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73rd Civil Support Team trains with Nebraska National Guard and FBI

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett
Public Affairs Office

The Kansas National Guard conducted a hazardous materials exercise at its headquarters in Topeka Jan. 8. The KSNG's 73rd Civil Support Team, along with the Nebraska National Guard's 72nd CST unit, were joined by the FBI Hazardous Response Team from Kansas City for the day-long training.

"This is valuable training for our CST team to work alongside our neighboring National Guard CST in Nebraska and our civilian partners at the FBI to resolve a simulated situation involving weapons of mass destruction," said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, Kansas adjutant general.

For this training exercise, multiple offices in Nickell Armory, Topeka, received "white powder letters." In conjunction with the FBI's hazardous materials team and Nebraska's CST, the 73rd CST responded to the incident, conducting reconnaissance and sampling the suspected threat to conduct analysis in their on-site analytical laboratory.

"It's important for us to get out and train as you fight and to stay proficient in our



The Kansas National Guard conducted a hazardous materials exercise at its headquarters in Topeka Jan. 8. The KSNG's 73rd Civil Support Team, along with the Nebraska National Guard's 72nd CST unit, were joined by the FBI Hazardous Response Team from Kansas City for the day-long training. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

methods and procedures," said 1st Lt. Ryan Peters, exercise facilitator.

"It is especially important to work with other teams and agencies, like the FBI Haz-

mat Response Teams, to make sure we are all on the same page, that we can coordinate seamlessly, even if the chances of it happening are small," said Peters. "I would

rather have us know what we are doing should something actually happen."

"When you develop that training relationship and understand each other's capabilities and limitations before an actual event, you can get right down to business and do your job. You know how the other teams do business and can complete the mission," added Maj. Robert Cole, commander of the 73rd CST.

The Kansas and Nebraska CST teams have trained together in multiple venues across the state. The majority of the 72nd CST's missions have been tied to potential threats and preventative type missions, conducting sweeps of major events at places such as Sporting Kansas City, Kansas Speedway, the Major League Baseball All-Star events and political conventions.

The 73rd Civil Support Team is a 22-person team of highly-trained Kansas Army and Air National Guardsmen who support local, state and federal agencies responding to an incident involving weapons of mass destruction. The 73rd CST is charged with providing support to civil authorities at any domestic chemical, biological, radiological, (Continued on Page 2)

International officers tour capitol

By Spc. Anna Laurin
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Forty-seven military officers from 40 nations visited Topeka Feb. 6 to learn about state government and the state judicial system. The international officers are students at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. They came to Topeka as part of their study about the different levels of government within the United States.

The officers were greeted by Brig. Gen.

Scott Dold, chief of the joint staff, Kansas National Guard, before beginning their legislative and judicial tours.

The state capitol tour is a part of preparation courses for the international officers to help them learn and understand the different levels of government within our country, said Michael Brettmann, Fields Studies Program Manager for the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

The officers have taken two preparation courses, one on culture and social relations and the other on tactics and military decision process. In line with the courses, the class takes tours or field studies trips to view and learn about the government.

"The field trips have a building block approach," said Brettmann. "The trips start with visiting local governments, then state governments, and then in October the class will visit Washington D.C. to view and learn about our national government."

The international officer class has already visited Leavenworth and Kansas City to see local government. Also, they viewed the good and bad areas of Kansas City, then discussed why things are the way they are in these areas. The day before the Topeka tour, the class visited the Truman Library to see some decisions made by the president and talk about foreign policies.

At the end of the day, the class visited the Kansas Museum of History to learn more about the state that they will be living in for the next year.

While in Kansas, in order to find a place to live, a car to drive, then to interact with the community and learn more about the American lifestyle and family, each officer is set up with a group of people or sponsors who help them integrate into and learn about their new communities for the time they are in the class.

"Each officer gets three sets of sponsors," said Brettmann.

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Adjutant General visits Airmen during Guam deployment

By Tech. Sgt. Jake Meyer
190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, Kansas adjutant general; State Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth and State Command Chief Master Sgt. James Brown stopped in at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, in January to visit Airmen with the 190th Air Refueling Wing who deployed in with multiple KC-135s to support planes flying in the Pacific throughout the month.

The 190th has been rotating with other units to support this growing mission since December 2013, but has deployed many times to Guam since 2000.

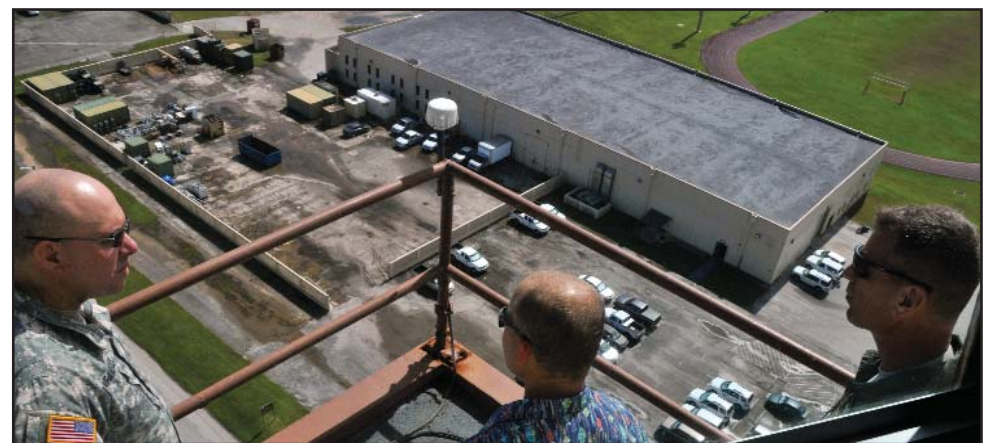
"The goal for the 190th is to help support the 24/7-presence in the Pacific," said Lt. Col. Chris Ioder, aircraft maintenance commander. "We always put the mission first, ensuring we are ready to launch in a moment's notice."

On Jan. 14, Tafanelli and state enlisted leadership traveled to Guam with a new round of deploying Airmen. While touring

the base, Tafanelli talked to the Airmen about the benefits of the 190th's deployment to Guam. The operation provides new Airmen an opportunity to operate in a foreign environment, offers operational training for all Airmen and gives them a chance to work with co-workers from different duty sections, increasing morale and cohesion, said Tafanelli.

"We're extremely proud of the work the 190th is doing in Guam," said Tafanelli. "This is an essential mission for our nation and greatly benefits the Kansas National Guard as well. The experience our Airmen will gain collectively on this deployment is invaluable and will help them to work together better, provide them with unique training opportunities, and help to ensure their overall readiness for future wartime and domestic response missions."

An incident during Tafanelli's landing aptly demonstrated the unit's experience and readiness. During the landing, two tires (Continued on Page 2)



(Left to right) Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general of Kansas, talks with Stephen Wolborsky, director of Plans, Programs and Readiness of the 36th Wing, and Col. Ron Krueger, commander of the 190th Air Refueling Wing, about the growth in Guam, Jan. 14. Tafanelli was in Guam to inspect and ensure the Airmen of the 190th ARW were ready for their mission while deployed. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jake Meyer, 190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs)

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73rd Civil Support Team trains with Nebraska National Guard and FBI

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nuclear and high yield explosive incident site by identifying agents/substances, assessing current and projected consequences, advising on response measures and assisting with appropriate requests for state support. The team has the capability to respond to two simultaneous events and conduct 24-hour operations.

Since its inception, the role of the CST has broadened to include response to the release of any chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear agents and high-yield explosives,

regardless of origin, whether intentional or accidental, as well as response to natural and manmade disasters.

"The law was changed in 2007 to allow Civil Support Team's to respond to events that aren't related to Weapons of Mass Destruction," said Cole. "We are now also capable of supporting the state in the event of a natural disaster. That is a mission that we are refining and being able to get out there. So, if there is an event somewhere in the state, we can be there and provide eyes and ears for the National Guard leadership to help them prepare an effective response."

Threats of this type that the teams trained for are very rare, but for Cole and his team it is something that they always need to be ready.

"The threat is out there and we need to make sure we are prepared for it here in this country and here in Topeka," said Cole. "Conducting training brings a level of trust and security to the community that we are capable of responding and identifying to prevent them or mitigate the circumstances to limit losses to life and property. That is our main mission."



Survey team members of the 73rd Civil Support Team collect samples of a powdered substance Jan. 8 as part of a joint training exercise conducted at Nickell Armory, Topeka, with the Nebraska National Guard and FBI. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)



73rd Civil Support Team's Sgt. 1st Class Dan Shaughnessy, medical noncommissioned officer, shows test results of the substance found to 1st Lt. Ryan Peters, exercise facilitator, inside the Mobile Analytical Lab Suite during an exercise held at Nickell Armory, Topeka, Jan. 8. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

Adjutant General visits 190th in Guam

Continued from Page 1

on one of the tankers shredded. Thanks to the expertise of pilot Lt. Col. Russell Sakati, the landing went smoothly and all passengers were safe.

"It was an unexpected challenge, but our team worked quickly to ensure the aircraft was 100 percent ready for the mission," said Master Sgt. Troy Abel, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron element supervisor.

After meeting with Airmen throughout the day, Tafanelli met with leadership from the base's 36th Wing and the Guam National Guard. Tafanelli said he was impressed by the professionalism of the Airmen, their work ethic and the passion

for the mission given to them.

Tafanelli also took time to recognize numerous Airmen who had excelled in preparation for the deployment and during the deployment.

"We were 100 percent successful at meeting all of our taskings," said Col. Ronald Krueger, 190th ARW commander. "Our 190th team is outstanding, and this deployment gave us another chance to shine."

"This particular deployment also provided great experiences and training opportunities for everyone," he continued. "I'm very proud of everyone and the way they performed on this deployment."



(Left to right) Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general of Kansas, speaks with Staff Sgt. Cody Trevino, Senior Airman Brittany Jacobson, Airman 1st Class Colten Porter while visiting them at Anderson Air Force Base, Guam, Jan. 14. Tafanelli was in Guam to visit with Airmen of the 190th ARW during their deployment. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jake Meyer, 190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs)

GX magazine launches new Soldier retention tool

Courtesy story

As the National Guard focuses on retaining Soldiers during the drawdown in Afghanistan, it's critical to provide them with the answers they need about retention.

In an effort to support retention efforts in the Army National Guard, GX® has launched the Retention Tutor, a program managed by retention experts devoted to answering those questions.

Retention experts, trained and skilled in the most current policies and procedures, are available now to assist Soldiers in navigating such issues as interstate transfers,

military occupational specialty changes, extending their service, educational benefits or just general inquiries.

Soldiers can think of it as a one-stop shop to help them make the most of their Guard experience.

All Soldiers who contact the Retention Tutor also receive help in connecting with their local retention noncommissioned officer. GX maintains a current list of each retention NCO across the nation.

Soldiers can call the Retention Tutor at 877-My-Guard (877-694-8273) or by emailing RetentionTutor@GXonline.com.

International officers tour capitol

Continued from Page 1

One sponsor works on Fort Leavenworth. A second set of sponsors is from the Leavenworth and Lansing area and the third sponsor is from a Kansas City organization, the Greater Kansas City People to People.

"A lot of these officers' only exposure to America is the movies," said Brettmann. "That's not always the best portrait of us."

When the officers get to have sponsors from good families and the community they get to see that the movies aren't always true, said Brettmann. It helps to change their perspective, then they take that message back to their country and it helps the connection between the United States and their home countries.

Lt. Col. Samvel Sargsyan, international officer from Armenia, is on his fourth visit to the United States and second visit to Kansas.

"I was here seven years ago, now I'm here a second time and I like it," said Sargsyan. He is attending the college to continue his understanding of American culture and to expand his military thought process.

"What I am looking forward to taking from the college is the strategic way of thinking and the knowledge," said Sargsyan.

After the tours, presentations and the museum, the officers had something to give back to those who had filled the day with education and hospitality. On behalf of the international officer class, Sargsyan presented a framed seal of the U.S. Command and General Staff College emblem to Dold, thanking him for the hospitality they had received that day.

Quoting "Henry V," Dold thanked the officers and reminded them of the bond between military members.

"We are all a band of brothers here; we are all here for the same reason," said Dold. "We all have different presidents, different rulers, different kings, but we are all here to do good things for our country. We are all trying to take care of our people."

The international officer class also presented small gifts of thanks to the staff that set up the trip and the police officers who escorted their bus throughout the day.



Forty-Seven international military officers, students at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., pose with Kansas Court of Appeals Judges the Honorable Patrick D. McAnany, the Honorable Karen Arnold-Burger, and the Honorable G. Joseph Pierron on the Kansas Supreme Court bench, Kansas Judicial Center, Topeka Feb. 6. The officers took part in a mock trial displaying how our Court of Appeals handles cases. (Photo by Spc. Anna Laurin, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Protecting personally identifiable information Air Force top priority

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy
184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

When it comes to protecting personally identifiable information, or PII, everyone has a part to play. Commanders, supervisors and Airmen are the first line of defense against countless enemies who use PII for criminal activities. They can also be held accountable if the information is handled improperly.

"PII is important because of the number of breaches that we have had Air National Guard wide," said Master Sgt. Stacy Harvey, wing functional manager, 184th Communications Flight. "The National Guard Bureau tracks each and every one, so the offending wing has to properly deal with it."

What is PII?

According to the Office of Management and Budget, or OMB, PII is defined as: "Information which can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity, such as their name, Social Security number, biometric records, etc., alone, or when combined with other personal or identifying information which is linked or linkable to a specific individual, such as date and place of birth, mother's maiden name, etc."

While PII is nothing new, the increased use of computers, cell phones and other communication devices has led to more opportunities for mishandling and unauthorized disclosure of personal information. Whether intentional or unintentional, the violation results in a PII breach.

What are the risks?

When a PII breach occurs, the individual whose information was compromised may experience consequential hardships.

A statement by the Defense Privacy and Civil Liberties Office says:

"Depending on the type of information involved, an individual may suffer social, economic or physical harm resulting in potential loss of life, loss of livelihood or inappropriate physical detention. If the information lost is sufficient to be exploited by an identity thief, for example, the person may suffer from a loss of money, damage to credit, a compromise of medical records, threats and/or harassment. The individual may also suffer tremendous losses of time and money to address the damage."

The DPCLC also suggests that the offending organization may suffer damages following a PII breach.

"Harm may include administrative burden, remediation costs, financial losses, loss of public reputation and public trust, and legal liability."

How do I protect PII?

The 184th Communications Flight has several recommendations for safeguarding personal information.

The first thing to remember is: if you collect it, protect it. Use locking cabinets if storing paper copies containing PII. Also ensure that the information is only accessible to people with a need to know. Personnel should shred personal documents once they're no longer needed.

The same concept applies to electronic documents. Do not place PII on shared drives or SharePoint unless it's certain that the information is only viewable by those who have a need to know. Permanently delete unnecessary documents, making sure they weren't saved to a computer's recycle bin.

Do not send PII to personal e-mail addresses. E-mails containing personal information must be digitally signed and encrypted. E-mails lose their encryption when transmitted outside of a .mil or .gov network.

If a user must send PII outside of a secure network, the 184th CF suggests using the AMRDEC SAFE web application at <https://safe.amrdec.army.mil/safe/>. In this web application, a sender can securely upload files and the website will send the recipient an e-mail with a link and password to download the package.

Ask for help if you're not sure how to properly store and/or transmit PII.

"Every squadron has a PII representative who would be more than willing to help with proper PII procedures. Members can also ask the wing privacy office," said Harvey.

Members can also ask the wing privacy office," said Harvey.

What are the consequences?

Once a PII breach has been confirmed, it must be investigated.

"A PII breach investigation is important because it determines if the offense was an accident or done with malice. It also determines corrective actions that must be taken, and ways to help prevent future offenses," said Harvey.

The Cyberspace Defense Analysis Weapon System, comprised of the 68th Network Warfare Squadron and the 352nd Network Warfare Squadron, monitors the Air Force network for PII violations. After a violation has been identified, the 624th Operations Center reports it to the 24th Air Force commander, and a formal investigation is initiated.

At this time, the offending personnel will be locked out of their network account. Personnel whose information was compromised will be notified and the personnel responsible may be subject to fines and/or prison time.



Tech Savvy

Be your own Cybersleuth



By Chief Warrant Officer 3 Scott Sackrider
Cybersecurity Officer

Ever wonder how people can know so much about computers, threats and you? Here are a few pointers to know whether your information is safe.

1. Top Level Domain. This is the two or three letter identifier at the end of a website or email address. You're familiar with ".com" ".edu" or ".org," but the sky's the limit as to the possibilities. If a site ends in a two letter TLD, it usually indicates the country of origin. For example ".in" is India and ".cn" is China. You can search them.
2. Sometimes you can hover over a link or email address in your email and it will reveal the originator or website to which it's directing. Just do not click on the link unless it's trusted.
3. Internet Protocol addresses are like phone numbers for computers, IP phones and websites. Computers look up IP addresses by using Domain Name Service. Your computer needs at least one DNS server to act as an "internet phone book" because browsers (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome) mainly worry about addresses rather than the site name.
4. The command prompt is your friend. If you use Microsoft Windows, open it by clicking the start button and typing "cmd" (without the quotes). From this prompt you can type "hostname" to find the name of your computer, "ipconfig/all" to find your IP address and DNS information, and "ping (insert website here)" to find the IP address of the computer hosting the particular website. The four replies will timeout due to the block on the protocol that ping uses, but the IP address will be in brackets after the website.
5. There will probably be different IP address for your computer and how the world sees you. If you search "what's my IP address" you will find sites that tell you your "public" IP address. The reason you have differing addresses is twofold. Security is enabled because it stops a computer from the outside gaining access to yours, and there are not enough addresses for every networked device on the planet. Think of a computer hosting a website being a house with an actual street address, and your home PC as an apartment. To reach your computer, an outsider needs to go through your router (apartment postman), and they know to only allow information in that was initiated from the inside.
6. You can find where a computer is in the world by its IP address. If you search for "What is the location of an IP address," you will find many resources. This information can warn you if the computer is in a suspect country. This is also how many websites know where you are when you visit them.
7. All websites are registered with the governing body of the internet (yes, there is one). If you search for "who is domain," you can find the company that operates the website.
8. Your browser uses two main protocols on the internet, http and https. The "s" at the end means it made a secure connection and the data is encrypted. Many sites post information on a single website that is mixed. That is why you sometimes see a message at the bottom of your browser about showing non-secure content. If you're on a website that requires a password, ensure the address begins with "https."
9. A Firefox is not a fox, but a mammal called a Red Panda (although no close relation) found in the Himalayas.

