Civil Air Patrol is looking for teens 12 to 18 years of age and adults to join our current volunteers in our important missions. The Civil Air Patrol is an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force with three primary missions: Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs and Emergency Services

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





# Headquarters Battery, 2nd Bn., 130th FA changes commanders

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

Capt. James Pope accepted command of Kansas National Guard’s Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, Hiawatha, Kan., during a change of command ceremony held at the Hiawatha armory Sept. 15.

Leadership of the historic battery, with a detachment located in Marysville, passed from Capt. Daniel Ball, outgoing commander of the battery, to Pope.

Lt. Col. Christopher Burr, commander of the 2nd Bn., 130th FA, accepted the battery guidon from Ball as he thanked him for his time as commander. Burr then passed the guidon to Pope as a symbolic action of entrusting the battery to him. Pope returned the guidon to 1st Sgt. Jerald Kracht, first sergeant of HHB, 2nd Bn., 130th FA, figuratively passing the responsibility for training of the 89 Soldiers of the battery to him.

Ball addressed the battery one last time after relinquishing his command.

“I would like to say thank you to the Soldiers of HHB,” said Ball. “I have learned much from you and hope I have taught you something useful as well.”

“It is always good to see so many family members present and thank you all for coming,” he said. ““This is truly a family and community-based organization. We need and greatly appreciate your support! Thank you all and I will see you all again down the road.”

“I would like to thank Lieutenant Colonel Burr for giving me this opportunity to lead the battery,” said Pope. “I will strive to focus on the Soldiers of HHB as we will work toward a better unit as we move forward.”

The 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, which holds the lineage and honors of the



**Capt. Daniel Ball, outgoing commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, hands off the battery guidon to Lt. Col. Christopher Burr to officially relinquish command to the incoming commander, Capt. James Pope, during a change of command ceremony at the Hiawatha armory in Hiawatha, Kan., Sept. 15. (Photo by Sgt. Shawn Stovall, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, UPAR)**

130th Field Artillery Regiment, traces its heritage to the 1st Kansas Artillery formed in 1868. Units or Soldiers of the regiment have served in every conflict since the Civil War. The battalion was activated for duty in May 1968 at the time of the Pueblo incident and was activated again for duty in December 2003 to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and most recently in July 2009 to the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt, to enforce the Treaty of Peace between Egypt and Israel. The regiment has been awarded streamers for the Muese-Argonne, Alsace, Lorraine, the Aleutian Islands and European Theatre.

**Capt. James Pope**

Pope was born at Topeka, Kan. He is a graduate of Clay Center High School in Clay Center, Kan. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in anthropology from Wichita State University in Wichita, Kan.

Pope enlisted into Battery C, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard, as a field artillery cannon crewmember. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 2005 through the Kansas Officer Candidate School. He is a graduate of the Field Artillery Officer Basic

Course, Field Artillery Captains Career Course and Military Intelligence Captains Career Course.

His assignments have included battery fire direction officer, platoon leader and executive officer. Pope’s last assignment was as intelligence officer in Headquarters Battery, 1st Bn., 161st FA. Pope deployed with Battery A, 1st Bn., 161st FA, from November 2007 through October 2008 as a platoon leader to Forward Operating Base Grizzly, Iraq. He also deployed with Headquarters Battery, 1st Bn., 161st FA, from February 2010 through February 2011 as the intelligence officer to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti.

His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with campaign star, Army Service Ribbon, Reserve Forces Medal with “M” device, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal and Combat Action Badge.

Pope works full-time as an intelligence analyst with Joint Force Headquarters-Kansas in Topeka, Kan.

He is married to Cheryl Gimarino of Cebu, Philippines.

**Capt. Daniel Ball**

Ball was born at Atchison, Kan. He is a graduate of Atchison County Community High School, Effingham, Kan. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kan.

He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 2004 through the Pittsburg State Reserve Officers’ Training Corps Program. He is a graduate of the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course and Field Artillery Cap-

**(Continued on Page 20)**

# Contenders return to Adjutant General’s Physical Fitness Challenge

By Pfc. Anna Laurin  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Adjutant General’s 17th annual Army Physical Fitness Test Fitness Challenge was held Sept. 22 at the Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina, Kan.

The event consisted of a timed two-minute push-up endurance, a timed two-minute sit-ups endurance and a two-mile race for personal best times. All events were scored according to the standard APFT regulations and completed within two hours, making the event credible for the competing Soldiers’ personal records.

Many faces were recognized from the



**Mark Anthony Butcher II, 9, a returning athlete from 2011, prepares to perform his two minutes of push-ups at the 17th annual Adjutant General’s Army Physical Fitness Test Fitness Challenge held at the Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina, Kan., Sept. 22. (Photo by Pfc. Anna Laurin, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)**

previous years. A returning competitor who gained recognition last year for being the youngest performer, Mark Anthony Butcher II, 9, performed for his second year in a row. He is a student athlete and enjoys the competition of the APFT.

Being a returning performer Butcher knew what events he like and disliked.

“The sit-ups were the easiest,” he said. Mark liked his first mile, but to keep himself motivated he used the visuals of runners in front of him.

Although he is a year older and wiser, he did not top his performance from last year. He was three points shy of last year’s performance with 88 push-ups, 94 sit-ups and 12:53 minutes on the two-mile.

Butcher was just one competitor of about 200 athletes and many sponsors. Local partners and sponsors included Salina Running Company, Fox Fitness, TREA: The Enlisted Association (Salina Chapter), the Bank of Tescott, Live Lincoln County, Candlewood Suites and Salina Airport Authority.

Local high schools also had students involved including St. John’s Military School of Salina, Kan., and Abilene High School. Involvement from the community is a great aspect of this event.

“It’s great to get the civilians and high schools involved,” said Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, assistant adjutant general and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard. “It’s the outreach to the community that’s important because this is what we have to do as Soldiers and Airmen, is stay fit to fight in wars, and we want to encourage them to do the same thing.”

After the performance of all competitors, awards were given in several categories based on military and civilian involvement, the highest repetition for each athletic performance and a final overall award for the team with the highest score.

Once the awards were given out a ribbon cutting ceremony was held near the finish line of the two-mile run, where the future Physical Training Cluster will be built. At the ceremony, a picture was presented of

what the future cluster would look like.

“I am pretty excited about it, not only because visually it’s going to be very impressive, but it just adds an entire element to our training capabilities here,” said Col. Robert E. Windham, commander of the 235th Regiment.

With the addition of the new training

cluster and the continuance of the annual TAG APFT, the Great Plains Joint Training Center will stand as a growing physical training site that not only trains and recognizes the Soldiers and Airmen who pass through, but also invites in the surrounding community to encourage physical fitness for everyone.

## Kansas Army National Guard Physical Training Cluster



**(From left to right) Vern Hopkins, vice-chair of the Salina Military Affairs Council, Dennis Lauver from the Salina Chamber of Commerce, and Randy Hass of Senne and Company join Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, the assistant adjutant general and commander of Kansas Army National Guard, and Col. Robert Windham, commander of the 235th Regiment, in the ceremonial ribbon cutting of the future Kansas Army National Guard Physical Training Cluster Sept. 22, in Salina, Kan. When completed, the physical training cluster will be located on the campus of the Kansas Regional Training Institute and support Army and Air Guard training across the state. (Photo by Sgt. Dustin Furrey, 235th Regiment UPAR)**



# Kansas Army Guard welcomes its newest commissioned officers

By Pfc. Anna Laurin  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Kansas Army National Guard second lieutenant roster increased by nine Aug. 18 when the Kansas Officer Candidate School graduated and commissioned its newest officer candidates.

