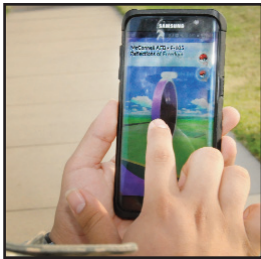




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Popular game leads to security concerns . .11

PLAINS GUARDIAN

VOLUME 60 NO. 4 *Serving the Kansas Army and Air National Guard, Kansas Emergency Management, Kansas Homeland Security and Civil Air Patrol* SEPTEMBER 2016

Command of Kansas Army National Guard passed to new leader

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

The sound of military music, punctuated by cannon fire, set the tone for a Kansas National Guard change of command ceremony Aug. 6 at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard in Topeka.

Hundreds of family, friends and Kansas National Guard Soldiers witnessed the passing of command of the Kansas Army National Guard from Brig. Gen. Robert Windham to Brig. Gen. Anthony Mohatt. With this new responsibility, Mohatt also became assistant adjutant general – Army.

“It’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” said Mohatt. “To borrow a quote from (golfer) Bubba Watson after the Masters win that he had ‘My dreams never went this far.’

“When I started as a private E-2 in 1986 I never thought I would be given the opportunities I have been given throughout my career and never, ever thought I would end up here today,” said Mohatt. “So it’s really an honor and a privilege to have the chance to make a difference in Soldiers’ lives and their careers and to be able to build readiness and build leaders for the future of the Guard.”

Mohatt said his first encounter with



Brig. Gen. Anthony Mohatt, (left) accepts the colors of the Kansas Army National Guard from Maj. Gen. Lee Tafari, Kansas adjutant general, during a change of command ceremony Aug. 6 at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard. Mohatt inherited command of the KSARNG from Brig. Gen. Robert Windham. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)

“It’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. To borrow a quote from (golfer) Bubba Watson after the Masters win that he had ‘My dreams never went this far.’”
Brig. Gen. Anthony Mohatt

Windham was at the beginning of his officer career.

“General Windham was my TAC (Training, Advising and Counseling) officer when I was an officer candidate, so we’re going back many years now,” said Mohatt. “He coached, he taught, and he became a mentor of mine.”

Once he was commissioned, Mohatt did not have many opportunities to work directly with Windham until 2005 when both men were deployed to Iraq.

“He was the deputy brigade commander that I worked for,” said Mohatt. “I was the battalion executive officer, so we had a great deal of interaction with each other for about six months in a deployed setting in Baghdad.

(Continued on Page 6)

997th Brigade Support Battalion officially activated in ceremony

By Sgt. Anna Simbeck
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Few commanders have the opportunity to stand before their troops, the leaders of the state and the governor to share what they have accomplished in the last 15 months. Lt. Col. Erica Christie did just that at the 997th Brigade Support Battalion activation ceremony at Fort Hays, Kansas, July 9.

“As a new commander, it is a blessing,”

said Christie. “Usually, you tell people what you’re going to do and I got to tell people what I’ve done.”

The activation ceremony was the last step to fully integrate the new force structure of the 997th BSB into the Kansas National Guard under the 130th Field Artillery Brigade.

“It has become fully functional in a very short time,” said Christie.

The battalion’s mission is to provide command and control of assigned and attached units, plan and manage logistics support to the 130th Field Artillery Brigade and supported maneuver battalions, and conduct domestic support operations in support of federal and state agencies to protect life and property within the state.

During the ceremony, Christie and Command Sgt. Maj. Craig Posch, senior enlisted advisor of 997th BSB, unveiled the newest flag in the Kansas National Guard family. The distinguished unit insignia and crest represents the lineage of the field artillery brigade. The passing of colors is an honored military tradition, a physical and visual confirmation that the incoming commander has been entrusted with and accepts the responsibilities of the command given to her.

In his remarks, Gov. Sam Brownback spoke about what the activation of the 997th BSB means for the state of Kansas.

“This unit is going to serve with distinction for this country, for this state and for this region,” said Brownback. “Thank you for serving. Thank you for the willingness to go forward as your country calls. The world needs you and they need people from Kansas.”

The 997th BSB has grown from three companies and 300 Soldiers to six companies and 600 Soldiers under Christie’s command.

“I’m really proud that we brought this



Lt. Col. Erica Christie, commander of the 997th Brigade Support Battalion, accepts the colors of the 997th BSB from Command Sgt. Maj. Craig Posch during a July 9 ceremony in Fort Hays, Kansas, in which the unit was formally activated. (Photo by Sgt. Anna Simbeck, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

force structure to Kansas and that I’m the commander,” said Christie. “With the loss of the 287th (Special Troops Battalion), we have growth with the gaining of the 997th BSB. So we have senior mentors for all our officers and NCOs. That’s what the 997th brings to the Kansas Guard.”

Christie and Posch spend a lot of time on the road traveling to the various unit locations throughout the state to meet with the Soldiers.

“We have to do this command visit because that shows the importance of what

the Soldiers are doing regardless of their job or rank,” said Christie. “They’re important to us.”

Posch said the Soldiers going into this project were motivated and dedicated.

“It’s a remarkable environment,” said Posch. “The eagerness of the Soldiers from the 997th to want to come alive and take a hold of the challenges we’ve thrown at them and the positions.

“Keep moving forward,” Posch told his Soldiers, “and keep that eagerness alive.”

“This unit is going to serve with distinction for this country, for this state and for this region.”
Sam Brownback
Governor of Kansas

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Realistic scenarios puts MPs and air crews through their paces

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

Under a blazing June sun, a squad of Kansas National Guard Soldiers move toward a three-story government building behind the cover of an armored vehicle. Inside are armed rioters who have taken control of the building.