Sign and Encrypt the e-mail

Recipients must have an official need to know

Do not send PII to personal e-mail addresses (only to .gov or .mil)

E-mail must be classified as For Official Use Only "FOUO"

Privacy Act statement must be placed at the beginning of the message

Do not indiscriminately apply this statement to all e-mails

Do not apply this statement under your signature block

(Illustration by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

Paola Guardsmen host open house

Courtesy story

Soldiers of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery held an open house in the Paola community Nov. 16, 2013.

In addition to displays at the Paola armory, the Kansas National Guard unit brought two humvees and some inert artillery shells to the local Wal-Mart. People showed up by the carload to see what their local Guard members were up to, giving

the Soldiers the opportunity to talk about the National Guard and the open house back at the armory.

At the armory, the unit had several vehicles on display, including a Paladin howitzer and a crew performing drills for the public.

Citizens and Soldiers enjoyed the interaction. A number of veterans shared their own stories of their experiences in the military.



A Paladin howitzer stands on display for the public to view Nov. 16, 2013, during an open house at the Paola armory, hosted by Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery. (Courtesy photo)

Kansas National Guard will maintain its readiness, come what may

By Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli
Adjutant General

The National Guard budget is once again in the nation's headlines with proposals to significantly cut the Army and Air National Guard. Governor Sam Brownback recently joined governors across the country in signing a letter to President Barack Obama expressing concerns about these proposed cuts and the effects they would have on the Guard's overall ability to respond to the needs of the nation as well as the state in times of disaster.



Maj. Gen.
Lee Tafanelli

Federal budget reductions have been an expected part of our planning assumptions for several years now. However, this level of deep cuts to the Guard will certainly strain our ability to maintain a high operational readiness level.

The National Guard has proven critical to

We believe that strong support of the National Guard is the nation's best investment in preparing for a very volatile world.

meeting our country's domestic response and military needs, as we have witnessed during recent U.S. disasters and military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. Further reducing the National Guard's capabilities will set us back to pre-9/11 levels. Unfortunately, the continued pace of global unrest and emerging threats are not following this same pattern. They continue to rise. We believe that strong support of the National Guard is the nation's best investment in preparing for a very volatile world.

The past winter in Kansas and across the country has shown the need for the National Guard's readiness in domestic response efforts. The Kansas National Guard has not only been actively assisting the state in response to tornados, flooding, ice and snowstorms, but also helping other

states following hurricanes, wildfires and floods. With its unique blend of systems, equipment and skill sets, the National Guard brings vital capabilities to our local and state emergency management and homeland security partners when it counts most.

We'll continue to work closely with our state and federal leaders to make sure that our troops continue to receive the training needed, and that essential funding for maintaining and equipping our force remains on track. Although there are numerous obstacles, we are continuing to voice our belief to Washington that the National Guard is the most effective and cost-efficient way of maintaining key military and domestic response capabilities for nation and state.

A little closer to home, our agency is gearing up for a large-scale exercise in August that will test our emergency response capabilities. The Vigilant Guard exercise involves a significant number of Kansas National Guard members, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, and Guard units from Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri. It is designed to test our ability to quickly assess a complex situation, develop viable solutions and work together with key partners in an effective manner during high-stress situations.

We are putting the final touches on the new Heartland Preparedness Center in Wichita and hosted an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony March 21. The center is

now home to the Kansas National Guard's 287th Sustainment Brigade and is the largest and most energy-efficient readiness center/armory in Kansas. Future plans for the grounds around the center include constructing facilities for local law enforcement agencies for the purpose of sharing facilities and improving shared training opportunities for disaster response.

Finally, we are following a number of state legislative bills with great interest, but one in particular we hope is on its way to the governor's desk. Senate Bill 263 would establish the Military Funeral Honors Fund, which would support the Kansas National Guard Military Funeral Honors teams.

The Kansas Guardsmen on the teams have provided military funeral honors for more than 4,700 Kansas veterans since the program started in 2007. Although just a part of the state's entire military presence, the Kansas National Guard Military Funeral Honors teams conduct about 61 percent of all the military honors ceremonies at veterans' funerals in the state. They work during the week, evenings, weekends and holidays. Unfortunately, because of recent federal budget cuts and increasing numbers of aging veterans, the teams have struggled to keep up with the demand for their service.

We hope that with the passage of Senate Bill 263 the Kansas National Guard will be allowed to continue honoring all Kansas veterans with the honor and dignity they so rightly deserve.

Practice safe winter driving

By Chief Warrant Officer 4 Marvin Terhune
Safety Officer

For a time, it looked like we were going to avoid the heavy snows that have characterized past winters. That has all changed now. Depending on where you live, you may have received as much as 15 inches of snow in recent months. The possibility exists that we may receive more before the winter is over.



Chief Warrant Officer
4 Marvin Terhune

Over the course of the spring, summer and fall, many of us forget how to drive in winter weather. We forget how dangerous even a little snow or ice can be and neglect to slow down.

I was driving to work recently and we had freezing rain early in the morning. I was driving on a divided four lane road and noticed about a half mile ahead that there were lights aimed towards me in the direction that

I was heading. I slowed down and steered to the far right lane and continued after I saw that the vehicle that was heading my way had come to a stop. The vehicle was a four-wheel-drive pick-up truck and in the other lane there was another dual wheel pick-up truck. The four-wheel-drive truck looked to have hit some "black ice" and spun out of control across the median into my lane.

Do we really pay attention though to the other vehicles around us, especially if there is a median between the roadways? Even if you are driving slow and you start a skid, you could be in for a long uncontrolled ride.

Do you think defensive driver thoughts if the roads are bad and the traffic is heavy? What will you do, which way will you steer, will you hit the brake, will you hit the gas, will you just close your eyes? If your mind is already planning for the way out of the situation, then your reaction time will be greatly improved. Focus on driving and, when the weather or visibility is not the best, then slow down and drive for the conditions you are in. You never know when the "other guy" is going to lose control of their vehicle and veer your way.

Kansas Warrant Corps update

By Chief Warrant Officer 5 Hector Vasquez
State Chief Warrant Officer

I would like to thank everyone for your continued service and sacrifices you and your families make. I would also like to thank those Soldiers and Airmen who are currently deployed protecting our great nation and are not with their families right now. Less than one percent of Americans today choose to serve this country and much of the population doesn't know the sacrifices you make. Without you, we couldn't enjoy the freedoms that we do every day. Again, thank you for what you all do.



Command Chief
Warrant Officer 5
Hector Vasquez

I want to briefly point out some of the achievements made within the Kansas Army National Guard Warrant Officer Corps this past year:

1. An aviation warrant officer pre-flight board was implemented for Soldiers who are interested in become warrant officer aviators. A board of warrant officer aviators from all tracks

of the aviation branch asks questions to the applicants and then determines if the Soldier has what it takes to become a warrant officer aviator. Currently, the warrant officer aviation is over 100 percent, yet we need aviators in the pipeline to become warrant officers because it takes about two years of training to become a warrant officer aviator.

2. Chief Warrant Officer 5 Gary Ensminger, command chief warrant officer of the Army National Guard, was the guest speaker at the Kansas National Guard Association Warrant Officer luncheon. He updated us with progress made concerning the new warrant officer promotion system.
3. We continued the "Warrant Officer Calls" in three locations - Salina, Topeka and Wichita. The intent is for us to interact as professionals, but in a casual atmosphere. In my experience, I have seen many good ideas and many problems solved as a result of these interactions. It allows us to break the monotony of our everyday routine. I plan on having a Warrant Officer Call in Topeka in March.
4. We continued to refine the Advisory Council and ensure that topics brought up for discussion are given

(Continued on Page 18)

Warrior to Warrior

The Times They Are A'Changin'

By Chief Master Sgt. Russell Brotsky
184th Intelligence Wing Command Chief

"The Times They Are A'Changin'." This song was written and recorded by Bob Dylan in 1964, but the title still rings true today.

Our nation is in the midst of finding solutions to our economic problems. Restructuring parts of our national defense to fit those solutions will not be easy, but necessary, and the National Guard will remain a vital part of our nation's defense. As we adapt, how will we be able to mold our "Citizen Soldier-Airman" heritage to fit these changes?

As I visit our Kansas Guardsmen, I am constantly reminded of why they succeed. It's not because of our mission success. It's not because of our technical prowess in land, air or cyberspace warfare. It's because our Kansas Soldiers and Airmen strive to believe in a set of core values that

can't help but ensure success in all they do.

Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence In All We Do are more than just words printed on a page or the focus of our Air Force Core Values. If we incorporate these simple practices into our daily routines, we ensure success as Soldiers and Airmen. If we succeed as warriors, our missions will succeed.

You might ask yourself how you can achieve or improve on these values. The Air Force Core Values book shows us, but Gen. Colin Powell's book, "My American Journey," illustrates simple traits that can mold us into these values.

1. It's not as bad as you think. It will look better in the morning.
2. Get mad. Then get over it.
3. Avoid having your ego so close to your position that when your position falls, your ego goes with it.
4. It can be done!
5. Be careful what you choose. You may get it!
6. Don't let adverse facts stand in the way of a good decision.
7. You can't make someone else's decisions. You shouldn't let someone else make yours.

(Continued on Page 18)



Chief Master Sgt.
Russell Brotsky

PLAINS GUARDIAN

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Constantly changing environment Continuing changes to Army Guard education benefits

By Chief Warrant Officer 4 Sandra Lashley
State Equal Opportunity Officer

If you deployed with me back in 2008-2009, I'm going to bet you heard me say, "They are moving the cheese again!" I had heard of this book by Spencer Johnson, M.D. "Who Moved My Cheese?" I knew it was about change, but I had never read the book then. I just liked that phrase and saying it helped me adjust to the constantly changing environment.



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Sandra Lashley

After getting back from the deployment, I thought I should read the book. I used the phrase so much that with my luck someone was going to ask me about the book! "Who Moved My Cheese?" presents an excellent concept in dealing with change. Change is going to happen and how we deal with the change makes all the difference.

There are four characters in the story and they live in a maze. They face change when they find out that the cheese they were used to eating had disappeared. The story shows how the four characters react differently to the missing cheese and how they handle the change. The author comes up with a list of recommendations for reacting to the missing cheese.

Key points of the book are:

- Change Happens**
 - They keep moving the cheese
- Anticipate Change**
 - Get ready for the cheese to move
- Monitor Change**
 - Smell the cheese often so you know when it is getting old
- Adapt to Change Quickly**
 - The quicker you let go of old cheese, the sooner you can enjoy new cheese
- Change**
 - Move with the cheese
- Enjoy Change!**
 - Savor the adventure and enjoy the taste of new cheese
- Be Ready To Change Quickly and Enjoy It Again And Again**
 - They keep moving the cheese

To see how the characters come up with these ideas about change and the "Handwriting on the Wall" you have to read the book. It is a quick and easy read. It makes so much sense in the way it is presented.

We are in a time where changes are coming at us very quickly. We have to be ready to react to the changes to capitalize on the best parts of the new things coming our way. Change is frustrating, scary and different. It puts us out of our comfort zone but it is reality. Change can blow us over or energize us depending on how we choose to react to it.

So next time you discover someone has moved your cheese, don't look at it as a bad thing. Look at it as a new adventure to be explored and enjoyed.

By Capt. Tom Warth
Education Services Officer

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Kansas National Guard Education Services officer. I spent a few years on active duty as an infantry platoon leader with the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley and also with The Old Guard in Arlington, Va. I joined the Kansas Army National Guard in December 2011 and recently transitioned from the Personnel Management Office. I'm very excited about being the new Education Services officer and look forward to working with Kansas Guardsmen in continuing their education.



Capt. Tom Warth

Changes to Federal Tuition Assistance

There have been several changes to Federal Tuition Assistance the last few months that have a direct effect on Kansas Army National Guardsmen. Effective Jan. 1, in order to qualify for Federal Tuition Assistance a Soldier must have served successfully for one year after graduation from their initial training. This means that enlisted Soldiers cannot receive Federal Tuition Assistance until one year after their graduation from Advanced Individual Training.

Another change is Soldiers will not be eligible to use Federal Tuition Assistance for a second, higher degree until 10 years of service if they used Federal Tuition Assistance for any portion of their first degree.

One more change that will have a major impact on Kansas Army National Guardsmen is Soldiers are now limited to 16 semester hours per fiscal year. More information on Federal Tuition Assistance and instructions on how to sign up can be found at www.goarmyed.com.

The overlying theme for these changes is education benefits available to Kansas Guardsmen are beginning to decrease. With current budget battles and fiscal tightening in Washington, education benefits will likely continue to decrease.

What is the best way to cope with these changes? Know what benefits you have and make sure you use them before you lose them.

All Kansas Guardsmen are still eligible for the Kansas National Guard Educational Assistance Program, more commonly referred to as State Tuition Assistance. The program can pay up to 100 percent of tuition for enlisted Soldiers and Airmen with less than 20 years in service who are working towards a bachelor's or lower degree at a Kansas Board of Regents school. This program's funding is set prior to the applications received. Kansas Board of Regents will look at all applications and determine a funding level. It is important to get your application in early, and to anticipate that your entire tuition bill may not be covered, depending on how much money the Kansas Board of Regents has in their budget and how many Guardsmen apply for State Tuition Assistance. Anyone using this program must serve an additional three months at the end of their current contract for each semester you use the program, and it may not be used in the summer. Information on this program can be found at www.kansas-regents.org/scholarships_and_grants.

There are many other education assistance programs available. It is important to explore all of these programs to ensure you are getting the most assistance possible while advancing your education level.

The Kansas National Guard Education Services website is an excellent place to find information and links to all of the programs noted above, and many others. The Kansas Board of Regents has many scholarships and grants that may apply to you or your family depending on the education programs they are enrolled in. Private organizations such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, local churches or other organizations may also have scholarships available as well.

One of the most important steps to take as a student is to fill out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid at www.fafsa.ed.gov. There are many government programs available, depending on your income level and other factors. This should be an important first step when deciding how to pay for college.

As always, the entire staff of the Education Services Office are available to assist you as you move forward with your education. Please call at 785-274-1081 or visit our website for more information at <http://www.kansasastag.gov/NGUARD.asp?PageID=497>.

National Guard Chief talks readiness, state of the force

By Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.
American Forces Press Service

The chief of the National Guard Bureau discussed a myriad of topics with journalists Jan. 9, emphasizing that the Guard is now trained and equipped at a level higher than he's seen in nearly half a decade.



Gen. Frank Grass

Army Gen. Frank J. Grass touched on the Guard's future, its homeland mission, the Army and Air Force's role within their federal mission and enduring partnerships abroad.

"For 377 years now, we've been rolling out of the gates of our armories whenever the governors call, in some cases even before the governors call," he said.

"Just in the last 16 months since I've been here, Hurricane Sandy was the first event," Grass said. "Twelve thousand Guardsmen rolled out of the gate, out of 22 states total."

Guardsmen from other states, he said, seamlessly rolled in to assist New York, New Jersey and West Virginia during snow events.

"And that is who your Guard is, how it's always been," he said. "And again, we don't want to break that."

Grass said he's asked all the time about the National Guard's federal mission - why does the National Guard need fighter jets, tanks and helicopters? He said his response is they don't always need tanks, Apaches and fighter jets, but the National Guard needs whatever the Army and Air Force need in their reserve.

"Our first mission - and our two missions are equal - is our mission to support the federal reserve of ... the United States Air Force and the United States Army," he said.

"So however the Army looks or however the Air Force looks, we've got to be interchangeable," Grass said. "We'll never be identical to them. We're not going to be and not try to be."

They will never be identical to the Guard either, he said, because of that homeland mission where "we roll out the gate."

Grass said the bureau has to be complementary to each service so that when one needs an additional capability, the National Guard is ready to move. That means being similarly organized, trained and equipped.

"I can honestly tell you today, our readiness is higher than it's ever been in the Army and Air National Guard," he said.

"And we are organized, trained and equipped at a level higher than I've ever seen in my 44 years of service," Grass said. "That's because of a lot of great investment by the nation throughout the war."

"The real challenge is how do you balance that now, in this fiscal environment, and not lose that edge, not lose that equipment," he said.

The general noted each of the National Guard's missions is "very unique" whether it's an Air National Guard unit deploying overseas within 72 hours or Army engineers rescuing flood victims and repairing and re-opening roads "in record time."

Grass pointed to the "unique" constitutional structure of the National Guard, which enables it to support the civilian government and support the president when called upon.

"We've created some opportunities in the future that will continue to grow in the homeland response that are unique from what we had [in the past]," he said.

"It's hinged in a concept called the dual status commander," Grass said. "We pre-train and pre-certify a National Guard one-star [general] who then can command and control active Guard reserve forces."

The general said this idea came about during Colorado flooding when the state's adjutant general, Air Force Maj. Gen. H. Michael Edwards, requested the establishment of a dual status command, through Grass and U.S. Northern Command's Army Gen. Charles H. Jacoby Jr.

General Jacoby provided the staff for the Title 10 federal side of the mission, Grass said, and Colorado stood up their normal, Title 32 state mission. "And this one com-

(Continued on Page 8)

State Chaplain's Corner

Washington: a great leader

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

On President's Day, I was reminded of Thomas Jefferson's description of President George Washington as a great leader.

