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# PLAINS GUARDIAN

VOLUME 59 No. 5      *Serving the Kansas Army and Air National Guard, Kansas Emergency Management, Kansas Homeland Security and Civil Air Patrol*      OCTOBER 2015

## NATO certifies readiness of Armenian Peacekeeping forces

By Sgt. Zach Sheely  
Public Affairs Office

After a nearly decade-long process working closely with the Kansas National Guard, the Armenian Peacekeeping Brigade earned certification as a NATO partner following a large-scale exercise in the Republic of Armenia Sept. 15-18. The brigade earned the accreditation by passing NATO Evaluation Level 2 of the Operational Capabilities Concept of NATO’s Partnership for Peace program. The endorse-

ment certifies Armenia’s capabilities to support NATO peacekeeping operations worldwide and adds them to the NATO pool of forces. Command and control, communication, logistics, tactics, techniques and procedures were all under the microscope as four evaluation teams analyzed the various metrics and performance measures under the close supervision of a team of NATO monitors representing Germany, Austria, Ukraine, France and Sweden.

The brigade was evaluated according to NATO standards to ensure operational readiness. Lt. Col. Ingo Schoeppler, Armed Forces of Germany, served as a NATO monitor and noted the improvements he has seen. “We witnessed that the peacekeeping brigade is in great shape with motivated, well-trained, young and experienced soldiers and are a very strong partner to the NATO alliance,” Schoeppler said.

Schoeppler also credited the Kansas National Guard’s efforts in helping Armenia in this certification process. Kansas and Armenia are partners in the National Guard Bureau’s State Partnership Program.

The State Partnership Program builds relationships between a state’s National Guard and the armed forces or equivalent of a partner country in a cooperative, mutually-beneficial relationship. “NATO is extremely grateful that the Kansas National Guard has such a close cooperation to Armenia and especially to this peacekeeping brigade,” said Schoeppler. “The Kansas National Guard plays a crucial part in the success and improvement of the capacity and capabilities of the unit.”

The exercise scenario played out over the course of 76 hours as Armenian soldiers were evaluated in three phases beginning with an in-barracks inspection focused on reviewing the units’ documentation and plans followed by a field inspection and live exercise.

The Kansas National Guard Operational Capabilities Concept team has had many interactions with their Armenian counterparts since being partnered in 2003. A month prior to the exercise, a team of nine Kansas National Guard Soldiers visited Armenia to assist with evaluation preparations.

“The peacekeeping brigade has improved vastly,” said Lt. Col. Richard Fisher, officer in charge of the KSARNG OCC team. “My first time in Armenia was in 2003. One thing that

(Continued on Page 6)



Soldiers with the Armenian Peacekeeping Brigade take up positions Sept. 17 for a combat exercise during level two of the NATO operational capabilities evaluation in the Republic of Armenia Sept. 15-18. The brigade passed the evaluation to become NATO operationally certified. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office)

## 35th Infantry Division conducts Combat Lifesaver course

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Milnes  
35th Infantry Division

The sounds of explosions and gunfire echo off of buildings as Soldiers from the 35th Infantry Division hurriedly assess

the casualties on the ground. “This wasn’t at all what I expected,” said Staff Sgt. Josef Nichols. “I was assuming long days of PowerPoint presentations and a few classroom exercises, not a full-on combat scenario with pyrotechnics.” Nichols and approximately 12 other Soldiers attended the Army’s Combat Lifesaver course at the 35th Infantry Division headquarters in Leavenworth. Although typically taught as a week-long, 40-hour class, Sgt. Lauren Swensson, the division’s medical readiness noncommissioned officer, reconfigured the course schedule to allow Soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division to complete the training over just two individual drill training weekends. “I originally wanted to conduct the training during our annual training period next summer,” explained Swensson. “But the

schedule was already packed for those few weeks. So instead, I pooled together requests and memorandums, drafted up a training plan, got the training aides, put together packets for the Soldiers and divided the training into two phases.”

The first phase consisted of three days of classroom work and written exams. During the second phase, the student’s knowledge was put to the test in a mock field training simulation. Hands-on training for a CLS class often consists of using dummies in a classroom environment, but this was different. Thanks to Swensson’s diligent coordination of resources, the students went outside for more realistic training. Using a simulated improvised explosive device to create mock explosion sounds, as well as a .50 caliber rifle simulator, students were forced to test what they learned under extreme external pressure.

“I took CLS at Basic Combat Training in 2014, but I learned much more here,” said Spc. Alexandra Allen, a human resource specialist with the 35th ID. “This class was much harder and I think we all got a lot more out of it.”

“The explosions, gunfire and screaming casualty actors made it difficult to concentrate at times,” said Nichols, “but it forced you to communicate with your team members a lot more, which is imperative in these types of situations.”

The students were required to practice many of their newly-learned skills, including calling in a nine-line medevac request, applying tourniquets and pressure dressings, treating mental trauma, and moving

(Continued on Page 2)



Spc. Alexandra Allen and Staff Sgt. Josef Nichols carry a simulated casualty member to safety during their final cumulative exercise for the Combat Lifesavers Course on Aug. 2, at the Mission Training Complex in Leavenworth. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mark Hanson, 35th Infantry Division Public Affairs)

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# Col. Thomas Burke takes helm of 69th Troop Command

By Sgt. Zach Sheely  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Col. Thomas Burke received the guidon of the Kansas Army National Guard’s 69th Troop Command from Brig. Gen. Robert E. Windham, assistant adjutant general and commander of the KSARNG, during a ceremony at Nickell Armory Oct. 4. Burke succeeds Col. Roger Murdock in the position.

“I look forward to serving with the 69th Troop Command team,” said Burke. “Colonel Murdock and the professional Soldiers of the Troop Command have set the stage for continued excellence and it is my honor to lead them.”

The 69th reorganized its force structure to a brigade-level command earlier in 2015. The units of the 69th are Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Joint Force Headquarters, Topeka; 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Topeka; Detachment 37, Operational Support Airlift Command, Topeka; 35th Infantry Division Band, Olathe; 137th Chaplain Support Team, Topeka; 1979th Contingency Contract Team, Topeka; 1989th Senior Contingency Contract Team, Topeka; 1074th Senior Trial Defense Team, Topeka and 1174th Field Trial Defense Team, Topeka.

Murdock took the position in April 2015 and helped oversee the brigade’s structure, but could no longer serve in that capacity as he was selected to succeed Brig. Gen. Scott Dold as chief of the joint staff, Kansas National Guard. Murdock currently serves as deputy chief of staff, KSARNG.

Murdock noted that Burke is the perfect

fit to lead the 69th. “I’ve known of him for many years,” said Murdock. “I think he’s an outstanding officer and I think he’ll do a great job with the 69th Troop Command.” Burke had a special word for the families of Soldiers of the 69th.

“I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the families, because without their continued support, we could not succeed.”

**Col. Thomas Burke**

Col. Thomas Burke attended Iowa State University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering. He later received a master’s in business administration from the University of Missouri, Kansas City. Burke has completed the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, Field Artillery Officer Advance Course, Paladin Commanders Course, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Command and General Staff College and is currently a student in the U.S. Army War College.

Burke began his military career in 1981 as a combat medical specialist and was commissioned a second lieutenant through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Iowa State University in 1990.

Burke’s previous assignments include company fire direction officer, executive officer, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery in Algona, Iowa; battalion fire support officer, 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry in Council Bluffs, Iowa; recon/survey officer, logistics officer, liaison officer, battalion fire direction officer, Battery A commander, assistant operations officer for

1st Battalion, 127th Field Artillery in Ottawa; operations duty officer, 130th Field Artillery Brigade, Topeka; operations officer and executive officer for 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery; fire effects officer, liaison officer, and Assistant Chief of Staff Resource and Budget officer for the 35th Infantry Division, and commander of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery. He is currently assigned as the training officer for the Kansas Army National Guard.

Burke’s military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with

four oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service ribbon with bronze star, Iraq Campaign Medal with two stars, the Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara. He is a life member of the National Guard Association of Kansas, National Guard Association of the United States, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Burke has deployed twice. The first deployment was to Iraq from January 2004 through February 2005. He also deployed to the Horn of Africa as the battalion commander, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery from March 2011 through February 2012.



Col. Thomas Burke receives the colors of the Kansas National Guard’s 69th Troop Command from Brig. Gen. Robert Windham, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, during an Oct. 4 ceremony in Topeka, signifying acceptance of the command for the unit. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

# Smith named as new KSNG command chief warrant officer

**Public Affairs Office**

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael W. Smith has been selected as the new command chief warrant officer for the Kansas National Guard, effective Sept. 29.

Smith replaces Chief Warrant Officer 5 Hector Vasquez, who was named as the senior warrant officer advisor at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. His appointment there was effective Oct. 5.

“I am honored to be selected as the command chief warrant officer for the Kansas National Guard,” said Smith. “If there is a position for a warrant officer that would be considered the pinnacle of his career, the command chief warrant officer position is it.

“I am looking forward to recruiting, developing, training and serving the warrant officers of the Kansas National Guard.”

Smith enlisted in the Missouri Army National Guard in May 1990. Upon completion of his Initial Entry Training, he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 135th Attack Helicopter Battalion as a helicopter repairer. Smith received his appointment as a warrant officer in May 1991 and subsequently attended initial entry rotary wing flight training at Fort Rucker, Alabama, where he graduated in March 1992 as an AH-1F Cobra pilot. He was first assigned to Company A, 1-135th Attack Helicopter Battalion and transitioned in 2001 to the AH-64A Apache.