The vehicle stops and, in twos and threes, the Soldiers dash toward the building, their rifles trained on windows above them. When their group has all reached the building, they cautiously sidle around a corner toward the double-door entrance. A moment’s pause, then they rush in. Gunfire echoes within the building intermingled with shouted commands. After long, tense minutes, a wounded comrade is helped out of the building. Soon, he will be medevaced out on a Black Hawk helicopter.

The location was at the urban village at Fort Riley and the action was all for training.

The heat was real. The Soldiers on the ground the afternoon of June 13 were from the Kansas National Guard’s 35th Military Police Company, headquartered in Topeka. The unit had already been at Fort Riley for more than a week conducting their two-week annual training in conjunction with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion), a Black Hawk helicopter unit from Topeka. Capt. Nicky Inskeep, 35th MP Company commander, explained the day’s events were the culminating exercise to the training.

“This is like shoothouse-type training,” said Inskeep, “MOUT (military operations in urban terrain), room clearing, different kinds of real-world situations we might face, like you see in the news, such as riots, hostage situations, anything that military police might be involved with.”

Inskeep said that, throughout the day, squads of Soldiers had been running through their paces against a variety of scenarios.

“We did a riot outside of a government building that we would have to disperse the crowd so we could gain access to the building,” said Inskeep. “We also did a hostage situation in a school and a hostage in a clinic who had to be rescued.”

Inskeep said the Soldiers receive a short briefing before they move out and must reply on what intelligence they are given and what they can glean from surveillance before they enter a building to confront the opposing forces hidden inside.

“In each iteration, we change where the opposing forces are going to be,” said Inskeep, “so even if they talk within their platoon they wouldn’t even know where they



Soldiers with the 35th Military Police Company, Kansas National Guard, train their weapons on the upper floor of a building to provide cover for fellow Guardsmen conducting an exercise June 19 at the urban village training area at Fort Riley. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)

are. It changes every time, so it’s a surprise.”

Pfc. Harley Linnell, one of the unit’s Soldiers playing the role of an aggressor, said the scenario was a much an exercise in suspense for them as it was for the Soldiers storming the building since they had no idea where the MPs might try to gain entrance.

“This is like a real scenario for everybody,” said Linnell. “It’s just not like sitting in a classroom.

“A couple of nights ago, we did almost the same thing with night-ops where the buildings were completely dark. You couldn’t see hardly anything.”

Spc. Everett John II was another of the Soldiers playing the role of aggressor and, like Linnell, is normally one of the unit’s mechanics. Even so, he took his role seriously.

“We’re helping out,” said John. “This is a hands-on training for them. Being out here, I’m helping them improve on their job.”

John, who transferred to the unit from a New Mexico Army National Guard transportation battalion, said his time with the MPs has proved beneficial.

“I’m enjoying every minute of it,” said John, “the weapons training, the tactics. It’s been, overall, a good experience for me.”

Inskeep said the exercise was designed to be as real as possible for the Soldiers.

“I’m enjoying every minute of it; the weapons training, the tactics. It’s been, overall, a good experience for me.”
Spc. Everett John II
35th MP Company

“We use blanks inside these buildings,” said Inskeep. “It’s already really loud when you get a lot of people talking in there, but then when you add the blank fire to it, it just ups the ante a little bit more. Really, our goal is to see how they react in that really stressful situation in a training environment.”

As a joint training exercise, the day’s activities did not focus solely on ground tactics. When a Soldier was designated by controllers as “wounded,” his comrades had to safely get him out of the building and to a landing zone for helicopter transport.

“Our goal here is two-part,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2

Chris Chartrand, training officer, Company G, 2-135th Aviation. “One is we try to help the MPs figure out how to call in a 9-line call (calling in a combat injury). A lot of these guys really haven’t had a chance to make that 9-line call in combat, luckily. We want to make sure that they know what they’re doing when that time actually comes.

“From our previous experiences from actually doing this in the real world, we like to come out and share with them, when the chaos is going on, the important things to take away and how to get that call out so we can get the aircraft in the air as fast as possible.

As versatile as they are, helicopters can’t land just anywhere, so selecting a good landing zone is essential to the success of the medevac mission.

“That’s one of the things we teach them,” said Chartrand. “We do a class on LZ (landing zone) selection, so hopefully they are choosing the best location to land, but if not, it’s at the pilot’s discretion to choose the safest spot for the aircraft and also for the ground guys. We have a better view of the situation from the air than they do from the ground, so it’s not uncommon for us to move the LZ location on them.”

Two helicopters worked in tandem to conduct the medevac, although only one touched down at a time.

“We don’t like to put both aircraft on the ground because we’re very soft targets down there,” Chartrand explaining. “One guy is going to stay in the air to make sure they’re given any updates or communications. A lot of our radios are line-of-sight, so if they’re both on the ground, we can’t get the call out.”

Little time elapses from the moment the helicopter touches down until the moment it is airborne again.

“Immediately, when the patient comes to us, the medics take over and assess the situation and figure out what medical care they need,” said Chartrand. “The pilots already have a destination, so the next thing they’re doing is preparing for takeoff, then launching in the direction of care. At that point, the medic will assess the situation again to determine if that’s the correct location to take them to, based on the site availability and the site medical assets.”

Chartrand said his unit tries to reach out to other units about once a quarter to conduct joint trainings such as this.

“It happened that our ATs matched up this year and we were able to come out and do some good training with them,” he said.

Working in rotation throughout the afternoon, each group of MPs tackled each scenario and, despite the heat over a long day, enthusiasm for the exercise did not seem to wane. Sgt. Brett Sagel, squad leader, 2nd Platoon, said the training was “as much real as you can have on the state side.”

Sagel said that realism helps him to focus on his squad’s mission and his role as their leader, thinking through everything his people need to do to make sure the mission is successful and everyone “comes out in one piece.”