The graduation and commissioning ceremonies were held at the Great Plains Joint Training Center (Kansas Regional Training Institute), Salina, Kan. The newest lieutenants are Paul Aelmore, Craig Bloom, Jeremy Brolhorst, Michael Byerly, Earl Collyar, Nathan Cordell, Edwin Flores-Alvarado, Tatianna Mateo-Gomez and Charles Schmitt. Officer Candidates Jacob Durkes and Guven Yay will receive their commission at a later date.

The official party included Maj. Gen. Lee (KS) Tafanelli, the adjutant general; Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard; Col. Robert Windham, commander of the 235th Training Regiment; Lt. Col. John D. Clark, commander of the 1st Battalion, 235th Regiment; and Maj. Kimberly Young, commander of the Kansas OCS Company, 1st Battalion, 235th Regiment.

After administering the Oath of Office to the nine candidates, Tafanelli reflected on past generation of officers and recognized the new generation before him, passing down knowledge that had been passed onto him as a cadet.

“Once you pin on that gold bar, it’s not some magical mystical thing that there’s now this new found knowledge that you’re going to have bestowed on you,” said Tafanelli. “You’re going to be the same individual, with the same strengths, same weakness, and all of those attributes that you had just before. You will have an awesome responsibility once that bar goes on.”

Tafanelli recounted several of the difficulties and obstacles that the nation has gone through, including the attack of 9/11 and the later capture and elimination of those responsible. He told the new officers that what they have learned at OCS and carry with them will help them, as leaders and soldiers, to overcome future obstacles.

“You’re about to be entrusted with this nation’s most precious resources, its sons and daughters,” Tafanelli concluded. “Don’t let them down.”

After Tafanelli’s remarks, several awards were given to candidates that have shown outstanding achievements.

The Noble W. Drake Academic Achievement Award: For highest academic average during the course. Highest average for OCS Class 56 was 95.85 percent by Officer Candidate Jeremy Brolhorst.

The Physical Fitness Award: For highest average on Army physical fitness tests while at the course. Highest average for OCS Class 56 was 297 points by Officer Candidate Guven Yay.



The Kansas Officer Candidate School, OCS Company, 1st Battalion, 235th Regiment, graduates and commissions its newest officer candidates from Class 56 as Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, administers the oath of office to them at the Great Plains Joint Training Center (Kansas Regional Training Institute), Salina, Kan., Aug. 18. The cadets had to complete 13 months of rigorous training that tested their skills and education. Training consisted of physical and mental challenges in the form of classroom instruction, simulated combat leadership and fitness tests, all within a continuously stressful environment. (Photo by Sgt. Dustin Furrey, 235th Training Regiment)

The Tactical Proficiency Award: Given to the candidate that demonstrated the most tactical proficiency and leadership ability during Phase III field training at Fort Lewis, Wash. This was awarded to Officer Candidate Charles Schmitt.

The Erikson Distinguished Graduate Award: Awarded to the candidate who achieved the highest combined overall score in the OCS program. This individual does not necessarily have the highest score in any one area, but consistently scored highly in all areas of assessment. This was awarded to Officer Candidate Charles Schmitt.

The Association of the United States Army Leadership Award: Awarded to the candidate who achieved highest score in leadership during course. Leadership scores are determined by the instructors using the Leadership Assessment Program, which includes 16 evaluated areas called “Leadership Dimensions.” They are: oral communications; written communications; oral presentation; initiative; sensitivity; influence; planning and organizing; delegation; administrative control; problem analysis; judgment;

decisiveness; technical competence; physical and mental stamina; followership and mission accomplishment. This was awarded to Officer Candidate Charles Schmitt.

The National Guard Association of Kansas Award: Awarded to the candidate who, according to the school cadre, displays the leadership; integrity; knowledge; dedication to duty; military bearing and appearance; communications skills and attitude desired in an Army officer. The recipient must possess and display the highest standards and characteristics of a leader. This was awarded to Officer Candidate Nathan Cordell.

Each graduate received a National Guard Association of Kansas membership for the first year. This was presented by Lt. Col. Steve Denney, representing the NGAKS Membership Committee. They also received a complimentary set of second lieutenant bars and a their first year’s membership to the Military Officers Association of America, presented by retired Brig. Gen. Ronald Tincher and retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Delbert Hill, representing the Kansas Council of Chapters for MOAA.

## Silsby’s 42 years of service recognized at OCS Hall of Fame

By Pfc. Anna Laurin  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

A new addition to the Officer Candidates School Hall of Fame was made Aug. 18, at the Great Plains Joint Training Center (Kansas Regional Training Institute), Salina, Kan. This year’s Hall of Fame ceremony recognized retired Kansas Army National Guard officer Col. Clifford M. Silsby, who enlisted in the Army more than 42 years ago.

During the Kansas OCS Commissioning ceremony Silsby was presented with a plaque for the induction and for his leadership and achievements throughout his career.

As a colleague and friend of the inductee, Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, thought Silsby was more than worthy of this honor.

“Colonel Silsby was one of those officers that told you what he expected and then he expected you to deliver. He held people accountable,” said the commander. “He’d help anybody get to where they needed to go. He was always helping and mentoring his Soldiers to move them ahead.”

“It’s great to get to see him inducted because he’s somebody who is well deserving of being inducted into the Hall of Fame,” said Peck. “He’s someone that many of these officers who were just commissioned can emulate.”

After receiving the honor, Silsby talked about the knowledge he has gained since becoming an officer and passed his advice on to the new officers who earned their commission that day.

“I felt really lucky to have a multitude of command assignments,” said Silsby. “The majority of your career you will spend being a staff person, in management, or a technical specialist. When you get those command assignments put your heart and soul into it, because those are the things you truly remember but along with those staff assignments comes your ability to influence young Soldiers.”

Silsby continued giving the new officers a word of advice on their new found responsibility, challenging the cadets with one word.

“Pride,” said Silsby. “What I mean by that is look sharp, be sharp and set a standard. Maintain your equipment because you may need it; maintain your facilities because they’re the face to the community.”

“Use the ‘we’ word, forget about the ‘I’ word, unless it’s ‘I screwed up.’” Silsby advised. “I personally never accomplished one thing by myself as a leader in a unit. If I would not have had noncommissioned officers and other officers, we would have gotten nowhere.”

The inductee also recognized someone very special to him, his wife Susan.

“My wife and I have been married for over 35 years,” said Silsby. “She married me when I was a Guardsman so she really doesn’t have any excuse for dealing with me beforehand. I could not have done what I’ve done without her.”

Silsby enlisted Feb. 23, 1970, as a crawler tractor operator in Detachment 1, Company A, 891st Engineer Battalion, located in Mankato, Kan. Then after earning his commission he served in the Mankato unit until September 1984, when Silsby transferred to the 891st Engineer Battalion, of Iola, Kan., where he began his full-time career as the battalion training officer.

He served in a number of positions within the Kansas National Guard, including detachment commander of Det. 1, 170th Maintenance Company; commander of Company C, 891st Engineer Battalion; and commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 891st Engineer Battalion. Silsby deployed in May 2011 as the senior liaison officer at the Center for Army Lessons Learned in Afghanistan.

