



**“Stigma” of PTSD deters many from seeking help....2**



**Crisis City hosts full-scale disaster exercise .....10**

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

APRIL 2015

## Kansas National Guard supports inaugural activities

By Sgt. Zach Sheely  
Public Affairs Office

Cannon fire rumbled over the lawn of the Kansas State Capitol in Topeka and the musical sound of ruffles and flourishes filled the dome inside as the Kansas National Guard provided the pomp and circumstance for the gubernatorial inauguration ceremony Jan. 12, marking the re-election of Gov. Sam Brownback.

“The men and women of the Kansas National Guard are proud to serve Governor Brownback and follow his leadership as our commander in chief, as we have with every governor since Kansas became a state,” said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, Kansas adjutant general.

The Adjutant General’s Department includes the Kansas Army and Air National Guard, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and provides administrative support to the Civil Air Patrol. The Kansas National Guard has approximately 7,500 Army and Air Guardsmen serving throughout the state.

Guardsmen were also on hand to escort Kansas state officials into Exposition Hall at the Kansas Expocentre Jan. 10 for the inaugural dinner and ball. The procession of the

ball was led by Senior Airman Camry Gayer, the Kansas National Guard Airman of the Year and Sgt. Kevin Davis, Kansas National Guard Soldier of the Year followed by Tafanelli and his wife, Tammy, who escorted Brownback and his family.

Following the Grand March, the Adjutant General’s Ceremonial Color Guard, under the command of State Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth, presented the colors during the singing of the Star Spangled Banner.

Originally scheduled to be held on the south steps of the Capitol, the inauguration ceremony was moved into the Kansas House Chamber due to the frigid temperatures. The 35th Infantry Division Band performed musical selections under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Steve Patterson.

After Brownback received his oath of office and delivered his inaugural address, Tafanelli and Lt. Col. Jerritt Curtis, commander of troops for the inauguration, escorted the governor as he inspected an honor guard of Kansas Guardsmen and Kansas Highway Patrol troopers, reaffirming his role as their commander in chief. During the inspection, a salute battery from the Kansas National Guard’s 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery provided a 19-gun salute fired by



Members of the Kansas National Guard and Kansas Highway Patrol stand at parade rest in the gallery of the House Chamber as Gov. Sam Brownback delivers his inaugural address at the State Capitol in Topeka Jan. 12. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Barnett, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

75mm towed howitzers.

“Despite every challenge, despite every difficulty, whatever may come, in Kansas,

we are still aiming high, to the stars,” Brownback said in his address.

(Additional photos on pages 8 and 9)

## 190th Air Refueling Wing aids presidential visit to Kansas

By Sgt. Zach Sheely  
Public Affairs Office

A presidential visit poses logistical challenges for the host. Between coordinating security, vehicles and personnel with the White House and Secret Service, the preparation can take weeks.

The Airmen of the 190th Air Refueling Wing only had a matter of days.

President Barack Obama came to Kansas, his first visit since 2011, to speak

at the University of Kansas in Lawrence Jan. 22. He arrived Jan. 21 and departed the Sunflower State the next day via Forbes Field Air National Guard Base in Topeka, home of the 190th ARW, in his Boeing 747, known as Air Force One.

“We didn’t get word of the president’s arrival until (late last week),” said Maj. Joe Blubaugh, wing executive staff officer. “It was almost noon when I got that phone call and, needless to say, we went into full-on scramble mode because it was Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, so we were getting ready to release everyone for a three-day weekend.”

It’s not every day that an Air Guard base plays host to the president, so the Airmen sacrificed much of their time to accommodate their commander in chief.

“A lot of people gave up a lot of their weekend to get out here and make this happen,” said Blubaugh. “I had to call people at home and ask them to come to the base for preparation and not one time did I hear even so much as a sigh of disappointment.”

Obama traveled to Lawrence, some 30 miles away, in his presidential motorcade, which consisted of nearly 30 vehicles, many of which were shipped beforehand and stored at the base. Forbes Field offered the space to accommodate various vehicles and aircraft, including Air Force One and Marine One, the presidential helicopter, in a secure environment.

“It’s easier to bring the presidential entourage, including Air Force One, to a military base because of the built-in security,” said Blubaugh.

Once notified, personnel of the 190th met internally and began coordinating with the advance planning teams of Air Force One, the White House and the Secret Service to start making preparations for a safe and smooth experience.

“The Secret Service was pleased,” said Blubaugh. “It went really well and on more than one occasion I heard people talk about how great it is to go to an Air National Guard base. They related that to how much pride they saw in the Air National Guard.”

Obama was scheduled to come to Kansas through Forbes Field in April 2013, but that trip was cancelled due to the Boston marathon bombings. While this was his first trip through Topeka, Forbes Field has hosted Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, along with several First Ladies.

After his speaking engagement in Lawrence and before boarding his plane to return to Washington, the president greeted visitors and Airmen of the 190th ARW.

Staff Sgt. Erin Oatley, a paralegal with the judge advocate general of the 190th, was tasked with checking in members of the media and visitors.

“It was an honor to be here to be able to see President Obama,” said Oatley. “For me, it was an extra bonus to have the opportunity to meet him.”

The president was able to stick closely with his scheduled timeline, a testament to the efforts of the Kansas Air National Guard.

“I’m just absolutely amazed at our people,” said Blubaugh. “We truly have some of the best members of the Air Force right here at the 190th Air Refueling Wing and this wouldn’t have been possible without the hard work that they put in.”



President Barack Obama waves goodbye from Forbes Field Air National Guard Base in Topeka Jan. 22 as he boards Air Force One. Obama made his first stop in Kansas since 2011 to speak at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Byers, Public Affairs Office)



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**Part one of a two-part series****Perceived “stigma” of PTSD deters many from seeking help**

By Sgt. Zach Sheely  
Public Affairs Office

*“Not all wounds are visible.”*

*PTSD Journal*

For many service members suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, simply admitting the need for help may be the most difficult thing they ever do.

Master Sgt. Lyle Babcock spent nearly 15 months deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In the time since his return, Babcock has grappled with this personal battle.

An Army veteran of nearly 31 years, Babcock, a management analyst for the human resources office at the Kansas National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters in Topeka, served from 2012-2013 as the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 102nd Military History Detachment, documenting the missions of the U.S. military serving in Afghanistan. His duties included collecting documents, taking photos and videos, and conducting interviews with Soldiers to gather their perspective on the war.

Those interviews were often the first time Soldiers had a chance to openly talk about their combat experiences.

“I got the real story,” Babcock said. “It was neat. Through the process, they started opening up. You could see and feel their emotions and everything they witnessed and went through.”

Babcock voluntarily extended his deployment several months, and looks back positively on his experience, saying that he “would do it again in a heartbeat,” and even that it was “fun.”

However, when he returned home, his wife Traci immediately noticed a difference in him.

“When he came off the plane, he was very stiff, still very much in that military ‘mode,’” she said. “He was kind of standoffish. He wasn’t sure how to act or feel.”

“I really didn’t want to admit that I had PTSD. That was a hard road for me.”

Master Sgt. Lyle Babcock  
Kansas National Guard

Master Sgt. Lyle Babcock, management analyst for the human resources office, Kansas National Guard, is an Army veteran of more than 30 years. Upon returning from a 15 month deployment to Afghanistan from 2012-2013, he began to notice changes in himself. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mark Hanson, Kansas National Guard Visual Information)

Babcock insisted on driving home from the airport, scaring everyone in the car.

“He drove like a crazy person,” Traci said. “He was tailgating people and driving really fast, because that’s how they have to drive over there to stay alive – point A to B as fast as you can.”

What really alarmed Traci, who’s studying for her master’s degree in addiction counseling at Washburn University in Topeka, is that her husband couldn’t sleep in bed with her.

“I preferred sleeping on the couch,” Babcock said. “It felt more secure. Over there, you go to bed, you know where your gun’s at, and you know where things are at. You don’t have to think about it twice.”

“You get back, all of a sudden things are different and you don’t feel as secure.”

At work, back in the garrison environ-

ment of JFHQ after a month of leave, his newly-developed hypervigilance and paranoia didn’t mesh well with his co-workers. He cited a time where he “swung on” a co-worker, merely because she approached him unwittingly and startled him.

“I had a panic attack. Instant cold sweats and I felt very insecure and unsecure,” he said. “I ended up leaving without telling anyone. That’s when I knew something was way off. I usually deal with stress well, but I was stressed. I was emotional. What the hell just happened and why? What’s going on?”

Dr. Chalisa Gadt-Johnson, a licensed psychologist and chief of the stress disorder treatment program at the Colmery-O’Neil VA Medical Center, Topeka, describes the four primary clusters of PTSD symptoms.

“There are intrusive symptoms including nightmares, flashbacks or invasive thoughts,” said Gadt-Johnson. “There’s hyper arousal – can’t concentrate, irritability, difficulty sleeping and paranoia. Negative thinking and emotions, including fear, anxiety, guilt and shame. And finally, avoidance. They avoid doing everyday things like going to Walmart to avoid feeling distress.”

Gadt-Johnson said that people who experience symptoms in all four categories meet the criteria for a PTSD diagnosis.

“I really didn’t want to admit that I had PTSD,” Babcock said. “That was a hard road for me. I felt, one, I’m decent size... I’m a senior NCO. I looked at it as a failure. It meant you’re weak, or at least that what I perceived it as.”

As a seasoned Army veteran, Babcock said he was well-prepared for his time in theater and that his personal experiences there were milder in comparison to many of the Soldiers he talked to.

“I went through some stuff, but not real bad,” he said. “Not like some of these guys and gals.”

But Gadt-Johnson explained PTSD isn’t limited to only those who’ve experienced or seen the worst and it’s not even limited to service members or people who have personally experienced traumatic events.

“PTSD is a non-discriminatory disorder,” Gadt-Johnson said. “It can affect anyone who experienced, witnessed or knows someone they care about who experienced some sort of trauma event.”

Babcock’s biggest roadblock in admitting that he was experiencing PTSD symptoms and seeking support was his concern of how others would view him, particularly those in leadership.

“How would other people perceive it?” he said. “How would my leadership per-

(Continued on Page 3)

**Heroes on the Water provides a safe haven for veterans, families**

By Public Affairs Office

Modern life is full of hassles, deadlines, frustrations and demands. For many people, stress is so commonplace it is a way of life. For members of the military, in addition to dealing with the stresses of their daily lives, they have the added stress of serving their country.

Everyone has their own way of dealing with stress – playing video games or sports, taking walks or going for a run, spending time with friends or other activities.

For Kansas Army National Guard Soldier Master Sgt. Lyle Babcock Jr., and Adjutant General’s Department employee Jane Welch, their method of stress relief – kayaking – led them down a path they never expected.

When Babcock returned from his deployment to Afghanistan in 2013 he purchased kayaks for himself and his wife. During the summer of 2013, Welch was introduced to

kayaking by a niece. During a casual conversation in the hallway, Babcock and Welch discovered their shared love of kayaking.

Babcock learned of an organization called Heroes on the Water. HOW is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered in Allen, Texas. HOW’s mission is to provide healing and rehabilitating kayak and fishing outings to veterans from all branches to help them relax, rehabilitate and reintegrate.

Originally started at Brooke Army Medical Center in 2007, Heroes on the Water is free to veterans and their families and is supported by tax-deductible donations.

“During my deployment I decided I wanted to buy a kayak on my return and I started looking online to see what was out there,” said Babcock. “That is when I stumbled across Heroes on the Water. I read their mission statement and realized that

combining my love of kayaking and fishing together was something I was very interested in. After I got home, I contacted the HOW national chapter to volunteer and found that the nearest chapter was in central Nebraska, six hours away.

“Instead, I started volunteering with the Colmery-O’Neil VA Medical Center in the post-traumatic stress disorder unit. I wasn’t at a point where I could admit to myself that I was dealing with PTSD so by volunteering I could hide behind the mask and still help other veterans.

“I started taking the veterans fishing on weekends and from that, the idea of starting a chapter in Kansas was born.”

Babcock approached Welch and told her about HOW and asked if she would be willing to help him start a chapter in Kansas.

“When Lyle told me what the mission for Heroes on the Water was, I was sold,” said Welch, a public information writer in the Adjutant General’s Department Public Affairs Office. “During the time I have worked for the agency, I have seen a lot of Soldiers deploy, some multiple times. Deployment changes them and they come home and struggle to fit back into a life that doesn’t necessarily match the person that returned from deployment. I’ve always felt like I was on the sideline and wasn’t sure what I could do to help. Volunteering for HOW has given me a way to help veterans struggling with the stress of everyday life.”

Babcock submitted the required paperwork and in May 2014 the Kansas chapter was officially established. They held their first event on June 7, 2014. The event was small with only six veterans in attendance.

The chapter provides free of charge everything that the participants need to enjoy the day and relax: fishing license, fishing gear, bait, kayaks, life jackets, food and drinks. In 2014, the Kansas chapter had

more than 500 veterans and family members experienced the healing powers of the program.

“The veterans arrive at our events and you can see the apprehension on their faces,” said Welch. “That apprehension stays until they are actually out in a kayak and then the realization sets in that they are in complete control of that vessel. For some of the veterans with post traumatic stress disorder, that is a profound moment.