Smith moved to the Army Reserves to be-

come a Training, Advising and Counseling officer with 1st Battalion (Officer Candidate School/Warrant Officer Candidate School), 235th Regiment in 2006. Smith was selected as the WOCS course manager for the 1st Battalion, 235th Regiment in 2009 and subsequently transferred to the Kansas Army National Guard. During his tenure, he had coordinating oversight of seven WOCS companies across the United States.

Smith’s awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with two bronze oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with three bronze oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Smith earned a Bachelor of Science degree in finance from Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas. His military education includes Warrant Officer Candidate School, Initial Entry Rotary-Wing Training, Aviation Warrant Officer Advanced Course, Warrant Officer Staff Course, Warrant Officer Senior Service Education Course and other military courses. Smith also holds a FAA commercial/instrument helicopter rating and has accumulated more than 3,000 flight hours.

Smith serves on many committees and represents the Kansas Army National Guard warrant officers at the state, regional, and national level. He is a member of the Kansas National Guard Association, National Guard Association of the United States, United States Army Warrant Officers Association, and Army Aviation Association of America.

Prior to becoming a fulltime Kansas National Guardsman, Smith was a pilot for Life Star of Kansas, Topeka.



**Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Smith**

# Combat Lifesaver course

(Continued from Page 1)

wounded Soldiers to a safe area.

“When I was in the Marine Corps, we were conducting a pre-deployment field operation on Mount Fuji when two seven-ton trucks collided,” recalled Swensson. “One Marine was killed instantly and four others were severely injured. Thanks to our training and quick reactions we got them off the mountain by life-flight.”

That was Swensson’s first military experience in understanding the importance of being ready for life-saving skills under pressure. She later received emergency medical technician certification and continued to volunteer at hospitals while deployed.

When the time came for her to get out of

the Marine Corps, she knew the importance of the medical field and wanted to continue along that path. While attending classes at the University of Kansas, a doctor talked to her about the National Guard and joining the physician’s assistant program.

“I joined the Guard in 2011 and went to 68 Sierra school (preventive medicine specialist) since I had never been an actual medic in the military,” Swensson said.

“I think CLS training is very necessary from an active duty standpoint and even more in the National Guard,” said Swensson. “At the end of the day we are going to get in our cars and drive home. Things happen, and if you are in a crowd as someone that can help, you really might save a person’s life.”

# The newest Kansas Army National Guard warrant officers



Warrant Officer Candidate School graduates (front row, left to right) William Komma, Daniel Reling, Christopher Romero, Sarah Shafer, Lauren Stout, David Burggraf (back row) Jared Meier, Brent Speaks, Matthew Womble, Lucas Holmes, Daniel Philip, Jared Allen and Maunie Neal pose for a group picture as they graduate Phase III Warrant Officer Candidate School, Camp Atterbury, Indiana, Sept. 26. (Photo provided)

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# Weide receives reins of 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

## Public Affairs Office

Lt. Col. Shae D. Weide received command of the Kansas National Guard’s 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion during a change of command ceremony Aug. 9 in Olathe.

“I am extremely honored to take command of this battalion,” said Weide. “The 169th has a sterling reputation and I hope to continue the tradition of excellence Lieutenant Colonel Hale has instilled into the battalion.”

“It has been a privilege to command the 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion,” said outgoing commander Lt. Col. Carla F. Hale. “It has allowed me to work and serve with the finest Soldiers in the Kansas Army National Guard, appreciate the support and sacrifices of our families, and build relationships with organizations in Olathe and Johnson County.”

Hale was named as the new commander of the 235th Regiment in Salina. (See story below)

The 169th CSSB is headquartered in Olathe. Their subordinate units are the 137th Transportation Company (Palletized Loading System), Olathe and Topeka; 731st Transportation Company (Medium Truck), Great Bend, Hutchinson and Liberal; 778th Transportation Company (Heavy Equipment Transport), Kansas City, Manhattan and Salina; and the 1077th Medical Company (Ground Ambulance), Olathe.

### Lt. Col. Shae D. Weide

Lt. Col. Shae D. Weide was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Mili-

tary Intelligence Corps after completion of the Reserve Officer Training Program at Kansas State University in December 1997.

Weide served on active duty with 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Benning, Georgia, for four years. During his time on active duty, he served as battalion intelligence officer and scout platoon leader for 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor; scout platoon leader for Troop D, 10th Cavalry; and brigade assistant intelligence officer. He then transferred to the Tennessee Army National Guard, where he served as a squadron intelligence officer for support squadron and 1st Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment. He commanded the 278th ACR Military Intelligence Company and then transferred to the Kansas Army National Guard, where he was initially assigned as a targeting officer for the 35th Infantry Division. He later transferred to the 287th Sustainment Brigade to serve as the brigade intelligence officer and chief of plans.

Weide deployed to Iraq from 2004-2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as the squadron intelligence officer for 1st Squadron, 278 Armored Cavalry Regiment, Tennessee Army National Guard.

Weide’s awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with service star, and Parachutist Badge.

Weide earned a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education at Kansas State



**Lt. Col. Shae Weide (center) receives the guidon for the 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion from Col. John Rueger, commander of the 130th Field Artillery Brigade, signifying acceptance of command for the battalion, during a change of command ceremony Aug. 9 in Olathe. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Cheryl Baranow)**

University. His military education includes the Military Intelligence Officer Basic Course, Scout Platoon Leader Course, Military Intelligence Captain’s Career Course, Senior Transportation Officer Qualification

Course, Support Operations Course, and Command and General Staff College. Weide is employed with Johnson and Johnson Vision Care, Inc., as a territory business manager.

# Kinsey takes command of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery

1st Lt. Joseph Kinsey succeeded Capt. Matthew Nordquist as commander of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, during a change of command ceremony Aug. 9 on the drill floor of the Kansas National Guard Armory in Newton.

“It is a great pleasure to have been chosen to take command of a unit that is as highly recognized as Battery C,” said Kinsey. “The Soldiers complete all tasks above the standards that have been set upon them and I am truly honored to lead this unit.”

“It has been a tremendous honor commanding Battery C of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery,” said Nordquist. “Thank you to all those who have provided support and guidance during my time in command and throughout my career.”

### 1st Lt. Joseph Kinsey

1st Lt. Joseph Kinsey, a native of Cimarron, Kansas, enlisted into Battery A, 1st

Battalion, 161st Field Artillery as a field artillery cannon crewmember in 2006. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in 2011 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of Kansas, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education.

He is a graduate of the Field Artillery Basic Officer Leadership Course and Captains Career Courses.

His assignments have included fire direction officer, fire support team chief, platoon leader, battery executive officer, and battalion intelligence officer.

His awards include the Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Kansas National Guard Service Medal, German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, and Air Assault Badge.

# Hale is new commander of Kansas National Guard’s 235th Regiment

By Sgt. Brandon Jacobs  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers of the Kansas National Guard’s 235th Regiment gathered at the Officer Candidate School parade field in Salina Sept. 19 to celebrate change as Col. Judith Martin handed over command of the 235th Regiment to Col. Carla Hale.

“When I was approached by General Windham to take the command, I was excited,” said Hale, “to be out here, to mentor young Soldiers in becoming officers and warrant.”

“This unit holds a special place in my heart,” said Martin. “I love the mission here. It’s training our leaders and that is the lifeblood of the military.”

Martin, who will be continuing her full-time work as deputy chief of staff of personnel with the Kansas Army National Guard, was the first woman to command a brigade in the Kansas Army National Guard.

“To have been a small part of training

Soldiers has given me immense pleasure and satisfaction,” said Martin.

Included in the ceremony was a review of the regiment by Brig. Gen. Robert Windham, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, and the official party, who watched from the seats of a restored M-38A1D Army Jeep.

The 235th Regiment is headquartered in Salina.

### Col. Carla F. Hale

Col. Carla F. Hale began her military career in the U.S. Army Reserves serving as a legal specialist for the 8th Military Law Center, Independence, Missouri. Hale served in the U.S. Army Reserve for more than three years. She received her commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Missouri – Kansas City. She has served in the Kansas Army National Guard for more than 25 years.

Her past assignments include commander, 169th Combat Sustainment Sup-

(Continued on Page 10)



**Col. Carla Hale (left), incoming commander of the 235th Regiment, receives the unit colors from Brig. Gen. Robert E. Windham, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, during a change of command ceremony held on the Officer Candidate School parade field at the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, Sept. 19. (Photo by Sgt. Brandon Jacobs, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)**



# Our story is a good one, so spread the word

By Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli  
The Adjutant General

Everywhere I go, I have the privilege of sharing the story of the Kansas Adjutant General's Department.



Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli

The tremendous work you do is well-known and well-respected at the highest levels of our National Guard, Emergency Management and Homeland Security structure. But within our own communities, that is not always the case.

Our department is quite unique in the services we provide to the people of Kansas, but not everyone is aware of the many things we do and the impact we have. That is, until we tell them. In recent years, we have tried to increase public awareness of who we are and what we do. In a sense, it runs counter to our nature, which is to diligently prepare, serve to the best of our ability when called upon, then go back to our families and communities and begin the preparation process again. Our preference is to not seek the spotlight. Instead, focus on being well-prepared to perform our duties when the citizens of our state and nation need us most.