“Your adrenaline starts pumping, everything starts going, you feel your heartbeat in your fingertips, you get a rush like none other and its game time!” said Sagel. “It’s real good for you, good training!”

Republic of Armenia and Kansas Guard Soldiers strengthen partnership

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

When Senior Warrant Officer Eduard Grigoryn joined the army of the Republic of Armenia 19 years ago, the partnership between Armenia and Kansas had not yet materialized. In the ensuing years, Grigoryn has seen the relationship, formed in 2003 through the National Guard Bureau’s State Partnership program, reap mutual benefits for his nation and Kansas.

“It’s growing up in the best way,” said Grigoryn. “All the time, the Army National Guard instructors provide us with great opportunities for participating in different types of courses.”

Grigoryn, a veteran of numerous deployments with the Armenian army, and approximately two dozen fellow soldiers drawn from various units of the Armenian army were in Kansas in early August to take part in the annual training of the Kansas National Guard’s 772nd Engineer Company at Fort Riley.

“This is a great opportunity for us to be here to learn from the Army National Guard instructors, who came to our country to provide the first and second phase of the course there in Armenia,” said Grigoryn. “This is the last phase.”

“We went to Armenia to do a noncommissioned officer development course, to instill in them to use NCOs to run the show as opposed to their officers taking charge of everything,” explained 1st Lt. Dustin Dice, officer in charge of the demolition range where the 772nd Soldiers were conducting their training. “The intent was for them to shadow us so they can see how our NCOs operate in a field environment, so they can take that knowledge back with them and implement it into their army.”

Despite a language barrier, Dice found his time in Armenia to be very rewarding. “Their mentality is hospitality,” said Dice. “They were very welcoming. Anything you need, they were there.”

A flight delay on the return trip with Armenian soldiers prevented them from taking full advantage of their time in Kansas, but that did not dampen the drive to learn on either side.

“We came here from Armenia to share our experience, to learn from them and also, at the same time, they would learn from us,” said Grigoryn.

“They wanted to know about our vehicles, they wanted to see them,” said Dice. “They wanted to know about how we use our weapons.



Soldiers from the Republic of Armenia proudly display adjutant general challenge coins presented to them for their leadership and service during annual training with Soldiers of the Kansas National Guard’s 772nd Engineer Company. The Armenians were in Kansas to complete phase three of a noncommissioned officer development course. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)

“We told them how we do everything and we asked them if it was the same, different, what they would do differently,” said Dice.

Grigoryn said he hopes to come to the United States when his time in the Armenian army is up. In the meantime, he looks forward to more interactions with his Kansas counterparts.

“If such kind of courses continue in the future,” said Grigoryn, “it will give us the best opportunity for us to learn more and improve our English language skills and at the same time make our partnership stronger.”

Parterships establish a pathway to success

By Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli
Kansas Adjutant General

One of the keys to success in the future for the Kansas National Guard and the Adjutant General’s Department will be our ability to establish and build partnerships that provide opportunities to train in ways that directly enhance our readiness, cultivate quality candidates to fill our formations, and collaborate in order to maximize operational efficiencies.



Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli

Guardsmen understand the importance of training and readiness in mission accomplishment. Every opportunity that Kansas National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have, sets us on the path for success. At times, those opportunities are provided and others have to be created.

In July, the Kansas National Guard began a new partnership with Garden City Community College. Task Force Broncbuster is an initiative to put a Kansas National Guard presence at the college that would make it easily accessible to potential recruits and build a military capability in the Garden City area. This Kansas National Guard presence on a community college campus is the first of its kind and won’t be the last. Task Force Broncbuster also provides Guard members an opportunity to continue their education while exposing Garden City Community College students to the benefits of joining the Kansas National Guard.

Garden City Community College isn’t the only educational institution the Kansas National Guard is working with. The University of Kansas Hospital, with the help of Dr. Lee Norman, state surgeon of the Kansas Army National Guard, is leading the effort in developing programs where Army and Air National Guard medical personnel can be trained on the latest techniques and equipment. This demonstrates how the Kansas National Guard is developing a strong public-private partnership between the Kansas health providers and the military.

The Kansas National Guard has closely worked with Fort Riley and the 1st Infantry Division through several training events where active-duty and National Guard Soldiers have trained side-by-side or the 1st Infantry Division has used National Guard assets and facilities. In May, the 3rd Helicopter Assault Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, partnered with the Kansas Air National Guard and Salina Regional Airport Authority for a pre-deployment exercise. They were

able to quickly “mobilize” at the Smoky Hill Range and use the training facilities there instead of leaving the state. This saved money, valuable resources and allowed us to better understand their needs.

I recently returned from Kansas’ partner nation, the Republic of Armenia, where they celebrated 25 years of independence. Armenia and Kansas have been partners since 2003 and have built a very solid and mutually beneficial partnership. The National Guard State Partnership Program links U.S. States with partner countries around the world, and currently has 65 partnerships within the Defense Department’s six combatant commands. The U.S. goals for the SPP program are to help prevent failed states and create stable regions, improve the capabilities of partner nations to protect their citizens, strengthen relationships to facilitate diplomacy, improve cultural awareness and skills among U.S. military personnel, and foster the integration of reserve and active U.S. National Guard forces into a unified force.

Members of the Armenian army came to Kansas in early August to finish the final phase of the noncommissioned officer course developed by the Kansas National Guard. While that was going on, 32 medical personnel from the 184th Intelligence Wing were in Armenia working with their counterparts on a two-week humanitarian mission. The Kansas National Guard is committed to maintaining and growing the enduring relationship we have built with the country of Armenia as part of the SPP.