“Most of them feel like they control very little in their lives and now they are the captain of their own ship. Some of them just paddle into the middle of the lake and won’t move, just taking a moment to enjoy the sounds of the quiet around them. Others will find a spot and throw out a fishing line, not really caring if anything bites or not. When it is time to come in off the lake, the transformation is amazing. Their eyes are lit up and the grins go from ear to ear and they are asking when they can do it again.”

The Kansas chapter is run by a core group of unpaid volunteers. The backgrounds of the volunteers are varied, but they all agree – they are doing it to help veterans.

“This program would not exist without the help and support of our volunteers,” said Babcock. “Our volunteers consist of current military members, retirees, military family members and other individuals who just have a desire to help our veterans. They have all stepped up and taken ownership of different aspects of the program from equipment, to volunteer coordinator to food donations. They all give of their own time to help care for and give back to our veterans.”

“I began attending events for Heroes on the Water with my husband Jim,” said Janet Kristinat, HOW volunteer. “He struggles with PTSD, so we thought it might be something that could assist him with work-

(Continued on Page 3)



U.S. Army veteran Hugo Murguia, Sedalia, Missouri, paddles his kayak on Lake Shawnee, Topeka, Kansas. (Photo by Jane Welch, Public Affairs Office)



## Post-traumatic stress disorder

Continued from Page 2

ceive it? I was worried about the stigma of 'somebody dealing with PTSD is like a powder keg ready to explode at any time.' I think that stigma existed (in the Kansas Guard) because the leadership hadn't made a point of addressing it. Once they started to acknowledge it, the stigma began to erode."

According to Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, Kansas adjutant general, it's up to every member of the organization to crush that stigma.

"Many people think that they can deal with (PTSD) themselves, so that stigma may even be on them," said Tafanelli. "They think there's something wrong with them and they really don't want to let leaders know. In some cases, there might be leaders who tend to view individuals that are experiencing some of these difficulties as having some kind of a weakness and it's really not."

Tafanelli urged those in the Kansas National Guard who may be dealing with any of the symptoms of PTSD in silence to "Give your chain of command a chance to help you. There's no sense in suffering or dealing with this on your own."

Gadt-Johnson agreed.

"As human beings, we aren't designed to suffer in isolation," she said. "From the time we're born, we thrive on the dependency of others. The idea of 'I've got to deal with it on my own' is counterintuitive to the human species. We want people to know our stories. We want to feel understood."

Untreated, someone who has PTSD may eventually collapse and become dangerous to themselves, their family and co-workers, but Gadt-Johnson said that a person who is living with PTSD doesn't have to be a prisoner to their symptoms.

"If you manage your symptoms, you can go out and live a full, quality life," she said. "PTSD is a part of you, but it doesn't have to be a factor for you."

Babcock embodies that notion.

"PTSD has been around a long time, and it's real," he said. "There are men and women dealing with it in our organization right now and they are not getting the help they need. They're dealing with it with drugs and alcohol, by being in a cocoon all the time and by taking it out on their family or by burying it. But those holes can't get deep enough at times and sometimes stuff starts to come out."

But Babcock offered hope.

"There is help," he said.

# # #

In the next issue of the Plains Guardian, part two will present information on what treatments exist for PTSD.

## Heroes on the Water

Continued from Page 2

ing through it and, at the same time, doing something he loves to do. After the first event, I had already noticed a difference with him and it was amazing to watch him have a whole new excitement for each day. I started out going to support my husband and very quickly turned into an enthusiastic volunteer to assist HOW."

"Watching the veterans get out and start living again was an eye opener to me," said Babcock. "Starting the chapter was a long road and involved a lot of work which included finding key leadership and volunteers, fundraising, sponsors, borrowing kayaks and all the other details that went along with each event."

"I look back now and realize that insanity had a lot to do with it," said Babcock with a smile. "I am amazed at how far we have come and what a difference we have made to the veterans that have come through our program."

For more information on the Kansas Chapter of Heroes on the Water visit their Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/HOWKansasChapter](http://www.facebook.com/HOWKansasChapter)) or website at <http://heroesonthewater.org>

## 235th Regiment Culinary Center of Excellence

# Fresh food at a fraction of the cost



Students of the Culinary Center of Excellence, 235th Regional Training Institute in Salina present their freshly-prepared bowls of gravy for critique. The Soldiers are training to become Army food service specialists. (Photo by Sgt. Theresa Vail, Public Affairs Office)

By Sgt. Zach Sheely  
Public Affairs Office

Walking into the new Culinary Center of Excellence at the Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina, Kansas, is like entering the set of a television cooking show.

Contestants, or in this case student Soldiers, offer their freshly prepared dish for critique from the judges, eliciting comments such as, "Too nutty," "A little runny" or "This meets the standard."

The judges, Staff Sgt. Adam Cloyd and Staff Sgt. Hector Medina, are the only certified food service instructors in the Kansas Army National Guard. Their job is to train future food service specialists from across the nation in the commercial-grade kitchen.

"The Army relies on the sustenance it receives," said Medina. "Without it, nothing else runs. If you don't have food, you have no energy. It's important that Soldiers are getting the right quantities and nutritional value."

The 28-day food service specialist course features classroom instruction and hands-on training at individual cooking stations to train prospective U.S. Army, National Guard and Army Reserve food service specialists to deliver a standardized food product for one person to up to a battalion-sized element.

During a typical drill weekend, National Guard Soldiers may receive food catered from a civilian vendor, or be offered a Meal, Ready to Eat. In garrison and in theater, Army dining facilities are operated by civilian contractors. For Sgt. 1st Class

David Medina, course supervisor, his dream is to put the responsibility of feeding Soldiers back into the well-trained hands of fellow Soldiers.

"It's going to save the Army a lot of money," he said. "Contracting is very expensive. Getting catered meals or going out to a restaurant, that's a waste of money."

**"Serving fresh food prepared by Soldiers in place of an MRE can save approximately \$6 per Soldier."**

**Staff Sgt. Hector Medina  
Food Service instructor**

Hector Medina echoed his brother's sentiment and estimated that "Serving fresh food prepared by Soldiers in place of an MRE can save approximately \$6 per Soldier. It's more cost-effective to serve troops fresh food, as opposed to an MRE," he said.

Students are required to complete two phases, garrison and field food service. The students will train on a mobile kitchen trailer and a containerized kitchen for the field service portion.

Students are taught to read and follow recipes and learn simple techniques such as the proper way to chop vegetables, to more complex disciplines like making a roux. But it's not only about making good food.

"It's not just cooking the food," said Hec-

tor Medina. "It's keeping temperature logs on the refrigerator, labeling ingredients and sanitizing equipment and cooking areas."

Historically, the Army cook may not be the most glorified job in the military, but the Medina brothers entered the Army in the job field, and their passion is obvious.

"I don't like the term 'cook,'" said David Medina. "You can go to McDonalds and be a cook. I prefer the term food service specialist, because to me that means you care about what you're doing."

While some military occupational specialties do not transfer into the private sector, cooking offers many opportunities in civilian employment.

"We're always doing our mission," said Sgt. 1st Class Robertson Winters, previously an automated logistics specialist with the 250th Forward Support Company, Kansas National Guard, who is reclassifying as a food service specialist.

"The thing I like is that you're not simulating, you are actually doing it. There's a lot you can take away from this course, at home and in the culinary arena."

David Medina said that the institute could use more instructors to facilitate the course, and he, along with Cloyd and his brother Hector, have big dreams for the culinary institute.

"Why not bring military couples in here?" David Medina said. "What a great way for a couple to be intimate. Bring them in here and teach them to cook dinner together. Also, some of the kids, why not teach them a safe way to make a grilled cheese sandwich or macaroni and cheese not from a box?"

The Culinary Center for Excellence offers a glimpse into the future, and a nod to the past when it comes to Army chow, and David Medina believes this is just the start.

"We're headed in the right direction here," he said. "We're helping save money, doing it the right way. The military runs on its stomach and in a split second, if there's not the proper training, you can wipe out a whole unit."



A student at the Culinary Center of Excellence, 235th Regional Training Institute, Salina, Kansas, whisks a gravy roux March 18. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office)



Scan to view a feature video on the Culinary Center of Excellence



# Spring is a time for planning and preparation

By Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli  
The Adjutant General

As we enjoy the spring season of the year and anticipate the approaching summer, preparations of many types are underway. Farmers have been preparing their fields and are planting seeds which they hope will yield a bountiful harvest. Families are anticipating the end of the school year and preparing for summer activities. While we should try to be prepared at all times of the year, spring is a good time to take specific steps.

As summer approaches, our Guardsmen are preparing for annual training. These exercises are a commitment Soldiers and Airmen make to continue their training and make sure they are prepared for any call. The Kansas National Guard is always prepared for a deployment and at any time our assistance could be required almost anywhere around the globe. The guard also actively assists the state in response to tornadoes, flooding or other disasters, and is available to assist other states facing similar calamities. Guard annual training is key to keeping these human and material resources always at the ready.



Maj. Gen.  
Lee Tafanelli

On a different topic also requiring us to prepare, Kansas has already seen strong storm systems across the state. Every storm event in Kansas provides an opportunity to learn and improve how we prepare, respond, and recover from devastating weather occurrences, both as individuals and as an emergency response agency. While there is a tendency to believe "it won't happen to me," we must instead consider that "it very well could happen to me" and begin taking the steps necessary to stay safe during the next tornado, flood or other catastrophe that might affect us. (See related story, page 11.)

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

If you read the stories of survivors from events such as the 2007 Greensburg tornado, it's easy to see that the actions we take to prepare before an event are often the very thing that helps us make a lifesaving decision when it really counts.

Now is the time to think through what we would need to do in advance of a tornado striking our home, business or community. The most important planning we can do is to ensure we and our families know where to go, what to do, and how important it is to stay calm. Having a family plan is critical. And practicing the plan will only help to familiarize everyone with it. An emergency kit stored in a basement or storm shelter can provide the basics to those individuals who are affected by a tornado, ensuring they have the essentials needed until help arrives.

After a tornado, we often realize how fragile everything is that we rely on each day. Whether it's the heavy filing cabinet where we have always kept our important documents or the fire-proof box in the closet with our important records, the chances of finding those storage containers after the tornado hits may be quite small.

Take the time now to gather your vital records and other documents, scan them, and put them on a flash drive or CD in a bank deposit box or give the flash drive to a family member who lives in a different location. Other options include using online storage sites, but only consider those that provide you a secure way to protect the documents you need after a tornado, such as your driver's license or your birth certificate.

The more you do in advance to protect

yourself and have a back-up system in place to assist you, the less impact these storms will have on you and your families.

As an agency, we recently completed an exercise to help get many of our state and local response partners together to plan and walk through how we can better prepare for and respond to various emergencies. At our training facility, Crisis City near Salina, agencies from around the state came together for a two day disaster drill. (See story and photos, page 10)

This particular exercise involved an explosion scenario in a downtown area. Hundreds of firefighters, EMT's and other first responders honed their search and rescue skills in a realistic setting. Just as important is the training in working within an established Incident Management structure, designed to be implemented whenever and wherever disaster strikes and seconds count. Each opportunity we have to work with our partners is another chance to ensure each responder knows what to expect when the event really happens.

One other thing, with spring nearing an end and summer arriving soon, many of us will be traveling more, so please take a moment to update your vehicle's emergency kit and ensure you're ready for a safe and fun-filled summer. With some preparation, it can be the most enjoyable time of the year.

## Warrior to Warrior Structured Self Development: What does it mean and how does it affect your career?

By Sgt. Maj. Dennis Holder  
JFHQ Operations

Structured Self Development has become a part of the Noncommissioned Officer Education System and the Enlisted Promotion System. SSD is a planned, goal-oriented, learning program that reinforces and expands the depth and breadth of an individual's knowledge base, self and situational awareness; compliments institutional and operational learning; enhances professional competence and meets personal objectives. SSD is comprised of five levels of training:



Sgt. Maj.  
Dennis Holder

Structured Self Development - 1: Upon completion of your Initial Military Training (Basic and Advance Individual Training), after Oct. 1, 2014, you are automatically enrolled in SSD - 1. Effective Feb. 1, 2015, SSD 1 must be complete prior to being enrolled in Warrior Leader Course and promotion to sergeant. This course is primarily focused at the team level of common leader and tactical skills. It consists of four modules of eight to nine tasks per module which take approximately 80 hours to complete.

Structured Self Development - 2: Effective Oct. 1, 2014, enrolled upon completion of Warrior Leader Course and promotion to sergeant. Effective Feb. 1, 2015, SSD 2 will be required before promotion to staff sergeant. It produces battle competent noncommissioned officers who are qualified squad/section sergeants, team/section leaders, evaluators, counselors, conductors of participants in individual and collective training, and performers/teachers of leader values, attri-

utes, skills and actions.

Structured Self Development - 3: Effective Oct. 1, 2014, enrollment upon graduation of Advance Leader Course and promotion to staff sergeant. If you completed the military occupational skill portion of your ALC after June 1, 2012, you were automatically enrolled in SSD-3. If not, and you completed ALC or equivalent prior to that date, on Jan. 1, 2013, you should have been auto-enrolled in this course. SSD-3 replaced the Advance Leader Course (Advance Noncommissioned Officer Course, now Senior Leader Course) Phase 1 under the old NCOES system. This course is primarily focused at the platoon level. SSD-3 is a prerequisite for the completion of Senior Leader Course and must be completed prior to enrollment. Effective Jan. 1, 2014, all staff sergeants must have completed SSD-3 to be eligible to be boarded and placed on the Enlisted Promotion System list.