Silsby retired July 30, 2012, with more than 42 years of service. Silsby is a life member of the National Guard Association of the United States and served as a board member for the Museum of the Kansas National Guard for many years. Silsby and his wife have five children and reside in Auburn, Kan.



Retired Col. Clifford M. Silsby (right) receives a certificate from Col. Robert Windham (left), commander of the 235th Training Regiment, as he is inducted into the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame prior to the OCS graduation and commissioning of Class 56 at the Great Plains Joint Training Center (Kansas Regional Training Institute), Salina, Kan., Aug. 18. Silsby retired July 30, 2012, with more than 42 years of service. (Photo by Sgt. Dustin Furrey, 235th Training Regiment)



# New assignments available to women

By Karen Parrish  
 American Forces Press Service

Policy changes announced in February opening more than 14,000 new assignments to women in uniform took effect May 14, according to Defense Department officials.

An April 26 Pentagon press release confirmed that two changes to the 1994 Direct Ground Combat Definition and Assignment Rule can now move forward since the Congressionally-mandated notification period has expired.

The biggest barrier the Department of Defense is lifting is a 1994 policy prohibiting women from jobs -- such as tank mechanic and field artillery radar operator -- that take place near ground combat units. With that restriction removed, 13,000 new assignments will be available for women. Nearly 10,000 of those new opportunities are in fields never before open to women.

The second change is an "exception to policy" that will allow the Army, Navy and Marines to open select positions at the battalion level in jobs women already occupy.

The previous policy, also set in 1994, barred women in jobs such as intelligence, communications and logistics from assignment at units smaller than a brigade. Nearly 1,200 assignments will open to female Soldiers, Sailors and Marines under the exceptions.

Navy Capt. John Kirby, Pentagon spokesman, said it is now up to the military services to make necessary changes in the ranks.

The change "doesn't mean that immediately, today, there will be 14,000 women in these jobs," he noted. "But these billets will now be eligible to be filled by women."

The services will train and assign women to jobs they haven't previously filled through their normal personnel management processes as the positions become vacant, Kirby said. Many of those positions may continue to be filled by men, he added.

"The point is that 14,000 positions ... are now eligible to be filled by female service members," he said.

Kirby said service leaders will update Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta in November on their progress in implementing the new policies, and any new policies they want to suggest to increase opportunities for women.

"The secretary was very clear ... that he wants to remove as many barriers as possible to service in the military for female service members," Kirby said. "He's very committed to that, and wants to continue to look at other ways we can lower those barriers."

*The biggest barrier the Department of Defense is lifting is a 1994 policy prohibiting women from jobs -- such as tank mechanic and field artillery radar operator -- that take place near ground combat units.*



Women started serving in the military with the formation of the Army Nurse Corps in 1901 and the Navy Nurse Corps in 1908. The first women who enlisted in the United States military joined the Navy and Marine Corps in World War I. More than 12,000 of them served stateside and more than 200 "Hello Girls," telephone operators, served overseas with the Army Signal Corps.

# Kansas National Guard Foundation: here for servicemembers and their families

By Janelle Hood, Chair  
 Kansas National Guard Foundation

The Kansas National Guard Foundation was created by determining there was a need to monetarily support training, events and activities for families of servicemembers that could not be supported by traditional National Guard funding.

Our mission statement: To enhance programs to support, educate and train Kansas National Guard military families and Kansas youth from urban and rural communities in areas of the Kansas National Guard mission, deployment, leadership, teamwork and good citizenship.

The foundation board seats 11 members. A breakdown of these seats and current members are:

Two members of the Enlisted Association of the Kansas National Guard -- retired Command Sgt. Maj. Dale Putman, retired Master Sgt. Ronda Klein

Two members of the National Guard Association of Kansas -- Maj. Julie Burns, retired Maj. Chuck Bredahl

Three members of the business community -- Andrew Morgan, Susan Mahoney, Paul Honaker

Four members of the community -- Karen Morrow, Tammy Tafanelli, Janelle Hood, Vacancy

Board members acceptance to sit on the board includes two two-year terms. Current officers of the foundation are Janelle Hood -- chair, Paul Honaker -- treasurer, Karen Morrow -- secretary.

The foundation accepts donations to

and are grateful to all those who have helped the foundation with their gifts.

Programs that have been made possible through the foundation's monetary assistance include: Pre-deployment and Post-deployment training, Teen Camp and Operation Military Kids.

The foundation is currently working on creating a website specific to the Foundation, as well as, creating a scholarship program for military families.

The Kansas National Guard Foundation is focusing its efforts on being more visible to the servicemembers and their families within Kansas.

"We are grateful to those who serve and those families that serve along with

their servicemember," said Morrow.

We have a body of volunteer board members that bring a commitment to support servicemembers and families. Board members bring a personal history with the Kansas National Guard, either a current or past servicemember, spouses of servicemembers, or devoted community individuals. Each member cares about the servicemembers of the Kansas National Guard and their families.

Each one of us is committed to continue to support service members and families as we continue to support existing programs and find new ways to support families of the Kansas National Guard. You can reach us at email: ksngfd@yahoo.com.



(From left to right) Janelle Hood, retired Command Sgt. Maj. Dale Putman, Tammy Tafanelli, retired Master Sgt. Ronda Klein, retired Maj. Chuck Bredahl, Karen Morrow, Paul Honaker, Maj. Julie Burns and Andrew Morgan. Not pictured: Susan Mahoney. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

# Simultaneous Membership Program offers opportunities and benefits for ROTC cadets

By Cadet Kaleb Gilmore  
 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment

The Simultaneous Membership Program offers Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets many opportunities and benefits through the National Guard. SMP cadets are attached to a Guard unit of their choosing and are used at the discretion of the unit's commander in the role of an officer intern.

The open structure of the program exposes the cadet to many aspects of a drill weekend, from weapons qualification at the range to some of the administrative duties they will be responsible for once they become commissioned officers.

The opportunity to drill with an actual unit allows cadets to interact with the junior enlisted ranks, a rare occurrence in ROTC, a program staffed by officers and senior non-commissioned officers.

Benefits of the SMP extend beyond just experience, with financial benefits such as drill pay and special scholarships for cadets seeking to continue their career in the National Guard following graduation.

"The scholarship and monthly drill checks have allowed me to remain financially self-sufficient while most of my friends have had to take on part-time jobs or student loans," said Cadet Kayla Fletcher, a senior at the University of Kansas and member of the Kansas Army National Guard Medical Detachment.

Cadets who wish to stay in the National Guard are af-

forded a certain level of security in terms of branch choice and duty location. Those seeking an active duty commission may submit requests for branch but are not guaranteed they will receive it.

The SMP is proving to be an effective tool for both the Guard in terms of recruiting quality officers and cadets that wish to explore a fulfilling career as a National Guard officer instead of the traditional active duty route.



Reserve Officers Training Corps Cadet Kayla Fletcher (left), and Cadet Kaleb Gilmore participate in the simultaneous membership program, attending both National Guard drills and ROTC at KU. (Photo by Cadet Evan Cain, University of Kansas Army ROTC)

# HQ Btry., 2nd Bn, 130th FA changes command

Continued from Page 18  
 tains Career Course.