It is imperative we remain steadfast in our devotion to providing a trained, capable and ready force to respond to the full spectrum of state emergencies, to fulfill our state and federal missions and remain a valued part of our communities. The successful execution of the department’s mission, in spite of significant geopolitical, economic and technological changes amidst a chaotic national security environment, is a testament to your will and dedication to serving others.

I am incredibly proud of the men and women that serve in the Adjutant General’s Department and grateful for the support we receive from our elected officials; our local, state and federal partners and stakeholders; the citizens of our great state; and especially from our families. We know we could not do what we do without this support. As an agency, the Adjutant General’s Department will continue to innovate and find new and improved ways to provide military, homeland security and emergency management services well into the future. We will continue to examine current and future challenges, develop high-value actions within our control, and carry out those actions in the most effective way possible. We will continue to develop and sustain current relationships, but also look for new partnerships that would make sense



Gov. Sam Brownback and Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli join with officials of Garden City Community College at the ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the opening of the new Kansas National Guard recruiting office on the college campus. The office is part of a new partnership between the Kansas National Guard and the college. (Photo by Capt. Matt Lucht, Public Affairs Office)

for our agency. We should also consider new ways of doing business with current and future partners rather than focusing on how things have always been done.

And finally, we will never forget that we do all of this in service to the people of Kansas and the United States of America, their freedoms and continued way of life.

Warrior to Warrior

Four priorities to be focal points

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

As the Kansas National Guard moves forward as an organization, our Adjutant General has identified four focal points which we will strive daily to meet or exceed. The four focal points are:

- Readiness
- Customer care
- Communication and
- Partnerships

September is Preparedness Month, so we need to stress the importance of personal and professional readiness and preparedness to our formations. As the National Guard continues to lead from the front during uncertain times, it is mission essential that Kansas remains relevant and ready to serve our state and nation at a moment’s notice.

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. 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. We must also maintain our personal preparedness/readiness by being physically and mentally fit.

When a request for National Guard re-

sponse is generated for a Soldier or Airman to be part of a response option, it is essential to mission success that we are



Command Chief Master Sgt. James Brown

prepared to react at a moment’s notice. In order to accomplish this, we must make sure we have a disaster plan at home and more importantly, have discussed this plan with our

significant others. You will find valuable information on family preparedness and checklist that can be downloaded and utilized at <https://www.ready.gov/publications> . By including the entire family in this process, your family will become more resilient and ready to face the disaster as their Soldier/Airman is called to duty. Being prepared at home will also benefit the service member in that they know their family has a plan of action and they will be able to focus on the disaster and their duties.

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Maintenance company keeps engines humming and wheels turning

“Our goal in the 995th Support Maintenance Company is to fully support units of the 997th Brigade Support Battalion and increase readiness of the equipment for the Kansas Army National Guard,” said Capt. Brent Jennings, commander of the 995th Support Maintenance Company.

Soldiers of the 995th did just that during their annual training from July 9-23, conducting maintenance missions at the Maneuver Area Training and Equipment Site, Fort Riley, and at the Combined Support Maintenance Shop in Topeka.

The 995th Maintenance Company is based in Smith Center with detachments in Concordia and Norton.

1st Lt. Tam Tram, Topeka, maintenance control officer, and Master Sgt. Ralph Udell, maintenance control noncommissioned officer in charge, provided a team that supported MATES and CSMS to help clear up the backlog of maintenance requirements statewide, and began several special projects. These projects included services on M88 Track Recovery Vehicles, M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, M1151 High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, and allied trades fabrication projects.

“As logisticians, we want to anticipate support so that units arrive to their annual training and drill weekends with equipment that is serviceable and that meets their training requirements,” said Tam. “Our Soldiers also worked within their Military Occupational Specialty at locations outside their duty station, which supports our retention efforts.”



Spc. James Bevel and Spc. William Callison perform maintenance on a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System vehicle during annual training for the 995th Maintenance Company. (Photo provided)

The Soldiers also registered for Global Combat Support System Army, completed Structured Self Development and accomplished other tasks.

Sgt. 1st Class Ernest Goetz, Minneapolis, Kansas, supervised the Electronics Platoon in Topeka, servicing radios and night vision goggles. Sgt. Noah Jones supervised the armament section on services for the all the small arms equipment, to include the M4, M16, M26, M249 and M2.

A five-Soldier team from the 995th assisted the 242nd Engineers Company, training other Soldiers and repairing many different types of heavy equipment, including a D7 bulldozer, 10-ton dump trucks, vibratory roller and a John Deere hydraulic excavator.

The 995th Maintenance Team also received maintenance service device training, spool welder familiarization and training, and some operator training on construction equipment.

Units supported include the 130th Field Artillery Brigade; 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment; 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry; 891st Engineer Battalion; 35th Military Police Company; Field Maintenance Shops Two and Seven; 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion; and the 250th Forward Support Company.

“What we do will help the readiness of the Kansas Army National Guard, and develop deeper partnerships with other members of the maintenance community,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Stuart Stupka, maintenance warrant officer for the 995th SMC.

997th Brigade Support Battalion conducts first annual training



Staff Sgt. Raymond Solis and Sgt. Hector Reyes conduct driver’s training during annual traing for Headquarters Support Company, 997th Brigade Support Battalion (Photo by 2nd Lt. Jakob Hutter, 997th Brigade Support Battalion)

**By 2nd Lt. Jakob Hutter
997th Brigade Support Battalion**

In July, Soldiers of the newly activated Headquarters Service Company, 997th Brigade Support Battalion, 130th Field Artillery Brigade, conducted their 2016 annual training, their first since the 997th BSB was formed more than a year ago.

The 997th BSB was officially activated July 9 at a ceremony at the Old Fort Hays Historical Site in Hays, Kansas. Following the activation ceremony, the battalion staff and Support Platoon drove to the Kansas Regional Training Center in Salina while the Maintenance Platoon headed to the detachment in Colby.