Structured Self Development - 4: Enrollment upon graduation of SLC and promotion to sergeant first class. SSD-4 tasks are primarily focused at the battalion level. If you were an sergeant first class on Jan. 1, 2013, and had not completed SSD-4, you should have been auto-enrolled. Effective Jan. 1, 2014, you must complete SSD-4 to be boarded and placed on the Enlisted Promotion System list for master sergeant/first sergeant. First sergeants or master sergeants must complete SSD-4 prior to consideration for sergeant major.

Structured Self Development- 5: Enrollment upon promotion to sergeant major.

Your ability to complete the appropriate course is paramount to your attendance at a Noncommissioned Officer Education System Course and to your being boarded to the next higher grade. All first sergeants and full-time members of the Kansas Army National Guard should be fully aware of the requirements for enrollment in both Structured Self Development and NCOES.



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS KANSAS  
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May 8, 2015

Dear KSNG Spouses:

Military Spouse Appreciation Day was created by President Reagan in 1984 to honor the spouses of those who serve. Each year, a day is set aside in the United States to recognize what a powerful difference spouses make in the lives of our service members.

The profound importance of spousal commitment to the readiness and well-being of military members cannot be overstated. The Soldiers, Airmen and families that make up the Kansas National Guard are the most valuable resources in our inventory.

America's military spouses are the backbone of the families who support our troops during mission, deployment, reintegration and reset. Military spouses are often the silent heroes who are essential to the strength of the nation. Your contributions help keep our country safe and our service members strong.

The selfless commitment you have made to stand beside your service member is as equally remarkable as it is appreciated. I want you to know the Kansas National Guard welcomes you, values your contributions and values you as a beloved member of our guard family.

Thank you for your service and again, please know that you are held in the highest of regards.

Sincerely,

Lee E. Tafanelli  
Major General, Kansas National Guard  
The Adjutant General

## PLAINS GUARDIAN

The PLAINS GUARDIAN is published under the provisions of AR 360-1 for the personnel of the Kansas National Guard. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of The Adjutant General's Department PA Officer. Contents of the PLAINS GUARDIAN are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of the Army or The Adjutant General's Department. News, features, photographs and art materials are solicited from readers; however, utilization is at the discretion of the editorial staff. All photos must be high resolution and include complete caption information, including photographer's name and rank. No paid advertisement will be accepted, nor will payment be made for contributions.

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# Direction, wisdom, tools given at Commanders Conference

By Master Sgt. Brent Anders  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

“You are where the rubber meets the road,” said Brig. Gen. Robert Windham during his opening comments as he addressed the state’s command leadership of first sergeants and commanders at the annual Kansas Army National Guard Professional Development Conference, hosted by the 235th Regiment, Salina, Jan. 24-25.

“I need you to come away from this weekend with some information and tools that are worthwhile to improve communications between us and address our established priorities,” said Windham, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard – Land Component. “One: readiness, Two: Soldier care and Three: communication.”

Windham described readiness as encompassing medical (dental, physical health assessment and shots), equipment (preventive maintenance checks and services), individual weapons qualification, and retention

and recruiting. The main efforts for this priority, at this time, are Soldiers’ Military Occupational Specialty Qualification. Soldiers need to be fully qualified for the position they hold within the Kansas Army National Guard.

“Improve readiness, but at a minimum don’t lose any ground,” Windham said. “Losing ground is not an option. Otherwise, there will be an intervention.”

Soldier care was described as including pay, assistance and training with the Defense Travel System, quality and safety of training, providing recourses to assist Soldiers in need and ensuring an actively supported Family Readiness Group.

“Recruit the Soldier, retain the family,” said Windham. “It’s a package deal. As the command team, you own the culture and the climate. When [Soldiers] go back to civilian work on Monday, they should have something to brag about. Challenge them and they will grow.”

Communication was also described as a

vital priority. All Soldiers need to know what is going on and why. Soldiers are to be contacted between drills to ensure they know what to expect and to check up on them to ensure readiness and Soldier care. Windham said customer service is part of proper communication. Soldiers’ perceptions are important and a feeling must exist that state headquarters is responsive to units in the field. If this is not the case, the higher headquarters is to be informed immediately.

The importance of customer service in prompt communication is to work both ways. Windham also said he would be traveling throughout the state and checking bulletin boards as well fire extinguishers and general cleanliness.

Command Sgt. Maj. James Moberly, command sergeant major of the Kansas Army National Guard-Land Component, was also present at the conference. He provided information and guidance dealing with many subjects, including proper use of Split Unit Training Assembly, the use of

flags, promotions for specialists/corporals and below, use of the Enlisted Promotion System, sending Soldiers to Officer Candidate School, and the quality of training conducted during drill and annual training.

“Soldiers should be worn out on Sundays and proud of what they’ve done,” said Moberly.

Although not able to stay for the entire duration of the conference, Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general of Kansas, and Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth, state command sergeant major of the Kansas National Guard, were able to address the large crowd and provide additional wisdom.

“The success of the Kansas Army National Guard resides in all of you, the command teams,” said Tafanelli. “It’s not about what is best for the Army or the National Guard, it’s about what’s best for the nation.”

Tafanelli also emphasized the importance of partnerships.

(Continued on Page 6)



Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general of Kansas, provides words of wisdom to command teams at the annual Kansas Army National Guard Professional Development Conference hosted by the 235th Regiment in Salina Jan. 24. (Photo by Master Sgt. Brent Anders, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

## Chaplain’s Corner

### How does your marriage rate?

By Chaplain (Maj.) John Potter  
Joint Forces Headquarters

Do you have a five-star marriage? People want to stay at the best hotels and resorts when they travel. These hotels earn a five-star rating because they consistently deliver excellent service, provide great amenities and offer that special touch of class like little chocolates on your pillow.

They go the extra mile. However, people often settle for a two or three-star establishment because of proximity, cost and time. We often settle for less instead of striving for the very best.

This is also true in marriage. We can have a great relationship with quality time together, kind words toward each other and sacrificial acts of service, but too often we settle for a mediocre marriage with little strength, support or commitment.

How can we flip the switch? Couples need to honestly evaluate their relationship. Are expectations being met? When expectations are not met, we are disappointed. Disappointment often carries with it frustration, anger and isolation. If our reality is less than what we expected, then the reality equals a disappointed spouse. Share expectations with each other so that you are both on the same page and can work

toward mutual goals. Couples need to focus on each other. I can tell when my wife is upset, stressed out or angry. Most of us know that look or phrase from a spouse. These are cues that reveal their inner thoughts. They’re signals to ask questions, share an encouraging word, help around the house, fix a problem, take the kids for a walk or just listen. Don’t ignore the cues and signals that your spouse sends you. Take notice. Respond and act to support each other.

Couples need time together. Husbands and wives are great at making time to discuss problems, schedule school events and play taxi service for the kids. While this is important, couples also need to spend quality time together. They need to get away, go on a date, and make time for their one true love. Don’t lose the fire and energy that brought you to the altar in the first place.

The Kansas National Guard Strong Bonds program can be part of the solution. Attend a marriage enrichment weekend and use that time to evaluate your marriage and strengthen your relationship. Check out the resource page at [www.strongbonds.org](http://www.strongbonds.org) to look at the scheduled events and discover how a few simple steps can improve any marriage.

No matter where your marriage is today, you can build a stronger relationship that will last for the rest of your life. Make a five star marriage part of your life today.

Scan the QR code to visit [strongbonds.org](http://strongbonds.org)



Chaplain (Maj.) John Potter

## Notes from the field desk

By Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Byers  
Command Historian

Allow me to introduce myself as the new Kansas National Guard command historian. As I settle into this role, I encourage you to participate in museum activities and enhance the current Kansas National Guard historical collection.

This year, the Museum of the Kansas National Guard is commemorating those service members who have served in the Global War on Terror, the missions they have been engaged in and those who have fallen during this 14-year conflict. Kansas Soldiers and Airmen have deployed to the Horn of Africa, Afghanistan, Egypt, Kosovo, Kuwait and beyond during this conflict. Our service members have engaged in a variety of missions, including route security, intelligence

gathering, midair refueling, advising foreign nations, national stabilization and supporting the United Nation’s mission in the Sinai. A June 6 showcase at the museum will feature displays of contemporary and historic equipment, veteran panels and a memorial ceremony for those service members who have given their all during the Global War on Terror.

Our museum has a fantastic collection of artifacts from 19th and 20th century conflicts. What the museum does not have is more current artifacts, especially from Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf conflicts, both 1990 and the current War on Terror. I encourage you, in the midst of your spring cleaning, to consider donating any military memorabilia or papers that you have to the museum to enhance the existing collection.

Before you bring materials in, please call me at 785-274-1197 or email me at [Jeremy.m.byers.mil@mail.mil](mailto:Jeremy.m.byers.mil@mail.mil) to let me know when you are coming in and what you are bringing. There are certain materials that need special handling and some restrictions on what the museum can accept.

See you on the High Ground!



Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Byers

## Heartland Military Day

“Remembering our Fallen” Photo Exhibit

Iraq and Afghanistan Killed in Action

June 1-10, 2015 – 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

13<sup>th</sup> Annual

Saturday, June 6, 2015

Museum of the Kansas National Guard

Forbes Field, 125 SE Airport E. Drive, Topeka

Free Admission  
Museum  
and Events



### Schedule of Activities

7-10 am	Pancake Feed (Donations)
8 am	Reveille Ceremony, Marine JROTC, Topeka High School
8 am – 4 pm	Military Equipment Displays and Re-enactors WW II Equipment – Rolling Thunder Chapter, MVPA War on Terrorism Equipment – Kansas Army National Guard Civil War Exhibits and Demonstrations – McLain’s Ind. Battery; 65 <sup>th</sup> Enrollment Missouri; Civil War Medicine (Dr. Herschel Stroud); Jim Bevan, Blacksmith; Civil War Cannons Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 604
10:30 am	World War II Battle Re-enactment
11 am	Band Concert - Topeka Big Band
11 am – 2 pm	Noon Concessions (Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, etc.)
1 pm	Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran Panel
2 pm	World War II Battle Re-enactment
3 pm	Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) Veteran Panel
6:30 pm	Band Concert – Fairlawn Road Swing Band
7:30 pm	Global War on Terrorism Memorial Ceremony Reading of Names of Iraq and Afghanistan KIA, Laying of Gold Star Families Wreath, Memorial and Address



## Family, friends remember a true officer and gentleman

By Spc. Anna Laurin  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Stories that captured the character and charm of retired Col. Donald Joseph O'Toole were shared by close friends and loved ones during a memorial service at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, Topeka, Kansas, Jan. 10. O'Toole passed away Dec. 30, 2014, at the age of 91.

"Everyone who showed up today is a testament to Don's friendship and his life as it touched yours," said retired Col. Wayne Cline, a former instructor pilot and close friend who worked alongside O'Toole.

"I want to start off by saying 'Thank you, Colonel Don O'Toole.' I am thankful for your friendship," said retired state Command Sgt. Maj. Vivian Reveles, friend and coworker. "I want to thank him for setting the example for all of us of what a good Soldier should be. Colonel O'Toole was truly an officer and a gentleman."

O'Toole joined the military in 1943. His favorite hobby was photography, which became influential in his Army career, and in 1945 he was assigned to Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington D.C., where he established the first base photo lab.

He joined the Kansas Air National Guard in 1947 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1948. He then attended flight training at San Marcos Air Force Base, San Marcos, Texas, graduating in 1949. During his career in the Guard he was very influential to the state's Army Aviation program during its period of greatest growth. O'Toole retired as the state aviation officer in 1979 having logged 9,379 flying hours with a total of 36 years of service.

O'Toole's passion for his work and flying showed by his dedication to spending time in the air and passing on his skills to other pilots.

"Don liked to test you," said retired Col. Dennis Parry, former chief of staff for the Kansas Army National Guard. "Not only did he like what he did to test you, but he liked to see your reaction."

After retiring from the Guard, O'Toole was employed by the Kansas Highway Patrol as a security aide and pilot for Governor John Carlin, retiring at age 60 in 1983. Among his many military awards, he received the Secret Service Director's Award. He was inducted into the Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame in 1991 and received the 2001 Governor's Aviation Honor Award.

O'Toole's son, Col. Michael Joseph O'Toole, was commander of the 190th Air Refueling Wing for a little more than a year when he died in a private plane crash in 2003. Donald and Michael O'Toole were inducted into the Kansas Army National Guard Hall of Fame at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, where you can see their photos hanging one above the other.

Donald O'Toole is survived by his wife of 52 years, Shirley Fulkerson O'Toole; his sister Betty O'Toole Harvill; three daughters, Kathleen Zimmerman, Debra Shelinbarger and Lori Kelly; daughter-in-law Pam O'Toole Trusdale; nine grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Those who were fortunate to know such an influential and honorable officer reflected on his charisma and recognize the standard that he put forth as a pilot, an officer, a friend and a father.

"Today I would gladly associate myself with anyone that resembles the character of Colonel Donald O'Toole," said Reveles. "The aviators that are flying, they don't know it, but there is an instructor pilot flying with them by the name of Colonel Don O'Toole. Keep them safe, Colonel."