However, it's important for everyone in our state and nation to understand the vital roles we fill. This is especially true when our government leaders are making the difficult decisions that go into creating budgets.

We must ensure everyone understands

what our mission is and our contributions to Kansas. Our emergency management division is responsible for the planning and coordination of resources for all state disasters, while our homeland security office is involved in sharing critical information with key partners to protect our state's population and critical infrastructure. And our National Guard members stand trained and ready to defend our state and nation.

On the front page of this issue, you will read of the recent NATO accreditation of the Armenian Peacekeeping Brigade. A contingent of Kansas National Guard Soldiers have been working with Armenian military leaders to prepare them for the large-scale exercise evaluated by a multinational team.

With the help of Kansas Guard members, through the State Partnership Program, the Armenian Peacekeeping Brigade is certified for NATO peacekeeping operations around the globe.

That is exactly the type of story I truly enjoy sharing, and there are countless others. Every day within each area of our agency, we are working on behalf of all Kansans to protect and serve them, but those efforts may not always be seen directly by the public. A large part of what we do is prevention. Our Guard members are constantly training for both our state mission and federal mission, and our emergency management and homeland security entities are continually planning and exercising, and working to build preparedness at every level from individuals to businesses and communities to ensure we're ready for the potential hazards we face in Kansas.

We are currently preparing our annual report, which will be given to our legislators and other key leaders in January and

## Warrior to Warrior Remember our four priorities

By Command Chief Master Sgt. James Brown  
Command Senior Enlisted Leader

As the Kansas National Guard navigates through coming times, it is mission essential that Kansas remains relevant and ready to serve our state and nation at a moment's notice. Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, has identified four focal points we will strive to meet and exceed daily: readiness, customer care, communication and partnerships.



Command Chief Master Sgt. James Brown

**Readiness:**  
We must always maintain our "duty first" and "service before self" attitude. As I have travelled around the state this summer, visiting our Soldiers and Airmen, I have seen this dedication to service first hand and their passion to serve is astonishing. We must provide our Soldiers and Airmen the opportunity to train in their career fields so that they maintain proficiencies and remain relevant to the mission. We must also maintain our personal readiness by being physically and mentally fit. Balancing personal care, family and being duty proficient is a challenge and we must all support each other and do our best to maintain personal readiness.

**Customer Care:**  
Our internal customers consist of fellow agency employees, Soldiers, Airmen and civilians. As such, we must always treat each other with dignity and respect.

Anything less is unacceptable. Every position in the Kansas National Guard is crucial to the success of the organization and we must take care of each other's mission needs and make every request for service a priority.

Our external customers consist of military retirees, members of the community, civilian elected leaders, legislators and anyone else we may come in contact with outside the gates of our installations. We may only get that one opportunity to showcase our organization, so make every external contact count. It is imperative that the communities we serve understand our missions and believe in our presence there. This relationship will prove critical in years to come if the military continues on its path of downsizing and base reduction.
**Communication:**

Each of us owns a piece of this focal point. Communication is the key to any organization's success and we must continue to think of ways to improve top to bottom and bottom to top communication. The National Guard can't afford the loss of efficiency due to communication failures. Clear and concise communication is the expectation. Every Soldier and Airman is critical to the success of this organization and no one should feel they are not part of the team because they have no situational awareness due to lack of communication.

**Partnerships:**  
Without a doubt, the partnerships we are investing in today will pay huge dividends in years to come. State, local, federal and private sector partnerships are critical to our success. We can learn much from each other and the investment is well worth the time spent building these relationships. Always remember, excellence is an attitude. Proud to Serve!

*The tremendous work you do is well-known and well-respected at the highest levels of our National Guard, Emergency Management and Homeland Security structure. But within our own communities, that is not always the case.*

will be available to the public on our website. This report details the activities over the past year of every major command in the Kansas National Guard, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Kansas Homeland Security along with every state, federal and joint office within the agency.

It provides financial details that show how the resources are utilized to support our mission. We issue this report so that the public can see who we are, how we operate and the things that we do to keep them safe and secure.

## War and the Soul

By Chaplain (Col.) William Jenkins  
State Chaplain

On Sept. 11, several of the chaplains and chaplain assistants/religious affairs specialists attended a video conference sponsored by the Air National Guard Chaplaincy at the National Guard Bureau. Dr. Ed Tick, author of "War and the Soul" was the speaker. Tick is a New York psychotherapist who has worked with post-traumatic stress disorder since the end of the Vietnam War. After I returned from my fourth and last deployment, I attended one of Tick's four-day PTSD retreats and have high regard for his work with war vets.



Chaplain (Col.) William Jenkins

Tick divides post-traumatic stress into two parts: post-traumatic stress, which has its roots in fear of life trauma, and moral injury, which comes from having one's moral precepts violated. Every veteran knows that the soul that went to war is forever changed. Society expects us to get treatment and get on with life. If it was only that simple. In the 1950s, psychoanalyst Erik Erikson identified "war neurosis" as an identity disturbance and wrote about his veteran patients and their loss of a sense of identity. Tick calls this a "soul

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However, the most effective advertising is always word of mouth. Whether you are a state employee, full-time federal employee, or drill-status Guardsman, we are all also citizens that live in the communities we so proudly serve.

So, talk to the people at work, on your bowling team, at your church and any other groups you belong to. Tell them our story. I urge every member of this agency to be the best ambassador they can be to their friends and neighbors.

Thank you for your service to our great state and nation. Be proud of our story and share your experience. There are agency policies and guidelines for your personal use of social media to keep you safe. Balancing OPSEC, personnel safety and sharing the great things our agency employees accomplish on a daily basis can be a difficult balance to achieve, but it is possible to use the tools available to showcase all of the positive actions we take to make Kansas better and safer.

wound" and others call it "moral injury." "The soul that once went to war is forever transformed," says Tick. "This transformation need not be to disability and debilitation. Yet to facilitate health...we must first tell the difficult, painful truth... The formula for healing the war-wounded soul is simple: surround trauma with soul." Tick is not suggesting we avoid traditional behavioral science treatment processes, but he cautions us not to stop there. War wounds are rarely only psychological. They have a moral component because when one's deeply held values and beliefs are challenged or compromised there is a "soul wounding." This is an area where military chaplains can help. As chaplains we are not therapists and should never replace the role of a therapist, but we do have a unique capacity to provide care for moral and spiritual wounds. The timeless spiritual practices of confession, absolution, penance, restitution and forgiveness can go a long way in helping a soul wound to begin to find healing. If you are struggling with a soul-type wound, I encourage you to seek out your chaplain. This may just be the step that you've needed to take for a long, long time.

###

This is my last Plains Guardian article as my retirement ceremony will be on Nov. 7. It has been my privilege to have served among your ranks for the last 26 plus years as a chaplain. Thank you!

## PLAINS GUARDIAN

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The deadline for all submission is the first Wednesday of the month: February, April, June, August, October and December. Submissions may be e-mailed to Jane Welch ([jane.e.welch1.nfg@mail.mil](mailto:jane.e.welch1.nfg@mail.mil)).

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For change of address, contact Jane Welch.



# Senior enlisted advisor visits McConnell Air Force Base

**By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy**  
**184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs**  
United States Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Bryan Battaglia, senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited the 184th Intelligence Wing at McConnell Air Force Base July 31.

The visit was the first stop in a tour of military installations throughout the Midwest.

“This has been on our planning calendar for quite some time and McConnell was certainly a stop for when we hit the Midwest,” said Battaglia.

Battaglia had multiple reasons for the visit.

“One is, obviously, to see the troops and their families, first and foremost,” said Battaglia. “It provides me an opportunity, not just to transmit the things that are happening at the Department of Defense level, but it’s also an opportunity to receive what ‘Team McConnell’ is doing for our department.”

The visit gave the 184th IW opportunities

to showcase their capabilities and achievements while communicating questions and concerns with Airmen and senior leaders.

In addition to communicating through senior leaders, Battaglia encouraged personnel to give the DoD a chance to address their concerns before “pushing the panic button.”

“While I respect the chain of command, in today’s age all it takes is e-mail or social media,” said Battaglia. “I answer social media requests quite frequently.”

Battaglia interacted with military members, promoted feedback, and learned about the installation’s partnerships with the local community. He also observed the strong relationships between the active Air Force, Reserve and Guard components located on the base.

“Let me tell you something, it didn’t take long for me to see that, between McConnell and Wichita, the partnerships are in very good shape,” said Battaglia.



Sgt. Maj. Bryan Battaglia, senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, talks with Tech. Sgt. Jason Massingale, 177th Information Aggressor Squadron, about the capabilities the squadron brings to the fight. (Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

# Annual Commander’s Conference addresses budget, other issues

**By Capt. Kevin Anderson**  
**105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**  
Kansas Army National Guard leaders from across the state assembled at the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina Aug. 22-23, to take part in the annual Kansas Army National Guard Commander’s Professional Development Training, familiarly known as the Commander’s Conference.

The conference brought together officers and noncommissioned officers from company to brigade levels to discuss pressing issues facing the Kansas National Guard, collaborate with peers, network with other leaders and identify best practices.

Throughout the weekend, conference participants were given informational briefs regarding new personnel procedures, maintenance systems and a host of other topics. Several civilian personnel presented information on new Army-wide systems designed to streamline equipment, maintenance and personnel tracking which will ultimately aide commanders in maintaining their mission readiness.