The first week of training consisted of multiple moving parts. The battalion staff conducted an exercise using the Military Decision Making Process, which allows the commander to analyze and compare multiple friendly and enemy actions to identify the best course of action for his Soldiers. The HSC leadership established the Mission Essential Task List plan for the next five years, and developed monthly schedules into Digital Training Management System.

The Support Platoon conducted driver’s training, which began with Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services on vehicles. Once the checks were completed, they practiced driving around the training area and then to Hays to pick up a flat rack. The Support Platoon received their learning permits, which allowed Soldiers to continue working towards becoming fully licensed.

The HSC maintenance platoon remained at the detachment in Colby to conduct pre

deployment movement planning. The platoon received a development class on load plans, conducted drivers training, updated drivers licensing and conducted inventories on detachment equipment. After linking up with the rest of the HSC in Salina, the maintenance platoon began maintenance training at the Unit Training and Equipment Site.

Another task on the annual training list was Army Warrior Training. Soldiers were given a review course on Preliminary Marksmanship Instruction, which included basic instruction on functions check, assembly and disassembly of the 240B, 249, M16, and M9 weapons. Soldiers also received a refresher in land navigation and conducted a successful day and night land navigation course.

Six Soldiers of the 997th were trained and certified on the 40-hour Combat Life-saver Course, which allows nonmedical Soldiers to provide lifesaving measures as a secondary mission. The Soldiers were instructed in various techniques to treat and stabilize combat-related injuries.

Soldiers were also given the opportunity to attend a communication training course. The training consisted of familiarity with the Army’s Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System, Blue Force Tracker, and very small aperture terminal radio systems, which are small satellite dishes that allow real-time voice, video and data transmission. Towards the end of annual training, Soldiers of the Headquarters Service Company also conducted an antiterrorism course.

Military training helps Soldier land civilian career

The Army National Guard is much more than most realize. The opportunities provided through the ARNG aim to create not only an outstanding soldier but also an outstanding civilian. Because the Army values both soldier and civilian, military training also better equips individuals for civilian jobs, making them highly valued by many employers. This integration of soldier and civilian is perfectly illustrated in the experience of Spc. Raymundo Jurado.

After spending two years at Kansas State University, Jurado was unsure of the career he wished to pursue. From an Army National Guard recruiter, he learned that he could receive military training to become a certified biomedical equipment technician, a skill which would also provide him a civilian career. After joining the Kansas Army National Guard in 2013, Jurado attended Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, for 44 weeks.

“The training I received at AIT was extensive,” said Jurado. “The military could afford to provide the newest x-ray equipment for my training and the instructors were not only knowledgeable but excellent teachers.”

The training was structured into 12 courses, which lasted nearly a month each. The coursework started off by building a strong foundation of electrical engineering concepts. This curriculum was spread out over the first two courses.

The 10 courses were each split into two phases. In phase 1, students attended lecture, where they developed conceptual understanding of various pieces of biomedical equipment. In phase 2, a more hands-on approach allowed Jurado to test his knowledge and perfect his skills as a technician.

Jurado recalls a typical day of training at AIT to include exercises such as a “maintenance test”. During a maintenance test, a piece of equipment was presented with three faults. Typically, these faults included a cut wire, or a dysfunctional resistor or capacitor. The student was challenged to discover the faults and proceed to repair them, documenting the repair along the way. It was the vigorous hands-on training coupled with a foundation of knowledge, Jurado believes, that gave him a serious advantage as a civilian technician.

Upon completing training, Jurado returned to K-State and completed a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering. After graduation, Jurado began to search for civilian jobs as a BMET and was offered a summer job installing and uninstalling X-rays at a private medical imaging company based out of Kansas City, Missouri. Several weeks later, Jurado joined a Facebook page for military biomedical equipment technicians, looking for an opportunity to

(Continued on Page 10)



Spc. Raymundo Jurado repairs a panorama X-ray machine at Eckert Hall in Salina. (Photo provided)

JROTC cadets leave their comfort zones behind at Camp Konza

By Sgt. Zach Sheely
Public Affairs Office

Every summer, hundreds of Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from high schools across Kansas gather in Salina, Kansas, to participate in a different kind of summer camp.

Camp Konza – held at the Kansas Regional Training Center and facilitated by Kansas National Guard Soldiers – is a weeklong JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge meant to push cadets outside of their comfort zone, overcome challenges and build leadership skills.

Think of it as condensed Army Basic Combat Training.

“As soon as they get off the bus, they’re paired up with someone they’ve never met before and assigned to a platoon,” said retired Lt. Col. Richard Hodgson, the senior Army JROTC instructor at Topeka West High School. “That forces them to function with strangers and form a team.”

The cadets are put through a rigorous week of events including a high ropes course, leader reaction course, crossing a rope bridge, drown-proof training, physical fitness training and land navigation, generally based on Army training models.

Sgt. Chancy Schmidt, a motor transport operator with the 731st Transportation Company, Kansas Army National Guard, volunteered to work as a senior instructor at Camp

Konza for the second consecutive year.

“I love everything about it,” said Schmidt. “It’s great that these cadets get the opportunity to experience a camp to help them fulfill their dreams of one day becoming officers.”

One cadet, Tessa Wilcox, who will be entering her senior year at Junction City High School in the fall, said she intends to serve.

“I do want to join the military, so getting this experience is beneficial for my future,” said Wilcox. “I’ve learned a lot of team building. I’ve learned that someone has to be a leader and someone has to be a follower.”

The cadets are assigned positions of leadership that correlate to rank structure within the military based on their time in the JROTC.

“I’ve learned chain of command,” said Wilcox. “I’ve learned respect, for both subordinates and those in charge and why that’s important.”