Col. David Leger, Deputy Chief of Staff for Aviation of the Kansas Army National Guard, bottom right, presents an American flag to Shirley Fulkerson O'Toole, widow of retired Col. Donald O'Toole, during his memorial service at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, Topeka, Kansas, Jan. 10. (Photo by Spc. Anna Laurin, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

## Commanders conference

Continued from Page 5

"As resources become thinner, we need to better partner and collaborate to solve our issues," said Tapanelli.

Many other important topics were presented by a multiple of other Kansas Army National representatives. Presentations on Equal Opportunity, Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention, budget funding, educational benefits, and the adapted Army Force Generation/Strategic Readiness Model were also given.

A special presentation was given on the

abilities of the Directors Personnel Readiness Objective online system and how it can be used to better manage readiness. All command team members, regardless of status, can obtain access to this powerful tool by going through their readiness noncommissioned officer.

Departing guidance was provided by Windham as the conference came to a close.

"When you leave here, work on the things that you can influence and it will all be good and work out," he said.

## Turner visits Fort Riley



Lt. Col. Matthew Twombly (left), commander 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard, and Brig. Gen. William A. Turner (right), commandant, U.S. Army Field Artillery School, talk about Paladin maintenance operations on the M284 howitzer tubes during their visit to Fort Riley Jan. 23. Turner served as the officer in charge for the M284 Cannon Tube Assessment Team looking at three Paladin battalions on Fort Riley, Kansas. (Photo by Capt. Charles Ross, 1-161 FA Bn)

## Exercise incorporates long-range communication capabilities

On Jan. 10 and 11, section training of the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery focused on the annual communications exercise training event. Battalion and Battery B Fire Direction Center sections were located at Hiawatha, while Battery A and High Mobility Artillery Rocket System sections were located in Holton and Marysville.

Units performed fire mission processing over digital and voice communication using the Harris Long Range Communications system, a high frequency long-range communication that allows the battalion to exchange digital and voice traffic worldwide.

"Employment of this system expands the ability of mission command, diminishes the barrier of distance between stations and improves the readiness of the battalion for its mission essential task list missions," said Maj. Chuck Leivan, battalion operations officer. "The Harris LRC is well on the way to becoming the battalion's primary digital and

voice communication system."

The command post of the future and all additional digital systems were also used to provide the command and staff a common operating picture of the situation. Additionally, the Battery B Fire Direction Center section computers received a required software upgrade. Although some technical glitches happened during the exercise, Soldiers were able to troubleshoot and solve the problems.

Leivan said the 2015 exercise was a very successful training event.

"Never before has the battalion been able to exchange voice and digital message traffic over distances spanning 240 kilometers," said Leivan.

Leivan said upcoming digital sustainment training during drills will continue to focus on long-range communication to increase proficiency and mastery of the system for all Soldiers.



Sgt. Jeffrey Sailor, left, instructs Pfc. Lindsey Hill on processing fire missions on the advanced field artillery tactical data system. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Travis McClain)



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# Airmen win Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition

By Sgt. Zach Sheely  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Eight National Guardsmen representing units from across Kansas faced off at the Great Plains Joint Training Center near Salina, Kansas, March 19-21 in a grueling competition to determine the Best Warrior in the Kansas Army National Guard.

In an upset, the winners weren't even in the Army.

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Austin and Senior Airman Dean Johnston, joint terminal attack controllers, 284th Air Support Squadron, Kansas Air National Guard, claimed the title of Best Warrior in the Soldier (specialist and below) and noncommissioned officer categories, respectively.

"We are the Kansas National Guard, which is made up of Army and Air," said Command Sgt. Maj. James J. Moberly, command sergeant major, Kansas Army National Guard – Land Component, of the Airmen winning the traditionally Army-based event.

This was the first time Airmen participated in the Kansas National Guard Best Warrior Competition and Moberly explained that the future model of the event will be a joint-service competition.

"The Airmen this year were my test subjects," he said. "Next year we will open the competition to the 184th Intelligence Wing and the 190th Air Refueling Wing."

The competition pushes contenders to their limits, testing their mental fortitude, physical stamina and knowledge in all



A spent cartridge flips away from an M4 carbine as a competitor takes aim for another shot during the Best Warrior Competition March 20 at the Great Plains Joint Training Center near Salina, Kansas. Eight Kansas National Guardsmen -- including, for the first time, two Kansas Airmen -- vied for the title of Best Warrior in the rigorous three-day event that tested the Guardsmen's physical and mental prowess. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

facets of Soldier skills and Army doctrine. It's an exercise in resilience under stress.

"There's a lot for these contenders to be able to know and do," said Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Matticks, commandant, 235th

Regional Training Institute. "It's a long race. It's not necessarily about winning each event, it's how you average."

Day one of the arduous three-day event was the most physically demanding.

The day began with an Army Physical Fitness Test – two minutes of push-ups and sit-ups, and a timed two-mile run – and weigh-in, followed directly by land navigation, wherein competitors had to locate five points on a four square-mile course as fast as possible using only a map, protractor and compass. Then, during a nearly 12-mile ruck march – conducted in accordance with Army Air Assault standard – each participant, wearing body armor and Kevlar helmet, carried a 35-pound pack over the rolling terrain of Smoky Hill Weapons Range without being told the distance or time they would be walking. Once finished with the ruck march, competitors were given an additional three points to find on the land-navigation course under the darkness of nightfall – all within roughly 12 hours.

Day two tested marksmanship, starting with zeroing and qualifying with the M4 carbine. Next, a "mystery event" included a live-fire exercise with the M249 squad automatic weapon, M320 grenade launcher and 12-gauge shotgun as competitors moved from range to range on foot. The event wasn't timed, but only the first four to finish were awarded points. There was also record qualification with the M9 pistol. Then each competitor conducted a call for fire drill and wrote an essay on the subject of mentorship.

The final day, each participant was given a written exam and scrutinized on their appearance in their service uniform by a

(Continued on Page 12)

## Not your typical rodeo

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

The 184th Intelligence Wing held a rodeo during drill weekend in March, but it wasn't the kind with cowboy boots and eight-second clocks. It was a one-stop training rodeo that allowed Airmen the chance to gain skills in first aid and chemical/biological protection practices to ensure they are deployment ready.

"It's to get everyone war-fighter ready, and this meets all the requirements that we don't do on computer-based training," said Master Sgt. Brian Castillo, 177th Information Aggressor Squadron. "We actually have a hands-on portion where everyone is required to do a little bit on each section."

The new training style is mandated by the National Guard Bureau and the organizers of the event tried to make the experience as valuable as possible for the participants. The training was conducted at stations in two different buildings. Airmen spent about 15 minutes at each station,

where they watched a short video or PowerPoint, saw a demonstration on the station's subject and then got some hands-on training with the equipment.

"Any training that you can get hands on is worth more money than having someone sit at their desk clicking through computer-based training," said Command Chief Master Sgt. William Stacey, 184th IW command chief. "The stations worked really well and the instructors did a great job."

Airmen saw the immediate benefits.

"The classes are really detailed in the orientation of what we have to do," said Master Sgt. John Bogart, Civil Engineer Squadron. "They are going through the very basics with the slides and then they are doing the hands-on portion with the troops. It is a really good program."

The rodeo met the requirements of eight different training subjects in a four-and-a-half hour time period. The block of time did take all morning to complete, but saved

(Continued on Page 13)



Security Forces Squadron personnel learn to properly apply tourniquets in accordance with the Airman's Manual during a training assembly in March. The training, called the Expeditionary Skills Rodeo, was a four-hour session broken up into 15 minute workstations. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Maria Ruiz, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

## 891st Engineering Battalion welcomes new commander

By Spc. Robert I. Havens  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers of the 891st Engineering Battalion welcomed Lt. Col. Kenneth Weishaar as their new commander and honored outgoing commander Lt. Col. Eric Blankenship during a Jan. 10 change of command ceremony in Iola.

The battalion is headquartered in Iola with subordinate units in Augusta, Coffeyville, Pittsburg and Wichita.

"The 891st Engineer Battalion is an outstanding organization due to the efforts, dedication and professionalism of our Soldiers and the support of their families," said Blankenship. "It has been a great honor and privilege to command the engineer battalion and see all their accomplishments."

Blankenship leaves behind a very strong unit for his predecessor.

"We have been able to increase the Unit Status Report of the 891st," said Blankenship. "For the duration of my command, we maintained 100 percent for a majority of the time. We have increased in personnel readiness, logistics and administration."

Blankenship credited the battalion's suc-



Lt. Col. Kenneth Weishaar, right, receives the 891st Engineering Battalion guidon from Col. Barry Manley signifying his assumption of command of the 891st as Lt. Col. Eric Blankenship, outgoing commander, looks on. The ceremony was held at the Allen County Community College in Iola Jan. 10. (Photo by Spc. Robert I. Havens, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

cess to the commanders and first sergeants.

"They are the ones doing the day-to-day

work," continued Blankenship. "The Soldiers of this unit are very dedicated and

they have always been there and willing to step up to the plate when called on. They're very loyal and many have been here for a long time."

Weishaar addressed the crowd with the similar sentiments during his acceptance speech.

"I think Lieutenant Colonel Blankenship has done an excellent job here," said Weishaar. "Looking at the reports, we are in very strong shape and arguably some of the best in the state and this battalion is historically number one or number two across all battalions."

"Command is a privilege and I look forward to returning to southeast Kansas and serving alongside the Soldiers of the 891st Engineer Battalion," said Weishaar. "The battalion has served the citizens of Kansas and of the nation during numerous state and active-duty deployments. The communities, employers, retirees and families of the battalion have been instrumental in its success."

"My goal," said Weishaar, "is to continue to improve an already outstanding battalion to honor those who have paved the way with their commitment and sacrifice – some of which paid the ultimate sacrifice."



# Kansas National Guard supports governor's inauguration



Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, right, and his wife Tammy escort Gov. Sam Brownback and his family into Exposition Hall at the Kansas Expocentre in Topeka for the inaugural ball Jan. 10. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)



Gov. Sam Brownback, center, swears the oath of office for his second term as Kansas governor and chief of the Kansas National Guard, who provided support for inaugural events. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)



The Kansas Adjutant General's Ceremonial Color Guard presents the colors at the governor's inaugural ceremony at the State Capitol Jan. 12. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Barnett, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

## KANSAS INAUGURATION



Soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division Band of the Kansas Army National Guard play at the State Capitol in Topeka for the governor's inaugural ceremony Jan. 12. The official band of the Kansas National Guard performed several musical selections under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Steve Patterson, (with baton at right). (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)



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*"The men and women of the Kansas National Guard are proud to support Governor Brownback's leadership as our chief, as we have supported him since Kansas became a state."*  
Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli  
Chief of the Kansas National Guard



Senior Airman Camry Gayer, left, and Airman 1st Class Travis Davis, Soldier of the Year, Kansas National Guard, in uniform during the governor's procession into the inauguration in Topeka Jan. 10. (Photo by Jane Welch)



# tion events, providing flash, bang, sound and color



...nor at the State Capitol in Topeka Jan. 12. As governor, Brownback is the commander in chief of the Kansas National Guard. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office)



Gov. Sam Brownback, left, Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, Kansas adjutant general, center and Maj. Mark Bruce, acting superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol, right, stand and assume their respective commands at the State Capitol in Topeka Jan. 12. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Barnett, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

## UGURAL 2015



The dome of the State Capitol in Topeka is reflected in the trombone of a member of the 35th Infantry Division Band, Kansas Army National Guard, during the inaugural ceremony Jan. 12. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office)

*men of the Kansas National Guard are proud to serve Gov. Sam Brownback and follow his lead as commander in chief with every governor who has become a state.”*  
*Gen. Lee Tafanelli, Kansas adjutant general*



...man of the Year and Sgt. Kevin ... of the Kansas National Guard, prepare to lead the inaugural ball at the Kansas ExpoCentre in ... (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office)



A salute battery from the Kansas National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery fires a 75mm towed howitzer on the south lawn of the State Capitol in Topeka Jan. 12. The Soldiers provided a 19-gun salute as part of the ceremony marking Gov. Sam Brownback's role as commander in chief of the Kansas National Guard. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)





# Chaos at Crisis City First responders test their mettle in simulated disaster

By Steve Larson  
Public Affairs Office

“We were called to an explosion,” said Alan Stoll, Winfield fire chief. “We’ve been working the scene since noon.”

Fortunately, Stoll, a member of Kansas Search and Rescue Task Force 5, was not describing a real incident, but the scenario for an emergency exercise at Crisis City, the multivenue training facility near Salina operated by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. Stoll was one of hundreds of firefighters, emergency medical technicians, emergency managers and other first responders who came to Crisis City from across the state to test and refine their search and rescue techniques March 31 and April 1 during the large-scale exercise.

“This is a drill to improve our skills,” said Stoll, “and come together and work as a team.”

Each task force in Kansas is comprised of members drawn from city and county first responders in the region.

“Task Force 5 is made up of Great Bend, Newton, Hutchinson, Wichita, Sedgwick County, Winfield and Arkansas City,” said Stoll. “Any time you can bring those teams together, they start functioning as one team instead of individual departments.”

For Kassy Dewitt, a member of Phillips County EMS, that diversity is one of the attractions of such a large-scale exercise.