Ball's assignments have included fire direction officer, fire support officer and executive officer. Ball deployed with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry of the 101st Airborne Air Assault Division in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom IV in November 2005 through November 2006, serving as a company fire support officer and executive officer in the Baghdad area. He also deployed with 4th Brigade Special Troops Battalion of the 101st Airborne Air Assault Division in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in February 2008 through March 2009, serving as the battalion fire support officer supporting all of the Lowgar Province in regional control zone east Afghanistan. He took command of the battery rear detach-

ment during the deployment to Egypt in support of Multi-national Force and Observers 53 in 2009. Ball took command of HHB Nov. 4, 2010, once the full battery had returned from deployment to Egypt.

His awards include Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal with three leaf cluster, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Afghan Campaign ribbon with one campaign star, Army service ribbon, Iraq campaign ribbon with two campaign stars, NATO ISAF Medal, Combat Action Badge, Pathfinder Badge and Air Assault Badge.

Ball is the assistant operations officer for the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 35th Infantry Division.

He is the son of Don and Lynne Ball of Huron, Kan. He is married to Laura Ball of Olathe, Kan., and they have two sons, Thomas and Elijah.



# 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery welcomes new command team

**By Staff Sgt. Denny Tellez**  
**1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery**  
The Kansas Army National Guard’s 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery held a change of responsibility and a change of command at the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, Kan., Sept. 8.  
The battalion, headquartered in Wichita, Kan., with batteries located in Dodge City, Great Bend, Hutchinson, Newton, Paola and Wichita welcomed Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Haeffele, the incoming command sergeant major, and Lt. Col. Martin Fries, the incoming commander.

Haeffele took responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Matticks. Matticks took over as command sergeant major for the 235th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) in August 2012.  
After a 40 months of commanding the battalion, Lt. Col. Thomas Burke relinquished command to Fries.

**Lt. Col. Martin Fries**  
Fries enlisted into Detachment 1, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry, Kansas Army National Guard as a mortar crewman. He attended ROTC at Emporia State University and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the field artillery in May 1988. After commissioning, Fries’ first assignment was as fire direction officer for Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, Lenexa.

He served in four different assignments with the 1st Battalion, 127th Field Artillery and 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery and was then assigned as the battery commander, Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, Salina, in November 1996. Fries later held several staff positions including intelligence officer and assistant operations officer with 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery and operation duty officer with 35th Division Artillery.  
In November 2001, he was assigned as battalion executive officer for 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, Hiawatha. He was then assigned to 35th Infantry Division

and held several staff positions. He deployed with the 35th Infantry Division as chief of Joint Visitor Bureau, Multinational Task Force, KFOR 9, from June 2007 to July 2008. He was then assigned as branch chief operations officer for Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas Land Component in Topeka.

Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star Device, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve



**Command Sgt. Major Ricky Matticks, outgoing command sergeant major for the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, symbolically relinquishes the responsibility of being the senior enlisted advisor by passing a saber to Lt. Col. Thomas Burke, battalion commander, at a Transfer of Responsibility ceremony held at the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, Kan., Sept. 8. (Photo by Spc. Travis Grogan, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery)**

He was assigned as assistant chief of staff for joint education, training and exercise at the 35th Infantry Division in October 2010 and his current assignment as knowledge management officer for the division before being selected as commander of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery.  
Fries earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mid America Nazarene University in Olathe.  
His military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation

Medal with “M” Device and Silver Hour Glass, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon with 5th Award, NATO Medal (Kosovo), Non-Article 5 Medal, Kansas National Guard Commendation Ribbon, Kansas National Guard Achievement Ribbon, Kansas Service Ribbon and Louisiana Service Medal.  
In his civilian career, Fries works as deputy chief and chief of training in the Army Operational Knowledge Management Proponent Office, Combined Arms

Center, Fort Leavenworth. Fries currently resides in Olathe with his wife, Sharon, and two sons, Jacob and Luke.  
**Command Sgt. Maj. Michael W. Haeffele**  
Haeffele entered military service on May 8, 1986, with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, as a light wheeled vehicle mechanic in Hiawatha. He became a generator mechanic in 1987 and in 1989 became a communications and electronic repairman. In 1997, he changed career fields again to a Multiple Launch Rocket System section chief. He served in multiple positions with the battalion, including MLRS section chief, platoon sergeant, detachment non-commissioned officer in charge and first sergeant for three different batteries.  
In 2003-2005, Haeffele deployed to Baghdad in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His most recent deployment was to the Sinai Peninsula in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Haeffele received the Bronze Star for his service in Iraq and has also earned many other awards and citations. His military education includes all levels of the Noncommissioned Officer Education System including the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy.

Haeffele, a native of Atchison, attended Hiawatha High School, graduating in 1987. He graduated from North Central Kansas Technical College in 1995 with a diploma in diesel mechanics. Haeffele also attended Capella University, earning a bachelor’s degree in business management and leadership in 2012.  
Haeffele has been the director of transportation for the city of Beloit since 2006. He is involved with the youth in his community, coaching football for 5th and 6th grade boys through the Salvation Army Football Program.  
Haeffele has been married to Michelle (Macy) Haeffele for 17 years. They have one daughter, Mackenzie. Michelle is the office manager for Anderson Insurance, LLC. Mackenzie is a sophomore at Beloit Junior/Senior High School in Beloit.

## Where and how do I obtain military identification cards?

Getting a new military identification doesn’t have to be a challenge. There are numerous locations across Kansas that currently issue military identification.  
The following guidelines are offered to ensure that your identification card can be issued quickly:

- The sponsor has to be with the dependents in order for identification cards to be issued.
- The only exception is that the dependents have a POA or a DD 1172 filled out and signed by the sponsor in clock 90 and Section IV filled out by either a DEERS issuing facility and/or the unit full timer.
- Each person must have two forms of identification (one identification must have a picture).
- For the primary - acceptable forms of identification are military identification, driver’s license, college identification and passport.
- For the secondary – acceptable forms of identification are social security card and/or birth certificate or other state issued identification.

To locate a RAPIDS site near your location visit their website at [www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl). This website allows you to search by address or state the locations that are closest to your area. Please note that some locations require you to set up an on-line appointment to visit their sight.  
There is also a self-service RAPIDS portal available at [www.dmdc.osd.mil/self\\_service](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/self_service).  
The following is a list of locations in Kansas by city that issue military identification:

**Fort Leavenworth**  
Adjutant General’s Office  
861 McClellan Ave.  
Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027  
(913) 684-2636  
(913) 684-4496  
Fax: (913) 684-4456  
Monday through Friday  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Second Wednesday of the month –  
12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Last I.D. card issued at 4 p.m.