Although cadets woke early each morning, marched and stood in formation, it’s not only to prepare them for military life.

“We’re here to build citizens, not Soldiers, necessarily,” said Hodgson.

It’s not all work though, according to Laura Campbell, a soon-to-be Junction City High School sophomore.

“My favorite part is learning about everyone,” said Campbell. “Without them, I wouldn’t be able to do it. You



Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets watch as a fellow cadet slides down the zip line at Camp Weber, near Salina, Kansas, June 29 as part of Camp Konza, a weeklong JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office)

learn how to get the strongest link to push the weakest link and then the weakest link becomes the strongest.”

Hodgson said that the ultimate goal of Camp Konza is to better prepare the cadets for life after high school and noticed a marked difference in his cadets after participating in Camp Konza in years past.

“They come back much more assertive and much more self-confident,” said Hodgson. “They are better leaders, having experienced this for a week. Whether they’re leaders in the military or civilian sector, being able to overcome challenges is important either way.”

Secretary of the Air Force visits 184th at McConnell AFB



Deborah Lee James, secretary of the U.S. Air Force, greets Senator Sen. Jerry Moran and Col. David Weishaar, commander of the 184th Intelligence Wing at McConnell Air Force Base July 18. During her visit, she met with Airmen from the 184th IW, 22nd Air Refueling Wing, and 931st Air Refueling Wing about their units’ missions. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office)

By Senior Airman Lauren Penney
184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

After much anticipation, the Guard, Reserve and active-duty components of McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas, welcomed Deborah Lee James, secretary of the Air Force, Washington, D.C., July 18.

James is responsible for the affairs of the Department of the Air Force, including organizing, training, equipping and providing for the welfare of its more than 660,000 active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian Airmen and their families.

During her visit, James held a meet and greet, had lunch with Airmen at the Roost Dining Facility, spoke at an all call and attended a speed mentoring session.

When James arrived at the 22nd Air Refueling Wing’s headquarters building, representatives from the 184th Intelligence Wing, 931st Air Refueling Wing and 22nd ARW each spoke about their unit’s specific missions, giving the secretary an idea of what each organization does and some of the struggles they face.

This discussion also addressed recruitment and retaining concerns due to the loss of enlistment and re-enlistment bonuses.

Later, James visited multiple units

across McConnell Air Force Base, including the 184th’s Intelligence Complex and the construction projects for the KC-46 Pegasus.

“There’s growth opportunities here, and I think there’s a certain excitement associated with that,” James said.

At a press conference with local media stations, James recognized McConnell Air Force Base as a key location for the Air Force.

“Having seen the community leaders and having talked to the Airmen, it’s very clear to me that we are wanted and we are well appreciated here at McConnell, and that means a lot,” James said.

James emphasized the importance of the two key missions on base, and the worldwide impact of each Air Force component.

“It’s an important part of global reach. McConnell is the largest tanker base in the world,” James said. “The second way it helps is because McConnell is important for global vigilance. Part of the team here is focused on cyber issues, as well as intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and the analysis of the intelligence that comes from our systems. McConnell is hitting the ball out of the park over and over again.”

KSARNG Soldiers render final salute to fallen KC police officer, former Guardsman



Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers join hundreds of law enforcement officers at Leavenworth National Cemetery in Leavenworth, Kansas, July 23 to honor the life of Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department officer Capt. Robert “Dave” Melton, who was killed in the line of duty July 19.

Melton served in the Kansas Army National Guard as an enlisted Soldier from Dec. 1, 1986, until he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in August 1997. He retired as a captain Feb. 28, 2012. Melton deployed to Fort Leavenworth with the 1st Battalion, 127th Field Artillery as part of Operation Noble Eagle from May 30, 2003, to May 17, 2004. He deployed with the 130th Field Artillery Brigade as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom from April 4, 2006, to July 4, 2007. He also deployed to Afghanistan from Nov. 10, 2010, to Jan. 8, 2012, with Agribusiness Development Team #3 as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

His military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Iraqi Campaign Medal with campaign star, Afghanistan Campaign medal with campaign star, NATO Afghanistan Service Medal and Combat Action Badge. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office)



Capt. (Ret.) Robert “Dave” Melton



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Brig. Gen. Mohatt (left), Brig. Gen. Robert Windham, Col. Douglas Hinkley, and Maj. Gen. Lee Tafarielli, the adjutant general, troop the line during a change of command ceremony Aug. 6. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Barnett, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



Brig. Gen. Anthony Mohatt, assistant adjutant general - Army, addresses the troops of the Kansas Army National Guard. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Barnett, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, fire ceremonial howitzers. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)

A ceremony to honor a leader



Soldiers representing the major subordinate commands of the Kansas Army National Guard in Topeka during a change of command ceremony Aug. 6. The Soldiers were there to honor Brig. Gen. Mohatt for the role of assistant adjutant general - Army and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard.

(Continued from Page 1)

That was, once again, a chance for me to be taught, for him to mentor me hands-on.

“Then we came back and he got a chance to be a brigade commander, I was a battalion commander and ultimately a brigade commander with him. It’s been a great friendship through the years and what mentorship is all about.”

Prior to assuming his new role, Mohatt was assistant division commander for the 35th Infantry Division, Kansas Army National Guard. During his career, Mohatt has also served as brigade commander, 69th Troop Command; operations officer, 69th Troop Command; administrative officer and operations officer, and commander of the 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment; and assistant training officer and plans officer, 35th Infantry Division, and in other command and staff positions.

Mohatt said the position he enjoyed the most during his career was as a battalion commander.

“You’re in a position of command, but yet you have interaction on a daily basis with Soldiers,” said Mohatt. “You have a direct input on their career, you have a direct input on their day-to-day life.