"His mind was great and powerful ... as far as he saw, no judgment was ever sounder. It was slow in operation, being little aided by invention or imagination, but sure in conclusion.... His integrity was the most pure, his justice the most inflexible I have ever known.... He was, indeed, in every sense of the words, a wise, a good and a great man ... On the whole, his character was, in its mass, perfect ... it may truly be said, that never did nature and fortune combine more perfectly to make a man great...."

A leader has been defined as "one who sees more than others see, who sees

further than others see and who sees before others do," according to LeRoy Eims, author and speaker.

Whether we are a leader of many or a few, our leadership is indispensable and cannot be underestimated. Emulate those leaders who have made a difference in your life and in your military career. That is what true leadership looks like.

In a letter to Dr. Walter Jones, dated Jan. 2, 1814, Thomas Jefferson writes about another aspect of leadership in his words about President Washington:

"Perhaps the strongest feature in his character was prudence, never acting until every circumstance, every consideration, was maturely weighed; refraining if he saw a doubt, but, when once decided, going through with his purpose, whatever obstacles opposed."

It is no accident that the Army Values spell out the acronym "LDRSHIP" (loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, personal courage). Be a leader... a real leader who makes a real difference.

Pro Deo Et Patria...
For God and Country.



Chaplain (Col.) William D. Jenkins

Navigate the Defense Travel System

By Senior Master Sgt. Don Schafer
184th Intelligence Wing Comptroller Flight

Travel is part of a military career. Service members travel to basic training, technical school, for mission support or additional upgrade training. Before and after traveling, service members are required to use the Defense Travel System to be reimbursed for travel expenses. For service members who haven't used or have little experience with DTS, this can be slightly confusing. If the information isn't correct, it can delay reimbursements for personal costs or a government travel card.

Prior to traveling, service members must complete a travel authorization, which obligates funds for travel. To receive pay for travel, service members must submit a travel voucher within five days of their return.

Let's start with a few basic terms. The first is the travel authorization. This is what a traveler does before they travel. This is your authorization to travel, obligates money and ensures you know what documents will be required in your travel voucher.

The second piece is the travel voucher. This is done when you get back, so we can reimburse you and pay your reimbursable expenses. It absolutely must be submitted within five days upon return. Many people wait for weeks (or months) and it results in a mad scramble to get it done before your government travel card goes overdue and is suspended. Common DTS problems:

- The top reason your voucher will get returned is the incorrect receipt provided for your airfare. Travelers will submit the itinerary and not the E-invoice or E-receipt. There is a huge difference. The itinerary is nothing more than what your travel plans are and the projected cost. It is not a receipt because no payment actually took place yet. The airline receipt, like all other receipts, must show a zero balance and method of payment with your name on it.
- The second reason is members don't upload all source documents needed in order to reimburse you, e.g. receipts for lodging, rental car and travel receipts. If you're not able to get one of these, a missing receipt form must be uploaded into DTS. Keep in mind most receipts can be replaced by contacting the customer service department and a real receipt is much better when auditors come to review your claim.
- The third reason is the Other Authorizations tab, which has the PERSTEMPO codes, SVTC statement, Fiscal Year Funds statement, GOV use, etc. On the Finance SharePoint, in the DTS Examples library, there is a document named DTS Statements. You can find the statements applicable to your situation there, so just copy/paste them into your travel authorization.
- The fourth reason is when a traveler's TDY is being paid by another organization. In this instance, we absolutely must have a Fund Cite Authorization letter signed by the organization that's paying the bill. If this letter is not signed and attached to the authorization, we have no authority to cross-org funds. This is a process your resource advisors are familiar with.

The 184th Comptroller Flight has created a SharePoint to help with DTS questions, along with some videos posted on YouTube. Search for "184th IW Finance" in YouTube and you'll see short videos on Required Receipts, GTC Use and Technical School Accrual Vouchers.

The DTS TRAX system has a lot of short training classes that explain how to do these tasks.

Take advantage of the options available to you so DTS isn't the biggest thing you have to worry about when you travel.

Libraries	
Legal Stuff	CSA Online Account for Refunds (how to do)
DTS Examples	EFT Returned Vouchers (how to Amend)
Group CSS Library	How do I add lodging taxes so I get paid back for them
Resource Advisors	How do I add or update my address or bank information
How to Videos	How do I attach receipts in Edit Mode
ATAAPS	How do I create a DTS voucher
Information	Split Disbursement (Adjusting for CSA-GTC)
Finance Training	How do I create a local voucher
Government Travel	

Valuing military and civilian experience

By 1st Lt. Matt Lucht
184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

"In all actuality, some of the guardsmen have more experience than the active duty when it comes to law enforcement and patrols," said Master Sgt. Hadi Shaaban, 184th Intelligence Wing, Security Forces Squadron.

National Guard members may have a civilian skill set that is completely different or the same as their military jobs. This makes the National Guard very different from its active-duty counterparts.

Two Airmen from the 184th Intelligence Wing's Security Forces Squadron have aligned their civilian and military jobs, gaining experience and training for both.

While attending three weeks of premobilization training classes at Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas, Staff Sgt. Kevin Berry, 184th SFS, noticed that his civilian training gave him an advantage.

"When we get into the room clearing, it is all the same. We had the class yesterday, taking notes and thinking, 'These are all the same things that we are doing on the civilian side,'" said Berry.

Berry works for the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, but his experience and training goes even deeper.

"My experience goes back to 1996 when I started in the jail in Saline County and then went over to Sedgwick County," said Berry. "So I have 15 years of experience in law enforcement."

Even though Berry is relatively new to the Guard, his years of civilian law enforcement experience make him an asset to the 184th SFS and his military experience is an asset to the sheriff's office.

"The Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office has several veterans and active-duty servicemen within our agency," said Lt. David Mattingly, Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office.



Staff Sgt. Kevin Berry (left), 184th Security Forces Squadron, gains valuable training on radio systems during premobilization training Aug. 7 at Fort Bliss, Texas. Berry currently works for the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office. (Photo by 1st Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

"Having deputies who have served and are currently serving in the military has several benefits. They are able to bring knowledge back to our agency and share it with the rest of our deputies. Sergeant Berry is a SWAT team member and he is able to share tactics between SWAT and the Security Forces."

Master Sgt. Dale Brooks, 184th SFS, enjoys sharing tactics, training and experiences with his fellow Airmen and troopers. He said that having National Guard experience has definitely helped with his civilian career.

"I have been a state trooper with the Kansas Highway Patrol since 1999 and I think that the experiences and training that I have received there helps me in the Guard and vice versa," said Brooks. "Some of the training that I have received on the military side I have often used on my civilian job."

Like the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, the Kansas Highway Patrol sees the advantages of having Guard members working among their ranks.

"The training and experience that current and former members of the military bring to the Kansas Highway Patrol is invaluable," said Lt. Josh Kellerman, Kansas Highway Patrol. "They bring an additional sense of structure and discipline to all aspects of the agency."

But regardless if a Guardsman is a plumber, computer technician, lawyer, student or landscaper, those experiences and skills enhance the National Guard.

"I think that all experiences combined make a unit more diverse," said Brooks. "If we all had civilian law enforcement training or experiences, we wouldn't be as diverse as having those people that have electrical or plumbing backgrounds. So when we do deploy, we can rely on all those technical backgrounds to be more well-rounded and perform a broader function than just being law enforcement minded."



Master Sgt. Dale Brooks, 184th Security Forces Squadron, listens to instructions on security procedures during premobilization training Aug. 9 at Fort Bliss, Texas. Brooks has worked for the Kansas Highway Patrol since 1999. (Photo by 1st Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

Communications Flight initiates MAC Lockdown

By Tech. Sgt. Justin Jacobs
184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

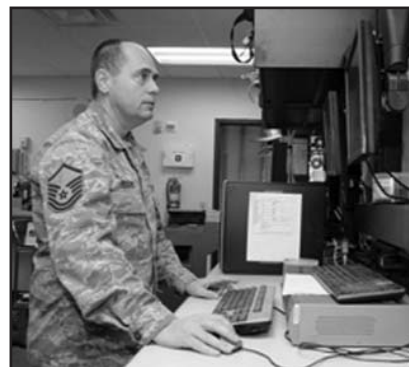
Over the next year, the 184th Communications Flight will initiate a program called the Media Access Card lockdown.

A MAC address is a unique identifier that is assigned to an individual computer by the network administrators and is designed to help the computer communicate with the network.

"MAC Lockdown is a security feature embedded within wing network switches to prevent unauthorized access by assigning each switch port to a single, specific computer," said Staff Sgt. Matt Benoit, 184th Communications Flight cyber transport specialist.

The MAC lockdown is designed to decrease the vulnerabilities to the base network. With network security becoming a top priority of the Department of Defense, the 184th CF has taken steps to ensure the highest level of protection.

"This program will help protect our



Master Sgt. Curt Rogers configures network switches for initiating Media Access Card lockdown in December. (Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

network from unwanted viruses that can harm user information and military equipment," said Master Sgt. Curt Rogers, 184th Communications Flight cyber transport specialist.

This program also lowers the vulnerabilities by preventing unauthorized machines from being on the base

military network.

"If you try to bring your computer from home or move your work computer the port will shut down," said Rogers. "This requires several man-hours by the Communication Flight Airmen to eradicate."

As wing personnel move computers around due to the various construction projects, it has caused several computers to get locked out. The Communications Flight has a few easy steps that you can take to help prevent this.

"From now on, client support administrators will need to put a ticket into remedy for every computer move," said Benoit.

It's also important that the equipment is not moved until the computer technician closes out the ticket.

Allowing them to accomplish their part prior to moving the actual PC will prevent a MAC violation.

"It will take a bit of preplanning, but it will ensure the smoothest possible move for your squadron," said Benoit.

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Honoring the fallen: 190th chaplain serves at Dover Air Force Base

By Staff Sgt. Kayla Kohn
190th ARW Public Affairs

“There are not any deployments like this in the world; this is a unique mission.”

Chaplain (Maj.) Kevin Hopkins, 190th Air Refueling Wing chaplain, deployed to Dover Air Force Base, Del., to work with the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations, May through October 2013. The AFMAO’s mission is ensuring dignity, honor and respect to the fallen, and care, service and support to their families.

“It was an honor being a part of bringing fallen military personnel back home and assisting the families, trying to provide them with some peace in their sense of loss.”

Deployed with eight other chaplains from each branch of the military, Hopkins provided support on the flight line with the dignified transfers of the fallen to their families. A dignified transfer is the process of moving the fallen from the arriving plane in Dover to a mortuary vehicle.

“I said a prayer at every dignified transfer ceremony,” Hopkins said. “They lasted only 15 minutes on the flight line, but with spin up time it took a good eight hours with preparation and then debriefing time with families, generals and dignitaries after. It would be an all-day, all-night



Air Force Chaplain (Maj.) Kevin Hopkins, Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations, says a prayer in honor of Army Lt. Col. Todd J. Clark, Evans Mills, N.Y., and Maj. Jaimie E. Leonard, Warrick, N.Y., at Dover Air Force Base, Del., June 12, 2013. Chaplains march with the official party to say a prayer at the beginning of a dignified transfer. Hopkins was deployed to Dover from the 190th Air Refueling Wing, Kansas Air National Guard. (Photo by Roland Balik)

process. They came in day or night, rain or shine; we did them all hours of the night, and didn’t stop for holidays.”

In the processing and prep time, Hopkins also provided comfort and support to those military personnel deployed there.

“The dignified transfers were the visible part, but that’s only a small piece of what we did. Once we brought home that Soldier, Marine, Sailor or Airman, the real work started in the back rooms.”

The deployed Airmen and Soldiers working in the mortuary department of the AFMAO were dedicated, he said.

“They are asked to do some impossible things you wouldn’t think of. Most people don’t want to think about what they do, with death, but the dignity and the honor with which they handle it was just amazing to me.”

Hopkins reflected upon his time at Dover and agreed that overall the biggest lesson to take home and share was just to love your family and be there for them, and remember that everything can change in a minute.

“It was an incredible place to do ministry,” he said. “One of the main things that came out of the trip was just going home and knowing how fortunate I am to be hugging my wife and kids.”

Every rank presents opportunities to exhibit leadership

By Senior Master Sgt. Brian Wohletz
190th ARW Civil Engineering Squadron

Each of us has opportunities to be leaders. It doesn’t mean you have to be a senior non-commissioned officer or high-ranking officer to be a leader. Leadership, in my opinion, begins at the point you transition from knowing nothing about something to the point you know something about something. Once you know enough to be able to teach someone else about something, you are capable of becoming a leader.



Senior Master Sgt. Brian Wohletz

In the Air Force, we all bring different skill sets and knowledge to the table. We go to basic training to learn about the customs, culture, policies and processes of the Air Force. After we know that, we can then start learning our jobs and becoming leaders in the Air Force.

Here are a few qualities that I think of when I consider what makes a good leader.

If your goal is to be a successful leader, allow your team to speak freely and confidently in meetings.

Allow Others to Speak: If your goal is to be a successful leader, allow your team to speak freely and confidently in meetings. Don’t intimidate others with your rank or power in these settings. You may have a lot of experience and knowledge, but the people that are currently doing the day-to-day jobs are experts in their field. Give them the power to teach everyone, including you.

Communicate Your Expectations: People generally want to please others. To allow that, you must first have high expectations of yourself. Communication of your expectations to your team is equally important. If you are unable to clearly communicate your expectations, you can’t expect anyone else to know what your goal is. If you keep reminding your team of your expectations, it helps to keep the end goal in mind and the team on track. In turn, you will see productivity gains simply because you eliminate the confusion associated with not knowing the leader’s expectations.

Lead by Example: As a leader everyone is watching your actions. People are observers first. That is primarily how we learn and grow. If you’re a senior airman and have a couple airmen or airman first class you are leading, set a good professional example for them. They are impressionable and watching.

Ensure Others Succeed: A successful leader is one that looks out not for their own success, but for the success of those they are leading. As a leader, you are rated more on the success of your team than yourself. If you are only looking out for yourself, and ensuring that you succeed, you will not truly be successful. You must build a good foundation to have a good house. If you, as the leader, build a good foundation, your team will be successful and the leader of that team will be as well.

Embrace Responsibility: To be a good leader, you must accept the responsibility of being a leader. Good leaders like leadership not for the power it brings, but for the impact they can have on others and the direction they can lead them. To do this, you have to want to take on the responsibility that comes along with leadership. You take the good with the bad; not everything you do is going to be a great success.

You need to be able to accept responsibility when something goes wrong, as well as the reward of your team having success. You can celebrate with your team when everything works well, but don’t alienate your team when it doesn’t.

Each day of our lives we have an opportunity to practice leadership. You may be a general in the Pentagon leading a branch of the military, or even the president of the United States. You can also be a leader if you are an Airman just back from technical school, leading a group of Student Flight members preparing to go to basic training. Even if you just returned from basic training, those student flight members are looking to you as a leader to help prepare them to go to basic training.

You may be a leader in someone’s eyes and not even realize it. That transition from not knowing anything can change pretty quickly, and before you know it, you are in a leadership role. Take advantage of every opportunity to learn and grow as a leader.

Always remember, you set the example, and others are learning from your actions. Be a professional, listen to those you are leading, and always be responsible to those you are leading. You have the ability to be a good leader no matter what your rank.

Airmen: Interested in being a pilot?

The 117th Air Refueling Squadron will conduct pilot interviews during May drill. Application packages are due April 4.

Application packages must include the following, as a minimum:

1. Cover letter
2. Resume
3. College transcripts
4. Three character reference letters
5. Proof of flying experience – Please send a copy of your pilot license (including ratings and flight hours), or copies of your logged flying hours. This is NOT a requirement. Those that already have some training and demonstrated ability are typically more competitive.
6. AFOQT score and TBAS scores if available.
7. AF Form 24, Application for Appointment as Reserve of the Air Force or USAF without component.
8. Miscellaneous – Any letters of appreciation, extra-curricular activities, community involvement, prior military record reviews or any information that may exemplify you above others. This miscellaneous information is not mandatory, but will help establish individuality to the board members.

For more information, contact Capt. Thayne Heusi at (785) 861-4670, or Lt. Col. Rob Williams at (785) 861-4641.

Application packages may be mailed to:
Capt. Thayne Heusi
117 ARS XO
5920 SE Coyote Drive
Topeka, KS 66619

Electronic application package submissions are allowed in PDF format only.
Please email to: thayne.heusi@ang.af.mil or robert.williams.7@ang.af.mil



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Master Sgt. David Salinas 190th ARW 785-608-3685 david.salinas@ang.af.mil

RTS-M instructor receives Distinguished Award of Merit



Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy L. Gray (left), an instructor at the Regional Training Site – Maintenance, was presented the Lt. Gen. Levin Hicks Campbell, Jr. Distinguished Award of Merit by Maj. Mark C. Mullinax, commander of the RTS-M, during a ceremony at the Kansas Regional Training Site-Maintenance Nov. 7, 2013, for single handedly creating and conducting tactical generator operators training.

“Gray displayed and projected constant professionalism and placed other Soldiers’ needs above his own. His selfless actions and commitment to training are true attributes of what ordnance Soldiers provide to the United States Army,” said Mullinax.

The RTS-M received a request to conduct a Tactical Generator Operators Training Course specifically for the 891st Engineer Battalion. The battalion had identified multiple Soldiers who were in need of this training as a result of the unit’s recent Command Maintenance Evaluation Team Inspection. Gray was tasked with conducting this class and was excited about this opportunity to develop the training for these Soldiers.

As the primary instructor, he developed a training outline, training schedule and testing material in preparation for this event. He communicated with the battalion maintenance officer from the 891st Engineer Battalion on a regular basis to ensure that the unit’s needs and expectations were met. Gray coordinated with multiple entities to obtain all the necessary resources to conduct the training to standard.