Safety, budgetary concerns and personnel recruiting and retention issues were recurring themes throughout the conference.

Brig. Gen. Robert E. Windham, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard - Land Component, highlighted the critical role that leaders play in considering safety in every operation.

“Safety is number one,” said Windham. “Every leader must understand their role in risk management and assessment... and how to mitigate identified risks.”

Another top issue under discussion was budget cuts and how the Kansas National

Guard will have to do more with less. Maj. Gen. Lee E. Tafanelli, Kansas adjutant general, shared some of the ways in which the Kansas Guard has already tried to get ahead of the cuts.

“The Joint Forces Headquarters is going to move to Forbes Field because, not only does Forbes Field have the capacity to support the headquarters, but also to ensure that Forbes Field and the mission the Kansas Air National Guard provides are less susceptible to a fresh round of base realignment and closures,” said Tafanelli.

Tafanelli said leaders are going to have to become more adaptable to constrained budgets, yet still meet their training requirements to maintain readiness.

Personnel recruiting and retention were heavily discussed during the conference. The persistent quest to recruit and retain quality Soldiers is of primary concern for the Kansas National Guard.

An innovative way the Kansas Guard is trying to recruit more Soldiers is by partnering up with the Business School at the University of Kansas to develop new marketing strategies. Undergraduate and graduate students during the fall and spring semesters will closely analyze current National Guard recruiting strategies and identify ways to effectively reinvent many recruiting methods.


As is custom with the Commander’s Conference, a social was held for the leaders to meet, network and to discuss issues in a less formal manner.

“It is a great opportunity to talk with other commanders, to discuss what is effective in their units,” said Capt. Eric Deeds, 1161st Forward Support Company.

## Kansas Guardsmen display strength, stamina in annual Adjutant General’s Physical Fitness competition



Participants in the Adjutant General’s Physical Fitness Competition test their stamina during the push-up portion of the event Sept. 19 at the Regional Training Center in Salina. The competition, held annually, is open to all Guardsmen. Opponents can compete in either a four-person team or as individuals. The competitors are to complete as many push-ups and sit-ups as they can within two minutes and complete a timed two-mile run. (Photo by Sgt. Brandon Jacobs, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



*“No spring nor summer beauty hath such grace as I have seen in one autumnal face.”*


*The Autumnal John Donne*  
(1572-1631)

### THE KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, ARMORY ANNUAL REUNION

**Friday, Nov. 6**

**Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:45 p.m.**

**Kansas City Armory, 18th and Ridge, Kansas City, Kansas**



Anyone who has served or is still serving in the Kansas City Armory is invited to attend, along with spouses, relatives and friends. See old friends and fellow soldiers. Bring scrapbooks, memorabilia and your memories.

All food and drink provided – barbecue, chips, beer, soft drinks, coffee, water, etc. Bring a dessert (optional)

Cost is \$5 per person at the door. Dress is casual

Sign up by emailing retired Sgt. Maj. Steve Gfeller [stephen.gfeller@att.net](mailto:stephen.gfeller@att.net) so we can get a headcount



# Military and civilian responders join forces for exercise scenario

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

An Air Force C-130 Hercules crashed Sept. 12 while performing weed mitigation operations at Smoky Hill Weapons Range near Salina. Two crewmembers were killed on impact while another crewmember was critically injured. The crash also resulted in a hazardous material spill as 10,000 pounds of herbicide were ejected from the plane.

Fortunately, this was only an exercise. The scenario was part of a major accident response exercise which allowed Air National Guard and active-duty Air Force personnel to work with civilian first responders. All parties gained experience in the roles they would play in the event of a real-world accident.

“One thing we learned is that we actually work really well together,” said Maj. Bobby Campbell, range safety officer, Smoky Hill Weapons Range. “I think everybody learned something.”

The main objectives were to test Smoky Hill Weapons Range incident response procedures, coordinate with local emergency response agencies and build relationships with emergency management departments.

“What we were trying to accomplish was the relationship-building piece between all the different agencies working together and get to know the guys. That way, when they get out to the range, they know what to expect,” said Campbell.

As the exercise unfolded, firefighters from local districts sprayed burning objects that simulated airplane parts scattered across the range. The Saline County Sheriff’s Office, joined by firefighters, conducted a search and recovery mission. Once they found the casualties, the firefighters stabilized the critically injured Airman and transported him to a landing zone where a medical helicopter was waiting.



**A first responder guides a Salina-based Lifeteam helicopter onto a makeshift landing zone close to a mock C-130 crash site during a major accident response exercise at Smoky Hill Weapons Range. The helicopter landed long enough to load a crash survivor, then transported him to a local medical facility. (Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)**

A team from Salina also arrived to clean up the hazardous chemical spill. “There was a lot of realism that was added to (the exercise) thanks to the guys at Smoky who lit the fires and got all of the positions set up,” said Hannah Stambaugh, director, Saline County Emergency Management. The civilian agencies also learned how they would operate on a federal installation. “Before this exercise, there were a lot of questions as far as ‘Once we get on range, who’s in charge?’ Or ‘What can I do and what can’t I do?’” said Stambaugh. “I think we really squashed that today.”

# Army, Air shooters aim for top scores in TAG Marksmanship Match

**By Sgt. Zach Sheely**  
**Public Affairs Office**

One-hundred thirteen Kansas National Guard Soldiers and Airmen met Sept. 18-20 to showcase their shooting skills. Their sight posts squarely set on the coveted Adjutant General Combat Marksmanship Match championship, held annually at the Kansas Regional Training Center in Salina, Kansas. This year’s competition featured Guards-

men – officers and enlisted personnel – from across the spectrum of military job specialties, including infantry, security forces, information technology and even dentists. The purpose was to determine the best shooters in the Kansas Guard. According to Capt. Adam Potts, officer in charge of the match, marksmanship lies center mass at being a member of the armed forces.

“A big part of being a (service member) is being a marksman,” said Potts. “With this competition, people are able to go out and prove what they can do with a weapon.” The competition grouped the Soldiers and Airmen into teams and featured team and individual events such as close quarters battle, combat pistol falling plates, homeland defense, rifle team assault and excellence in pistol and rifle firing. The events are designed to test the shooters’ accuracy and accumen with their weapons. Shooters earn points based on their overall performance, but it’s not only about outshooting the opposition. “(The competition) is to get people more interested in doing their (military) duties,” said Potts. “It also fosters esprit de corps.” At the conclusion of the competition, the Governor’s 20 – a tab awarded to the top 20 shooters, and top three teams and individuals were announced in each category. Tech Sgt. Treg White, information technology specialist, 299th Network Operations Security Squadron, was announced as the overall winner and credits his dedication to claiming the title. “Winning the match has been a culmination

of many years of practicing, as has match participation at the State TAG, MAC V Regionals and Winston P. Wilson Nationals since 2004,” said White. “I’ve always loved competing in team sports, but this means so much more to me. It’s a chance to represent the Wing at state, and then both the 184th and state at the regional and national levels. “It’s a fantastic tradition of two state forces coming together and enhancing their marksmanship skills. We need to be prepared to protect our community, state and nation.” The TAG shooting match is open to any competitor within the Kansas National Guard. To future competitors, or those seeking to improve their marksmanship, White offered this advice. “First, adjust your budget and your time to include shooting on a monthly basis,” he said. “Marksmanship is a perishable skill. Using the proper techniques, and using them consistently over time develops good muscle memory to the point where the shooter doesn’t have to think about them every time they pull the trigger. It becomes natural.”

# NATO certification years in the making



**Command Sgt. Maj. Greg Kober inspects an Armenian Peacekeeping Brigade soldier’s identification documents during phase 1 of the NATO Level II evaluation in the Republic of Armenia, Sept. 15. The brigade passed all three phases of the evaluation to become NATO operationally certified. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office)**

**(Continued from Page 1)** hasn’t changed is the motivation, professionalism and dedication of the soldiers.” Fisher worked closely with Armenian Lt. Col. Armen Martirosyan in evaluating staff procedures. “There’s a huge improvement both in procedures and paperwork, and performance as well,” said Martirosyan. “From my personal point of view, I’m very happy with what we’ve seen this year.” Master Sgt. Samantha Wier, who has served as logistics subject matter expert on a number of information sharing trips to Armenia, also remarked on the improvement in Armenia’s forces.

“I’ve seen tremendous progress,” said Wier. “The Armenian army has their own version of how they manage to do things, but they have come a very long way in embracing the NATO tactics and paperwork, supply chain and systems that were unfamiliar to them.” According to Wier, working with her Armenian counterparts is a give and take relationship. “I enjoy working with my Armenian counterparts,” she said. “They enjoy practicing English with us. They’re very jovial, very smart in their fields. I’ve learned so many things that I can take back with me for my logistics career.”



**Soldiers and Airmen with the Kansas National Guard take aim and fire during the annual Adjutant General’s Marksmanship Match Sept. 19 at a firing range at the Great Plains Joint Training Center, Salina. (Photo by Master Sgt. Brent Anders, 105th Public Affairs Detachment)**



# State Fair an ideal forum for sharing the Kansas National Guard story

Story and photos by Steve Larson  
Public Affairs Office

Since 1873, when the Reno County Agricultural Society hosted a small fair in a wooden livery stable behind Hutchinson’s only bank, the Kansas State Fair has been a prime showcase for merchants and organizations of all kinds to promote their goods and services. With attendance topping 355,000 people in 2014, the Fair is also an ideal location for the Kansas National Guard to put its best foot forward and show the public who they are and what they do.