**Fort Riley**  
DEERS/ID Card Branch (Building 212)  
212 Custer Ave.  
West Basement Wing  
Fort Riley, KS 66442  
(785) 239-3654  
By appointment only



**Hays**  
287th Special Troop Battalion  
200 S Main  
Hays KS 67601  
(785) 623-6431  
By appointment only  
Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Hutchinson**  
635th Regional Support Group  
1111 N. Severance St.  
Hutchinson KS 67501  
(620) 728-4200  
Tuesday and Thursday only from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Salina**  
235th Regiment Regional Training Site  
Kansas National Guard  
2850 Scanlan Ave.  
Salina, KS 67401-8128  
(785) 822-6610 or (785) 822-6612  
Fax: (785) 822-6615  
Monday through Thursday –  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
By appointment only

**Topeka**  
Joint Force Headquarters  
Nickell Armory  
2722 SW Topeka Blvd, Room 101  
Topeka, KS 66611-1287  
Primary phone (785) 274-1517  
Secondary phone (785) 274-1909  
Monday through Friday - 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

190th Air Refueling Wing – Forbes Field  
Force Support Squadron  
5920 SE Coyote Drive, Building 2005  
Topeka KS 66619-5370  
(785) 861-4130 or (785) 861-4104  
Fax: (785) 861-4491  
Tuesdays and Thursdays –  
8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

USCG Commanding Officer  
444 SE Quincy St.  
Topeka KS 66683-3591

(785) 339-3600  
Fax: (785) 339-3790

**Wichita**  
287th Sustainment Brigade  
620 N Edgemoor  
Wichita KS 67208  
(316) 681-6241  
Monday and Wednesday only-  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or  
by on-line appointment

184th IW FSS McConnell  
52995 Jayhawk Dr., Building 65  
Wichita KS 67221-9000  
(316) 759-7433 or (316) 759-7435  
Fax: (316) 759-7419

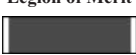







22nd FSS/FSMPS ID Card Section  
McConnell AFB  
53476 Wichita St.  
Bldg 412 (Dole Center), Room 126  
Wichita, KS 67221  
(316) 759-3737  
By on-line appointment only

931st ARW FSS/FSMPS  
53300 Topeka St.  
Bldg 1185, Room 126  
Wichita KS 67221-3767  
(316) 759-3458  
Fax: (316) 759-3542  
By appointment only

McConnell AFB  
53476 Wichita St. Bldg 412  
(Dole Center) Room 126  
Wichita, KS 67221  
(316) 759-3737  
By on-line appointment only



# Awards and Decorations

KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD	
<p><b>Legion of Merit</b></p>  <p>Col. Laura J. McKnight, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Lt. Col. Kenneth Gully, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ronald R. Reed, HHD, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka</p>	<p><b>Army Achievement Medal</b></p>  <p>Sgt. 1st Class Philip L. Clayton, Rec and Ret Bn, Topeka</p>
<p><b>Meritorious Service Medal</b></p>  <p>Col. Barry K. Taylor, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita, with 4th Oak Leaf Cluster Lt. Col. Thomas W. Burke, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Maj. Shawn Miller, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Chief Warrant Officer 2 Billie Jack Hancock, Rec and Ret Bn, Topeka 1st Sgt. Robert D. Audano, Co E, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Master Sgt. Doretha Clark, HHC, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita Master Sgt. Robert P. Hernandez, HHC, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita Master Sgt. Leslie G. Wing, HHC, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster Sgt. 1st Class Raymond D. Jowers, 35th MP Co, Topeka Sgt. 1st Class Maxie R. Mickle, Jr., Co B, Rec and Ret Bn, Wichita Sgt. 1st Class Lary A. Patrick, 2nd Bn, 235th Rgt, Salina, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Staff Sgt. James D. Wade, HHC, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita Sgt. Stewart A. Buttel, Co D, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Emporia</p>	<p><b>Kansas National Guard Commendation Ribbon</b></p>  <p>Sgt. 1st Class Darin A. King, Rec and Ret Bn, Topeka Sgt. 1st Class James E. Surber, Rec and Ret Bn, Topeka Staff Sgt. Jon M. Jackson, Rec and Ret Bn, Topeka Staff Sgt. Curt M. Thurlow, Det 1, Co A, Rec and Ret Bn, Topeka</p>
KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD	
<p><b>Meritorious Service Medal</b></p>  <p>Lt. Col. Robin Hicks, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Lt. Col. Jared Maag, 190th ARW, Topeka Lt. Col. Scott McGregor, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Lt. Col. Russell Sakati, 190th ARW, Topeka Maj. Brian Budden, 190th ARW, Topeka Capt. Wendi Mason, 190th ARW, Topeka Chief Master Sgt. Brian Saunders, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Senior Master Sgt. Troy Kyle, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster Master Sgt. Michael Gellings, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Patrick Sampson, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka Master Sgt. Suzette Smith, 190th ARW, Topeka</p>	<p><b>Air Force Commendation Medal</b></p>  <p>Lt. Col. Jared Maag, 190th ARW, Topeka Maj. Erik Baker, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Capt. Jeffrey Dickman, 190th ARW, Topeka 1st Lt. Susan Ahlstedt, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Master Sgt. Douglas Latessa, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Tech. Sgt. Justina Saucedo, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Staff Sgt. Trinita McNutt, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka Staff Sgt. Cameron Taylor, 190th ARW, Topeka</p>
<p><b>Army Commendation Medal</b></p>  <p>Col. Jeffry J. Jordan, ADT #5, Salina Maj. Lenard Leivan, HHD, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster Maj. Jeffrey P. Totman, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Chief Warrant Officer 2 Timothy G. Emerson, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster Chief Warrant Officer 2 Marc S. Plourde, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 4th Oak Leaf Cluster Sgt. 1st Class Keith L. Bartlett, Rec and Ret Bn, Topeka, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster Sgt. 1st Class Michael R. Bowlin, Rec and Ret Bn, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Sgt. 1st Class Steven T. Griffin, Rec and Ret Bn, Topeka, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster Sgt. 1st Class Julie A. Kempel, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 4th Oak Leaf Cluster Sgt. 1st Class Jill R. Weems, Rec and Ret Bn, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster Sgt. 1st Class Lisa I. Zirbel, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster Staff Sgt. Eric C. Reichert, Co B, Rec and Ret Bn, Topeka Staff Sgt. Shawn T. Sinnott, Rec and Ret Bn, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Staff Sgt. Shannon G. Tolbert, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Tech. Sgt. Jason A. McAndrews, 184th IW, Wichita</p>	<p><b>Air Force Achievement Medal</b></p>  <p>Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Drewelow, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 5th Oak Leaf Cluster Master Sgt. Jeffrey Lockhart, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 4th Oak Leaf Cluster Master Sgt. Robert Ogan, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Master Sgt. Matthew Wisner, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster Senior Airman Keri Christian, 190th ARW, Topeka</p>
<p><b>Kansas Army National Guard</b></p> <p>Master Sgt. Robert Hernandez, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Sgt. 1st Class Maxie Mickle Jr., Det 2, Rec and Ret Bn, Topeka Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Nelson, 2137th FSC, Manhattan Sgt. 1st Class Lary Patrick, HQ, 235th Rgmt (RTI), Salina Sgt. 1st Class Steven Smith, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Stubbs, 250th FSC (-), Ottawa Sgt. 1st Class Michael Wilson, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Staff Sgt. David Coats, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Staff Sgt. Kelly Grattan, Btry C (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Staff Sgt. Carl Isbell, Det 2, 778th Trans Co, Wichita Staff Sgt. Ryan Mangus, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence Staff Sgt. Donald Sand, Det 1, Btry A, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Marysville</p>	<p>Staff Sgt. Henry Womack, Det 1, 778th Trans Co, Manhattan Sgt. Danny Kelley, 1077th Med Co, Olathe Sgt. Donald Yost, 2137th FSC, Manhattan Spc. Scott Matthews, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson</p>
<p><b>Kansas Air National Guard</b></p> <p>Col. Terry Fritz, USPFO, Topeka Lt. Col. Robin Hicks, 190th ARW, Topeka Chief Master Sgt. Brian Saunders, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Master Sgt. Troy Kyle, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka Senior Master Sgt. Regis Walsh, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Steve Anderson, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Randall Davidson, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Michael Gellings, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Jason Haecker, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Bradley Herron, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. John Hollar, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Neil Fogg, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Brent Patton, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Randall Slocum, 190th ARW, Topeka</p>	