The course was conducted during the battalion’s annual training at Salina. Leaders from all levels in the battalion were pleased with the instruction provided to their Soldiers. Soldiers from the 891st Engineer Battalion are now properly trained and prepared to conduct tactical generator operations and training no matter what environment they find themselves in. (Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Brent Campbell, Regional Training Site – Maintenance)

35th Division Soldiers honored during departure ceremony



Approximately 16 Soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division were honored in a departure ceremony Jan. 17 at the division headquarters at Fort Leavenworth, Kan..

These Soldiers are the second group of a larger mission the division is filling in support of the NATO mission in Kosovo. The first group, consisting of approximately seven Soldiers, departed Kansas in December.

These Soldiers will join Lt. Col. Roger Aeschliman and Command Sgt. Maj. Tim Cochran, who are already deployed and serving as the NATO Support Element command team. In Kosovo, the Soldiers will fill key positions in the NATO and Kosovo Force headquarters.

“I know our Soldiers are well-prepared for this mission,” said Maj. Gen. Michael D. Navrkal, 35th Infantry Division commander. “We have Soldiers on this deployment who have previous experience in the region as the 35th Infantry Division has deployed twice to the Balkans.”

In 2003, the division conducted a similar peacekeeping mission in Bosnia. In 2007-2008, the division served as the Task Force Falcon headquarters in Kosovo. The headquarters designation has recently changed to Multi-National Battle Group-East to reflect NATO’s involvement. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

Joint Logistics conference focuses on Vigilant Guard 2014

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett
Public Affairs Office

The 2014 Joint Logistical Conference focused on the road ahead, Vigilant Guard.

This August, the Kansas National Guard will be hosting Vigilant Guard. The multi-state, multi-site exercise, sponsored by the United States Northern Command and the National Guard Bureau, will test the National Guard as the first military responder in support of the governor and the state emergency management agency. Vigilant Guard will reinforce the concept that all incidents are local. The exercise will demonstrate the capabilities of the Kansas National Guard Joint Force Headquarters, collaboration with civilian and state agencies, and the Emergency Management Assistance Compact – the process where governors reach out to other governors for more assistance.

The major scenario of the exercise will deal with a tornado outbreak resulting in a complex regional catastrophe in and around Salina, a.k.a. Crisis City. Secondary events will include a bioterrorism attack, medical counter-measure distribution, a collapsed structure and a train derailment.

The joint exercise will test the Kansas National Guard’s logistic capabilities during an emergency situation and verify the efficiency of the existing plans and response procedures against the exercise threat. The Guard will test the ability of their Joint Forces Headquarters staff and major subordinate commands to activate, organize and deploy forces to conduct Defense Support to Civil Authorities following a catastrophic

event in accordance with their current Standard Operating Procedures.

In preparation for the exercise, multiple staff sections participated in a tabletop exercise during the first half of the conference using the latest Emergency Management Staff Training program produced by the National Guard.

The EMST (www.train-emst.com) was created in early 2001 to establish a common exercising platform, among varied civilian and military entities, for emergency situations. As a web-based interface, there is no software installation requirement for the user. Players simply log in and begin the exercise as an individual, a staff section or at a collective level.

“It is a low-cost, repeatable training that the National Guard units can utilize any time to rehearse domestic operations and be prepared so when natural disasters do happen they can save lives and resources,” said Dan Maurer, an EMST operational support specialist with Critical Ops.

The second half of the conference was used to discuss real world vs. exercise scenario logistical needs all the way down to how many people will be on-ground each day, where will they sleep or eat, and other basic necessities.

“The J4 Log Conference presented a good opportunity for planning the logistics of Vigilant Guard,” said 1st Sgt. Clayton LaVine, exercise planner. “It was the prime venue that brought all of the state’s most knowledgeable logisticians together to begin the process to sustain this regional exercise.”

National Guard Chief talks readiness, state of the force

Continued from Page 5

mander commanded all of those 23 helicopters and gave them direction,” he said.

Grass noted this dual status command required approval from Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, but it is now done “pretty routinely” for crises and planned events.

The general also noted the Guard is focused on partnership - both assisting homeland communities and internationally through the State Partnership Program, where 65 states partner with 71 countries, teaming up a state with a country for a military-to-military relationship.

“This started after the fall of the Soviet Union and Eastern bloc countries,” he said. “We aligned many of those countries with states 20 years ago.”

“In fact, a number of them have just celebrated their 20th anniversary in 2013,” Grass said. “We’re continuing to add. I think in 2014, we’ll probably add four more partnerships.”

Grass said there are well over 700 State

Partnership Program events a year for a total annual cost of about \$12 million - which jumps to just less than \$20 million with added “training dollars.”

“And believe it or not,” he said, “that’s the one account nobody wants to mess with because it gives you so much great engagement.”

Some of those 71 countries, Grass said, have deployed with the U.S. on 89 rotations to Iraq and Afghanistan.

“We’re building capacity and capability for the future that will be able to help NATO,” he said.

“So partnerships are what we focus on,” he said, “and part of that partnership event occurs inside the Pentagon every day.”

“Being a member of the Joint Chiefs, I have access now to organizations that I probably never would have had as a three-star [general] and as just a chief, and not a member of the Joint Chiefs,” Grass said. “I get called into all the sessions as a member of the Joint Chiefs.”



Gen. Frank Grass, chief of the National Guard Bureau, spoke Jan. 9 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. (National Guard Bureau photo by Jon Anderson)

Outstanding Airmen of the Year winners announced

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

The Kansas Air National Guard 2014 Outstanding Airmen of the Year review board took place in January to select this year's recipients. The Outstanding Airmen of the Year program seeks to recognize the very best Airmen the state of Kansas has to offer. The competition this year was fierce as board members reviewed the leadership, job performance, community involvement and personal achievements of the candidate's nomination packages from the 184th Intelligence Wing and the 190th Air Refueling Wing.

The following Airmen were selected by Brig. Gen. Bradley Link as this year's award recipients after receiving recommendations from this year's board members.

Special thanks to Chief Master Sgt. Brian Norris, Chief Master Sgt. Pat Moore, Chief Master Sgt. Russ Brotsky, Chief Master Sgt. Von Burns and Chief Master

Sgt. Wendy Davis for their assistance with this year's board.
Congratulations to this year's winners!

Airman of the Year
Senior Airman Camry Gayer, 190th ARW

Noncommissioned Officer of the Year
Staff Sgt. Michael Fear II, 184th IW

Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year
Master Sgt. Sarah Sell, 190th ARW

First Sergeant of the Year
Master Sgt. Eric Maynor, 184th IW

Honor Guard Member of the Year
Master Sgt. Barbara DiPoli, 190th ARW

Honor Guard Manager of the Year
Tech. Sgt. Aaron Rausch, 184th IW

Overall Kansas Airman of the Year
Staff Sgt. Michael Fear II, 184th IW



State Airmen of the Year nominees pose for a group photo with leadership representatives from the 184th Intelligence Wing, 190th Air Refueling Wing and the Kansas Joint Forces Headquarters. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Penney, 184th Intelligence Wing)

Program gives competitive edge in civilian employment

Service members can get a competitive edge to obtain a high-demand job by enrolling in industry-approved training in one of the Technical Retraining to Achieve Credentials programs. Available programs include Advanced Systems Technology, Agri-Biotechnology, Electrical Power Technician, Environmental Technology, Food Science, Power Plant Technology, and Risk Management.

TRAC-7 is comprised of seven Kansas community colleges and technical schools that were awarded a \$19.6 million grant through the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration to provide industry-relevant, hands-on training for high-demand, high-wage careers.

Participating institutions include Washburn Institute of Technology, Cloud County Community College, Dodge City Community College, Salina Area Technical College, Garden City Community College, Flint Hills Technical College, and Highland Community College.

For more information about the TRAC-7 program, go online to <http://www.trac7.org>

OFFICERS

We needed them then ... We need them now.

Pre-officer Candidate School starts in March

Sgt. Arlander Johnson
Officer Candidate School Coordinator
(785) 822-6686
arlander.j.johnson.mil@mail.mil

Capt. Drew Polen
Officer Strength Manager
(785) 861-3955
drew.w.polen.mil@mail.mil

Governor appoints Emler to Kansas Corporation Commission

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

Kansas Senator Jay Emler, deputy director of Kansas Homeland Security, resigned that position and his Senate seat in January to become head of the Kansas Corporation Commission.

Emler was appointed by Gov. Sam Brownback Jan. 8 and confirmed by the Kansas Senate Jan. 16. His term expires March 15, 2015.

Emler served as deputy director of Kansas Homeland Security since 2011. He represented Senate District 35, which includes Chase, Ellsworth, Marion, McPherson and Morris Counties and portions of Rice and Dickinson counties, since 2001. He served as majority leader from January 2011 to January 2013 and was an active



Jay Emler

member of several committees, including the Senate Utilities Committee and the Joint Committee on Kansas Security. Emler and his wife Lorraine live in McPherson County where they operate a small family farm.

The KCC regulates five industries in the Kansas economy and has the responsibility of ensuring that natural gas, electricity, telephone, and transportation vendors provide safe, adequate, and reliable services at reasonable rates. The mission of the agency is to protect the public interest through impartial and efficient resolution of all jurisdictional issues. The agency regulates rates, service, and safety of public utilities, common carriers, motor carriers; regulates oil and gas production.

As a graduate of Bethany College, Lindsborg, Emler earned a bachelor's degree and teaching certificate. He earned his law degree from the University of Denver, College of Law. Emler also received a master's degree in Homeland Security and Defense from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.

Adjutant General's Department supports Kansas Day ceremony



Soldiers from Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, Holton, fire a 19-cannon salute at the conclusion of a Kansas State Capitol Dedication ceremony in Topeka on Kansas Day, Jan. 29. Other members of the Adjutant General's Department participating in the ceremony included Soldiers of the Kansas National Guard Military Funeral Honors, who posted and retired the colors, and Erin McGinnis, a Kansas Division of Emergency Management employee, who portrayed Minnie Grinstead, the first woman elected to the Kansas Legislature. (Photo by Jane Welch, Public Affairs Office)

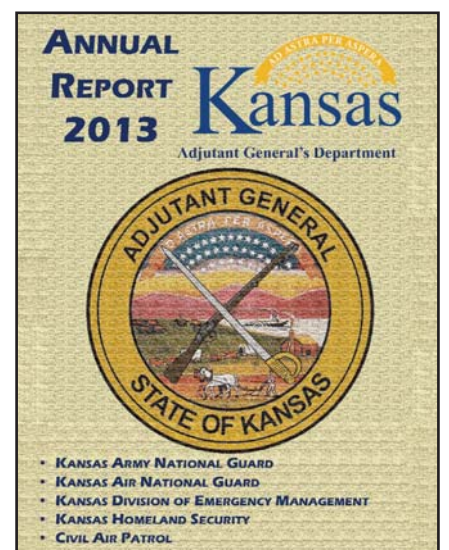
Annual Report is now online

The 2013 Annual Report of the Adjutant General's Department is now available online. The interactive pdf version of the report can be accessed by clicking the Annual Report Quick Link found on the right-hand side of the Adjutant General's Department home page (www.kansastag.gov).

The report, compiled by the Public Affairs Office of the Adjutant General's department, details the events and activities of the Kansas National Guard, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Kansas Homeland Security and the Civil Air Patrol over the past year.

Included in the report is an overview of the year's events, a brief history of the agency, information on deployments and homecomings, fiscal reports, a map showing the location of each National Guard unit within the state and other valuable information, including an overview of emergency management activities for the year.

The report and map are interactive with links from each of the major command's information to its location on the map.



Kansas Military Funeral Honors Team provides final respects

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

The people of the United States owe their military veterans a lot for the sacrifices they make to defend and preserve our freedom. This includes giving them the honor they are due when they are laid to their final rest.

To provide those honors to Kansas veterans, the Kansas National Guard formed their first Military Funeral Honors Team in the fall of 2007. Over the course of that fiscal year, the team rendered military honors at 12 funerals.

In the ensuing years, members of the Military Funeral Honors Team have performed military funeral honors at more than 4,700 services, including 1,131 services in the last fiscal year alone.

And all of them without costing the veterans' families a single cent.

Rod Moyer has been a member of the Military Funeral Honors Team since 2007, assuming the role of state coordinator for the program in 2008.

"I had just got back from a tour in Iraq," Moyer recalled, "and I wanted to do something for the Soldiers."

Moyer said that is the reason most of the team members get involved.

"It gives them a chance to give back and honor the veterans who gave us our freedom," said Moyer.

Moyer said there are currently six full-time members of the MFH Team and about 15 traditional Guardsmen. Two full-time members work out of Topeka, two from



The Kansas National Guard provides military honors for a Missing in America Memorial/Interment Service, Tuesday, July 26, 2011, at the interment shelter of the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery. Since its inception in October 2007, the Kansas National Guard Military Funeral Honors team has rendered final honors to more than 4,700 veterans. (Photo by 1st Lt. Matt Lucht, Public Affairs Office)

Olathe, one in Dodge City and one in Wichita. Each funeral requires a minimum of two team members; more are authorized for retired veterans and service members killed in action. The teams will go wherever they are requested, any day, including weekends and holidays. At a minimum, funeral honors include a flag-folding and presentation and the playing of Taps. For retired service members, honors may also include pallbearers, if requested, and a firing party.

To provide these honors with the exacting care they deserve, each team member must go through 40 hours of training following the guidelines of the Old Guard at Arlington National Cemetery. The Kansas training is conducted under the guidance of Sgt. Nick Churchill and Sgt. Steve Levin, who have been certified by the Professional Training Center in Little Rock, Ark. In addition to being able to carry out their duty with flawless precision, each member is required to

maintain an impeccable appearance – a uniform that is steamed and pressed daily, shoes shined before every service.

"Without their dedication to the program, we would not be nearly as successful as we are," said Moyer. "In addition to performing services, they are recruiting Soldiers to participate, training to prepare them and maintaining their offices and uniforms."

"There is no one person responsible for our success," he continued. "This is truly a team effort, from the lowest ranking private to the adjutant general."

In recent years, said Moyer, the MFH Team has faced some challenges, primarily budgetary. Moyer said that over the last two years the National Guard Bureau has reduced the funding given to the team by 33 percent and 28 percent, forcing the team to turn down some funeral requests due to lack of funds.

"According to a vital statistics report, Kansas is projected to lose more than 6,000 veterans a year over the next few years," said Moyer, noting that if funding remains at reduced levels, more veterans may not receive the honor to which they are entitled.

However, Moyer said the members of the Military Honors Funeral Team remain dedicated to providing those honors whenever and wherever they are able.

"We are providing a service to the highly-deserving veterans and their families," said Moyer. "Whenever we receive a note of thanks from one of these families, it reminds us just how important our service is to those families."



The Kansas National Guard provides full military honors for the Missing in America Memorial/Interment Service at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery. The honors consisted of a color guard, flag folding, playing of Taps and a rifle firing party. Established in October 2007, the team initially operated only in Northeast Kansas, but over the years has been able to expand into the south central and southwestern parts of the state. (Photo by 1st Lt. Matt Lucht, Public Affairs Office)



Members of the Kansas National Guard Military Funeral Honors Team lift the casket of a Kansas veteran from a hearse, conveying him to his final resting place. Since its inception in 2007, the Military Funeral Honors Team has performed military funeral honors at more than 4,700 services. The team stands ready to perform military funeral honors year-round, including weekends and holidays, giving Kansas veterans the honors they are due. (Courtesy photo)

Kansas National Guard Military Funeral Honors Team

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS APPLICATION

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

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State _____ Zip Code _____
 Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____
 Best time to call _____ am/pm (Circle one)
 Available to train on weekends Yes _____ No _____
 Available to train on weekdays Yes _____ No _____
 Would like to talk with a Military Funeral Honors Representative _____
 The best time to set up an interview Date _____ Time _____
 Mail to: KSARNG Honor Guard, 2800 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka KS 66611

KSARNG Honor Guard
 Phone 785-274-1520
 Cell 785-438-9202
 Fax 785-274-1687

Email nicholas.g.churchill.mil@mail.mil



Two members of the Kansas Military Funeral Honors Team respectfully fold the flag that had draped the casket of a Kansas veteran before presenting it to the veteran's family. At a minimum, funeral honors include a flag-folding and presentation and the playing of Taps. For retired service members, honors may also include pallbearers, if requested, and a firing party. (Courtesy photo)

2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery celebrates Saint Barbara

By Maj. Chuck Leivan

2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery

The 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery Regiment held its annual celebration of Saint Barbara Ball at the Fisher Center in Hiawatha, Kan., Jan. 18. Lt. Col. Paul Schneider, battalion commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. James Fenton, battalion senior noncommissioned officer, hosted the event.

“While the purpose of our gathering is to celebrate our patron saint, it also is a time to recognize the achievements of our members, retirees and spouses,” said Schneider.

Nine Soldiers were inducted into the Order of Saint Barbara: Maj. Dan Ball, Capt. Travis Zeigler, Sgt. 1st Class Keith Courtin, Sgt. 1st Class Tim Gustafson, Staff Sgt. Daryl Davis, Staff Sgt. Maurice Champoux, Staff Sgt. Patrick Stapleton, Staff Sgt. Gary Galbraith and Staff Sgt. Christopher Day.

The Honorable Order of Saint Barbara is the continuation of the ancient and noble tradition of paying tribute to those warriors who have distinguished themselves in service. To be accepted into the order, an artillery Soldier must exemplify the finest traditions and high standards of the field artillery.