“My favorite part of the whole scenario is

(Continued on Page 11)



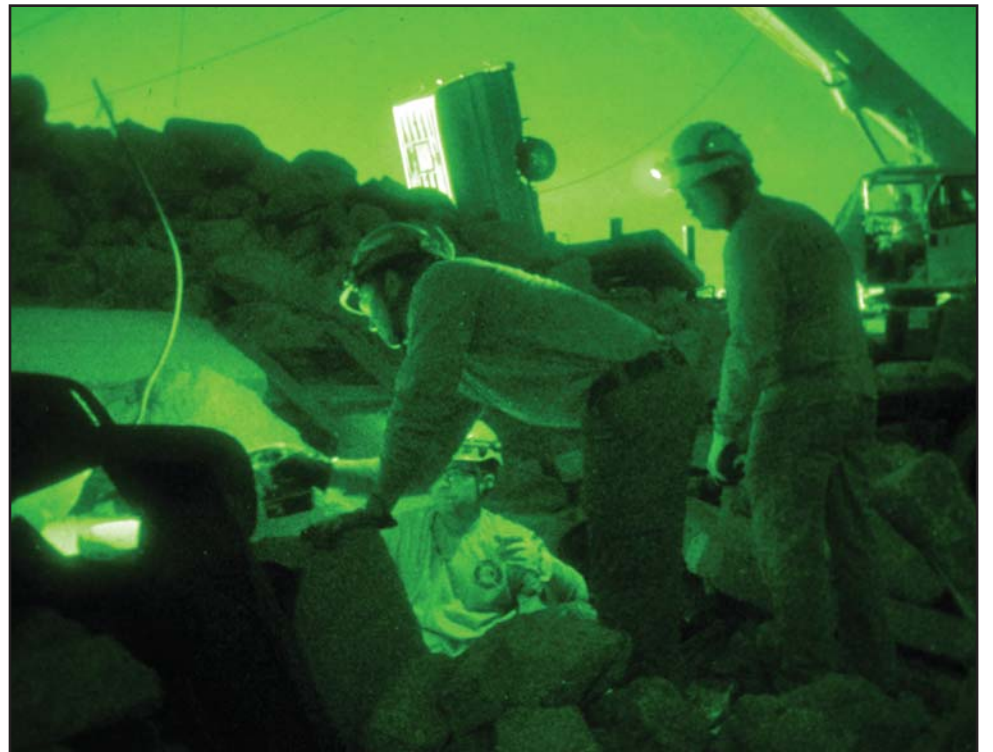
A crane’s-eye view of rescue operations illustrates the realistic nature of the obstacles facing search and rescue workers on the collapsed building venue at Crisis City March 31-April 1 during a full-scale exercise. First responders from across the state took part in the two-day exercise. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office)



A member of Kansas Search and Rescue Task Force 5 is lowered into a concrete pipe to reach a simulated victim trapped below during a full-scale search and rescue exercise conducted at Crisis City March 31-April 1. (Photo by Jane Welch, Public Affairs Office)



A search and rescue team works to recover simulated victims from a collapsed trench, one of the newest training venues at Crisis City. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Byers, Public Affairs Office)



As in a real-life situation, when time is precious for disaster victims trapped in rubble, rescue operations continued at night during the exercise at Crisis City March 31-April 1. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Byers, Public Affairs Office)





# Severe weather season is here; it's time to prepare

By Steve Larson  
Public Affairs Office

Now is the time to prepare.

That's the message the Kansas Division of Emergency Management wants Kansans to heed as spring approaches, bringing with it severe weather season.

Gov. Sam Brownback signed a proclamation Feb. 25 designating March 2-6 as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Kansas. During the week, Kansans were urged to check their emergency kit supplies for their home, office and vehicle, and review their emergency plans to make sure they are prepared for whatever severe weather comes their way.

"Even though March through June typically brings severe storms, tornadoes, and flash floods, many people are still caught unprepared," said Angee Morgan, KDEM deputy director. "Being prepared really doesn't take a lot of time or a lot of money and while the odds are good you won't need to use your emergency kit, it's better to be prepared, just in case."

Home emergency kits should contain supplies for every member of the family for a minimum of three days, including:

- Bottled water -- one gallon per person per day
- Non-perishable foods
- First-aid kit
- Flashlights and batteries
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Blankets
- Medications
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for food
- Children's items (favorite toys, comfort items, etc.)
- Pet food

An emergency plan should answer such questions as:

- What is the safest location in my home

## York named chair-elect for national EMAC task force

Jonathan York was recently selected as the new chair-elect of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact Executive Task Force. York is the Response and Recovery Branch director and EMAC coordinator for the Kansas Division of Emergency Management.

As chair-elect, York will become the ETF chair from March 2016 through March

2017. When York takes office, Kansas will become the National Coordinating State, and York will serve as the NCS lead for 2016. In addition to his responsibilities involving EMAC over the years, York has also served as the Region VII lead state representative on the ETF.

"In the emergency management profession, there are many initiatives that you feel strongly about and become involved in, whether at a local, state, or national level," said York. "EMAC is one of those passions for me. EMAC is one of the strongest resources that states have to assist them to garner additional personnel and equipment resources to augment disaster response and recovery efforts."

EMAC is a multistate, mutual aid agreement that facilitates interstate assistance in response and recovery operations during a disaster. Over the past decade, Kansas has sent civilian and military personnel to sev-

eral other states under the EMAC agree-

- Is the emergency kit stocked with everything we need? Are all the supplies fresh, i.e. is anything past its expiration date? If so, replace it.
- Does everyone know basic first aid kit?
- If we are separated, where will we meet to ensure all family members are accounted for?
- How will we communicate with family members who are away? Remember, cell phone service may not be available after a tornado.

Kansans were also urged to take part in the statewide tornado safety drill March 3. The annual drill was an opportunity for all Kansans to practice their tornado safety plans at home and at their place of business.

According to the National Weather Service, 40 tornadoes hit the state in 2014, about 40 fewer than the 30-year average of 80 and the fewest since 1989. There were 27 tornado-related injuries reported, but no fatalities. The first tornado was reported April 2; the last was on Dec. 14, a reminder that tornadoes can strike any time of the year. The most tornadoes in one day occurred May 11 when nine tornadoes were reported in the state.

Brownback also signed a proclamation urging Kansans to observe March 4 as "Flood Awareness Day in Kansas."

"People often don't think about the danger of floods," said Morgan. "On average, floods claim more lives each year than tornadoes. Just six inches of swiftly moving water can knock a person off their feet. More than half of flood-related deaths involve vehicles. Cars, even SUVs and trucks, can be swept away by just two feet of moving water. The best protection during a flood is to leave the area or your car and take shelter on higher ground."

For a more complete list of items for a home or car emergency kit, go to [www.ksready.gov](http://www.ksready.gov). Ideas for making an emergency plan can be found at [www.ready.gov/make-a-plan](http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan)



Jonathan York

er other states under the EMAC agreement to assist with emergency operations in response to hurricanes, wildfires, floods and tornadoes.

As the Response and Recovery Branch director York has oversight of all branch activities, including the communications unit, human services section, public assistance section, regional coordinators, technological hazards section, and staff duty officer program. The Response and Recovery Branch is responsible for interfacing with counties before, during, and after an emergency or disaster that may be beyond the capabilities of local governments and coordinate state assistance to augment local response and recovery actions. York is also responsible for management of the State Emergency Operations Center, coordinating the state's response and recovery actions with local governments, state agencies, Kansas National Guard, federal agencies, voluntary agencies, and private sector partners.

A Kansas certified emergency manager, York is also the emergency management assistance compact coordinator for the state of Kansas. York has served as the lead state representative on the EMAC ETF from 2011-2015 for Region VII states of Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Iowa. Prior to joining KDEM in February 2009, York was the emergency management director in Marshall County, Kansas. A former member of the Northeast Kansas Incident Management Team, York responded to the Greensburg tornado and Southeast Kansas floods in 2007.



Members of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, National Weather Service and Kansas Department of Health and Environment stand in the governor's ceremonial office at the state Capitol Feb. 25 as Gov. Sam Brownback signs a proclamation declaring March 2-6 as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Kansas. (Photo by Sgt. Theresa Vail, Public Affairs Office)

## Crisis City full-scale exercise

Continued from Page 10

to see all the different types of crews that have been out to help," said Dewitt. "Different teams that are willing to come in from all sorts of areas to do specialized tasks, to help with extrications, or whether it's climbing buildings or seeing the crane working and having all of that in one area at one time, that's been really special for me."

Even though they come from different departments, all of the teams operate under the Incident Command System, a national emergency response framework that fosters teamwork, interoperability and "same page" thinking.

"Coming from a smaller area, I was worried to be dealing with such a larger-scale activity," said Dewitt, "but what I've learned today is that it doesn't matter necessarily about the size, the command system is still the same, no matter what you do, which is reassuring that what we're practicing in the smaller rural towns is also the same thing we're doing on a larger scale."

Even though the gas explosion was simulated, the resulting concrete rubble, twisted metal and crushed vehicles were all real, forcing the search and rescue crews to operate in real time with real equipment and a measure of real danger.

"This seems very realistic," said Josh Bruggeman, Wichita Fire Department. "They do a really good job of putting this together. It's about as real as you can get for training purposes."

"We have to be extremely cautious because it is a live pile," said Scott Kleinschmidt, a lieutenant with the Wichita Fire Department. "It's controlled chaos, but it's still chaos and so there is some risk management that goes into this and we try to keep a close eye on it."

"We have added a FEMA-certified structural engineer to the team," said Stoll. "He monitors all of our structures and buildings and shoring to make sure our teams are safe."

"Currently what they're doing is what we call delayering the pile," Kleinschmidt explained as the team carefully removed huge chunks of concrete and crushed vehicles. "They have access to a certain area where they know, through their technical search with their search cameras and listening devices, they have a family of four in a minivan underneath a bunch of cars. They're going to utilize a crane and they're going to start taking pieces of the pile away so they can work their way down to them."

Watching the team work, it was evident the responders were skilled at their jobs.

"A lot of the skills these guys work with, even in this arena, are stuff they use day-to-day in their normal firefighting operations," said Kleinschmidt, "lifting and moving heavy objects, cutting people out of cars in a vehicle accident -- which is no different than what they do on a day-to-day basis."

In addition to being skilled, it was clear the task force members were enthusiastic about their work, which presented a bit of a challenge for them.

"Most of the guys who get into this type of arena are pretty dialed-up guys, and so a lot of times it's kind of pulling them back a little bit," said Kleinschmidt. "These are long-duration operations and so we don't want to waste all of our resources in the first couple of hours. The hardest thing is, if I have 25 guys here, only having 12 guys working while I have 12 guys sitting in reserve to take their place, because a lot of what they do is very, very taxing on them and they won't last for a long, long time."

Despite the hard, intense work, everyone seemed to agree the exercise was time well-spent, the interaction useful and the Crisis City training venues were a valuable asset for the state.

"It's hard to do training within your own station sometimes, let alone the involvement of all the rest of the stations," said Stoll. "Having Crisis City as somewhere we can pull all of our resources together and have a complete cache (of equipment) is phenomenal."

"It's definitely a great networking system," said Dewitt. "You're going to meet people, see the different techniques they might use, different perspectives that they might have, things that you've always done the same way and they might comment on it and you learn something from it. It's very beneficial."

"These guys learn a lot of skills that you just can't teach in a classroom, you just can't teach in theory," said Kleinschmidt. "They have to get their hands on it and do it. The nice thing about this type of environment is it's always coming at them from a different angle, so they're having to think on their feet and use all the tools that they have in their toolbox to complete the rescue."

"I think it's vital because if something ever does go down, these are the people we're going to be working with," said Bruggeman. "It's important to know them, develop relationships and know that you can trust people. It's a good deal."



## Military Veteran Project, Topeka police deliver cards to wounded Missouri officer

By Samantha Foster  
Topeka Capital-Journal

The Military Veteran Project and Topeka police teamed up to show support for a Missouri police officer and veteran who is recovering after being wounded in the line of duty.

MVP director Melissa Jarboe, Topeka Police Chief James Brown and five Topeka police officers who also are military veterans traveled to Pleasant Valley, Missouri, Feb. 5 to deliver gifts and words of encouragement to Pleasant Valley police officer Jacob Baldwin, Jarboe said.

According to Pleasant Valley Police Chief Mark Dumolt, Baldwin sustained two gunshot wounds to his face Dec. 13, 2014, while conducting a traffic stop on Interstate 35 in southern Clay County. While he continues to recover, he hasn't yet returned to work.

About two months ago, Jarboe's organization, which provides support and assistance for veterans, issued a request for people to send get-well cards that could be delivered to Baldwin.

"We received cards from all over the world: the U.K.; Germany; Okinawa, Japan" and states from across the nation, she said.

In fact, the Military Veteran Project received so many cards for Baldwin — more than 200 of them, including some from members of the Kansas Highway Patrol and Shawnee County Sheriff's Office — that delivery of the cards had to be delayed.

Baldwin, who has served for two years in the police department, is a veteran of the Air Force and a current member of the Kansas Air National Guard, Dumolt said. He serves in the 284th Air Support Opera-

tions Squadron based in Salina.

Dumolt said Baldwin has been deployed four times in the past 14 years, including assignments in Africa, Kuwait and Iraq.

Jarboe said Baldwin also serves under Police Chief James Brown in Brown's capacity as command chief master sergeant of the Kansas Air National Guard. Topeka police Maj. Jerry Stanley, Lt. Scott Gilchrist, Lt. Joe Perry, and officers Ronnie Connell and Matt Cobb traveled to Pleasant Valley with Brown and Jarboe to meet Baldwin.