Under camouflage netting and surrounded by several pieces of heavy military equipment and a large tent, Soldiers of the Kansas National Guard visit with fair visitors of all stripes – curious children, interested teens, seasoned veterans – answering their questions and handing out information about the Kansas National Guard and, hopefully, generating interest in potential recruits.

“They come out and they see the equipment that we work with and they see the weapons systems that we use,” said Spc. Vanessa Lugo, a generator mechanic with the 35th Infantry Division out of Fort Leavenworth. “They talk to us and we tell them the honest truth about what they’re going to get into and how it’s going to be.”

“We’re giving everyone exposure to the National Guard,” said Spc. Terry Conway, a communications specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Hutchinson. “Anyone



A young visitor to the Kansas State Fair gets a boost into the cab of a High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System vehicle at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson Sept. 14. The HIMARS one was of several Guard vehicles on display at the fair.

who has questions about the vehicles we have out here, we answer it for them. If the younger ones decide they want to enlist, we point them in the direction of the recruiters. That way they get more information.”

In addition to looking over the military vehicles on display, Fair visitors could go

into the large tent to test their marksmanship skills on the simulated weapons range, firing full-size replicas of current military rifles at electronic pop-up targets.

Because personal testimony is often the best endorsement for a product, the Soldiers are eager to share their own stories

with the people they meet at the Fair. For Lugo, a five-year veteran who recently reenlisted, the Kansas National Guard was her ticket to college.

“I’ve been able to get a full ride for college, which is perfect,” she said. “I get to stay home and see my family pretty often, which is great. I get to come out and train more often so I can be more skilled in my profession.

“It’s a great opportunity to join right out of high school, which is what I did,” she continued. “It put me right on track for going to college because I didn’t have to worry about any finances. I’ve got to meet a lot of cool people who I work with and make a lot of friends.”

Conway, a three-year Guardsman with aspirations to retire someday as a command sergeant major, enjoys visiting with the public, telling them what he knows and listening to their stories.

“Everyone comes up to us and we’re genuine to each other,” he said. “We get a lot of veterans who want to talk to us. They tell about their older vehicles and we tell them about the new ones. Some of the veterans like to share a few stories with us. We just like to listen to them.”

Conway said dispelling stereotyped images of the Army is one of the reasons he enjoys being at the Fair.

“Being able to share a genuine down-to-earth experience with people helps give the proper picture of who we are.”



Visitors to the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson got an up-close view of military equipment at the Kansas National Guard display. Several Kansas National Guardsmen were on hand to answer questions and share information about the Kansas National Guard.



Two visitors to the Kansas State Fair pit their marksmanship skills against two members of the Kansas National Guard at the simulated weapons range inside the large Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter set up at the Kansas National Guard display area.

## 184th Intelligence Wing earns high marks in Unit Effectiveness Inspection

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

The 184th Intelligence Wing experienced its first Unit Effectiveness Inspection, or UEI, during a Capstone event July 17-20.

The inspection resulted in an overall “Effective” rating for the wing’s first inspection cycle.

“I’m very pleased with how we performed during the inspection,” said Col. J.J. Jordan, commander, 184th Intelligence Wing. “The feedback that I got all week long was outstanding. It will only get better with time.”

The new inspection program allowed the wing to inspect its own internal programs while the visiting inspectors were on scene to critique the wing’s inspection system. Virtual inspections were also introduced, which involved off-site inspectors viewing records through computer software.

“The UEI Capstone was just a marker along the way as the wing continues to build its inspection program,” said Maj. Deborah Balentine, director of inspections, 184th Inspector General’s Office.

According to the final inspection report, “The inspection team evaluated the unit’s discipline, effectiveness, efficiency and compliance using standards set forth in Air Force Instruction 90-201 and applicable major command guidance.”

The on-site inspection team consisted of 42 inspectors from the Air Combat Command, Air Force Inspection Agency and the Air Force Space Command.

Inspection cycles are normally four-year periods, but the recent cycle was considerably less since the Air Force just implemented the revised inspection system in June 2013.

With only a couple of years to prepare, the wing’s leaders immediately created the IG Office which then formed the wing inspection team comprised of subject matter experts who carried out internal inspections on other offices within the unit.

“The more telling sign of our wing’s success up to now has been the way wing leadership and members have readily embraced the demands of this new inspection system,” said Balentine. “That has been outstanding!”



Staff Sgt. Joseph Krovlik, materiel management, 184th Logistics Readiness Squadron, demonstrates shelf-life documents to Master Sgt. Toni Holt from the Air Combat Command Inspector General Office during a Unit Effectiveness Inspection July 18 at McConnell Air Force Base. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Maria Ruiz, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)





# Sunny skies greet State Fair visitors during Kansas Preparedness Day

Story and photos by Steve Larson  
Public Affairs Office

Although March, April and May are traditionally tornado season, and December through February typically are the months to watch out for blizzard conditions, in September the Kansas Division of Emergency Management put a special emphasis on reminding Kansans that disasters can happen any time of the year.

The weather was sunny and pleasant Sept. 14, an ideal day for a visit to the Kansas State Fair, where the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, along with local, state and federal emergency response agencies set up shop for Kansas Preparedness Day to showcase their emergency response equipment and hand out disaster preparedness and public safety information.

“We’re sharing with citizens who come to the State Fair how to be prepared for disasters and emergencies because disasters can happen to anyone, anytime, anywhere,” said Devan Tucking, Human Service Officer, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, adding that the Fair was an ideal venue for the event. “The State Fair gets a lot of people in one place at one time, so you see hundreds of people coming through.”

Agencies and organizations participating in the event included the Adjutant General’s Department/Kansas Division of

Emergency Management/Kansas National Guard, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Department of Transportation, State Fire Marshal, Kansas Citizen Corps, American Red Cross, Hutchinson Fire Department, Hutchinson Police Department, Hutchinson Reno County Emergency Communications, South Hutchinson Police Department, Kansas Search and Rescue Dog Association, Salvation Army, Community Emergency Response Team, Reno County Emergency Management, Reno County Health Department, Reno County Sheriff’s Department, Reno County Volunteers Organizations Active in Disasters, National Weather Service, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Tucking said while each organization had its own emphasis, the information KDEM shared during Preparedness Day focused on being prepared for zombies.

Zombies?  
“It’s kind of a fun spoof,” said Tucking, “because if you’re ready for zombies, you’re ready for anything.”

Tucking explained the way to prepare for zombies – while not as dramatic as what is usually depicted in movies or television – is to prepare as you would for tornadoes, floods, blizzards or any other disaster.

“You build a kit with emergency supplies



Members of the Hutchinson Fire Department chat with visitors to the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson during Kansas Preparedness Day, Sept. 14. The annual event allows emergency preparedness and first responder agencies to showcase their personnel and equipment while educating Kansans about disaster preparedness at home, the workplace, schools and other environments.

like food and water – don’t forget your pets – and you have a plan so you know what to do if something happens to your home,” said Tucking.

“The thing (people are asking) lately is ‘Do you have a list of what needs to go in my disaster kit?’ I actually do have a list. I always tell them it’s very important to personalize your kit to what fits your needs,

but there’s always the basics to start out with – a first aid kit, basic food and water for 72 hours, just the essential items, then add on to it.”

Tucking said although September is Kansas Preparedness Month, October will continue the theme of zombie preparedness.

“It’ll be a full focus on zombies. It’ll be a good time.”



Rose Rozmiarek, chief of investigations, Office of the State Fire Marshal, puts accelerant K-9 Tana through her paces during a demonstration at Kansas Preparedness Day at the Kansas State Fair Sept. 14.



A visitor to the State Fair in Hutchinson inspects the engine of a military humvee from the Kansas National Guard during Kansas Preparedness Day Sept. 14.



Harry Heintzelman, tech hazard planner, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, explains about naturally occurring background radiation to a young visitor to the Kansas State Fair during Kansas Preparedness Day Sept. 14.

## Murdie named new director of KDEM Planning and Mitigation Branch

By Steve Larson  
Public Affairs Office

Bryan Murdie has been selected as the new Mitigation and Planning Branch director for the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, a division of the Adjutant General’s Department.

In this role, Murdie is responsible for overseeing a variety of planning and mitigation tasks, including assisting communities on the development and maintenance of all-hazards County Emergency Operations Plans, coordination and maintenance



Bryan Murdie

of the Kansas Response Plan and State Hazard Mitigation Plan, state and local Continuity of Operations Planning, and the administration of available hazard mitigation grant programs.

Murdie joined KDEM in August 2013 as a resource management planner within the Planning and Mitigation Branch, where he administered the Comprehensive Resource Management and Credentialing System and was the primary point of contact for the division regarding resource management plans.

Prior to joining KDEM, Murdie was a shipping coordinator for a steel company in South Carolina, managing logistics for inbound and outbound shipments.

A native of Meriden, Murdie received a Bachelor of Science degree in criminology from Kansas State University.





# Technical Rescue Conference builds teamwork, relationships

Photos and story by Sgt. Zach Sheely  
Public Affairs Office

Shards of broken glass litter the ground as cars, tractor trailers and a school bus lie tangled in the twisted-metal network of a massive highway pileup near a collapsed building that was reduced to a pile of rubble. An unknown number of people are trapped – and time is the enemy.