A special recognition of the spouses who have voluntarily contributed in a significant way to the betterment of the field artillery community is provided for by membership in the Artillery Order of Molly Pitcher. Five spouses were inducted into the Order of Molly Pitcher: Julie Champoux, Suzanne Stapleton, Denise Honn, Tammy Lawson, and Carla Forbes. Mary Parrish, wife of retired Chaplain (Col.) Larry Parrish was the Matron of Honor and was assisted by Lori Fenton during the presentation.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Dean Tollefson, former battalion command sergeant major, presented the Tollefson Retention Award to Capt. Derick Leeds and 1st Sgt. Ed Bellows, command team for Btry. B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Abilene, for having the highest rate of Soldier retention during fiscal year 2013 and achieving a retention rate of 92 percent of Soldiers,



New members of the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara hold their candles high during their induction ceremony Jan. 18 at Fisher Center, Hiawatha. The ceremony was part of the annual Saint Barbara Ball hosted by the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery. The inductees were (left to right) Maj. Dan Ball, Capt. Travis Zeigler, Sgt. 1st Class Keith Courtin, Staff Sgt. Daryl Davis, Staff Sgt. Maurice Champoux, Staff Sgt. Patrick Stapleton, Staff Sgt. Gary Galbraith, and Staff Sgt. Christopher Day. Also inducted was Sgt. 1st Class Tim Gustafson (not shown). (Photo by Spc. Jesse Bahr, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery)

re enlisting 11 of 12 eligible Soldiers in the unit last year.

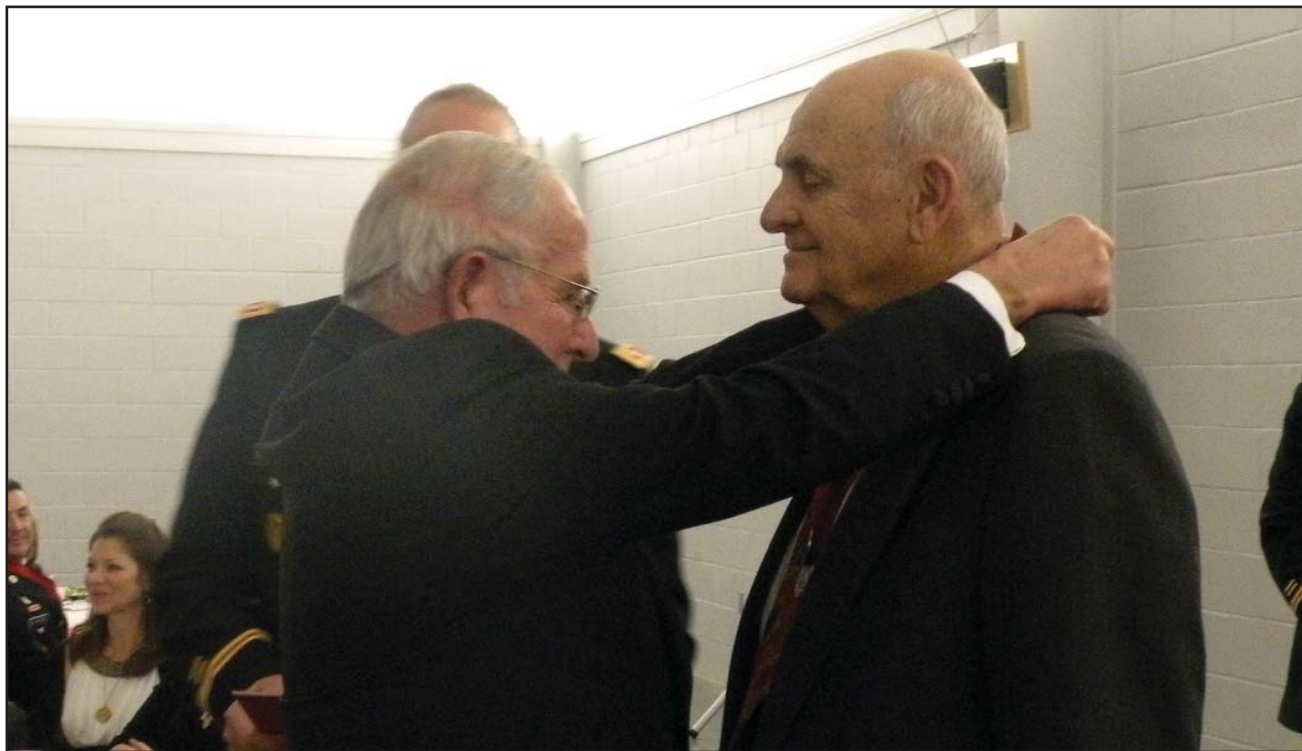
This year the regiment recognized retired Maj. Homer T. Pederson by presenting him with the Ancient Order of Saint Barbara. The Ancient Order is the more distinguished of the two levels of the military society of Saint Barbara, reserved for those whose careers have embodied the spirited dignity and sense of sacrifice and commitment epitomized by Saint Barbara. Retired Brig. Gen. Ronald

Tincher, a member of the Ancient Order, presented Pederson his medallion and certificate and was assisted by Pederson’s son, Lt. Col. Kirk Pederson, deputy commander of the 635th Regional Support Group.

Pederson’s first period of continuous service was from June 23, 1948 - April 29, 1970, first as an enlisted Soldier achieving the rank of sergeant first class in 1950, then as a commissioned officer serving as platoon leader, battery commander and staff officer. Pederson was instrumental in the mobilization of the 2nd Bn., 130th FA in 1969. Pederson was next assigned as the fire support coordinator for a 17-day operation with Special Forces and earned the Vietnam Staff First Class Medal. Moving to staff as the training officer, 5th Battalion, 22nd First Field Force, his key task was to manage the operations and missions of firing batteries spread over three forward operating bases from the Laos Border, highlands and coast of South Vietnam. Pederson resigned his commission in 1970.

As a local veteran and a former member of the National Guard, Pederson and several of his comrades initiated the 130th Field Artillery Regiment in 1981. Pederson was the first historian of the 130th FA Regiment. Today, the regiment still has the most active retired membership of its peers in Kansas.

In 1983, Pederson re enlisted a second time as a sergeant first class. His first assignment was acting first sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Bn., 130th FA. He was re assigned as the full-time readiness noncommissioned officer for Service Battery, 2nd Bn., 130th FA in Troy. Pederson was the team chief of the eight-inch nuclear mission for the battalion. With his leadership, experience and attention to detail, the battalion successfully passed the Army Readiness and Training Evaluation Program as well as every other inspection as required. Pederson retired for good in 1988.



Retired Brig. Gen. Ron Tincher presents the Ancient Order of Saint Barbara to retired Maj. Homer T. Pederson at the annual Saint Barbara Ball hosted by the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery. (Photo by Spc. Jesse Bahr, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, UPAR)

170th Maintenance Company helps Scott City with a piece of history

Courtesy story

170th Support Maintenance Company

We hear the stories about wars overseas and the history left behind, but not everyone, or every town, has the opportunity to have a piece of history for their own.

Three Soldiers from the 170th Support Maintenance Company in Colby, Kan., traveled to Scott City Nov. 2, 2013, to demilitarize an M-102 howitzer cannon from 1968, a model used well into the Vietnam War era.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kevin Linder, Staff Sgt. Richard Luvender and Spc. Nancy Baez met with Skip Numrich, president of Scott First National Bank, to discuss procedures.

To demilitarize a once-active military weapon is to ensure that it can no longer be used, whether it’s by welding parts closed or filling in loading chambers with cement. However, the procedure to transform a retired military component into a display is not as tedious and prolonging as the wait to receive it can be.

Numrich said this memorial project had been in effect as of three years ago. The wait includes searching for a retired piece or surplus item, receiving approval from the

senator of Kansas, having a place to put it, and having the funds to do so.

“But the wait is well worth the time spent for a project that will bring great pride and honor to a local western town,” said Numrich. “Many thanks is given to Donna Dee Carpenter for her generous gift of the lot to be used for the display, along with local donations.”

Linder and Luvender worked on welding the cannon for safety. A number of Scott City residents approached the work zone out of curiosity, most of them veterans themselves.

After several hours of work, the cannon was complete and the rest of the memorial would be ready to fall into action. The display is expected to be entirely finished this spring with personalized bricks, a beautiful garden surrounding bronze plaques commemorating all military branches and maybe even another military weapon to display.

“The best part of being a part of this project is knowing the happiness and pride that it will bring to Scott City and its citizens, for it surely was an honor to be part of a personal history in the making,” said Baez.



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kevin Linder, allied trades warrant officer of the 170th Support Maintenance Company, welds a M-102 howitzer to demilitarize it for a military memorial in Scott City, Kan., Nov. 2, 2013. (Photo by Spc. Nancy Baez, 170th Support Maintenance Company)



Major winter storm activated State Emergency Operations Center

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

The map of Kansas was colored white Feb. 4 as a major winter storm system blanketed the state with as much as 15 inches of snow in some areas.

Gov. Sam Brownback held an afternoon news conference Feb. 3 with representatives of state emergency response agencies to highlight the severity of the coming storm and urge Kansans to take precautions.

"The primary concern here is safety," said Brownback. "We want people to be safe. We want to be able to get the roads cleared. We want to be able to get emergency personnel where they need to be."

"What's concerning about this event is it's a lot of snow, a lot of cold, and a lot of wind," he continued. "So you have major elements for some potentially quite dangerous situations."

In anticipation of the storm system, Brownback announced the closing of all state offices in Shawnee County from 6 a.m. Feb. 4 to 6 a.m. Feb. 5., leaving the status of offices outside of Shawnee County at the discretion of local state agencies.

Brownback urged all Kansans to "take this storm seriously."

"Check your emergency supplies; do that now," said Brownback. "Make sure you have enough water, nonperishable food, blankets, weather radio and batteries. Particularly if you're in a setting where you may have difficulty getting out for a couple of days."

In anticipation of the storm, Brownback signed a State of Disaster Emergency declaration for the entire state, authorizing state resources to assist local emergency management agencies in the event their own resources were overwhelmed.

Maj. Gen. Lee Tafañelli, the adjutant general and director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, outlined his agency's plans for the storm period.

"We have been tracking this major storm that's moving into the area for a few days," said Tafañelli. "The Kansas Division of Emergency Management continues to monitor that situation. We've been working with our county emergency managers to make sure they have the necessary plans in place to handle anything they may be faced with."

In addition to that, we will activate the State Emergency Operations Center at 7 a.m. tomorrow (Tuesday)," he continued,



Joel Morrison (left), Kansas Department for Children and Families, answers questions from Gov. Sam Brownback about the Emergency Propane Relief Program as Maj. Gen. Lee Tafañelli, the adjutant general of Kansas, listens. The governor was in the State Emergency Operations Center to receive a briefing from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management about the Feb. 4 snow storm. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

"which will allow us to bring in additional emergency support function partners to continue to track the storm's progress and deal with requests that may come up from the different counties and handle issues that may happen statewide."

Tafañelli said the Kansas National Guard would have a number of Guardsmen in military vehicles operating out of key cities to transport emergency response and medical personnel, and assist stranded motorists, as needed. The teams stood by to assist in Dodge City, Emporia, Hays, Hiawatha, Iola, Kansas City, Kan., Salina, Topeka and Wichita. Their mission concluded at noon Wednesday without any counties requesting Guard assistance.

Mike King, secretary of the Kansas Department of Transportation, and Maj. John Eichkorn, representing the Kansas Highway Patrol, assured Kansans their agencies would be out in force to clear the highways and assist travelers.

As the storm system moved into the state Tuesday morning, Kansans saw snowfall levels rise dramatically through the day. By the time the storm blew out of the area Wednesday, one would have been hard-pressed to find any large area in the state

untouched by the snow. Recorded snowfall levels in the state were:

- Northwest – up to six inches
- Southwest – up to nine inches
- North Central – two to 15 inches
- South Central – two to 12 inches
- Northeast/Kansas City Metro – up to 14 inches
- Southeast – up to eight inches

Because of the deep levels of snow, state offices in Topeka and other areas remained closed Wednesday except for essential personnel. The State Emergency Operations Center stopped 24-hour operations Wednesday afternoon, resuming normal duty hours.

Over the course of the storm, the Kansas Highway Patrol recorded three fatalities on the state's highways as a result of the weather. Two of those deaths were the result of a two-car accident on U.S. 69 in Crawford County that killed a woman from Pittsburg and a woman from Parsons. A separate accident on I-135 in Harvey County claimed the life of a Mound Ridge man who died from his injuries at a local hospital. The KHP also reported 11 other injury accidents during the storm period in addition to 129 non-injury accidents.

At a follow-up news conference Thursday, Feb. 5, Brownback thanked Kansans for heeding the warnings and staying home during the storm period.

"Consequently, the road crews were able to get out and clear the roads effectively," he noted. "The Highway Patrol was able to get out and address situations overall. I really appreciate the state employees, the local government employees, the federal employees that helped out so much with the storm in handling it as best we could."

"I want to thank and acknowledge our KDOT workers, who worked around the clock to clear our major roadways and keep them clear," said Brownback, "and the cities and counties that did the same thing and our first responders – Highway Patrol, sheriff offices, local police agencies – for all the help they gave."

But the governor also reminded Kansans "It's not over."

"Now we're going to have frigid conditions for a period of time," said Brownback. "We're not going to see the snow melt for some period of time, so people need to continue to be cautious and careful. We need to be prepared as we can, particularly in these very difficult conditions."

Tuggle named state officer for the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

By Jonathan York
Kansas Division of Emergency Management

Jim Tuggle, of Elk Falls, has been appointed as the state officer for the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service. Tuggle replaces Herb Fiddick, who stepped down at the end of 2013.

The state RACES officer is a volunteer position that assists the Kansas Division of Emergency Management in managing and coordinating amateur radio communications capabilities between local, state and federal agencies during an emergency or disaster where normal communication systems have sustained damage. It may be used in a wide variety of situations, including natural disasters, technological disasters, terrorist incidents and bomb threats.

Tuggle, an extra class amateur radio licensee, has been with the Montgomery County RACES program since 2004, and has served the past five years as the radio



Jim Tuggle

officer for the unit. Tuggle is also an emergency responder for the Regional Emergency Management Team and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Kansas RACES net control officer for Southeast Kansas, and serves in numerous other capacities within the Kansas amateur radio community.

A 1967 graduate of the University of California, Berkley, Tuggle has been involved with volunteer emergency services in seven states. He is currently the training officer for the Montgomery County Community Emergency Response Team program and is an American Heart Association certified Basic Life Support Instructor, among other certifications.

Tuggle is certified as a Department of Energy Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training instructor and is a member of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Radiation Response Volunteer Corps. He is a retired master electrician and enjoys the challenges of working with emergency services and teaching.

If you would like additional information on starting a RACES Program in your county, you may e-mail Tuggle at kc0nyk@gmail.com.



Staff Sgt. Charles Wist, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, removes snow from the vehicle bullpen at the Hiawatha armory. The unit activated a four-man team Feb. 4-5 in response to Winter Storm Nika to transport emergency services and medical personnel, and stranded motorists as needed. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Newell, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, UPAR)



Spc. Aviery Hickey, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, Hiawatha, works on snow removal around the armory. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Newell, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, UPAR)



McGinnis portrays historic Kansan for Kansas Day event

By Carly Willis
Public Affairs Office

Crowds gathered at the Kansas Capitol Jan. 29 to celebrate the state's 153rd birthday, and take part in a long-overdue service to dedicate the building where so much history has happened.

As part of the dedication, a number of historic characters were in attendance. Erin McGinnis, a state training officer with Kansas Division of Emergency Management, portrayed Minnie Grinstead, the first woman to be elected to the Kansas legislature.

"It's an added element to our history," said McGinnis. "It gives people a perspective when they can see and hear the person in their own words instead of reading on a page or seeing a power point slide."

McGinnis volunteers for Topeka Civic Theater, as well as performs with Helen Hocker Theater. McGinnis was told her performance would take place on a platform in the center of the rotunda, but not until she arrived did she realize she would be role-playing to legislators and students in every direction.

In addition to celebrating Kansas Day, the Capitol was dedicated and opened up to display the recent face-lifts. Construction of the Statehouse began in 1866 and took 37 years to complete, though it was never formally dedicated due to the high costs of the drawn-out construction.

"I've lived here my whole life and it truly is a beautiful place," McGinnis said. "They've uncovered some really beautiful artwork that was underneath plaster and things that people didn't even know were there."



Erin McGinnis (center), a state training officer with Kansas Division of Emergency Management, portrays Minnie Grinstead, the first woman to be elected to the Kansas legislature, during a ceremony held at the Capitol for Kansas Day and the rededication of the newly renovated state Capitol, Jan. 29. (Photo by Jane Welch, Public Affairs Office)

Kansas Response Plan updated

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

The Kansas Division of Emergency Management and its many partners including State agencies, local government, private sectors and other key stakeholders revised the Kansas Response Plan during 2013. This plan became effective as of Feb. 17, 2014.

The Kansas Response Plan applies to all state government departments and agencies providing assistance in a disaster or emergency situation. Within, it describes the fundamental policies, strategies, general concept of operation and incident management action to be used through all phases of emergency management. The plan serves to provide guidance and policy direction on interfacing with county emergency operations plans and the National Response Framework and is based on the fundamentals within the National Incident Management System.

The revisions of the Kansas Response Plan includes implementing findings from after action reviews (exercises and actual events); increasing the number of stakeholders in our planning team; additional detailed ADA requirements/laws; and the inclusion of the new Legal Support Annex.

The KRP aligns the policy, processes, capabilities, strategies, and resources of the state into a unified, all discipline, and all hazards approach to domestic incident management. The KRP ties together a complete

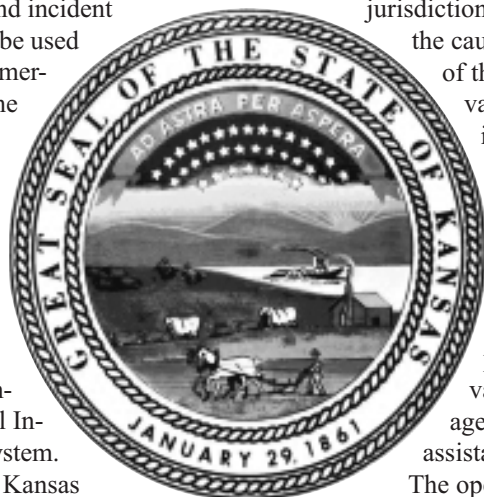
spectrum of incident management activities to include the prevention of, preparedness for, and recovery from terrorism, major natural disasters, and other major emergencies. The end result is improved coordination and enhanced speed, effectiveness and efficiency of incident management for the citizens and communities of Kansas.