“We had great missions when I was a battalion commander,” he continued. “We got to deploy the battalion to Hurricane Gustaf support down in Louisiana for 30 days and

have great hands-on experience. I went to Saudi Arabia for a force-coalition operation with the Saudi national guard. It was an honor to have your Soldiers out in the field, arms maneuver for three weeks, and to be able to teach them, coach them in doing it.

The ceremony capped a 39-year career for Mohatt, who became assistant adjutant general in 2014 and will officially retire in 2017. He has served his service to the state and nation with the Kansas National Guard.

Afterward, Windham said he was confident the command in good hands.

“Right now, I feel good,” said Windham. “I feel good because I turned over the flag to somebody I’ve seen here in the field. I’ve seen him in the field, but I’ve served in combat with him in some of the toughest conditions.

“So as I give the keys to the command to somebody else, I have no doubt that I’m giving it to somebody much more capable than I am.

It is apparent that “family” is to him. He’s got the people he had worked with on the ground. “It wouldn’t work (without them).”



Maj. Gen. Lee Tafarielli, Kansas Adjutant General, (center) shares a moment with Brig. Gen. Mohatt during a change of command ceremony Aug. 6. Mohatt is the role of assistant adjutant general - Army and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard. Tafarielli is the adjutant general of the Kansas National Guard in Topeka Aug. 6. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Barnett, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



nd stand at parade rest on the parade field at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard in Brig. Gen. Anthony Mohatt and Brig. Gen. Robert Windham. Mohatt replaced Windham in Guard. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)

with all my Soldiers. I got to on-force maneuver combat op-guard. It was a great experi-in the desert doing a combined and be able to help them, g their jobs.”
ear military career for Wind-tant general – Army in July two months. In recognition of n, Tafanelli presented Windham Medal of Excellence.
knew he was leaving the com-

d Windham, “predominantly o somebody who’s really great, United States during training, him. I’ve seen him under all
house of my family over to t that they’re in the hands of than I am.”
truly how Windham feels about ver the course of his career. at family mentality),” said

Windham. “You spend so much time away from your nuclear family that, if you don’t have that bond... I’ve been doing this for 40 years. Do you know how many times I slept on the floor in an armory and ate a can of raviolis with people I didn’t know before, but now they’re like my nieces and nephews. I’ve watched them get married, I’ve watched them have kids, I’ve met their children. It’s a great family, but this wouldn’t work without that family feeling.”
Reflecting on the many moments gleaned from his years in the Kansas National Guard, Windham recalled one memorable night when he was a battery commander.
“(It was) the first time I took my battery to the field,” said Windham, “my whole battery, all our vehicles on this hillside. It was so exciting, I couldn’t sleep.
“It was about 3:30 in the morning. I’m lying there and I hear this banging. I walk over and it’s my mess section in the MKT (mobile kitchen trailer). They’re in there stirring up some biscuits and they’ve got this big pot. So they say ‘Hey, sir! Come on in! Can we get you a cup of hobo coffee? Can we get you a biscuit?’ So I had this freshly baked biscuit with this big thing of butter and a cup of hobo coffee and I’m standing on the MKT with a million stars looking out on my battery on the hillside.
“It’s the greatest memory I’ll ever have.”



n. Anthony Mohatt, (left) and Brig. Gen. Robert Windham, who Mohatt replaced in the ard during a change of command ceremony to honor Mohatt and Windham at the Museum 5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



Brig. Gen. Robert Windham, (right) accepts the colors of the Kansas Army National Guard from Command Sgt. Maj. Harold Whitley as he prepares to relinquish his command to Brig. Gen. Anthony Mohatt. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Barnett, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



The 35th Infantry Division Band marches in review as part of the change of command ceremony Aug. 6. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)



Sgt. 1st Class Danielle Burke presents a bouquet of roses to Brig. Gen. Anthony Mohatt’s family. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Barnett, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



Annual State Fair event promotes emergency preparedness

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

Every year, Kansans in every corner of the state may find themselves a victim of a disaster or emergency – tornadoes, hail, blizzards, floods, fires, even earthquakes. To remind Kansans of the importance of being prepared for such events, Governor Sam Brownback signed a proclamation Aug. 25 designating September as Preparedness Month in Kansas. “Kansans must take action to prepare for a variety of hazards,” said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general and director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. “Emergencies have the ability to affect us where we live, work and visit. September being recognized as National Preparedness Month serves as a good reminder for all Kansans to develop, assess and communicate their emergency plans.”

Annually, as part of Preparedness Month, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and first responder agencies across the state invite the public to the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson for Kansas Preparedness Day. This year, Preparedness Day was Sept. 12, a bright, pleasant day in Hutchinson. Numerous state and local agencies, and community emergency response organizations, set up displays and emergency response equipment near the Administration Building at the south end of the fairgrounds. The event was the first Preparedness Day experience for Stephanie Goodman, spills and hazardous materials coordinator for KDEM. “It’s absolutely fun!” said Goodman. “I’ve heard we’ve had more people this year than we’ve had before, so it’s great to be able to talk with the public. “It’s nice to know that the information

we’re putting out there is, sometimes, information the public doesn’t think about. (A disaster) is kind of a once in a lifetime event for some people so they forget to prepare for it.” Brian Mencl, Hutchinson Fire Department, also enjoyed the interaction with the public. “We’re able to respond to kids and interact with them and hopefully get some interest in our field for the next generation of kids to take my job. Mencl said being a firefighter means a lot to him. “I grew up with the mindset from parents to help others first,” said Mencl. “To do it and make a job out of it has been very rewarding for me, personally.” Mencl believes the information distributed during the Preparedness Day event goes a long way toward making his job easier. “People are able to cope with things better when they’re prepared,” said Mencl. “They stay calm and focus and follow directions better. It seems like they have fewer long-term effects from incidents.” Dianne Whitney and her daughter Emme stopped by the display booths looking for information on emergency kits. “I was hoping for a list of ‘these are the 20 things you should have in your bag’ so we can feel like we’re ready.” Whitney said being prepared helps her feel more secure. “I have lived in Manhattan when it flooded. We lost a vehicle to that and