# Retirements

Kansas Army National Guard	
<p>Master Sgt. Robert Hernandez, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Nelson, 2137th FSC, Manhattan Sgt. 1st Class Lary Patrick, HQ, 235th Rgmt (RTI), Salina Sgt. 1st Class Steven Smith, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Stubbs, 250th FSC (-), Ottawa Sgt. 1st Class Michael Wilson, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Staff Sgt. David Coats, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville Staff Sgt. Kelly Grattan, Btry C (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton Staff Sgt. Carl Isbell, Det 2, 778th Trans Co, Wichita Staff Sgt. Ryan Mangus, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence Staff Sgt. Donald Sand, Det 1, Btry A, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Marysville</p>	

# Changes at state Warrant Officer Candidate School

**Continued from Page 4**

position is Military Occupation Specialties nonspecific. If you are interested in this position please contact Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Smith at (785) 822-6688; email is michael.william.smith@us.army.mil.

As the start date of the fiscal year 2013, state WOCS is still several months away. There is still time to get your application completed. If you are interested in becoming a warrant officer, please contact Chief Warrant Officer 2 Sam Bonham at (785) 817-3197 or samual.c.bonham@us.army.mil, to assist you with your application.

There has been a new warrant officer appointed as the Army National Guard command chief warrant officer. His name is Chief Warrant Officer 5 Thomas G. Ensminger, the former command chief warrant officer of the Tennessee Army National Guard. Ensminger will succeed Chief Warrant Officer 5 Gary R. Nisker.

With every article I post in the Plains Guardian, I try to give out helpful advice to the junior warrant officers of the Kansas Army National Guard. This month, my focus is on Officer Evaluation Reports. After visiting warrant officers throughout the state, this was a predominate issue. As a

warrant officer, you must take responsibility for ensuring that your rater knows and understands what benefits you provide your organization and what your professional goals are. By doing so, you ensure your rater has a good understanding of what you do and where you eventually want to be.

If you are a rater of a warrant officer, I ask that you rate your Soldiers accurately. If they did an exceptional job for you, then please take the time and effort to ensure their OER accurately reflects their duty performance. You owe it to your Soldiers to rate them the way you would want to be rated – honestly and fairly.

I plan on having my first “Warrant Officer’s Call” for the fiscal year 2013 Nov. 17 in Wichita, Kan. Once a location and time has been established, I will contact the KSARNG Warrant Officer Corps via e-mail with details.

Finally, if you know of any warrant officer news that you would like for me to place in the paper, such as promotions, graduations, retirements or changes that affect warrant officers, etc., please send them to me at hector.vasquez@us.army.mil or (785) 274-1903. Thanks for your service and all that you do!

# Topeka marks 150th anniversary of First Kansas Colored Volunteers

**By Museum of the Kansas National Guard**

A Kansas National Guard Color Guard and the Museum of the Kansas National Guard supported a Topeka ceremony honoring the historic 1st Kansas Colored Volunteers from the Civil War Period. The brief ceremony at the graveside of Sgt. William Smith was held at Mount Auburn Cemetery.

The Color Guard carried the Civil War Era 34-star American flag representing the state of Kansas as the 34th state in the Union. Two bayonet-tipped antique Springfield muskets crossed Smith’s simple white military headstone. A sunflower wreath decorated the headstone as well, laid there by Mrs. Herchel Stroud, of Topeka, who was in a period dress from the 1860s. Her husband, Dr. Herchel Stroud, dressed in a Civil War major’s uniform, bore the marking of a medical officer. He played “Attention” and “Taps” on a bugle at the beginning and end of the ceremony. A local Topeka activist, Sonny Scroggins, dressed in a Civil War uniform, portrayed a member of the Kansas Colored Volunteer, rounded out the ceremony.

A Kansas City artist and a family member of one of the 1st Kansas Colored Soldiers, and a supporter of the First Kansas Colored Volunteers were on hand to unfurl and display a replica of the regimental flag of the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteers. This flag is based on the original located at the Kansas State Historical Research Center and Museum in Topeka.

At Scroggins request for support, the command historian of the Kansas National Guard, retired Lt. Col. Doug Jacobs, planned the brief ceremony and the museum provided the two muskets. He also participated by reading one of the three proclamations written by

government officials to honor the occasion.

The Kansas National Color Guard, made up of local Guardsmen and Guardswomen in their current duty uniform, presented the colors in honor of the memory of the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry. The Color Guard consisted of Sgt. Kasey A. Keck, Sgt. Sara K. Shafer, Sgt. Sharon L. Smart and the noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Sgt. 1st Class James D. Pyatt.

The Topeka Forestry Department, recently appointed care takers for the Mount Auburn Cemetery, who prepared the grave site for the ceremony. After the ceremony, there was discussion about the possibility of a military organization or military service organization becoming sponsors of the military graves in the cemetery to ensure that the proper honor and appearance of the grave sites be maintained. Anyone wanting to step up and assist or make a donation can contact Jacobs at the museum, 785-862-1020.



**Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback signs a proclamation July 26 to recognize the 150th anniversary of the first Kansas Colored Infantry. Community activist Sonny Scroggins, back center, organized events to mark the anniversary. (Photo by Thad Allton, The Topeka Capital-Journal)**

## Fire safety with Emporia Fire Department



**Soldiers of Company D, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment learn the proper way of using a fire extinguisher during a Fire Safety Measures Course with the Emporia Fire Department during drill weekend at the armory Aug. 12. (Photo by Spc. David McCormack, Company D, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment)**

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Sitting in Florida, some might wonder how but I do miss a few things of Kansas. The Guard tops my list.

With each edition of Plains Guardian I read with a bit of pride of the activities and the people of the Kansas Guard. It reminds me where my roots lie.

I am forever indebted to be part of the distribution list.

I am especially thankful to follow the peacetime, and wartime, exploits of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment. I can’t help but wonder if one day, the decision makers in Washington will again return the former 1st Battalion,127th Field Artillery to its home with the Kansas Army National Guard.

Again, thanks.  
Douglas Nickelson



# 1st Sgt. Vernon Buck, last Emporia Company B member, dies

By Bobbi Mlynar  
Emporia Gazette

*Reprinted with permission from the Emporia Gazette.*

A piece of Emporia’s history slipped away Aug. 26 when Vernon H. Buck died in the Holiday Resort Care Center at the age of 91.

“He was the last member of Company B, 137th Infantry, who was still alive in Emporia and Lyon County,” said Loren Pennington, Emporia State University history professor emeritus and authority on World War II in general and Company B in particular. “He’s the last one. ... He was a well-known figure in Company B. ...”

“There are three others in the state of Kansas still left, and two in California. They’re the only five out of the original” unit that had been mobilized in December 1940.

Pennington described Buck as “a very quiet, unassuming man” who’d participated as a panelist in the first World War II Round Table discussion at Emporia State University during a Veterans Day Tribute event.

### Company B connection

Company B, 137th Infantry Regiment, 35th Division — a National Guard unit — had been heavily populated with Soldiers from Emporia and from the surrounding area.

Company B became directly connected with a national holiday, through the efforts of a unit member’s uncle.