The KRP is built on the principles of the National Incident Management System, and the National Response Framework structure which provides a consistent doctrinal framework for incident management at all jurisdictional levels, regardless of

the cause, size, or complexity of the incident. The activation of the KRP and its coordinating structures and protocols, either partially or fully, for specific incidents provides mechanisms for the coordination and implementation of a wide variety of incident management and emergency assistance activities.

The operational and resource coordinating structures described in the KRP are designed to support existing Kansas Statutes and decision making entities during the response to any specific threat or incident. The KRP serves to unify and enhance the incident management capabilities and resources of State agencies and organizations to support local agencies in response to a wide array of potential threats and hazards.

The report may be downloaded as a pdf at kansastag.gov/KDEM.asp?PageID=186



Debris Management Plan will help communities recover faster

By Carly Willis
Public Affairs Office

For Cecily Jimenez, it started with a fire.

Several years ago, a fire destroyed Jimenez's Sedgwick County home. The exterior structure remained, but the inside had to be gutted, resulting in a home-sized mass of debris that had to be managed. So when she caught word that someone was working on a plan to assist communities with similar debris issues, she applied what she learned through her own experience to help develop a statewide plan for disaster recovery.

Jimenez joined the Kansas Division of Emergency Management in 2005 and became well-versed in FEMA guidelines on debris removal. Nearly five years ago, in an effort to improve disaster recovery services, the Federal Emergency Management Agency began providing a monetary incentive for state and local jurisdictions that develop debris management plans. A study found that cities and counties with a solidified plan were able to accomplish the work faster and more efficiently. Roads are able to open sooner and utilities were re-established quicker, visible signs of relief and revival to those affected.

For three months, Jimenez helped construct the Kansas Comprehensive Debris Management Plan, turning it in at the be-

ginning of August 2013. With the approval of FEMA, the plan can offer monetary incentives to communities for having and executing a plan that expeditiously removes debris following a disaster. According to the plan, agencies such as Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Department of Agriculture, and others are all slated to assist local jurisdictions to maximize debris removal and community restoration.

"It's important for jurisdictions to really look at what they can do, what they can't do, and to get assistance from other agencies," said Jimenez.

"She worked endless hours not only on the disaster parts I had assigned her, but developing the basis of the comprehensive plan," said Steve Harsha, state public assistance officer.

Now, in the event of a federally declared disaster, the state is eligible for compensation and KDOT contractors are already in place. Restoration can occur at a faster and more organized pace. Jimenez set the state in a very beneficial position and built up an efficient planning tool.

"She is one of my seasoned, most-trusted and dependable project specialists," said Harsha. "I'm just really thrilled that she was able to complete this."



Debris generated by the 2012 Harveyville tornado is collected and deposited in a designated dump site on the outskirts of the town. (Photo by 1st Lt. Matt Lucht, Public Affairs Office)

Out with the old, in with the... uh... old



Workers at Crisis City, a training center operated by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, are replacing old vehicles that are staged within the rubble pile with newer junkyard vehicles.

The vehicles within the rubble pile are used during training by first responders to practice removal of victims, welding, cutting and lifting items with a crane and other rescue techniques.

Crisis City, located eight miles southwest of Salina, Kan., was developed to fill the need to enhance the state's capability to defend against terrorism threats and respond to disasters and emergencies. The mission of Crisis City has expanded to provide Kansas first responders and those who do the dirty work, including the Kansas National Guard and our public and private partners, with a world class, multi-discipline, multi-agency training environment that has no rival. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Oct. 1, 2009, to officially open the facility. (Photo by Joe Pruitt, Crisis City Training Center)

Recruiting battalion welcomes new command sergeant major

By Spc. Anna Laurin
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Kansas Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion headquartered in Topeka, Kan., welcomed a new command sergeant major during a transfer of authority ceremony Jan. 11.

Command Sgt. Maj. James Crosby accepted the position as the new command sergeant major, succeeding Command Sgt. Maj. Manuel Rubio Jr., who has served in the position for the last four years.

Rubio was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his service by Maj. Kenneth J. Weishaar, commander.

Rubio was also presented with the battalion colors. Weishaar explained this is a symbol of Rubio's investment of the last four years of his life, a small token of appreciation for the sacrifices that he and his family have made.

"It has been an honor to me to have been the command sergeant major of this organization and to serve with these noncommissioned officers and officers," said Rubio. "I want to thank my family for supporting me

and allowing me to continue to serve the Soldiers of the Kansas Army National Guard."

The transfer of authority was symbolized by the passing of the noncommissioned officer's sword from Rubio to Crosby. The sword, carried by sergeants for more than 70 years, symbolizes the relinquishing of responsibility and authority from the outgoing command sergeant major to the incoming command sergeant major.

In his remarks, Crosby pointed out the great opportunity that this battalion can have to affect countless Soldiers and their futures.

"I can't stress enough the importance of coaching, teaching, mentoring and the impact that it has on Soldiers' careers," said Crosby. "By simply taking a few minutes out of your time, you really can change the career of any Soldier."

"To our (Recruit Sustainment Program) warriors, you are the epitome of what is right with our society," said Crosby. "We will care for you and send you to your units as training-ready Soldiers. You are our future."

995th Maintenance Company welcomes new commander

By Sgt. 1st Class Clair Hoelsing
995th Support Maintenance Company UPAR

1st Lt. Brent Jennings took command of the Kansas National Guard's 995th Support Maintenance Company during a change of command ceremony Jan. 11 at the Smith Center armory. During the ceremony, Capt. Wallace Miller turned over command to Jennings.

Lt. Col. Dana Duggins, commander of the 287th Special Troops Battalion, presided over the ceremony to symbolically pass responsibility for the welfare and training of the more than 130 Soldiers of the company to Jennings.

"To whom much is given, much is expected," said Duggins of the task ahead for Jennings.

Jennings said the unit is "in a high state of readiness" and expressed his desire to "build upon this success."

In his remarks, Miller talked about the road to where the company is today.

"The strength was 58 personnel when I took command, and today the strength is over 130," said Miller. "It was not all my doing."

1st Lt. Brent A. Jennings

1st Lt. Brent A. Jennings enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve in 1986 as a trainee in Troop C, 2nd Battalion, 322 Cavalry, 5th Brigade, Scott City, Kan. After completing Advanced Individual Training for unit supply specialist, he transferred to the Kansas Army National Guard and joined Headquarters and Headquarters Company (-), 1st Battalion, 635th Armor, Manhattan. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant June 21, 2007. Key assignments include platoon leader, executive officer, rear detachment commander, 170th Support Maintenance Company and assistant personnel officer for the 287th Sustainment Brigade.

Among Jennings' awards and decorations are the Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters; Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with silver oak leaf cluster, National Defense Service Medal with bronze star device; Iraq Campaign Medal, one campaign star; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Armed Forces Service Medal; Humanitarian Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal with silver hour glass and M device; Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, third award; Army Service Ribbon; Army Overseas Service Ribbon; Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Rib-

bon and Meritorious Unit Citation.

Jennings earned a Bachelor of Science degree in organizational management and leadership from Friends University. His military education includes Ordnance Officer Basic Course and Ordnance Officer Captain's Career Course. Jennings is a support maintenance specialist with the Surface Maintenance Management Office, Joint Force Headquarters, Kansas Army National Guard. Jennings and his wife, Rhonda, live in Topeka.

Capt. Wallace E. Miller III

Capt. Wallace E. Miller III enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1995 as a mortar man in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, Fort Riley, Kan. Following his active-duty service, he enlisted in the Kansas Army National Guard in 2002 as an infantryman in Company B, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the infantry on Sept. 16, 2004, and in 2008 transferred to the ordnance branch. Key assignments include platoon leader and executive officer, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry; training officer for the 287th Special Troops Battalion and commander of the 995th Support Maintenance Company.

Among Miller's awards and decorations are the Bronze Star Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal with bronze star device, Iraq Campaign Medal with two campaign stars, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon with oak leaf cluster, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation and the Expert Infantryman's Badge.

Miller earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business management from Fort Hays State University and a masters in organizational leadership from Fort Hays State University. His military education includes the Infantry Officers Basic Course and Ordnance Officer Captain's Career Course.

Miller is the Force Integration and Readiness Officer, Joint Forces Headquarters, Kansas Army National Guard. Miller and his wife, Leah, have two children, Orion and Conrad.



Command Sgt. Maj. Manuel Rubio (right) receives the Meritorious Service Medal for his service as the command sergeant major in the Kansas Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion from Maj. Kenneth J. Weishaar, commander, in a ceremony held at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Topeka, Kan., Jan. 11. Chaplain (Col.) David Jenkins (left), state chaplain of the Kansas National Guard, and Command Sgt. Maj. James Crosby, incoming command sergeant major of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, stand at attention. (Photo by Spc. Anna Laurin, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

KANSAS VETERAN'S MEMORIAL BASS TOURNAMENT



The 10th Annual Kansas Veteran's Memorial Bass Tournament in memory of all fallen Kansas service men and women will be held on April 26, 2014, at the Coffey County Lake near Wolf Creek Generating Station, Burlington, Kan. This tournament is to celebrate the freedom and pursuit of happiness that we enjoy as Americans. So join us in recognizing the fallen heroes of Kansas that gave the ultimate sacrifice for our American Freedom.

This is a boat tournament, bring your own boat and fill it with as many participants as the boat can legally hold. Top 5 places will receive prizes. 2d Battalion, 130th Field Artillery is hosting this tournament. This is a fun tournament you can start from 30 minutes after sunrise until 8:30 a.m. and ends at 12 p.m. or earlier if you need. Prizes will be awarded after the final boat returns or 12:30 p.m. whichever is the earliest. There is "NO" entry fee for this tournament.

Prizes and Trophy's will be awarded.
Bratwurst, Hamburgers and side dishes will be served at the end of the event.

Date: April 26, 2014 at Coffey County Lake (near Wolf Creek)

Schedule of Events

Time	Event
6 a.m. until 8:30 a.m.	Check in and Pre-Tournament Announcements
30 minutes after sunrise until 8:30 a.m.	Tournament begins
12 p.m.	Tournament Ends/Weigh In/Lunch & Awards Start

Official Entry Form

Boater Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Send form to: david.w.wellman@us.army.mil
or 2nd Battalion 130th FA
Attn: SFC Wellman, David
108 North 1st Street
Hiawatha, Kansas 66434

Hm Phone: _____

Wk Phone: _____

Boat Registration Number: _____ State: _____

Year & Model of Boat: _____ Boat Motor HP: _____

I have read and will comply with the above stated tournament rules and regulations;

Boater's Signature _____

Point of contact for this tournament is David Wellman, 785-742-5645 or 785-548-5668.



1st Lt. Brent Jennings, incoming commander, accepts the 995th Support Maintenance Company colors from Lt. Col. Dana Duggins, commander of the 287th Special Troops Battalion, during a change of command ceremony held at the Smith Center armory Jan. 11. (Photo by Sgt. Anthony Johnston, 995th Support Maintenance Company UPAR)

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



369th Brigade Signal Company celebrates Veterans Day

By Spc. Alexander Bush
369th Brigade Signal Company UPAR

The 369th Brigade Signal Company participated in the annual Veterans Day event Nov. 7, 2013, at the Sprint Campus, Overland Park, Kan. At the event, Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers from the Kansas City area had the opportunity to display their capabilities and interact with personnel from other government and civilian agencies.

Guardsmen interacted with the Overland Park Police Department and received hands-on training on some of their equipment and tactics. Spc. Harman Singh, a nodal network systems operator-maintainer from Shawnee, tried on the police department's Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit's gear and performed some routine activities while wearing the 90-pound protective suit.

"I was surprised by how limited my movement was while wearing the suit," said Singh. "The added weight made everything feel like I was moving in slow motion."

The Soldiers received valuable insight on how the unit and other agencies would react in the event of an emergency situa-

tion. Sprint's mission, in the event of an emergency, is very similar to the mission the 369th BSC has as a signal unit.

If an emergency were to occur that disabled communications, the immediate priority would be to re-establish communications and dispatch response teams to restore the communications capability within local agencies and outside organizations. This event helped display each organization's capabilities while demonstrating what is possible when organizations work together.

The support of the local community, including a large number of veterans from the Kansas City area, made this a worthwhile event and the 369th BSC hopes to provide continued support in the future.

"The opportunity to come out and interact with local veterans and listen to some of their experiences was a very rewarding experience," said Sgt. Andrew Burns, a signal support systems specialist of Merriam. "Events such as this not only help increase morale in the unit, but also allow for a chance to display our capabilities to the local community making it a win-win for all Soldiers involved."



Spc. Harman Singh, Shawnee, a nodal network systems operator-maintainer with the 369th Brigade Signal Company, puts on an Explosive Ordnance Disposal protective suit from the Olathe Police Department as part of an interagency training event during the Sprint Veterans Event Nov. 7, 2013, at the Sprint Campus, Overland Park, Kan. (Photo by Spc. Alexander Bush, 369th Brigade Signal Company UPAR)

Civil Air Patrol cadets join Topeka Veterans Day parade

By CAP Maj. Michael H. Mathewson
Kansas Wing Public Affairs Officer

Veterans Day events traditionally begin at 11 a.m., the time that the guns went silent on the Western Front Nov. 11, 1918 – the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. The city of Topeka honored this tradition as it started its first Veterans Day parade Nov. 11, 2013.

Members of the Topeka Eagle Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol joined in the parade honoring the men and women who have worn our country's uniform. Only four cadets were on hand to march – although Veterans Day is a state and national holiday, it is still a school and work day for most people – but four were enough to display the Topeka Squadron's pride in participating.

In addition to the Topeka Squadron, elements from the 190th Air Refueling Wing were on hand, as was Miss Kansas 2013, Sgt. Theresa Vail, who rode in an open vintage jeep dressed in her Army Combat Uniform.

The weather was not looking favorable as the parade formed up three hours before its scheduled start on the corner of 4th Street and Kansas Avenue. However, gray skies gave way to sunshine just as the parade began. Displaying the squadron guidon, the cadets started the 13-block parade walk.

"People kept saying how good we looked and that we were so young," said

Cadet Staff Sgt. Joachim Settanni, Rossville.

On the parade route, the cadets were briefly joined by K.C. Wolf, the Kansas City Chiefs mascot.

"It was hard marching when the wolf was with us," said Cadet Senior Airman Ecclesia Settanni, Rossville. "I wanted to look at him, but I needed to look straight ahead."

The weather held until the cadets turned east on 10th Street. The clouds came in and the temperature dropped. Turning north on Jackson, there were few spectators and the pace of the parade picked-up. By the end of the parade, the cadets were more than happy to climb back into the squadron's van.

"It sure turned cold when we came around the corner," said Cadet Senior Airman Adrian Appelhanz, Topeka. "But it was a fun day and I am glad that I was able to make it."

"The wind was blowing so hard that I could not keep my hat on," said Cadet Airman Basic Noah Appelhanz, Topeka.

Other squadron members spent the morning at the Topeka Hy-Vee grocery store. Two senior members were selling evergreen wreaths for placement on veterans' graves at the Oak Hill Cemetery, Lawrence, as a fundraiser for the squadron.

Other Kansas Wing squadrons also participated in the Veterans Days events conducted in Emporia, Kan.



(Left to right) Cadet Staff Sergeant Joachim Settanni, Cadet Senior Airman Ecclesia Settanni, both of Rossville, Cadet Senior Airman Adrian Appelhanz, Cadet Airman Basic Noah Appelhanz, both of Topeka, line up in formation prior to the start of the Topeka Veterans Day parade Nov. 11, 2013. (Photo by CAP Maj. Michael H. Mathewson, Kansas Wing Public Affairs Officer)

Miller: KS ESGR Employer Outreach Director

Kansas Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

Kansas Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense office, is pleased to announce the selection of Rodd Miller, Topeka, Kan., as the new ESGR Employer Outreach director for Kansas.

The Employer Outreach director is an official Department of Defense volunteer position. Miller will serve at the pleasure of the Kansas ESGR State Chair, Walt Frederick. Miller will provide the leadership and vision to hundreds of employers that are spread all across the state of Kansas.

Miller is a certified public accountant in the Topeka branch of Stifel Nicolaus. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science from Wichita

State University. He has a long and distinguished record of association with numerous community volunteer organizations.

ESGR seeks to foster a culture in which all employers support and value the employment and military service of members of the National Guard and Reserve in the United States. ESGR facilitates and promotes a cooperative culture of employer support for National Guard and Reserve service by developing and advocating mutually beneficial initiatives, recognizing out-

standing employer support, increasing awareness of applicable laws and policies, resolving potential conflicts between employers and their service members, and acting as the employers' principal advocate within the Department of Defense. Paramount to ESGR's mission is encouraging employment of Guardsmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce. Miller will take charge of communications with Kansas employers in order to implement the mission of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

More information about ESGR and volunteer opportunities is available at www.esgr.mil, or by calling Paul Swanson, Kansas ESGR at 785-274-1559.



Looking for a Job?

The Federal Human Resources Office posts M-Day Army National Guard job vacancies on its web page. Go to



<http://kansastag.gov/OPP.asp>
PagelD=557
or scan the QR Code



to see all statewide vacancies

Free tax services to current and retired service members

By Nick Simeone

American Forces Press Service

If it hasn't arrived yet, your 2013 W-2 wage and tax statement likely is on its way, and with it the countdown toward the April 15 tax filing deadline.

As preparations begin for the upcoming tax season, military families are being offered a free service to ensure they can meet that deadline from anywhere they may be stationed around the world.

Military OneSource, partnering with H&R Block, is offering all active duty, Guard and reserve forces help in preparing their taxes and in filing their federal and state returns, in addition to the variety of other financial planning services it already provides free of charge.