For the Topeka police officers, Jarboe said, it was encouraging to see a survivor. Topeka police lost three of their fellow officers to fatal gunshot wounds between December 2012 and September 2014.

The visit also proved to be a "great morale booster" for Baldwin, Dumolt told Jarboe in an email shared with The Topeka Capital-Journal. Jarboe said the Topeka officers and Baldwin connected quickly, talking and laughing in a display of "veteran camaraderie."

Kansas City-area news media reported in late December that a grand jury indicted 31-year-old Omar Maria, whom Dumolt described as a "wanted career criminal," in Baldwin's shooting. Maria, who was taken into custody Dec. 14, now faces felony charges of first-degree assault on a law enforcement officer and armed criminal action.

"It is ironic that Officer Baldwin was seriously wounded in Pleasant Valley and not overseas in a foreign country," Dumolt said in his statement. "This is a reminder of how demanding and dangerous the law enforcement profession is and the risk our officers encounter every day."



Melissa Jarboe (right), Topeka Police Chief James Brown (center), and five additional officers meet with Pleasant Valley, Missouri, police officer Jacob Baldwin, third from right in Pleasant Valley. Baldwin is recovering after being shot twice in the face while initiating a car stop this past December. (Photo provided)

## Kansas Guardsmen show grit during grueling competition

Continued from Page 7

board of sergeants major, who asked them questions on modern Army doctrine.

Throughout the event, competitors were tested on various warrior tasks including assembling and disassembling the M249, calling in a medical evacuation and identifying and treating battle wounds.

"This competition has been years in the making," said Brig. Gen. Robert E. Windham, commander, Kansas Army National Guard-Land Component. "Every year it gets a little better and a little more challenging."

At its heart, the Best Warrior Competition is designed to build morale among competitors, their units and the Kansas National Guard as a whole.

"It brings me back to the core of Soldiering," said Matticks. "It's what the basics of Soldiering are all about, and I think that's what really motivates these guys."

Sgt. Michael Meyer, combat engineer, 772nd Engineer Company, was motivated by sheer will. Meyer, a 53-year-old native of Higginsville, Missouri, won his company-level Best Warrior event months prior, and was nearly three times the age of most of his fellow competitors.

"My pride won't let me stop," he said. "I can't quit. I had to talk myself into continuing, but once a quitter, always a quitter, so I just had to keep moving. I may not win, but I won't be last."

Ultimately, no competitor quit. Each showed strengths and also learned lessons

to take back to their respective units, according to Moberly.

"This also serves as an external evaluation for me on the quality of training within my subordinate units and what shortcomings need to be addressed," said Moberly. "I think this competition is critical to monitoring the readiness of our force and, most importantly, recognizing the top individuals."

Windham strongly encouraged all who love being a Soldier to compete in future Best Warrior Competitions.

"Everybody that competed is a winner," he said. "The competitors are the pride of the Kansas National Guard, but at the end, there's only one number one."

To the number ones, Johnston and Austin, Moberly said, "You better come back next year with the intent to win."

He then strongly challenged his subordinate unit command sergeants major not to let the Air Guard win again next year.

Winners of the competition at the state level will go on to a regional event against winners from neighboring states. Since the official National Guard competition hasn't opened to Airmen yet, the two runners-up, Sgt. Matthew Copeland, tank gunner, Company D, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, Emporia, and Spc. Karson Zeltwanger, computer detection systems repairer, 995th Maintenance Company, Concordia, will represent Kansas in the Region V competition at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, in May.

## Wigal first female colonel in 184th



Col. Vonda Wigal watches as her husband David Wigal pins colonel rank insignia on her uniform during a promotion ceremony Feb. 7. Their sons Sam and Blake were also part of the pinning ceremony. Wigal assumed command of the 184th Intelligence Wing Medical Group May 4, 2014. She is the first female colonel and group commander in the history of the 184th IW. "The unachievable has been achieved. I never dreamt I would get to this point and it's a challenge I do not take lightly," Wigal said. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Maria Ruiz, 184th IW Public Affairs)

LOYALTY ★ DUTY ★ RESPECT ★ SELFLESS SERVICE ★ HONOR ★ INTEGRITY ★ PERSONAL COURAGE

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Senior Airman Dean Johnston, left, and Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Austin, joint terminal attack controllers, 284th Air Support Operation Squadron, plot their points on a map of the land navigation course at the Great Plains Joint Training Center near Salina, Kansas, during the Best Warrior Competition March 19. Johnston and Austin won the Soldier and noncommissioned officer categories of the traditionally Army-only event. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



# Sexual Assault Awareness Month now Sexual Assault Awareness Prevention Month

By Capt. Tim Traynor  
Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

A quick Internet search for “sexual assault headlines” provides a disconcerting picture of just how this hideous offense has permeated positions of trust in today’s culture. From the results, no community, age group or socioeconomic status is immune from this cancerous crime. This truth also extends to our military ranks. Awareness is critical in taking a stand against sexual assault and sexual harassment.

Since 2001, the month of April is recognized nationally as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This year, the name is changing. The Department of Defense now recognizes the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Prevention Month. The military culture is changing, recognizing awareness must lead to action and putting an assertive emphasis on prevention with this year’s slogan “Eliminate Sexual Assault: Know your part. Do your part.”

Each of us who wear the uniform or support those who do, have the responsibility to live out the military values that stand against such deplorable acts. It is the duty of each service member to cre-

ate an environment intolerant of such behavior, be it in action, speech or imagery. These small steps have a big effect.

Operating off the principles of the continuum of harm, small interventions can stop a working or social environment from cultivating climate which slowly becomes more accepting of inappropriate behaviors. Left unchecked, unprofes-

sional behavior can escalate, leading to an organizational culture where perpetrators have less fear of being caught, as they can push boundaries further and further under the guise of typical office humor.

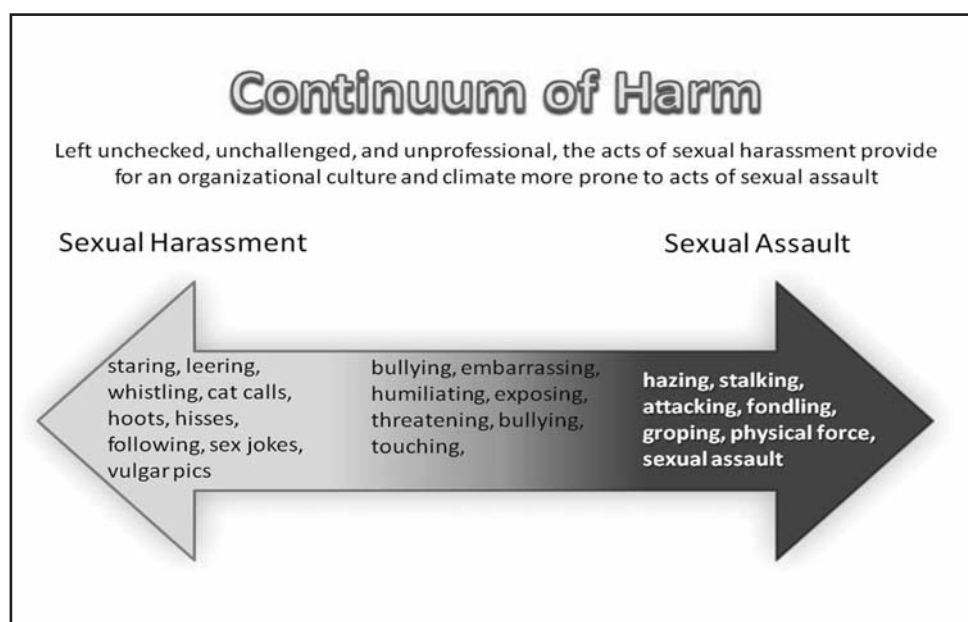
Humor is great for an organization. It brings people together and can alleviate stress when budgets and manpower are shrinking and deadlines are increasing.

These moments are perfect for building strong team bonds without demeaning genders, reinforcing negative stereotypes or promoting any sexual or sexualized behavior.

Build esprit de corps by banding together to help those in need. A number of events, drives and activities will be happening locally and nationwide during Sexual Assault Awareness Prevention Month. Until then, take a moment to consider taking an active role in doing your part to combat sexual assault. What does that first, instinctive action look like to you?

- Contact your local VA or Vet Center to see what volunteer opportunities are available
- Reach out to your local crisis center which may be in need of clothing, toiletry items, and more, for assault survivors
- If you are currently serving, consider becoming a Victim Advocate for your unit

If you have an idea not on the list, please contact the Joint Forces Headquarters Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (785) 274-1578; (785) 274-1491 or your local veterans center.



## 0-1-2-3 guidelines help determine drinking norms

Social proof is a term psychologists use to describe the fact that people naturally look to those around them for information to assist them in determining correct and acceptable behavior. For example, when a group of people stands on a street corner looking intently into the sky, the vast majority of passersby look up as well. Why? They are naturally influenced by the group and taking cues to look to the sky, demonstrating the power and influence groups have over us as individuals.

The same concept applies to alcohol consumption and perceived “drinking norms.” Research has shown that we tend to drink the amount of alcohol that we believe our peers are drinking. However, our ability to estimate our peer’s alcohol consumption is far from accurate. In the United States, 70 percent of drinkers consume only 10 percent of the alcohol. This means that the other 30 percent of drinkers consume 90 percent of all alcohol, telling us that heavy drinking is not the norm and that most drinkers make low-risk decisions.

The few drinkers who are responsible for the majority of alcohol consumption are greatly impacted by their decisions. The 30

percent of people who consume 90 percent of alcohol also experience 90 percent of the problems associated with high-risk drinking, including legal, health, relationship, financial and career-ending incidents.

The Substance Abuse Program encourages all members of the Kansas National Guard to better understand true drinking norms and their influence on others when it comes to making decisions about alcohol. The best choice to make when it comes to alcohol is to follow the 0-1-2-3 low-risk guidelines:

- 0 – zero illegal drugs and zero drinks for anyone underage or who suffers from alcoholism;
- 1 – one standard drink (0.6 oz of pure alcohol) per hour;
- 2 – standard drinks per day if you drink on a daily basis and
- 3 – three standard drinks on any one occasion.

If you think you have a substance abuse problem, or know someone who does, please contact Dan Pempin, Alcohol and Drug Control Officer, 785-274-1549; robert.d.pempin.ctr@mail.mil or Brian Scholar, Prevention Coordinator, 785-274-1557; brian.k.scholar.ctr@mail.mil

## Safety Corner

### Maintenance = Safety

By Chief Warrant Officer 4  
Marvin Terhune  
State Safety Officer

Why do we have to do maintenance and inspect our armories and facilities? Just as with our homes, if you did not fix broken items or do periodic maintenance the value would soon depreciate. Our armories and facilities are no different. Preventive maintenance and inspections performed by the



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Marvin Terhune

Department of Public Works, annual safety inspections and industrial hygiene inspections are just a few of the proactive programs in place to keep our armories and facilities up to date.

Funding is critical in conducting preventive maintenance. It is at times cheaper to fix a problem at its onset than wait until the problem overwhelms us. Be vigilant in correcting problems or completing work orders at your workplace so that problems

can be corrected by our state maintenance employees or contracted out.

There are several regulations we are mandated to follow at our armories and facilities. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, National Fire Protection Association, American National Standard Institute are just a few agencies providing regulatory guidelines to keep our armories safe for the public as well as for our Soldiers. Simple programs such as fire extinguisher inspections, Exit/Egress light inspections are just a few of the many items inspected on a monthly and annual basis. Assigned Additional Duty Safety Officers are a tremendous help to the organization in maintaining and inspecting items that are mandated by regulation.

By being proactive in our maintenance and safety programs for our facilities and armories, we our saving valuable taxpayer dollars and affording the public and our Soldiers a safe environment. More command emphasis will be placed on maintaining our facilities and armories this year. Please call the State Safety Office, 785-274-1012, if we can assist with establishing your safety programs or safety inspection guidance.

## Training rodeo contributes to 184th Intelligence Wing readiness

Continued from Page 7

each Airman approximately five hours of additional training.

“It is time consuming, but doing it all in one group instead of doing it from a shop-by-shop basis is better,” said Bogart, “especially being hands-on, because it really gets everyone involved with the training.”

Volunteers from across the wing pitched in to make this event successful.

“We have instructors from everywhere,” said Castillo. “They are from the 134th Air Control Squadron, Civil Engineer Squadron, the Medical Group, Security Forces Squadron, 161st Intelligence Squadron, the 177th Information Aggressor Squadron – basically, it is a lot of volunteers from across the wing.”

The entire focus of the training rodeo

was getting the Airmen of the 184th IW ready to deploy at a moment’s notice. Readiness is a top priority for Stacey and the wing.

“One of my focus points is readiness, and having all of this training done together allows us to be more relevant and mission ready,” said Stacey.

Organizers of the rodeo were extremely happy with how the training went and also heard feedback from participants.

“We have gotten nothing but positive reviews,” said Castillo. “They love the way that it was compressed, it saved time and still met all the requirements for the hands-on training. Our goal is to provide the best training in the Air National Guard and to tell you the truth, we are already headed there.”

“In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours.”