Company B Pvt. John E. Cooper, whose mother had died when he was an infant, had been reared by his grandmother, with considerable mentoring by an uncle, Al King. King, an Emporia shoe repairman, had been devastated when Cooper died in December 1944, during a battle in a forest in Germany.

King made it his mission to change the name of Armistice Day, which had commemorated the end of World War I, to Veterans Day, in recognition of veterans of all wars.

King enlisted the help of U.S. Representative Ed Rees of Emporia to petition Congress to make the change. It was signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Emporia celebrated its first Veterans Day in 1953; the nation followed in 1954. In 2003, Congress passed a resolution declaring Emporia as the official Founding City of Veterans Day.

The honor wasn’t something Company B veterans had sought. They simply had been doing what they considered to be their duty to their country.

Ultimately, that duty took them to battlefields around the world, including Normandy, the south of France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland, Central Germany and throughout the Pacific.

### Cohesive company

Pennington had interviewed Buck twice about his experiences during World War II. One of those interviews — a 27-page discussion on Dec. 6, 2005, is printed and available to read at the Lyon County Historical Society archives, 225 E. Sixth Ave.

Company B initially had been sent for training to Fort Robinson, Ark., not far from Little Rock.

Buck reiterated during the interview that morale in Company B had been good, primarily because of a lack of disciplinary problems.

“They had a stockade there for the bad guys and we didn’t have any in that stockade,” Buck stated in the interview.

There had been a “spirit in that company” that had helped, too.

“One thing that helped the morale was the sergeants experienced the same hardships that we did,” Buck said. “They were right there with us.”

There was something special about Company B, Buck said.

“Comradeship, that’s the only way I can explain it. Everybody was everybody else’s friend,” Buck said. “We would look out for each other.”

The Company B spirit turned into a cohesiveness that survived separations from the unit during the war, and through the decades after the 1940 mobilization.

The men remained together in spirit and met annually, beginning in 1946, for reunions in Emporia.

“He was active in it ‘til the end,” Pennington said. “Company B held their last unofficial meeting in my living room, as a matter of fact.”

That meeting, held several years ago, marked the end of the Company B reunions. Most members of the unit were deceased, and others could not travel well. About seven members attended the last gathering. The unity of the group, though, had lingered on for decades.

By then, Buck had held a variety of offices within the Company B Association, including president, and had planned and attended the annual get-togethers.

### Japan attacks

Buck had found the spirit of Company B a contrast to a unit he’d been transferred to not long after Japan bombed the Navy base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on Dec. 8, 1941.

“We got the word that MPs were to round up any soldiers off post and get them back to their units,” Buck told Pennington during the interview. “That’s when it struck us. We finally found out what happened.

“We didn’t know what lay before us, but within a week we were on a train headed for the West Coast, and we had no idea of what they had in mind for us. ... We didn’t know Pearl Harbor from beans, but we knew that the Japanese weren’t to be trusted.”

When they arrived on the coast, Buck first was assigned to a coastal security patrol, living outdoors and sleeping on the ground at night.

“That didn’t last very long,” Buck recalled in the interview. “What they were afraid of was the Japanese would attempt a landing on the West Coast. We were there to thwart that.”

In March of 1942, Buck was among 19 soldiers who were transferred to the 164th Infantry Division, North Dakota National Guard’s anti-tank unit.

“We didn’t know what to think,” Buck said. “We knew we were going overseas.”

He hadn’t objected because “that discipline had been instilled in us and so what?”

Buck and his unit left for the Pacific Theater on March 19, 1942, on a converted troop ship that he described as “a luxury liner.”

The ship took a circuitous course as it sailed toward Melbourne, Australia, where the troops disembarked from the large ship and boarded smaller ships that could fit into the harbor at their intended island destination, New Caledonia.

“We wondered what in the world they were doing — making a long trip out of it?” Buck said, recalling the passage. “But they did that for a purpose. In case there were Japanese submarines, they would zero in on one course and we would change course and they would miss their target. We were about 30 days from here to Australia.”

The Americal Division was formally organized on the island.

“It got its name from Americans on Caledonia,” Buck explained.

The assignment quickly turned perilous.

Buck, a rifleman, and his regiment were the first troops sent in to help the Marines at Guadalcanal.

### Major offensive

“He was one of the first ones here to actually get into battle. He was in a very tough battle at Guadalcanal,” Pennington said. “... Americans took the offensive and invaded Guadalcanal and eventually drove the Japanese off. It was one of the first big battles of the Southwest Pacific.”

Buck left Guadalcanal in February 1943, and went on to Suva Island in the Fiji Island Group for rest and recreation, then on to Bougainville at the north end of the Solomon Is-

lands chain.

It was there that Buck forgot to take the medicine distributed to prevent malaria.

“I neglected taking it one day, and that was all it took. The next thing you know is a high fever,” Buck said.

The Bougainville campaign continued for almost a year. “Basically, we didn’t want territory; we wanted to deprive the Japanese of it,” Buck told Pennington. “...We had their supply lines cut so they weren’t going anywhere. From the prisoners we took, we got the impression almost that they were glad we did what we did, invade the island. They were desperate.”

Buck saw “quite a bit” of action again, when the unit moved on to Leyte, in the Philippines in early 1945.

During his time in the South Pacific, he served under General Douglas McArthur’s command.

“I remember him wading ashore; he was a flamboyant guy, but a good general,” Buck said. “He knew what he was doing and how to go about it.”

The unit stayed in the Philippines until the summer of 1945. The war in the European Theater had ended in May and the men were on a ship headed home when atomic bombs were dropped in Japan.

“Of course it cost a lot of lives, but it saved a lot, too,” Buck said.

Buck had praise for President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his role in the war effort.

“If it hadn’t been for Franklin Roosevelt, we might have been in a pickle,” Buck said. “He’s the one who engineered the whole invasion and all the other preparations we made for war. ... He was instrumental in getting us called up for a year. We weren’t ready by any means, but we were more ready than we would have been if it hadn’t been for Franklin Roosevelt.”

By the end of the war, Buck had served in five campaigns against Japanese forces and received a Bronze Star.

Buck returned to Emporia and, after visiting relatives and enjoying being home, went to work at Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Co. near Olpe.

### Back to school

Ten months later, he enrolled in Kansas City, Kan., Junior College and then got his degree in 1951 from Kansas State Teachers College, now Emporia State University.

He taught fifth grade for one year at Miller School. But his military life hadn’t quite come to an end.

He was working part-time at a filling station after being discharged when a young veteran — a customer — came in.

Buck recalled the man saying, “Hey, I’ve got a deal for you. I’ll continue trading here if you will rejoin the National Guard.”

Soon, Buck was back in Company B, 137th Infantry, 35th Infantry Division as a sergeant. He became the administrative assistant and first sergeant of Company B of the Kansas National Guard Armory here, a position he held until his retirement in 1978.

His service at the Armory was interrupted in 1968, when the unit again was mobilized during the Vietnam War.

He was sent to Fort Carson, Colo., with the 169th Engineer Company and was not released until December 1969.

“Anybody who had served overseas during that time, their six-year obligation was forgiven; they were out,” Buck said. “... I don’t know how many nights I sat up there and typed enlistment papers. They were standing at the door to get in. If they got in the Guard, their six-year enlistment would forgive them from the draft.”

Buck stayed with the National Guard until 1978, when he retired and went to work for Lyon County Road and Bridge Department until his second retirement at the age of 70.