"No matter where you are, when you call 800-342-9647 or go to [the Military OneSource website], you can access the programs and services," Tony Jackson, a military community and family policy analyst for the service, told American Forces Press Service.

The program is designed to address the unique tax requirements and issues affecting military personnel and their families, Jackson said.

With many still likely dealing with holiday credit card bills, the April tax deadline may seem far off. But with many military families having to file multiple state tax returns in addition to federal taxes, beginning the work now on gathering tax-related documents can prevent headaches later.

"Now is the time to prepare, to gather your documents and your questions," Jackson said, "and [you can] to speak to a tax consultant at no cost at Military OneSource."

Additional paperwork at tax time for those living outside their home state that may have rental property or may be subject to taxes where they are currently deployed is a common additional burden, he noted.

Military OneSource will provide help filing a federal tax return, as well as up to three state returns, at no charge.

Jackson said some 224,000 federal and state tax returns were prepared for military families last year.

"Nobody ever gets turned away," he said.

The program's tax experts are able to help military families navigate changes in tax laws that may have a particular impact on or benefit for members of the military - as well as any tax implications related to military benefits, he added.

"They are nationally certified financial planners, so they are definitely qualified to assist families and service members," regardless of the topic, Jackson said.

Reserve component members are eligible for the free service regardless of their activation status, as are veterans within 180 days of being discharged, retired or separated.

The Defense Department established Military OneSource in 2002 to provide comprehensive information on military life free of charge to military families.



Army restructures Warrior Transition Units

U.S. Department of Defense

The Department of the Army announced several changes to the Warrior Care and Transition Program Jan. 15, designed to meet the evolving needs of the Army. These changes include Warrior Transition Unit organizational modifications, some WTU inactivations, and a shift in how the Army manages care and transition for Soldiers who are healing in their home communities.

Leaders said these changes are a result of a periodic review of the WTU force structure, a declining WTU population, and the Army's continued commitment to provide the best care and support for wounded, ill and injured Soldiers. The Army Medical Command will implement the changes by Sept. 30.

As a result of the force structure changes, the Community Based Warrior Transition Unit in Utah will be inactivated, and the cadre from that unit will transition to the Community Care Unit at Fort Riley, Kan.

Since its inception in 2007, the WCTP has evolved to meet the changing needs of wounded, ill and injured Soldiers and their families. The WTU population of wounded, ill and injured Soldiers across the Army has steadily declined over the last 14 months by almost 3,000 with 7,070 Soldiers currently assigned to WTUs (as of Jan. 2, 2014).

Brig. Gen. John Cho, commander of the Western Regional Medical Command, says Warrior Care is an enduring mission and a sacred obligation.

"These changes reflect our commitment to keep the faith with our Soldiers and their families," said Cho. "Adapting our mission to serve a declining population of wounded, ill and injured Soldiers enhances the overall care we provide to our Soldiers."

The following slated changes will occur this fiscal year across the Army:

- Establish 13 Community Care Units embedded within Warrior Transition Battalions at 11 Army installations.
- Inactivate all nine Community-Based Warrior Transition Units with medical management and mission command for Soldiers healing in their home communities transitioning to a WTB on an Army installation.
- Inactivate five WTUs where the populations of wounded, ill and injured Soldiers are extremely low.

According to Brig. Gen. David Bishop, commander of the Warrior Transition Command and Assistant Surgeon General for Warrior Care and Transition, "These changes will improve the care and transition of Soldiers through increased standardization, increased cadre to Soldier ratios, improved access to resources on installations, and reduced delays in care. They are not related to budget cuts, sequestration or furloughs."

Warrior Transition Units are located on major military installations and provide support to wounded, ill and injured Soldiers who require at least six months of rehabilita-

tive care and complex medical management. Community-Based Warrior Transition Units primarily provide outpatient care management and transition services for Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers who do not need the day-to-day medical management provided by WTUs. Soldiers assigned or attached to CBWTUs receive care and transition support while living in their home communities or near their personal support network.

Community Care

The Community Care concept realigns the management of Soldiers healing at home to a CCU assigned to an installation WTU. Cadre will provide medical management and mission command of Soldiers within their designated area of responsibility. These Soldiers will continue to receive the benefits of a dedicated unit of Cadre, Triad of Leadership, Medical Treatment Facility staff, Warrior Transition Battalion staff and installation resources to ensure that all Soldiers have the same experience across the program.

According to Col. Keith Brothers, WTC deputy chief of staff and National Guard advisor, "Soldiers will not relocate and will continue to receive care through the Tricare network. Additionally staffing modifications will allow WTUs to add physical therapists, occupational therapists, transition coordinators, mail clerks and drivers; and also improves nurse case manager and squad leader ratios."

Thirteen CCUs will stand up at the following Army installations: Fort Carson, Colo.; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.; Forts Hood and Bliss, Texas; Fort Riley, Kan.; Fort Knox, Ky.; Forts Benning, Stewart, and Gordon, Ga.; Fort Bragg, N.C.; and Fort Belvoir, Va. Forts Belvoir and Knox will each have two CCUs.

WTU Inactivations

WTUs slated for inactivation include Fort Irwin, Calif.; Fort Huachuca, Ariz.; Fort Jackson, S.C.; Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst; and the United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y. Each of these WTUs has fewer than 38 Soldiers assigned to it. These Soldiers will transition back to the force or into Veteran status by the end of September.

Bishop said that Active Duty personnel assigned to units set for inactivation or force structure reductions will be reassigned in accordance with Army policies. Reserve Component cadre will have the option of remaining on their current tour of duty until it expires, but not later than Sept. 30. They may also volunteer for early release from Active Duty or request reassignments to new positions.

The Army will ensure maximum support for permanent civilian cadre including reassignments at home installations, relocation to another installation or possibly Voluntary Early Retirements and Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay.

For questions about the Army's wider plan, please contact the Warrior Transition Command public affairs office, 703-325-0470 or email cynthia.l.vaughan6.civ@mail.mil.

Give an Hour™: free, confidential mental care

Give an Hour

"Over 2.6 million troops have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since the wars began more than a decade ago. All of them will be affected by their experience and some will return with understandable mental health consequences of their exposure to war," says Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen, president and founder of Give an Hour. "And we can assume that a service member's experience will directly affect at least 10 people within their social networks—spouses and significant others, children, mothers, fathers, and friends—which means more than 20 million Americans might need assistance with the complicated process of reintegration as service members come home."

Locating and accessing this assistance is not always easy. Cost is often an issue, as is availability of appropriate care within communities where service members, veterans, and their families live.

While there is more acceptance of the importance of mental health care for those who serve and their families today, there are still many who are suffering unnecessarily because they lack an understanding of the issues that affect them or they are unaware of options available to them.

Give an Hour, founded in 2005, has created a network of volunteer mental health professionals pledging an hour a week of their services, free of charge, to members of the military—including active duty, reserve, and guard—veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq, their families, and their communities.

Their services range from one-on-one counseling for post-traumatic stress to substance abuse treatment groups and counseling for adolescents and children.

In addition to addressing the many needs of the individuals and families of the armed services, Give an Hour providers are also available to consult to other organizations about the mental health issues affecting those who serve.

Give an Hour offers an important option for the men, women, and families who serve our country by providing services in the community at no cost to those in need. And, there is no limit to the number of sessions one can receive—help is available for as long as it is needed.

"We are proud of the opportunity to work with the Army National Guard to ensure critical mental health services are available for these deserving men, women, and families," notes Dr. Van Dahlen.



Give an Hour™

Give help | Give hope

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

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Provided by the Department of Defense at no cost to service members (active duty, Guard, and Reserve) and their family members.

Sgt. Lisa Jackson witnessed history in the making while serving

Courtesy story

The Pioneer

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During her more than 34 years in the military – first in the Army, then in the National Guard – Lisa Jackson, Smith Center, was able to see history first hand.

Jackson, company clerk at the Smith Center National Guard Armory, is retiring at the rank of sergeant.

Joining the Army Dec. 4, 1978, she went to basic training at Fort Gordon, Ga., then received specialty training to become a wireman (communications specialist).



Sgt. Lisa Jackson in a photo taken shortly after she completed basic training in early 1979. (Courtesy photo)

“After my training, Fort Carson, Colorado, was my first duty station,” said Jackson. “I stayed there until August 1980. I was ready to see the world, and that’s when they sent me to Berlin, Germany.”

During the era, the world was a totally different place. The Cold War was still at its height, with tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States remaining strong.

“The Berlin Wall was up – it was still a decade from being torn down – and it was ‘shoot to kill’ by the Communist guards if you were in the wrong place,” Jackson recalled. “Berlin was not the only place divided between Communism and the free world. West Germany was also still separated from East Germany by guard towers and machine guns.”

“They sent me into West Germany from Fort Carson. I got on a train at Frankfurt, and we left at night heading to Berlin.

“As we crossed over into East Germany, we had to go through all these checkpoints, maybe four of them. At each one I would look out the window and see all these Soviet and East German soliders standing outside with automatic weapons.”

“They’d go through our paperwork at the checkpoints, and would be looking for escapees trying to get out of East Germany.”

“After I got to West Berlin, sometimes we’d have details that would send us back to West Germany for training and we would travel across East Germany in truck convoys. They really kept a close watch on us and it was kind of scary sometimes.”

“Berlin, Berlin, Berlin. That will always stick in my mind, with the guards in the towers and the wall.”

Jackson notes that the year-and-a-half she spent in West Berlin was quite an adventure for a young person, saying that one of her duty stations during the period was in Adolf Hitler’s headquarters.

“It still had bunkers all around it when I was there,” she recalls. “We worked in the basement. I heard that’s where the Nazis did medical experiments on pregnant women.”

“My whole time there I didn’t travel around Europe to see the sights--there was so much to see and do right where I was at. I even got to go over into East Berlin on leave and spend the afternoon doing some shopping. We had to wear our uniforms in East Berlin--I think that was so they could keep a closer watch on us.”

In February 1982, Jackson was sent back to Fort Gordon, where she was stationed until October 1983, then back to face the Communist threat, this time on the opposite side of the world.

“I went to Camp Casey, South Korea, next. I was there just a year. They considered it to be hardship duty. We are close to North Korea and the (Demilitarized Zone), so everything was very closely watched and we had to have passes just to come and go. Things were so restricted that I didn’t get to see much, but I got to do a little touring when I could get a three-day pass.”

Jackson returned to the U.S. in October 1984, spending the final two months of her enlistment at Fort Sill, Okla.

“I had grown up in Denver, and while I was in the service my dad retired after 35 years with the phone company. He was



Kansas National Guardsman Sgt. Lisa Jackson, a human resource specialist with 995th Maintenance Company, sitting at her desk at the Smith Center National Guard Armory. (Courtesy of The Pioneer)

originally from Riverton, so my parents moved back when he retired. When I got out I joined them there.”

“In December 1984, I joined the National Guard and was assigned to Company C, 4th Combat Support Battalion. At that time I would drill in Norton one weekend a month.”



East Berlin gun tower (Courtesy photo)

In July 1994, she went from being a “weekend warrior” to a full-time Guardsman.

“I got hired on full-time as a unit clerk in Smith Center and moved there in 1998. I worked out of Smith Center the whole time, except once when we were activated during the Iraq War and we were sent to Fort Riley. They sent 135 of us. I took care of all them as far as paperwork, while our company fixed vehicles broken down and damaged in Iraq. They shipped them back to the U.S. by

boat, and then on to Fort Riley by rail. Once they got to us, we would repair them-- general breakdowns, bullet holes, shrapnel.”

Lisa is second generation military--her father served in the Merchant Marine in World War II, and then in the Air National Guard for 27 years. Her son joined the National Guard in 2008. He’s a full-time Guardsman, stationed at Fort Riley.

“I have spent 34 years and 10 months in the military. While at Smith Center, I’ve seen a lot of changes. When I first came here we didn’t even have a copy machine--we used stencils. Now everything is on computer. Now it’s all high-speed Internet, email instead of snail mail.”

“Once I retire, I’m moving to Deming, N.M., where I plan on doing a lot of fishing, and looking at a lot of history. I have a metal detector and plan on going out and using it at the Old West sites.”

“My folks live down there now--Robert and Jean Clements. And my brother, Douglas Clements, lives in Tucson. I’ll be moving into a very nice retirement community.”

“I’ve liked serving the National Guard in Smith Center, and I’ve liked taking care of our people. That’s been my job. I make sure they get paid, make sure their insurance is up to date, and make sure they get their promotions on time. I keep their paperwork up to date.”

“Once I leave I’m not going to miss the stress, but I sure am going to miss the people.”

Civil Air Patrol participates in Wreaths Across America

By CAP Maj. Michael H. Mathewson
Kansas Wing Public Affairs Officer

It was a cold afternoon with gray overcast skies when the members of the Lawrence and Topeka Civil Air Patrol squadrons met at the Oak Hill Cemetery, Lawrence, Kan., Dec. 14 to participate in Wreaths Across America. Wreaths Across America is a charity whose goal is to place a wreath on the grave of every American service member.

It is also a fundraiser for the Civil Air Patrol squadrons. To that end, the squadrons of the Kansas CAP Wing spent their Saturday mornings selling wreaths, standing in front of Wal-Marts and K-Marts to tell passing shoppers about the program. A \$15 donation would purchase a wreath to be placed on the grave of a veteran. Over the course of three months, the two squadrons sold 108 wreaths.

Following the official ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, local ceremonies were conducted across the country. In this case, the ceremony was conducted at the Oak Hill Cemetery in Lawrence. Oak Hill was chosen because it is the oldest chartered cemetery in Kansas, and it has a section set aside for veterans. The ceremony, led by CAP Capt. Timothy Thornton, Lawrence, started with a moment of silence for the veterans before the wreath placements began.

“We would go to a grave, kneel to place the wreath, stand for a moment of silence, read the name of the Soldier, then salute them,” said Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Austin Robberson, Topeka.



Members of the Lawrence and Topeka Eagle Squadrons place wreaths on the graves of veterans buried at the Oak Hill Cemetery, Lawrence, Kan., Dec. 14.

In the van on the way back to Topeka from Lawrence, Cadet Senior Airman Adrian Appelhanz had thoughts on the day’s events.

“I did not realize how many people had served in the military,” said Appelhanz. “It was an amazing thing to be part of.”

Kansas National Guard Foundation offers scholarships

The Kansas National Guard Foundation announced the formulation of scholarships available to Kansas resident high school seniors who have at least one parent in the Kansas National Guard. The scholarships will be available for the 2014-2015 college academic year.

Scholarships will be awarded in increments of \$1,000 up to a total of five scholarships given for each school year. Deadline for submission of applications will be March 1 of the year the scholarship will be used.

Eligibility and selection criteria can be found in the Scholarship Program Application found on the Kansas National Guard Foundation website at <https://sites.google.com/site/kansasnationalguardfoundation>. Questions can be addressed and applications can be submitted to the foundation’s e-mail address at ksng-foundation@gmail.com.

The mission of the Kansas National Guard Foundation is 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.



Awards and Decorations

KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Distinguished Service Medal



MG John Davoren, 35th Inf Div, Fort Leavenworth

Legion of Merit



Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Boring, 635th RSG, Hutchinson

Meritorious Service Medal



Lt. Col. Christopher Burr, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha, with two oak leaf clusters
 Maj. Steven Blount, HHD, 635th RSG, Hutchinson
 Maj. Timothy Button, HHD, 635th RSG, Hutchinson
 Maj. Todd Loughney, HHC, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Command Sgt. Maj. Manuel Rubio Jr., KSARNG Rec & Ret Bn, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Master Sgt. Michael Briggs, 235th Rgmt, Salina
 Master Sgt. Paul Swanson, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Clark, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lenexa
 Sgt. 1st Class Jason Jones, HHD, 69th TC, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster
 Sgt. 1st Class William Word Jr., 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City, with oak leaf cluster
 Staff Sgt. Leslie Hilton, HHD, 635th RSG, Hutchinson

Army Commendation Medal



Sgt. 1st Class Michael Ramos, 73rd CST, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster
 Staff Sgt. John Tejada, 73rd CST, Topeka

Army Achievement Medal



Pfc. Rodger Lewis, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Meritorious Service Medal



Lt. Col. Christopher Meyer, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
 Lt. Col. James Winingham, 184th IW, Wichita, with third oak leaf cluster
 Maj. David Hewlett, 184th IW, Wichita, with third oak leaf cluster
 Maj. James Neely, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
 Senior Master Sgt. David Baker, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Master Sgt. John Graber, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
 Master Sgt. Susan Ballard, 184th IW, Wichita, with third oak leaf cluster
 Master Sgt. John Miranda, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Cynthia Swazey, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Michael Budde, 184th IW, Wichita

Air Force Commendation Medal



Master Sgt. Gordon Bosie, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
 Master Sgt. James Hodson, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Curtis Rogers, 184th IW, Wichita, with 2nd oak leaf cluster
 Master Sgt. Marla Urban, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
 Master Sgt. Jack Webber, 184th IW, Wichita, with 3rd oak leaf cluster
 Tech. Sgt. Erik Jacobson, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Justin Meier, 184th IW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Quentin Morris, 184th IW, Wichita

Air Force Achievement Medal



Lt. Col. Peter Austin, 184th IW, Wichita
 Lt. Col. Benjamin Garcia, 184th IW, Wichita
 Lt. Col. Bradley Hilbert, 184th IW, Wichita
 Lt. Col. Cody Jacobs, 184th IW, Wichita
 Lt. Col. Jeffery Locke, 184th IW, Wichita
 Lt. Col. Michael Venerdi, 184th IW, Wichita
 Maj. Janell Blaufuss, 184th IW, Wichita
 Maj. Michael Hagerty, 184th IW, Wichita
 Maj. Shawn Jones, 184th IW, Wichita
 Maj. James McCosh, 184th IW, Wichita
 Maj. Donald McVlure, 184th IW, Wichita
 Maj. Jesse Sojka, 184th IW, Wichita
 Maj. John Suter, 184th IW, Wichita
 Capt. Joseph Deeds, 184th IW, Wichita
 Capt. Anhchi Murphy, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
 Capt. David Olds, 184th IW, Wichita