Mark Twain

### Before You Tell it to Your Inspector General

**I Got A Beef With The System!**  
What steps should I take now?

- ✓ **Be sure you have a problem, not just a peeve.**
- ✓ **Give your chain of command a chance to solve the problem.**
- ✓ **If IG assistance is needed, contact your local IG first.**
- ✓ **Be honest and don't provide misleading information.**
- ✓ **Keep in mind that IGs are not policy makers.**
- ✓ **IGs can only recommend, not order a resolution.**
- ✓ **Remember IGs can only resolve a case on the basis of fact.**
- ✓ **Investigations take time... be patient.**
- ✓ **Be prepared to take "No" for an answer.**

*Your local IG is:*  
**Maj. Kyle Chansler (785-274-1022); Maj Julie Burns (785-274-1483)**  
**Susan Hicks (785-274-1020)**

**To complain without fear of reprisal is the right of any Soldier, Civilian, or Family Member seeking IG help.**



## Awards and Decorations

### KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

#### Legion of Merit



Col. John Andrew, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

#### Meritorious Service Medal



Lt. Col. Eric Blankenship, HHC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola, with oak leaf cluster  
 Chief Warrant Officer 3 Brent Campbell, Co C (Ord), 2nd Bn, 235th Rgt, Salina  
 Master Sgt. Kirk Gibson, 1st Bn, 235th Rgt, Salina, with oak leaf cluster  
 Master Sgt. Michael Guyett, ARNG-MTC, Fort Leavenworth, with two oak leaf clusters  
 Master Sgt. Jodi Melby, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster  
 Sgt. 1st Class Curtis Bowman, 69th TC, Topeka  
 Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Brown, Rec & Ret Bn, Topeka  
 Sgt. 1st Class Marion Dohle, HHC, 891st Eng Co, Iola, with oak leaf cluster  
 Sgt. 1st Class Jason Frausto, Co B, Rec & Ret Bn, Wichita  
 Sgt. 1st Class Jason Joutre, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Paola  
 Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Plummer, KSARNG Training Center, Salina  
 Sgt. 1st Class Roy Wellman, 2nd Bn, 235th Rgt, Salina  
 Staff Sgt. Alan Bansemer, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Newton  
 Staff Sgt. Charles Grange, HHC, Det 1, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Junction City  
 Sgt. Michelle Bond, HHC, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka

#### Army Commendation Medal



Lt. Col. Christopher Gnagi, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Maj. Dwayne Byerly, Rec & Ret Bn, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters  
 Maj. Penny Jamvold, 190th ARW, Topeka

Maj. Warner White, 177th IWAS, Wichita  
 Capt. Richelle Blume, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Senior Master Sgt. John Evans, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Senior Master Sgt. Brett Higginbotham, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Sgt. 1st Class David Barnes, Co B, Rec & Ret Bn, Wichita, with two oak leaf clusters  
 Sgt. 1st Class Marc McCully, Rec & Ret Bn, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters  
 Sgt. 1st Class David Miller, Rec & Ret Bn, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster  
 Sgt. 1st Class Kurt Wassenberg, Co A, Rec & Ret Bn, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters  
 Staff Sgt. Patrick Gordon, HHD, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters  
 Staff Sgt. Eric Reichert, Rec & Ret Bn, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster  
 Staff Sgt. Aaron Todd, Rec & Ret Bn, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster  
 Sgt. Shawna Dunham, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
 Sgt. Casey Tefft, HHD, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster

### KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

#### Air Force Commendation Medal



Capt. Keith Marshall, 184th IW, Wichita  
 Tech. Sgt. Travis Dugan, 184th IW, Wichita

#### Air Force Achievement Award



Senior Master Sgt. Collin McGinnis, 184th IW, Wichita  
 Staff Sgt. Anthony Young, 184th IW, Wichita  
 Senior Airman Blake Elliott, 184th IW, Wichita  
 Airman 1st Class Hunter Thurston, 184th IW, Wichita

Clay Center  
 Sgt. Brett Denning, 170th Maint Co (-), Norton  
 Sgt. Beverly Fortner, Det 1, KSARNG Med Det, Lenexa  
 Sgt. Scot Leonard, FSC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola  
 Sgt. Leon Prather, 250th FSC (-), Ottawa  
 Sgt. Charles Smith, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

#### Kansas Air National Guard

Chief Master Sgt. Bill Angstadt, 184th IW, Wichita  
 Senior Master Sgt. Robert Hauskins, 184th IW, Wichita  
 Senior Master Sgt. Joe McElfresh, 184th IW, Wichita  
 Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Wagner, 190th ARW, Topeka  
 Master Sgt. Steve Cussins, 184th IW, Wichita

## Retirements

### Kansas Army National Guard

Col. Barry Taylor, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
 Lt. Col. Edward Keller, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth  
 Master Sgt. John Meyer, Det 1, Rec and Ret Bn, Topeka  
 Master Sgt. Bonifacio Purganan, HHD, 635th RSG, Topeka  
 Sgt. 1st Class Mickeal Blackburn, Det 1, 1161st FSC, Pratt  
 Staff Sgt. Charles Grange Jr., Det 1, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Junction City  
 Sgt. Tommy Davis, Det 2, 250th FSC,

## From the halls of RTS-M to the shores of San Diego

Ordnance instructors Staff Sgt. Kenneth Hare and Staff Sgt. Shawn Chaney of the Regional Training Site-Maintenance in Salina, Kansas, traveled to Camp Pendleton, California, in September 2014, to provide Joint Services Maintenance Training for 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment. As facilitators for 14 Marines, the team conducted training on the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicle Unit Maintenance Course, as well as the Automotive Air Conditioning Recovery Course.

The FMTV course was 80 hours in length, covering the basic operations, troubleshooting and repair of the engine, transmission and electrical systems at the field level of maintenance. Marine students received classroom instruction of individual component systems, operational theory and troubleshooting procedures.

Upon completion of classroom training, they went to the Marines maintenance shop for hands-on training, troubleshooting and repair of multiple real-world existing non-mission capable faults on their equipment. Using knowledge gained from the previous

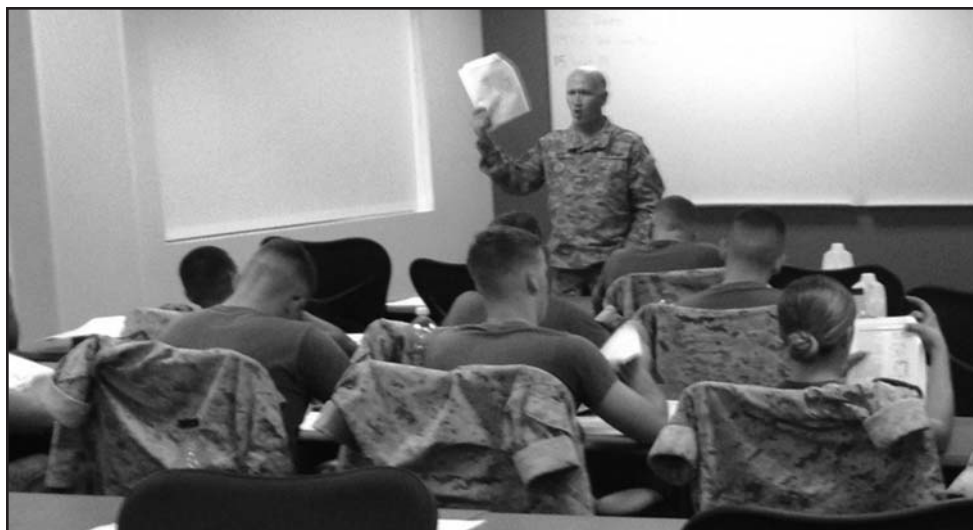
blocks of instruction, the Marines were able to verify and isolate faults and then perform repairs.

One vehicle in particular had been in a non mission-capable status for 87 days with approximately 48 hours of troubleshooting previously logged. The students were able to identify a major component failure within the engine and subsequently send the vehicle for component repair/replacement.

With assistance from Hare and Chaney, the students went through the troubleshooting steps on multiple vehicles within the battalion, performing equipment repairs which improved their operational readiness status.

The 40-hour Automotive A/C Recovery Course covered mandatory Environmental Protection Agency Section 609 training and testing, followed by hands-on troubleshooting and repair of air conditioning systems on a variety of wheeled vehicles.

Approximately 10 vehicles were either repaired or parts identified for repair, assisting the unit with their air conditioning system operational needs.



Staff Sgt. Shawn Chaney instructs a classroom of U.S. Marines at Camp Pendleton, near San Diego, California, September 2014. (Photo provided)

## Guard Soldiers certified for automotive service excellence

### By Chief Warrant Officer 3 Brent Campbell Regional Training Site - Maintenance

Sgt. 1st Class Ranie Ruthig and Staff Sgt. Shawn Chaney, Kansas Regional Training Site-Maintenance, have been recognized and certified through the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence. After successfully completing certification testing as an automotive service consultant, Ruthig and Chaney were required to submit their work experience to the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence to verify that their knowledge and experience were sufficient to meet the credentialing requirements.

Ruthig, a senior-level instructor with the Ordnance Corps, is certified to instruct five different courses at the RTS-M. She serves as the course manager for the Wheel Vehicle Mechanic Advanced Leadership Course. Ruthig also serves as the ASE account manager for the Kansas RTS-M. Ruthig has been identified as the first RTS-M instructor in the nation to obtain these ASE certification credentials through this new opportunity provided by the U.S. Army Ordnance Proponent.

Chaney is an instructor-level instructor with the Ordnance Corps and is certified to instruct three different courses of instruc-

tion at the RTS-M. Chaney serves as the course manager for the 91B Wheel Vehicle Mechanic Military Occupational Specialty Qualification course.

Soldiers who are scheduled to attend Wheel Vehicle Mechanic Advanced Leadership Course may volunteer to participate in the ASE credentialing program. Currently there are two ASE certification test exams which are offered to these students. Soldiers may choose either the Automobile Service Consultant certification exam or the Diesel Engine certification exam during their resident training phases of ALC.

Soldiers who volunteer for testing must register with the ASE certification web site and are issued an electronic voucher from the Ordnance Corps Proponent. This voucher provides access to a comprehensive skill assessment too help prepare them for the ASE exam. This voucher also allows access to an online professional technician training series geared towards enhancing the user's automotive knowledge and helps to prepare the Soldier prior to the actual ASE exam. The electronic voucher provides for payment to take the ASE certification exam resulting in no cost to the Soldier.



Sgt. 1st Class Ranie Ruthig, left, and Staff Sgt. Shawn Chaney of the Kansas Regional Site Maintenance show off their newly minted certificates from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (Photo provided)

## 35th Infantry Division conducts accelerated training exercise

### By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Milnes Public Affairs Specialist

Members of the Kansas Army National Guard's 35th Infantry Division recently conducted a first-of-its-kind warfighting exercise to better test and prepare its troops for potential missions.

The division conducted the 2015 Santa Fe Exercise with a training scenario using a live simulation provided by the Global Simulation Capability, a section of the National Simulation Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. While live simulation exercises are typically built to span one to two weeks at a time, the division modified the timeline to complete the exercise in a single drill weekend.

"We are the first National Guard division to have utilized the Global Simulation Capability and complete it within a drill weekend," said Maj. Gen. Michael D. Navrkal, commander of the 35th Infantry Division. "Although the GSC has worked with other units before, they have typically been active duty units or National Guard or Reserve units in a longer annual training status."

By completing the process in a weekend, the 35th ID was able to look at their warfighting functions and how they interact.

Maj. Jason Inskeep, training officer for the 35th Infantry Division, noted that one of the more beneficial aspects of the exercise was that it provided additional training time for their command staff to operate through a unit Command Post Exercise, al-

lowing for further enhancement of their battle drills.

"Having a scenario that is played out in real time allows troops to 'fight the deep fight' using the Fires and Targeting sections specifically, but also having the air/ground coordination," said Inskeep.

Coaching mentors from the Army's 1st Corps, out of Joint Base Lewis-McCord in Washington, advised and shared thoughts with members of the 35th on ways to improve future processes.

"The organizations are about the people, the processes, the systems and the structure," said Navrkal. "We were able to touch on all of those with this training and, most impressively, we were able to advance our readiness while keeping our Soldiers, equipment and resources at home station."

Although the simulation only spanned 12 hours of operations over a two-day period, it involved months of planning, coordinating and using resources within condensed time and budget constraints.

"When you haven't used this type of simulation in this capacity before and you have coordination among the unit, the GSC and the Mission Training Complex, there is a lot of communication that needs to happen," said Inskeep.

After completion of the exercise and a thorough group after-action review, Inskeep is certain that the division can reduce planning for similar exercises from six months to a mere 100-120 day planning cycle.



# Frantz receives command of 190th Air Refueling Wing

By Maj. Joe Blubaugh  
190th Air Refueling Wing

Col. Jarrod Frantz received command of the 190th Air Refueling Wing during a change of command ceremony April 11 at the unit's Forbes Field air base in Topeka. Frantz received command from Col. Ronald Krueger, who is retiring. Krueger took command of the wing in May 2011.

Col. Jay Selanders, commander of the Kansas Air National Guard, presided over the ceremony that marked the moment when responsibility for the nearly 1,000 Airmen passed from Krueger to Frantz.

"It has been an honor serving my community, state and nation in one of the finest organizations in the United States military," said Krueger. "The men and women of the 190th Air Refueling Wing are extremely talented and it has been a privilege serving as their wing commander."

"I am honored to assume the role of wing commander for such a great organization full of dedicated and talented Airmen," said Frantz. "I will ensure that the 190th Air Refueling Wing continues to live up to our vision of being the 'Standard of Excellence' to those we serve."