During his youth, Buck had been a regional champion Golden Gloves boxer. He continued boxing at Camp Robinson and became Division Champion at the camp.

## Kansas National Guard Internal Review Office receives “Excellence In Auditing”



Members of the Kansas National Guard Internal Review Office receive the National Guard Bureau’s Internal Review “Excellence In Auditing” award at the annual Training Conference from July 30 to Aug. 3 in Orlando, Fla.

(From the left) Dr. Ives Mayard, NGB-IR Quality Control; Col. Alan Soldan, U.S. Property and Fiscal Office-Kansas; Ken Hartley, auditor; Jim Bridges, auditor; Steve Vaughn, auditor; John Davied, supervisory auditor; and Derrick Miller, chief of Internal Review, National Guard Bureau.

To receive the award, the office obtained an overall score of 97 percent, based upon a thorough review of its program by the National Guard Bureau Internal Review Quality Control Review team. The areas checked included: Organization and Staffing; Program Management; Audit Project Evaluation; Professional Non-Audit Services; Audit Compliance/Follow-Up and Liaison and Internal Review Support.

The Kansas Internal Review office was also awarded a National Guard Bureau Three-Star award, based upon support provided to several of the programs sponsored by National Guard Bureau Internal Review. The Kansas office coordinated a National Guard Bureau-level training event in the Kansas City area. (Courtesy photo)



## 102nd History Detachment deploys to help document OEF

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett  
Public Affairs Office

Friends and family gathered in the TAG conference room of the State Defense Building in Topeka, Kan., Sept. 14 to say good-bye to the three Kansas Army National Guard members of the 102nd Military History Detachment as they deployed to Afghanistan for an unusual mission.

The unit's mission will be to record and document the many missions of the U.S. military serving in Afghanistan. They will be conducting interviews, collecting documents, taking photos and videos, and cataloging artifacts to preserve the history of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 102nd Military History Det. will operate as an attached element of the International Security Assistance Force History Office to the 1st Infantry Division, headquartered at Fort Riley, Kan. History officers will act as liaisons for collection visits, coordinate interviews while in each unit's area of operations. Units will submit monthly historical reports to support the overall collection efforts.

"The information they capture will not only enhance future generations' understanding of this time in our history, it also affects every member of our military by documenting which units took part in certain operations during a specific time period," said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the Kansas adjutant general. "To an outsider, the work this unit does may seem secondary, but it is an integral part of our operation's information and Kansas National Guard history."

The Soldiers, under the command of Maj. Jeffery Crysler, received premobilization training at Salina, Kan. In mid-September they traveled to Fort Dix, N.J., to finish their training and will deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Once the Soldiers of the historical detachment gather the materials, they send them to the U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C., where it is cataloged in the Military History Collection System Integration.



Maj. Jeffery Crysler, commander of the 102nd Military History Detachment, accepts a Kansas flag on behalf of the unit during their deployment ceremony held in the TAG conference room in the State Defense Building, Topeka, Kan., Sept. 14. The flag was previously flown over the capitol building. (Photo by Sharon Watson, Public Affairs Office)

## Kansas Guardsmen assist Army battalion to prep for deployment

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Sgt. Ashton Handy were hypothetically injured while waiting for a Black Hawk to arrive with patients. While injured and waiting in the holding area, Trieu and Carnes were still able to assist in treating patients as they arrived.

Throughout the mission, the medics gained experience in finding blood type, performing sutures and tying suture knots. They also had advance classes in learning to identify and treat shock, perform knee and shoulder exams, perform a digital block and insert a chest tube. Spc. Maria Alano and Spc. Benjamin Zorn had the opportunity to organize and become familiar with pharmacology, a branch of medicine and biology concerned with the study of drug action. The 702nd BSB X-ray technician was also able to teach a class on how to perform an X-ray on a patient and how the X-ray machine worked.

During the casualty treatments, the Soldiers witnessed how the Biometric Automated Tool set and HIDE System was used while treating locals. This is a biometric device that verifies the identity of individuals using the individual's finger prints and retina scan. By using this device the medical team is able to determine if a local is a terrorist or not. If the individual is not in the system, the medics have the ability to enter them in the system for future checks.

Soldiers were also able to work on real-world casualties for the first time, including dehydration, heat casualties and shrapnel injuries. Alano received training on acting as a dental assistant during a real world tooth extraction.

To complete the mission, Zorn and Pfc. Alexzander Andrews were tasked to provide medical support for the 7th Special Forces Group at the Live Fire Range. During this time, the Soldiers were given the opportunity to train with the Special Operations Group and fire the Barrett .50 caliber sniper rifle, the Special Operations Forces combat assault rifle and throw fragmentation grenades.

1st Sgt. Kristopher Rick of the 702nd BSB said, "The 1077th Ground Ambulance Company had done an amazing job. The 702nd BSB would welcome any Soldier from the unit to be attached to them in the future."

"Overall, I was extremely proud and happy with the performance of all the 1077th GAC Soldiers during NTC," said Orosco. "Operating in two different locations, being stretched thin on personnel and conducting ongoing operations at such a high level of OPTEMPO in desert conditions was definitely a challenge."

Despite those challenges, the unit came together as a team and did everything that was asked of them and did them to the highest of standards."

## Kansas National Guard hosts meet and greet with WWE® Diva Eve™



WWE® Divas Champion, Diva Eve™ poses for a picture with 11-year-old Christopher Bonjour during a meet and greet hosted by the Kansas National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion Sept. 29 at the Pioneer Room, Capitol Plaza, Topeka, Kan. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

## Kansas Guard garners support from Kansas Speedway and Sprint

By Steve Larson  
Public Affairs Office

The Kansas National Guard joined Kansas Speedway and Sprint officials Sept. 11 at the Sprint Campus, Overland Park, Kan. for a special event in anticipation of the upcoming NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Oct. 17 to 21. Kansas National Guard members and the public attended a question and answer session with Kansas Speedway representatives and members of the Kansas National Guard at the 810 Zone Restaurant, Leawood, Kan.

A live radio interview also took place involving NASCAR driver Martin Truex Jr. He drives the No. 56 NAPA Toyota for Michael Waltrip Racing. This year marks his first career appearance in the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup. He was the 2004-05 Nationwide Series champion.

"Kansas Speedway and Sprint have been among the most generous supporters of our Kansas National Guard members for many years, and it is partnerships like these that show our Soldiers and Airmen just how much their sacrifices are appreciated," said Col. Barry Adams, Kansas National Guard director of Manpower and Personnel, Joint Forces Headquarters. "We know that the men and women of these two organizations will always be there for our Soldiers and Airmen who give so much in defense of our freedoms."

Kansas Speedway donates race tickets to Kansas National Guard members, participates in the Wounded Warrior Foundation, and hosts recruiting events at race events.

Sprint's partnership with the National Guard Heroes for Hire program assists military members and veterans with job opportunities.



Col. Barry Adams, Kansas National Guard director of Manpower and Personnel, Joint Forces Headquarters, tells NASCAR driver Martin Truex Jr. and Miss Sprint Cup, Jaclyn Roney, about the Heroes for Hire during Sprint's Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup press conference on their campus in Overland Park, Kan., Sept. 11. Sprint has been partnering with Heroes for Hire, hiring Kansas Guardsmen on to their staff. Truex drives the No. 56 NAPA Toyota for Michael Waltrip Racing. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