Enter the rescue experts. Teams, known as task forces, consisting of first responders covered in protective gear and armed with hydraulic cutters and spreaders, saws, plasma cutters and jackhammers arrive on scene. Their mission is to safely rescue people who are buried in the wreckage and rubble. Precision, delicacy and well-trained expertise are needed in a time of chaos.

It’s a skill that requires practice and teamwork, which is why first responders and fire fighters from across Kansas gathered Oct. 7-9 at Crisis City near Salina to participate in the eighth annual Kansas Technical Rescue Conference.

“We have an opportunity to put in scenarios that we can’t do back home,” said Olathe Fire Department fire captain Bill Schneider. “This allows us to bring everybody to a central location, get them working with people they may not see all the time, but when the disaster hits, they might be working with a guy they’ve seen out here and they know the capability of that guy and they feel a little more comfortable working with them.”

The scenarios during the Technical Rescue Conference included technical rope rescue, trench/confined space rescue operations, structure collapse rescue, vehicle and machinery rescue, K9 search operations, disaster medical operations and disaster response for first responders.

Schneider said that most fire departments lack the infrastructure and facilities to accommodate these training focuses.



A search and rescue team attaches chains to a downed power pole in preparation to lift it off the crushed vehicle beneath as they attempt to rescue a simulated victim during the Technical Rescue Conference exercise Oct. 7-9 at the Crisis City training site near Salina.



Sparks fly from metal as a member of a search and rescue team cuts through it.



A search and rescue team member cuts through concrete to reach a simulated victim trapped on the other side.

“The opportunity to come out here in an isolated environment and work a little slow and then built up is a great opportunity for us and we just can’t replicate it back home,” he said.

Situated on approximately 44 acres, Crisis City, which is part of the Great Plains Joint Training Center, features a collapsed structure/rubble pile, disabled rail and aircraft venue, urban village, technical rescue tower and other training areas. It provides an ideal learning environment for face-to-face interactions among task forces.

Joe Pruitt, Crisis City program consultant, said that the conference grows in size and scope each year as approximately 170 emergency response personnel participated in the conference this year. Crisis City is a one-of-a-kind facility in the region.

“Crisis City is comparable to nowhere,” said Pruitt. “It gives the military and first responders a venue that’s got so many capabilities and gives them a spot to train with real-world experience. It brings together teams from all over the state. This gives them the unity and trust to work together.”

It’s a trust that could prove paramount in an actual disaster response. “It’s a proud moment to be able to say that the service we’re providing to these individuals will save somebody’s life in the future,” said Pruitt. “It’s a great feeling to be able to say that first responders can take a little bit of Crisis City back home with them.”

## Governor signs proclamation for “Zombie Preparedness Month”



Gov. Sam Brownback signs a proclamation Sept. 30 declaring October as Zombie Preparedness Month in Kansas. “If you’re prepared for zombies, you’re prepared for anything,” said Brownback. The month is promoted each year by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management as a fun and engaging way to involve the public in preparing for natural or man-made disasters. Visit [www.ksready.gov](http://www.ksready.gov) for more information. (Photo by Sgt. Theresa Vail, Public Affairs Office)



# Don’t “open the door” to telephone scam artists

**By Chief Warrant Officer 3 Scott Sackrider**  
**Information Assurance Officer**

Home phones (remember them?). We receive quite a few reports of someone calling claiming to be from Microsoft. They state the victim’s computer is running slow and they are calling to assist. If anyone can see the operations of your computer at home, the system is already compromised, but in these cases they’re not. The caller has no idea of your computer’s name, address, or operating system. They’re going to get that information out of you.

The conversation will go something like this:

Evil Caller: “Hello, My name is (Something like “George,” but they usually have an eastern accent). I’m from Microsoft and we see that your computer is running unusually slow.”

Helpless Victim: “Oh my! How do you know?”

Evil Caller: “Open task manager (you can do this by pressing ctrl-shift-esc).

You will see many programs running.” (On average, a computer has 70-100 processes running. This is normal).

Helpless Victim: “I see! What shall I do?!”

Evil Caller: “Go to (malicious website) and download this program. It will speed up your computer.”

Helpless Victim: “OK, It’s installed, now what?”

Evil Caller: “Now let it scan for programs that should not be running.” (All this while it’s stealing all your passwords, emails, pictures of your Aunt Ruth, and installing a backdoor where they can access your data whenever it’s online). “There! Your computer should be as good as new!”

Helpless Victim: “But there are still a lot of programs running” (There will now be a new one or two).

Evil Caller: “This is our new security system, it will keep you safe.”



Helpless (and now compromised) Victim: “Thank you ever so much!”

The evil caller, now knowing your weaknesses, may now try to sell you a bridge in Alaska or sign you up to sponsor their Beijing softball team.

These calls are easy to handle, because you should never receive a call about your computer, and definitely never from Microsoft or any other manufacturer. If you think it may be a legitimate call, as in you requested a call back, the employee should be able to tell you their employee ID, a callback number, and their address. If it is a

scam, make note of all information, and make a complaint with the Federal trade commission at <https://www.ftccomplaint-assistant.gov/#crnt&panel1-1>.

Unfortunately many of these callers are from other countries. For this reason, if they ask you to call them back, do not. You may be charged not only for long distance, but some countries charge extra tariffs, so one short call can cost hundreds of dollars.

Remember, the most vulnerable characteristic of a person is their helpfulness, but fear is close behind. Do not be afraid to tell these people “No Thanks.” Be safe and wary.

## 235th Regiment change of command

**(Continued from Page 3)**

port Battalion; chief of sustainment, 35th Infantry Division; support operations officer, 287th Sustainment Brigade; intelligence/training officer, 635th Regional Support Group; training officer, future operations branch chief, 377th Theater Sustainment Command (Operation Iraqi Freedom); information operations planner, 35th Infantry Division (Stabilization Force 13, Bosnia – Herzegovina); commander, 137th Transportation Company; platoon leader, Company A, 169th Forward Support Battalion, and other staff positions at various echelons.

Hale’s civilian education includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science, University of Missouri – Kansas City, and a Master of Arts degree in information technology management, Webster University. Her military education includes U.S. Army War College Fellowship

at Carnegie Mellon University, Command and General Staff College, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Ordnance Officer Advanced Course, Quartermaster Officer Basic Course, and numerous other military courses.

Her military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Ribbon with Bronze Star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal with the bronze star, the Non-Article 5 NATO Service Medal, and Parachutist Badge.

Hale works full time for the Kansas National Guard as an information technology support supervisor for the Directorate of Information Technology.

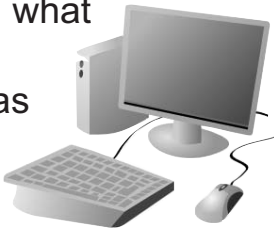
## Flagpole delivery commemorated



**Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Gene Roles, left, presents a model of a Skycrane helicopter to Roye Lindsay at the Fort Hartsuff State Historical Park flagpole rededication Aug. 22. The flagpole was originally delivered to Bedwell, Nebraska, April 23, 1979, by a Kansas National Guard CH54 Skycrane flown by Roles, Maj. Don Scott and Sgt. Lee Tucker of the 137th Aviation Company, Topeka. The 96-foot power pole, which weighed approximately 9,500 pounds and matched historical descriptions of the original pole, was picked up in York, Nebraska, and flown to Fort Hartsuff. Lindsay was the park superintendent in 1979 and had ramrodded the restoration of seven of the original nine buildings with the help of the Nebraska State Game and Parks Commission. (Photo by Mary Hughes)**

## Retired? Keep up with us by email

To keep our retirees better informed on what is happening in the Adjutant General’s Department, the Public Affairs Office has put together an email distribution list. If you would like to be added to the list, please email your request to Jane Welch at [jane.e.welch1.nfg@mail.mil](mailto:jane.e.welch1.nfg@mail.mil)



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## Awards and Decorations

### KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

#### Meritorious Service Medal



Col. Judith Martin, HQ, 235th Rgmt, Salina, with three oak leaf clusters

Col. John E Parker, Co A (-), 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Lt. Col. Michael Kitchens, Co A (-), 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Lt. Col. Robert Wood, 287th SB, Wichita, with three oak leaf clusters

Maj. Jeffrey Crysler, Co A (-), 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Maj. Douglas Keane, 105th MPAD, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters

Maj. Lenard Leivan, HHB, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha, with oak leaf cluster

Chaplain (Maj.) John Potter, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Maj. John Tucker, Co A (-), 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Maj. Matthew Yates, 73rd CST, Topeka

Capt. Daniel Beach, Co A (-), 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Abra Cloyd, HHC, 287th SB, Wichita

Master Sgt. James Brown, HHC, 287th SB, Wichita

Master Sgt. Melissa Stupka, 287th STB, Hays

Sgt. 1st Class Darryl Blocker, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Concordia

Sgt. 1st Class Charley Finley, Co A (-), 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Sgt. 1st Class Steve Griffin, Rec & Ret Bn, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster

Sgt. 1st Class John Jarrell, 2nd Bn, 235th Rgmt, Salina, with oak leaf cluster

Sgt. 1st Class Myra Kennedy, HHD, 635th RSG, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster

Sgt. 1st Class Eric Rich, Det 1, Co B, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Sgt. 1st Class Karla Weber, Det 1, Co B, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Sgt. 1st Class Eddie York, HHD, 635th RSG, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster

#### Army Commendation Medal



Maj. Ryan Hofstra, Det 1, Co B, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Capt. Matthew Allen, Det 1, Co B, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Capt. Stephen Osborne, HQ (-), 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

1st Lt. Edward Duggan, Det 1, Co B, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Master Sgt. Jack Bergeron, HQ (-), 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Sgt. Tawny Parker, HQ (-), 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Sgt. Richard Schilling, Det 1, Co B, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Sgt. Lauren Swenson, Det 1, Co B, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Spc. William O’Neil, HQ (-), 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Spc. Joel Page, HQ (-), 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

### Kansas Army National Guard

1st Sgt. John Speer, 35th MP Co, Topeka

Master Sgt. David Harter, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe

Sgt. 1st Class John Melnick Jr, 778th Trans Co (-), Kansas City

Sgt. 1st Class James Pyatt, 69th TC, Topeka

Sgt. 1st Class Eddie York, HHD, 635th RSG, Topeka

Staff Sgt. Mark Alligood, 1077th GAC, Olathe

### Kansas Air National Guard

Lt. Col. Gary Nash, 184th IW, Wichita

Maj. Matt Franke, 184th IW, Wichita

Maj. Rich Moon, 184th IW, Wichita

Chief Master Sgt. Terry Clain, 184th IW, Wichita

Chief Master Sgt. Carolyn Crabb, 184th IW, Wichita

### Army Achievement Medal



Maj. Richard Eaton, Co A (-), 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

Maj. Rodney Galindo, Co A (-), 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth

### KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

#### Meritorious Service Medal



Maj. Matthew Franke, 184th IW, Wichita, with three oak leaf clusters

Capt. Keith Marshall, 184th IW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Corey Haukom, 184th IW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Sherry Willard, 190th ARW, Topeka

Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Clifton, 184th IW, Wichita

### Air Force Commendation Medal



Senior Master Sgt. Randi Hill, 184th IW, Wichita, with four oak leaf clusters

Senior Master Sgt. Janet Probst, 184th IW, Wichita, with three oak leaf clusters

Master Sgt. Lonnie Bass, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters

Master Sgt. Mark Moulden, 190th ARW, Topeka

Master Sgt. Travis Schuler, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster

Master Sgt. Cale Yost, 190th ARW, Topeka

Tech. Sgt. Mathew Quinton, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster

Tech. Sgt. John Staiert, 184th IW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. Lacreteria Wooten, 190th ARW, Topeka

Staff Sgt. Adam Baker, 190th ARW, Topeka

Staff Sgt. Anthony Blubaugh, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster

### Air Force Achievement Medal



Maj. Bryce Pacchelli, 184th IW, Wichita

Chief Master Sgt. Terry Clain, 184th IW, Wichita

Staff Sgt. Micah Harman, 190th ARW, Topeka

Staff Sgt. Micah Lang, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster

Staff Sgt. Matthew Nelson, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster

Staff Sgt. Stephan Westermann, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster

Senior Master Sgt. Pat Crowell, 184th IW, Wichita

Senior Master Sgt. Danny Park, 184th IW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Kenneth Barnes, 184th IW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Kari Ann Boales, 184th IW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Troy Evans, 184th IW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Charlie Garcia, 184th IW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Stacy Harvey, 184th IW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Corey Haukon, 184th IW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Frank Hopkins, 184th IW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Rick Land, 184th IW, Wichita

Master Sgt. John Maly, 184th IW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Floyd Parks, 184th IW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Dave Probst, 184th IW, Wichita

Master Sgt. Henry Rye, 190th ARW, Topeka

Master Sgt. Mike Shields, 184th IW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. Mike Richards, 184th IW, Wichita

Tech. Sgt. Matthew Winzer, 184th IW, Wichita

Staff Sgt. Anthony Blubaugh, 190th ARW, Topeka

Staff Sgt. Ronald Pierpont, 184th IW, Wichita

Airman 1st Class James Burton, 184th IW, Wichita

## Retirements



# Weishaar assumes command of the 184th Intelligence Wing

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

Throughout military history, the orderly transfer of responsibility and authority from one commander to another has been an important tradition, carried out in times of war and peace.

Col. Jeffry J. Jordan passed his command responsibilities of the 184th Intelligence Wing to Col. David A. Weishaar during a wing change of command ceremony at McConnell Air Force Base. The presiding official for the Oct. 4 ceremony was Brig. Gen. Jay Selanders, commander, Kansas Air National Guard.

Jordan assumed command of the wing June 8, 2013. Since then, the wing experienced a whirlwind of challenges which forced Jordan to navigate the wing through the turbulence. He acknowledged, how-

ever, that he was surrounded by reliable and trustworthy colleagues.

“I have to take time out to thank God,” said Jordan. “He has put me in the right place at the right time. Most importantly, though, he’s always given me the right people at my side and that’s all of you.”

Over the last two years, the Fighting Jayhawks have laid three Airmen to rest -- Matthew Meyer, James Dickenson and Fred Johnson. They also dealt with the divestitures of the 184th Munitions Squadron and the 127th Command and Control Squadron, which affected more than 160 Airmen and their families.

“We’ve been through a lot in the last couple of years,” said Jordan. “I can’t help but think of Matt and Jim and Fred, losing MUNS, and losing CACS. And yet, you didn’t just merely survive all of this, you

excelled. And you always have because that’s the Jayhawk way.”

Jordan left a couple of legacies throughout his tenure as commander. He introduced the three focus areas of leadership development; domestic operations, and drill-status Guardsmen. Training, exercises and the introduction of the commander’s inspection program gave those focus areas achievable and measurable milestones with built-in accountability.

He also encouraged the wing to focus on the Air Force’s core values.

“In closing, I’ll leave you with the last words being the same as the first words I said to you: integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do.”

Prior to assuming command of the 184th IW, Weishaar was the 184th Mission Support Group commander. He brings nearly 12 years of experience in commanding communications and cybercentric units, and is extremely knowledgeable in manpower issues and requirements.

Weishaar is also the wing’s first commander who never served as a pilot. He began his career as an airman basic and worked his way up to senior master sergeant

before becoming a commissioned officer.

In his remarks, Weishaar thanked all his family, friends and coworkers who helped him throughout his career.

“Without your support and trust, I would’ve never been able to go from a new arrival at McConnell Air Force Base as an airman basic to where I am now,” said Weishaar. “I had no stripes when I showed up here and -- guess what -- I still have no stripes.”

Weishaar assured the wing that he’d give 100 percent of his effort 100 percent of the time, and expressed his belief in what the wing does. He also charged the Airmen to see where they could take the unit.

“We’re all in a position to make a difference,” said Weishaar. “I challenge each and every one of you to have the mindset that you can and will make a difference.”

Weishaar left the Airmen with his formula for success.

“Accept responsibility, fulfill your duties, tell the truth and remain faithful to your words,” said Weishaar. “Using that and the Air Force core values as your foundation, there’s no other option for us but to be successful.”



Col. David Weishaar, newly-installed commander of the 184th Intelligence Wing, snaps off a salute to Brig. Gen. Jay Selanders, commander of the Kansas Air National Guard, during a change of command ceremony Oct. 4 at McConnell Air Force Base, Wichita. (Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

## Nominations open for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Freedom Award



Do you have an employer that has gone above and beyond to take care of you while you were gone for training? Does your employer extend benefits to you when you are deployed serving your country? Does your employer work with you to make sure you can perform your weekend training mission or long training requirements?

If you answer “Yes” to any of these, the Kansas Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve urges you to nominate your employer for the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

Oct. 1 to Dec. 31 is open season to recommend your employer for the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is the highest award given to great employers who provide outstanding support to their employees who are members of the Army and Air National Guard and other reserve components.

The award is so important and prestigious, the Secretary of Defense personally gives the award to each recipient. In previous years, recipients met with the President of the United States and were provided a tour of the White House and Pentagon. To

put it in terms of a military award, it is like the Distinguished Service Medal.

To start the nomination process, go online to <http://www.freedomaward.mil>. The process is simple, but requires a lot of thought and content. We encourage you to ask for assistance from your employer. They can help you with the nomination process. If you need assistance or have questions, the Kansas Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is here for you.

There are five awards for companies with less than 500 employees, five awards for companies with 500 employees or more and five awards for public sector employees.

If you don’t believe your employer qualifies for the Freedom Award, but your supervisor has been very supportive of your military career or helped your spouse while you are/were deployed or at school, we encourage you to nominate him for the My Boss is a Patriot Award. You can do that at <http://www.esgr.mil> and click on awards.

If you need assistance with the nomination process, contact Paul Swanson at 785-274-1559 or Walt Frederick, Kansas ESGR state chairman, at 785-250-2685.

## Command team visits 891st Engineers at annual training

By Sgt. Zach Sheely  
Public Affairs Office

Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general of Kansas, and a small group of Kansas National Guard command staff visited Soldiers with the 891st Engineer Battalion at the Great Plains Joint Training Center, near Salina, Kansas and Fort Riley, Kansas Aug. 12. The Soldiers were concluding their two-week annual training at each site, respectively.