## Col. Jarrod Frantz

Col. Jarrod Frantz enlisted in the 190th ARW in August 1985 and served as a crew chief in the 190th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron while attending the University of Kansas. In October 1988, he was selected to be a boom operator for the

117th Air Refueling Squadron and graduated from the Combat Crew Training School at Castle Air Force Base, California, in 1989. As a boom operator, he logged over 900 hours and was part of the first crews to deploy in support of Operation Desert Shield. He graduated from Washburn University in Topeka with a bachelor's degree in business administration in May 1992. He was commissioned at the Air Guard Academy of Military Science in September 1992 and completed Undergraduate Pilot Training in December 1993 at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, followed by KC-135 Combat Crew Training at Castle Air Force Base, California, in 1994.

Since receiving his commission, Frantz has served as chief of Quality Services, 190th Logistics Group; executive officer, 117th Air Refueling Squadron; "A" Flight element leader; "A" Flight commander; 117th ARS operations officer and commander of the 117th ARS. Prior to receiving command of the wing, Frantz served as the 190th Operations Group commander.

His professional military education includes Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and Air War College. He is a command pilot with more than 4,000 hours in the KC-135 E/D/R aircraft and more than 9,400 total heavy jet hours. He has flown more than 75 combat/combat support sorties totaling more than 460 hours in direct support of Operations Deny Flight, Joint Endeavor, Deliberate Guard, Allied Force, Northern



Col. Jarrod Frantz (right) accepts the 190th Air Refueling Wing unit flag from Col. Jay Selanders, commander of the Kansas Air National Guard, signifying his acceptance of command for the wing. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mandy Johnson, 190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs)

Watch, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, New Dawn and Unified Protector.

## Col. Ronald Krueger

Col. Ronald W. Krueger received his commission from the United States Air Force Academy in 1990. He attended pilot training at Reese Air Force Base, Texas, and later flew B-1B aircraft with the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, and the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, prior to joining the Kansas Air National Guard.

Krueger was instrumental in converting

the 184th Bomb Wing at McConnell Air Force Base from B-1B to KC-135R aircraft. He served as Maintenance Squadron commander and wing vice commander at Forbes Field before assuming command of the 190th Air Refueling Wing in May 2011.

Krueger is a command pilot with more than 4,000 hours of flight time. He participated in Operations Sea Signal, Southern Watch, Joint Forge, and Unified Protector and has more than 300 hours of combat time supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

# Responsibility for 69th Troop Command passes to Murdock

By Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Barnett,  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers, family and friends were on hand April 11 to witness the time-honored ceremony of the passing colors as Lt. Col. Thomas C. Barnett Jr. turned over command of the Kansas National Guard's 69th Troop Command to Col. Roger D. Murdock at the Nickell Armory, Topeka.

"I served in the 69th from probably a captain on to lieutenant colonel," said Murdock, who has previously served with the brigade. "It is a privilege to come back to it."

"The Soldiers of the 69th Troop Command have done an outstanding job, especially in the last three years," continued Murdock. "I would just like to tell them 'Thank you for a job well done.' I am thankful to have the opportunity to follow Tom Barnett because he has done such a great job with the unit."

"The 69th Troop Command has come so far and worked so hard to become what they are," said Barnett. "I was very proud to stand up and talk about what they have accomplished. I'm the commander, giving directions, but it's really the Soldiers that make things happen."

Barnett will continue his military service as the next deputy commander of the 130th Field Artillery Brigade in Manhattan, Kansas.

## Col. Roger D. Murdock

Col. Roger D. Murdock enlisted in the Kansas Army National Guard April 25, 1985, and received his commission as a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers through Wichita State University Reserve Officer Training Corps May 16, 1986.

Murdock's Kansas National Guard assignments include platoon leader, 242nd Engineer Company; commander, Detachment 1, 714th Maintenance Company; commander, 242nd Engineer Company; logistics officer, 891st Engineer Battalion; assistant brigade logistics officer, 69th Troop Command, assistant intelligence/training officer, 69th Troop Command; operations officer, 891st Engineer Battalion; brigade operations officer, 69th Troop Command, brigade operations officer, 287th Sustainment Brigade; support operations officer, 287th Sustainment Brigade; commander, 891st Engineer Battalion; director of Operations, Kansas National Guard; and director of Personnel and



Brig. Gen. Robert Windham (right), commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, entrusts the colors of the 69th Troop Command to Col. Roger Murdock (left), incoming commander, signifying his confidence in his ability to handle the responsibility of command. The ceremony was held in Nickell Armory, Topeka, April 11. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Barnett, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Manpower. He is currently assigned as the deputy chief of staff – Army for the Kansas Army National Guard.

Murdock deployed overseas from 2008-2009 as the operations officer of the 287th Sustainment Brigade in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, Iraqi Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with seven oak leaf clusters, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device and Silver Service Device, and other awards.

Murdock's military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic Course, Company Level Pre-Command Course, Engineer Officer Advanced Course, Command and General Staff Course, Reserve Component Multi-Functional Combat Service Support Course, Reserve Components National Security Course, and the U.S. Army War College.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and a master's degree in engineering management from Wichita

State University. He earned a Master of Science degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

## Lt. Col. Thomas C. Barnett Jr.

Lt. Col. Thomas C. Barnett Jr. enlisted in the Kansas Army National Guard in April 1985 and received his commission as a second lieutenant as a field artillery officer in July 1987.

Barnett's Kansas National Guard assignments include fire direction officer, Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery; electronic warfare officer, Headquarters, 35th Infantry Division; assistant fire support officer, HQ, 35th ID; Infantry and Armor Maneuver Company Fire Support Team Chiefs, Detachment 1, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 127th Field Artillery; fire direction officer, HQ, 2-130th FA; battalion fire support chief, 635th Armor Battalion; CORPS liaison officer, HHB, 35th Division Artillery; commander, Battery B, 2-130th FA; assistant fire support coordination officer, Detachment 1, HHB, 35th DIVARTY; operations officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Support Company, 2-130th FA; field artillery intelligence officer, Detachment 1, HHB, 35th DIVARTY; effects coordinator, HQ, 35th ID; operations officer, HQ, 35th ID; operations officer, HQ, 35th ID; senior space opera-

tions officer, HQ, 35th ID; and chief of operations, HQ, 35th ID.

Barnett deployed to Camp Butmir and Eagle Base, Bosnia-Herzegovina, as the liaison officer, Joint Military Affairs, Commander of the Stabilization Force, from 2001 to 2002. He also deployed to Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, with KFOR 9 as the operations officer for the 35th Infantry Division and Multi-National Task Force East from 2007 to 2008.

His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters; Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters; Joint Service Achievement Medal; Army Achievement Medal with six oak leaf clusters; Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters; National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Silver Hourglass, M device, and number 2 device; Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon with number 2 device; Humanitarian Service Ribbon; Kosovo Campaign Service Medal; Overseas Service Ribbon with Star device; Global War on Terrorism; Army Service Ribbon; North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal, second award; Army Space Badge; NATO German Gold Schütenschnur; and other awards.

Barnett's military education includes the Field Artillery Advanced Cannon Crewman Course, Field Artillery Officers Basic Course, Field Artillery Nuclear/Chemical Targeting Analysis, U.S. Army Contracting Officer Representative Course, Field Artillery Officer Advanced Course, Multiple Launch Rocket System Cadre Course, Combined Arms Service and Support School, Command and General Staff Course, Maneuver Control System Operator Course, Command Post of the Future Staff Course, Army Battle Command System Staff Course, Field Artillery Pre-Command Course and Air Force Joint Space Operations Course.

Barnett received a Bachelor of Science degree in computer information systems/system analysis from DeVry Institute of Technology and a master's of telecommunications management from Keller School of Graduate Studies.

In his civilian career, Barnett is the principal architect for Product Development and Planning at CenturyLink, headquartered in Monroe, Louisiana.



## Kansas Guard helps with annual Easter egg hunt at Cedar Crest

By Capt. Kevin Anderson  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

More than 500 local Kansans gathered March 28 to partake in one of the state's time-honored traditions, the annual Governor's Easter Egg Hunt.

Gripping their Easter baskets, standing behind the starting line, children eyed the open fields around the governor's mansion, waiting for the signal to start under the watchful eyes of their parents and members of the Kansas National Guard.



A Soldier with the 35th Military Police Company stands guard at the Governor's Mansion near Topeka March 28 during the annual Governor's Easter Egg Hunt. (Photo by Capt. Kevin Anderson, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Maj. Amy Blow, a nurse with the 190th Medical Group, Kansas Air National Guard, was the officer-in-charge for the event and the primary planner. Planning for the event began 30 days prior and culminated in a wonderful event for the families in attendance, according to Blow. Throughout the planning process, Blow incorporated elements from the Kansas Army and Air National Guard, the Civil Air Patrol, the Teen Counsel and the Capital Police to ensure all aspects of the event were properly executed.

Blow said the goal of the event was twofold.  
"First, to demonstrate the appreciation of

the governor and his family to the community by hosting the event," said Blow, "and second, to have the National Guard and other agencies have a presence in the community and assist with a wonderful event."

One unit specifically tasked to support the event was the 35th Military Police Company, Kansas Army National Guard. The noncommissioned officer in-charge for the event from the MP Company was Staff Sgt. Kevin Fischer. Fischer worked the event nearly eight years earlier as a lower enlisted Soldier and returned to the event this year as a key member of the leadership.

"The Easter egg hunt has always been a great event and when I had the opportunity to be involved with it again, I couldn't pass," said Fischer.

The event provided the MPs with real-world training and honed their military occupational skills.

"We got to practice our entry control point, cordon and personal security skills," said Fischer.

While real-world experience and training were the MP Companies' primary goals for the event, Fischer was quick to point out "the Easter egg hunt is a great way for the National Guard to interact with the community."

It is not unusual for a Guardsman to find his military and civilian careers overlap and such was the case for one of the MP Soldiers at the event.

Sgt. Ynacio Bautista is a member of the Military Police Corps in the Kansas National Guard, and also a Capital Police officer for the state of Kansas. On the day of the Easter egg hunt, he found himself working the event in the latter role. He said that there are similarities to the military and civilian aspects of law enforcement and enjoys the ability of combining his dual careers. Bautista volunteered for the event because he believes it is important for those in the local community to interact with law enforcement personnel.

"The Easter egg hunt builds community trust by interacting with the public in a fun and safe environment," he said.

Although the kids, aged one to six years-old, began scouring out the eggs in the field before Governor Sam Brownback officially said "Go," the event went off without a hitch. Brownback took the time to thank all of the National Guard and other units involved in the planning and staffing of the event.

"That the Easter egg hunt event is so well run and executed" is because of their hard work, said Brownback.

## Squadron sends Christmas cheer



Cadet Joachim Settanni, Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron, seals a Christmas care package that the squadron sent to Haven Behavioral Health Facility, Pueblo, Colorado. The facility's Post Traumatic Stress Disorder program treats active-duty military personnel, veterans, and dependents. (Photo by Patricia Linn, St. Marys, Kansas)

## Lone bugler plays with honor



Staff Sgt. Chase Muninger, customer service, 184th Intelligence Wing Comptroller Flight, serves as the only bugler for the wing's Honor Guard. (Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

By Senior Airman Lauren Penney,  
184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

Being a member of the 184th Intelligence Wing Honor Guard is great responsibility. Being the only bugler for the honor guard is even more of a privilege.

Staff Sgt. Chase Muninger, financial management technician with the 184th Comptroller Flight, has been an honor guard member since October 2011 and is the only bugler for the wing.

Muninger said, "To be the only bugler, I feel the heat of responsibility in a way different way. I feel sorrow when performing and have played for a friend's funeral that passed who was part of the wing."

Playing the bugle for the honor guard is a way for Muninger to share his passion of his instrument and members of the wing. In high school, Muninger was part of the band and jazz band. His senior year, Muninger received the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award, a trumpet ability award. He also plays the guitar and piano.

Muninger played the bugle for three funerals this past year and said it was an honor to play at funerals for the wing member and member's family.

Staff Sgt. Maria Sargent, an information technology specialist with the 299th Network Operation Support Squadron and fellow honor guard member said, "Without Senior Airman Muninger we would have been forced to use an electronic bugle for those funerals. It means so much more to everyone when Senior Airman Muninger plays the bugle, especially because he plays from his heart."

Even in unfavorable conditions, Muninger plays the bugle without hesitation.

"Senior Airman Muninger played the bugle in the cold when our fingers and toes were freezing and he was worried that his lips were too cold to be able to play well," Sargent said. "However, the eerie and lovely sound of the bugle as it played those final notes on that freezing day touched and warmed the hearts of every person there."

The respect that Muninger puts in every time he plays is a testament to how much his fellow wing members and their families mean to him.

"Although I am the only live bugler, I'm surrounded by a team of people that I know," said Muninger. "They are phenomenal to work with and we have a high level of camaraderie. With that, I feel their support. They are very talented and have shown me everything I know as far as routine and steps. Without my teammates there is no team and I am honored to play bugle beside them."

### Join the Civil Air Patrol

The Kansas Wing of the Civil Air Patrol is looking for individuals with valid FAA private, commercial or airline transport pilot certificate. The Kansas Wing has three Cessna 182's and one Cessna 172 waiting for you to fly.



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- Emergency services

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for a Civil Air Patrol Squadron near you