2nd Lt. Aaron Farris, 184th IW, Wichita
 2nd Lt. David Schonberg, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Master Sgt. Paul Arnold, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Master Sgt. Charles Ballard, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Master Sgt. James Caughron, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Master Sgt. Barry Fox, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Master Sgt. Christina Hamel, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Master Sgt. Steven Holderman, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Master Sgt. Elisabeth Lind, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Master Sgt. Lurina Lovegrove, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Master Sgt. Collin McGinnis, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Master Sgt. Donald Schafer, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Emily Albers, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Fred Beat, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Justin Betterton, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Robert Bisterfeldt, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Chad Brown, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Curtis Brown, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. David Chirinos, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Crystal Cox, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Timothy Deme, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Robert Frey, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Jayme Gabbard, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. John Gray, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Michael Hill, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Cornelius Hulm, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Robert Johnston, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. James Lovegrove, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Eric Maynor, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. William Mick, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Marvin Nice, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Floyd Parks, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Steven Peyton, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Jeremy Shockey, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Kelly Short, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Clint Stevens, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Daniel Strickland, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Cynthia Swazey, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Gregg Talkington, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Tony White, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Jeremiah Afsharpour, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Maurice Balance, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Joshua Bantam, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Cindy Bryers, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Bryan Byers, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Ricky Canlapan, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Nathan Cheney, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Andrew Coffey, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Amanda DeLarber, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Jesse Diaz, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. James Dickinson, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Evan Dodds, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Cori Fortner, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Anthony Garner, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Brian Gigax, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Melissa Gillenwater, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Sean Greenlee, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Micky Grogan, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Paul Jones, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Joseph Kitchen, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Corbin Leland, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Todd Marshall, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Kurt Mitchell, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. John Montgomery, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Norris, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Christopher Pabor, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Kirk Porter, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Jeremiah Rempel, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Ronald Richert, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Shawn Rucker, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. James Shinkle, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Casey Smith, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Peter Welling, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. John Winter, 184th IW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Joseph Andra, 184th IW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. George Bergen, 184th IW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Jason Bradshaw, 184th IW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Aaron Crockett, 184th IW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Thomas Dater, 184th IW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Brian Hartzell, 184th IW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Michael Hastings, 184th IW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Thomas Klungenberg, 184th IW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Anthony Kober, 184th IW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Angela Murray, 184th IW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Andrew Schmeidler, 184th IW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Jeffery Self, 184th IW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Alyssa Sennett, 184th IW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Kyle Whiteside, 184th IW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Scott Wingerter, 184th IW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Anthony Young, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Airman Clinton Adams, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Airman Desirae Beason, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Airman Chase Bryan, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Airman Tara Campbell, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Airman Blake Elliott, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Airman Matthew Gray, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Airman Corey Hill, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Airman Paul Kahl, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Airman Justin Lewis, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Airman Jamie Rivas, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Airman Jonathan Ronnfeldt, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Airman Natalie Silva, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Airman Christopher Smith, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Airman Joshua Swilley, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Airman Derek Vaporean, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Airman Bradley Weaver, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Airman Willie Wilkinson, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Airman Nicholas Yeager, 184th IW, Wichita
 Airman 1st Class Justin Burns, 184th IW, Wichita

Sgt. John Cochran Jr., 1161st FSC, Hutchinson
 Sgt. Benjamin Droge, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
 Sgt. Donald Glover, Det 1, 1161st FSC, Pratt
 Sgt. Lisa Jackson, 995th Maint Co (-), Smith Center
 Sgt. Benjamin Kearns, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Sgt. Lonnie Morris, Det 1, 250th FSC, Hiawatha
 Sgt. Douglas Mulqueen, Det 3, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Topeka
 Sgt. Travis Treff, Det 1, Btry A, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Marysville
 Spc. Bevan Crossman, Det 1, 778th Trans Co, Manhattan
 Spc. Douglas Loftus, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Pvt. 2 Angelo Fitchett, 2137th FSC, Manhattan

Kansas Air National Guard

Col. Michael Tokarz, 184th IW, Wichita
 Chief Master Sgt. Scott Humphrey, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Senior Master Sgt. Mario Guerrero, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Senior Master Sgt. Brian Martin, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Don Stucker, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Tech. Sgt. Michael Budde, 184th IW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. George Bergen, 184th IW, Wichita

Retirements

Kansas Army National Guard

Sgt. Maj. Darryl McNair, KSARNG Rec & Ret Bn, Topeka
 1st Sgt. Paul Swanson, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Michael Briggs, HQ, 235th Rgmt (RTI), Salina
 Sgt. 1st Class Brian Arant, Det 1, Co B, 35th Inf Div, Fort Leavenworth
 Sgt. 1st Class Carolyn Davis, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita
 Sgt. 1st Class David Owens, Det 2, 250th FSC, Clay Center
 Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Sullivan, 170th Maint Co (-), Norton
 Sgt. 1st Class Carolee Tustin, KSARNG Med Det, Lenexa
 Sgt. 1st Class William Word, HHC (-), 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City
 Staff Sgt. David Beerbower, HHC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola
 Staff Sgt. Billy Holloway Jr., Co E (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Lester Pletcher, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Concordia
 Staff Sgt. Joseph Siverinac, Det 1, HHB, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Marysville
 Sgt. Eric Clay, 2137th FSC, Manhattan

Civil Air Patrol visits Rossville Jr./Sr. High School students

By CAP Maj. Michael H. Mathewson
 Kansas Wing Public Affairs Officer

The students of Rossville, Kan., Junior and Senior High School had visitors during their lunch period Jan. 28. School Counselor Beth Shepard invited members of the Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron, Topeka, Kan., to visit the “Dawgs” to tell them about the Civil Air Patrol and the Patrol’s cadet program.

Visiting with the students were Senior Member 1st Lt. Christine Settanni, Rossville; Cadet 2nd Lt. Thomas Pugh, Topeka; Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Austin Robberson, Topeka; Cadet Staff Sgt. Dominic Settanni and Cadet Staff Sgt. Ecclesia Settanni, both of Rossville.

Dressed in their blue uniforms, the cadets had three chances to speak with the students as they rotated through their lunch period. They passed out information flyers and paper airplanes. The cadets would sit and talk with interested students about the cadet program.

“We are looking to bring more people into our squadron,” said Pugh, the cadet commander. “We have a great program and we want to share it.”

“The Civil Air Patrol does share many of the basic elements of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America and the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, but we train to use our emergency training in real-world search and rescue missions,” said Robberson.

The cadet program, for youth between the ages of 12 and 18, serves to develop leadership, knowledge in aerospace and skills in emergency services. As the cadets develop in grade and emergency service skills, they participate in search and rescue exercises and on actual missions.

Cadets can also be involved in color guard and drill completions, model rocketry, robotics and cadet orientation flights in both powered flights and gliders.

“We hope that we will be able to share what we have with the students,” said Christine Settanni, assistant deputy commander for cadets. “The Civil Air Patrol cadet program has been a great benefit to our family.”

“Right now I am the only girl in the squadron,” said Ecclesia Settanni “It would be great to have an all-girl element to compete with the boys.”

The Civil Air Patrol is the volunteer civilian auxiliary to the United States Air Force. The Civil Air Patrol operates under the direction of the First Air Force and is the first

(Continued on Page 20)

Warrior to Warrior The Times They Are A’Changin’

Continued from Page 4

8. Check small things.
9. Share credit.
10. Remain calm. Be kind.
11. Have a vision. Be demanding.
12. Don’t take counsel of your fears or naysayers.
13. Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier.

Our Kansas National Guard is strong today. Mission success proves our strength, but the Guards’ strength exists because our Airmen and Soldiers strive to put integrity and service before self and to demand excellence in everything they do. If we focus on improving these values, we will be able to fit into any defense scheme our nation needs us in.

Kansas Warrant Corps update

Continued from Page 4

- their due attention.
5. Increased warrant officer readiness. We are at our highest number for readiness, but still have a way to go. Warrant officer readiness is at 82 percent. However, there are more than 30 vacancies to fill.

A new fires brigade is being stood up and will add more than 15 additional warrant officer slots. I ask for your assistance by providing me names of Soldiers that you feel would make quality warrant officers.

The fires brigade warrant officers will consist of field artillery, information technology, administration and the quartermaster branches. I ask that any noncommissioned officers who would like to make history by becoming the first warrant officers in the fires brigade to contact Chief Warrant Officer 2 Sam Bonham at 785-274-1823 or samual.c.bonham.mil@mail.mil.

Now that the new year is here, it’s a good time to update your biographies, Personal Electronic Records Management System, and officer evaluation report support form. Be proactive in maintaining your record because no one else will do it for you. By updating your records at one time, you can better track and update the schools and training you have received the past year. Promotion boards are mainly looking over your records and if you don’t update your records or OERs, you may be overlooked because you don’t meet promotion requirements.

I also want to remind everyone that each year the National Guard Association of Kansas elects a Warrant Officer of the Year. Candidates for this award will be recommended in accordance with the following:

1. Joint Forces Headquarters: recommen-

dations may be forwarded through command channels to the appropriate commander.

2. Army National Guard: recommendations will be forwarded through the unit commander to the appropriate major subordinate command.

JFHQ and each major command will initiate the recommendation process in sufficient time to ensure that the chair of the Awards Committee, National Guard Association of Kansas, receives their nomination at least 10 days prior to the annual conference of the association. The objective for the Warrant Officer of the Year is to provide recognition for outstanding leadership, loyalty, initiative and public service displayed by a warrant officer.

The National Guard Association of Kansas Joint Conference will be March 21-23 in Wichita, Kan. There is still time to submit warrant officer names to the committee. Three out of the past five years our Kansas warrant officers were also selected as National Warrant Officer of the Year.

I would like to recognize Chief Warrant Officer 3 Cam Wahlmeier for his selection as “Distinguished Honor Graduate” while attending the Warrant Officer Staff Course at Fort Rucker, Ala. Wahlmeier competed against 62 warrant officers from Active Duty, Guard and reserve from various military occupation specialties. Congratulations for a job well done.

Finally, if you know of any warrant officer news such as promotions, graduations, retirements or changes that affect warrant officers and you would like to see them in the Plains Guardian, please send them to me at me at 785-274-1903 or hector.a.vasquez4.mil@mail.mil.

Again, thank you all for your support and service.



Civil Air Patrol competes in Air Force's CyberPatriot event

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy
184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

When it comes to cybersecurity, it's hard to beat the expertise possessed within the 299th Network Operations Security Squadron. That made it an inspirational location for the Emerald City Composite Squadron of the Wichita Civil Air Patrol Wing to participate in the CyberPatriot national high school cyberdefense competition in December.

"CyberPatriot is a program every CAP squadron has been encouraged to participate in," said Lt. Col. Chris Snyder, commander, 299th NOSS. "After deciding to put together a team for this year's competition, I found out that Major (Andrew) Vanderziel was looking for a team to mentor, and we both decided utilizing the classroom at the NOSS would be the perfect place to host the training and the competition."

CyberPatriot was created by the Air Force Association and presented by the Northrop Grumman Foundation.

According to their website, the intent of the competition is to "inspire high school students toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, disciplines critical to our nation's future."

December marked the second round of the

competition, which challenges the five-person teams to secure network systems from malware and viruses as well as many other system attacks. The teams that find the most vulnerabilities within a set amount of time move on to further rounds in the competition.

"The goal of CyberPatriot is to excite students to pursue STEM studies, carry interest forward to college and pursue cyber careers," said Snyder.

Snyder also serves as the commander of the Emerald City Composite Squadron.

"I initially got involved with the CAP because my son wanted to get involved in the program. After about a year of helping out behind the scenes, I found that there was a lot more to CAP than the cadet program, and made it a goal of mine to get the CAP emergency services mission more integrated with the Kansas Air National Guard domestic operations missions," said Snyder.

"Over the summer, I became the volunteer commander of the local Wichita squadron, and I'm continuing to try and build on the membership within the local CAP squadron while keeping us involved in various community events," continued Snyder. "It's been a rewarding volunteer organization to be part of."

To find out more about CyberPatriot, go to www.uscyberpatriot.org.



Civil Air Patrol Cadets (left to right) Ryan Detrick, Doug Newman, Mason Snyder and Matt Boone participate in the CyberPatriot Competition during the December unit training assembly. The team had to find network vulnerabilities including viruses and malware. (Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

Kansas Teen Council crosses military branches

By Jarred Brown
Teen Council

As the president of the Kansas National Guard Teen Council, and the Region VII Representative on the National Guard Teen Panel, I have had the privilege of meeting many outstanding Guard youth from all across the country. In early January, I was given the opportunity to be a guest at the winter meeting for the Air Force Reserve Teen Council. Also in attendance were members from the Air Force Teen Council and other members of the National Guard Teen Panel.

I was allowed to sit in on the Reserve Council as they held their meetings and discussed the upcoming year. Many of the goals they set matched the goals Kansas National Guard Teen Council has set into

motion, such as fostering a healthy relationship within the youth community, getting youth more involved by hosting events and activities and providing a support system.

Guest speakers included Col. Jeffery Pennington, commander of the 433rd Airlift Wing, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and David Wright, 4-H Extension Program specialist for military youth in Texas.

Pennington spoke on his role in the Air Reserve and the need to be resilient and to stay positive, not letting setbacks stop you. Wright gave a briefing on the support the 4-H has given to the Air Force youth programs across the country.

For information about Kansas's Military 4-H involvement please contact Elaine Johannes at ejohanne@ksu.edu.



Jarred Brown, president of Kansas National Guard Teen Council and son of Command Chief Master Sgt. James Brown, state command chief of the Kansas Air National Guard, poses for a group picture with members of the Air Force Reserves Teen Council in front of the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas. (Courtesy Photo)

KANSAS
NATIONAL GUARD

OPERATION: KID'S CAMP

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5th grade students get practical lesson in math from Guardsman

Courtesy story
35th Infantry Division

In his last official act in uniform, Maj. Garrett Martin gave fifth-grade students at Lansing Elementary School a lesson in math.

Demonstrating to the students how the military isn't all about fighting, Martin, the transportation officer of the 35th Infantry Division, explained the math and logistics of calculating and transporting MREs for 2,000 Soldiers for one day.

"It was actually my wife Sara's idea," said Martin, who retired from the Kansas National Guard Dec. 31, 2013. "She is a fifth-grade math teacher, and she was talking about how she wished she could show her students how important math is and how it's used on a daily basis."

Martin mentioned he was teaching Soldiers in his transportation section formulas and calculations for how much food and water was required for each Soldier and what the transportation requirements just for one day of supply. Sara Martin prevailed on her husband to bring that lesson to her class.

"It was very interesting to watch Garrett explain how to calculate how many MREs each Soldier needed, how many were in a case, how many cases on a pallet and how many pallets fit on different types of trucks," said Sara. "He even went further and showed the kids not only how they had to calculate the weight of the MREs on the truck, but add the weight of the truck and cargo together."

"He had a problem where the students had to supply 2,000 Soldiers one day's supply of MREs from point A to point B and there was a bridge that had a weight limit to cross," she continued. "It was great because we had finished a few weeks ago talking about different weights so the students caught on really quick and were able to calculate the exact weights of the trucks and cargos and match the right set to cross the bridges."

Martin also helped create a similar problem for calculating water using 16-ounce bottles. "It was a great lesson and I plan on using it again," said Sara.



Maj. Garrett Martin, the 35th Infantry Division transportation officer, explains the math involved in supplying MREs for 2,000 Soldiers for one day to Lansing Elementary School fifth-graders. (Photo by Sara Martin)

Topeka Arab Shrine donates circus tickets to Kansas National Guard



To show their continuing support for the Kansas National Guard, representatives from the Arab Shrine of Topeka donated 3,000 tickets to the Arab Shrine Circus to the Adjutant General's Department. The donation presentation took place Jan. 21 at the Kansas National Guard headquarters, State Defense Building, Topeka.

Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, accepted the tickets on behalf of the Kansas National Guard.

"The Kansas National Guard is very family-oriented," said Tafanelli, "and the Arab Shrine Circus always provides very family-friendly entertainment. We sincerely appreciate this generous donation by the Topeka Arab Shrine."

The annual Arab Shrine Circus took place in Topeka Feb. 20-23 at the Kansas Expocentre. Part of the Shriners' mission is a commitment to providing attractive, quality programs and services for families and friends in a spirit of fun, fellowship and social camaraderie. (Photo by Sharon Watson, Public Affairs Office)

CAP visits Rossville students

Continued from Page 18

choice for inland search and rescue. The Kansas Wing also comes under the administrative support of the Adjutant General's Department.

The Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron meets every Monday, except national holidays, at Nickell Armory, 2272 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, Kan., at 7 p.m. For more information on the Civil Air Patrol and the Topeka Squadron, visit www.kswgcap.com.



Cadet/Chief Master Sgt. Austin Robberson, Topeka, Kan., explains the Civil Air Patrol Cadet program to Rossville Jr./Sr. High School students during their lunch period Jan. 28. (Photo by CAP Maj. Michael H. Mathewson, Kansas Wing Public Affairs Officer)



2014 Strong Bond Event



Strong Bonds is a chaplain-led program which builds relationship resiliency. The Strong Bonds mission is to increase Soldier and Family readiness through relationship education and skills training. Events are open to all Kansas Army National Guard members. Units returning from or preparing for deployment will have first priority on registration. If you have questions or want to register, contact Staff Sgt. Jimmy Boss at 785-274-1514 or Jimmy.d.boss.mil@mail.mil.

Event Dates

March 28-30 - Wichita
June 27-29 - Overland Park
Aug. 22-24 - Wichita

Space is limited to the first 30 couples who register for the seminar.

Lodging, meals and childcare are provided.

Spouse must be registered in DEERS.

There is NO cost to attend.

Join the Civil Air Patrol

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