The group included Col. Roger Murdock, deputy chief of staff, Kansas Army National Guard; Col. Barry Manley, 635th Regional Support Group commander; Chief Warrant Officer 5 Hector Vasquez, state chief warrant officer; Command Chief Master Sgt. James Brown, the newly-appointed command senior enlisted leader for the Kansas National Guard; Command Sgt. Maj. James Moberly, command sergeant

major, KSARNG Land Component; and Command Sgt. Maj. Greg Kober, senior noncommissioned officer for the 635th RSG.

For Brown, it was his first visit with Soldiers conducting annual training since assuming his new role and he spoke to many of the Soldiers and fielded questions from them. Brown is the first Air National Guardsman to fill the traditionally-held Army role of command senior enlisted leader.

The visit also gave Tafanelli the opportunity to meet with troops of the 772nd Mobility Augmentation Company, a unit he once commanded, and one he said “holds a special place in my heart.”

Tafanelli got another chance to take a step back in time and found a concrete retaining barrier that he and his troops had built at the Great Plains Joint Training Center in the 1980s. The inscription atop the wall read “891 ENG HHC – OIC 2LT Tafanelli.”



Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, and members of the Joint Forces Headquarters command staff inspect the handiwork of engineers with the 891st Engineer Battalion during a visit to the unit’s annual training site at the Great Plains Joint Training Center near Salina Aug. 12. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office)

### ARMY NATIONAL GUARD G1 PERSONNEL GATEWAY

- ARNG 101
- Post-9/11 GI Bill Program
- Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA)
- Military Family Life Consultant
- Dealing with Deployment
- Yellow Ribbon Program

**FEATURING  
INFORMATION ON  
ARNG SOLDIER &  
FAMILY SUPPORT &  
BENEFIT PROGRAMS**

- Financial Calculators
- Family Assistance Centers (FACs)
- TRICARE Medical Benefits
- Family Readiness Groups
- Stateside Spouse Education Assistance

#### A ONE-STOP SHOP FOR ARNG HR RESOURCES

The Gateway provides vital information that Soldiers and families need to know about ARNG HR programs & processes. Visit the Gateway to find comprehensive pages on how to take advantage of ARNG programs including medical, educational & financial benefits as well as deployment support & family programs. Each page features resources such as application instructions, answers to frequently asked questions, contact information, and links to forms and Guard-specific resources.

<https://g1arng.army.pentagon.mil>

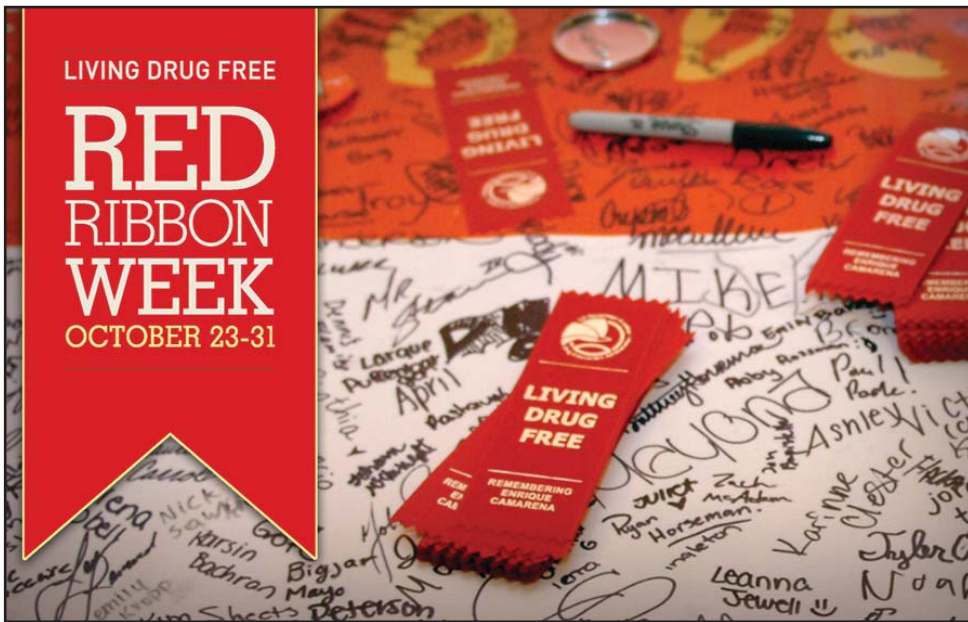


# September designated as Suicide Prevention Month



To raise awareness about the root causes of suicide and what can be done to prevent it, Gov. Sam Brownback signs a proclamation Aug. 28 declaring September as “Suicide Prevention Month” in Kansas. “Suicide Prevention Month reminds us to care for others,” said Chaplain (Maj.) John Potter (right), deputy command chaplain, Kansas National Guard. “Take time to listen when Soldiers, Airmen, or family members are hurting. The time you invest could save a life.” (Photo by Sgt. Theresa Vail, Public Affairs Office)

# Supporting the Red Ribbon Campaign: A Soldier’s Guide



Following the 1985 murder of Drug Enforcement Administration agent Enrique Camarena by drug traffickers in Mexico City, angered parents and youth in communities across the country began wearing Red Ribbons as a symbol of their commitment to raise awareness of the destruction caused by drug use. The National Federation of Parents organized the first Nationwide Red Ribbon Campaign and in 1988, NFP sponsored the first National Red Ribbon Celebration. The Department of Defense has supported the Red Ribbon Campaign since 1990.

The Red Ribbon Campaign mobilizes communities to educate youth and encourages participation in drug prevention activities. It is the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the nation, reaching millions during Red Ribbon Week, Oct. 23-31 each year. This year’s theme, “Respect Yourself, Be Drug Free,” was submitted by a middle school student from Solon, Ohio.

How can you help?

Have a conversation with your children, nieces and nephews, or younger brothers and sisters about substance abuse prevention. Talk about the importance of living healthy and drug-free. Share stories about living drug-free as a Soldier and encourage alcohol and drug-free activities on the weekends and after school. Express your disapproval of abusing alcohol or misusing prescription drugs. Talk about the dangers of binge drinking and prescription drug

abuse. Read and sign the “Drug-Free” pledge with your child. Learn more at <http://redribbon.org/pledge>.

Support the Red Ribbon Campaign in the school your child, niece/nephew, or younger sibling attends. Visit the classroom to talk about living drug-free as a Soldier. Help organize a “Wear Red T-Shirts” Day for the classroom. Help your child/niece/nephew/sibling make a sign or poster about Red Ribbon week and being drug-free to hang in the classroom.

Share the Red Ribbon Campaign with the rest of your community. Organize a “Wear Red T-Shirts” Day at your civilian workplace. Support nationwide campaign activities.

Follow @redribbonweek on Twitter or visit <http://redribbon.org> to download the Planning Guide, look for ideas and find resources.

**Kansas Substance Abuse Program**

The mission of the Kansas Substance Abuse Program is to increase the readiness and resiliency of Soldiers and their families through prevention education and training; drug testing, screening, investigation or self-referral; risk analysis and mitigation; and helping Soldiers find approved rehabilitation facilities..

For information and assistance, contact Amy Arnett-German, Alcohol and Drug Control officer at 785-274-1549; [amy.arnett-german.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:amy.arnett-german.ctr@mail.mil) or [amy.arnett-german@accenturefederal.com](mailto:amy.arnett-german@accenturefederal.com)

# Army, Air Guardsmen learn crowd control techniques



Armed with batons and protective shields, Soldiers and Airmen of the Kansas National Guard face off against other Guardsmen portraying rioters during civil disturbance training Sept. 19-20 at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Topeka. (Photo by Spc. Mikayla Gentine, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

By Spc. Mikayla Gentine  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers and Airmen learned riot control techniques Sept. 19-20 during civil disturbance training at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Topeka.

This training, taught by Soldiers from the 35th Military Police Company, prepared Soldiers for riot situations through hands-on instruction in techniques such as pressure point compliance and riot control formations with batons and shields.

Jay Gradinger, administrator, Military Assistance to Civil Authorities for the Kansas National Guard, said such training is important for Army and Air National Guard forces who may be called on by the governor to respond to emergency situations.

“Of course, one of those would be a civil disturbance issue, and that’s what this training is for,” said Gradinger. “They will start with defensive tactics, physical and nonlethal strikes that they will be taught to defend themselves in a physical altercation. They will transition to individual and small element field tactics, or what they call field force.”

Instructors emphasized the importance of proper judgment, a critical skill in applying proper force to noncompliant and potentially dangerous people in riot situations.

“With an MP, any type of verbal de-escalation is always what we try to use first,” according to Staff Sgt. Joshua Haybarker, an instructor with the 35th MPs. “If someone refuses to comply, that’s when we need to get physical. It’s not meant to hurt anybody; it’s meant to get a response, usually if we need them to leave the area.”

This training also gave law enforcement officers from the Topeka Police Department and other organizations a networking opportunity and insight into Kansas National Guard civil disturbance training. Jerry Monasmith, one of the participating Topeka Police officers, is also a captain in the Kansas Army National Guard. He said such cross training is critical in his occupation with the TPD.

“It allows us to learn what the National Guard can assist us with if we have any kind of crisis or crowd control issue that our department can’t handle alone,” said Monasmith.

## Fill ‘er up, Joe

The 190th Air Refueling Wing hosted an orientation flight for Kansas media and civic leaders Sept. 23. The passengers had a special trip due to the refueling customers, the U.S. Navy Blue Angels, which were en route to an airshow. (Photo by 1st Lt. Matt Lucht, Public Affairs Office)