we’ve been through tornadoes, but we’ve never sustained damage,” said Whitney. “When my first daughter was born, we were actually driving when a tornado came through, trying to seek shelter and not doing that very well. Since then, we always try to make sure we have different safety kits, make sure we know where things are.” Whitney believes being prepared allows people to better handle emergency situations. “You have the tools you need to deal with it,” said Whitney. “We’re very happy there’s a tent here to provide information and help us get ready.” Agencies and organizations participating in the Kansas Preparedness Day 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, Reno Community Emergency Response Team, Reno County Emergency Management, Reno County Health Department, Reno County Sheriff’s Department, Reno County Volunteers Organizations Active in Disasters, South Central Regional Animal Response Team,



A member of the Reno County Community Emergency Response Team greets a visitor to the Kansas State Fair during Kansas Preparedness Day Sept. 12. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office)



State Fair visitors stop by the Kansas National Guard’s Mobile Emergency Operations Center during Kansas Preparedness Day Sept. 12. The event showcased area first responders and provided information on emergency preparedness. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office)



The banner goes up, courtesy of the Hutchinson Fire Department, proclaiming Sept. 12 as Kansas Preparedness Day at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office)



Fred, the Preparedness Dog, mascot for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, interacts with visitors to the Kansas State Fair during Kansas Preparedness Day Sept. 12. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office)



September is Preparedness Month. Are YOU prepared?

September is Emergency Preparedness Month in Kansas, the perfect time to make sure you and your family are prepared for any disaster that comes your way, be it tornado, flood, hail, blizzard or anything else nature or man can throw at us. Below are some checklists to help you make your emergency preparedness plans.

Food and Water

Supplies	Home (√)	Vehicle (√)	Work (√)
Water			
Ready-to-eat meats, fruits, and vegetables			
Canned or boxed juices, milk, and soup			
High-energy foods such as peanut butter, jelly, low-sodium crackers, granola bars, and trail mix.			
Vitamins			
Special foods for infants or persons on special diets			
Cookies, hard candy			
Instant coffee			
Cereals			
Powdered milk			

Clothes and Bedding Supplies

Item	(√)	(√)	(√)	(√)
Complete change of clothes				
Sturdy shoes or boots				
Rain gear				
Hat and gloves				
Extra socks				
Extra underwear				
Thermal underwear				
Sunglasses				
Blankets/sleeping bags and pillows				

Documents and Keys

Make sure you keep these items in a watertight container

Item	Stored (√)
Personal identification	
Cash and coins	
Credit cards	
Extra set of house keys and car keys	
Copies of the following:	
• Birth certificate	
• Marriage certificate	
• Driver’s license	
• Social Security cards	
• Passports	
• Wills	
• Deeds	
• Inventory of household goods	
• Insurance papers	
• Immunization records	
• Bank and credit card account numbers	
• Stocks and bonds	
Emergency contact list and phone numbers	
Map of the area and phone numbers of places you could go	

Additional checklists and suggestions for emergency preparedness at home, on the road, and at work are available online at fema.gov.

First Aid Supplies

Supplies	Home (√)	Vehicle (√)	Work (√)
Adhesive bandages, various sizes			
5” x 9” sterile dressing			
Conforming roller gauze bandage			
Triangular bandages			
3” x 3” sterile gauze pads			
4” x 4” sterile gauze pads			
Roll 3” cohesive bandage			
Germicidal hand wipes or waterless, alcohol-based hand sanitizer			
Antiseptic wipes			
Pairs large, medical grade, non-latex gloves			
Tongue depressor blades			
Adhesive tape, 2” width			
Antibacterial ointment			
Cold pack			
Scissors (small, personal)			
Tweezers			
Assorted sizes of safety pins			
Cotton balls			
Thermometer			
Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant			
Sunscreen			
CPR breathing barrier, such as a face shield			
First aid manual			

Non-Prescription and Prescription Medicine Kit Supplies

Supplies	Home (√)	Vehicle (√)	Work (√)
Aspirin and non-aspirin pain reliever			
Anti-diarrhea medication			
Antacid (for stomach upset)			
Laxative			
Vitamins			
Prescriptions			
Extra eyeglasses/contact lenses			

Sanitation and Hygiene Supplies

Item	(√)	Item	(√)
Washcloth and towel		Heavy-duty plastic garbage bags and ties for personal sanitation uses and toilet paper	
Towelettes, soap, hand sanitizer		Medium-sized plastic bucket with tight lid	
Tooth paste, toothbrushes		Disinfectant and household chlorine bleach	
Shampoo, comb, and brush		A small shovel for digging a latrine	
Deodorants, sunscreen		Toilet paper	
Razor, shaving cream			
Lip balm, insect repellent			
Contact lens solutions			
Mirror			
Feminine supplies			

Brig. Gen. Robert Windham retires after 39 years of military service

By 1st Sgt. Brent Anders
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

When Brig. Gen. Robert E. Windham, assistant adjutant general and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, relinquished his command Aug. 6 during a ceremony at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard in Topeka, he concluded a 39-year career in uniform.

During his final few weeks on duty, Windham reminisced about his time in service and on his replacement.

“Knowing my replacement, I feel really comfortable with General Mohatt [assistant division commander, 35th Infantry Division],” said Windham. “I think he is going to bring a lot of emphasis, energy and he is a very brilliant individual. He can zero-in on something very quickly.

“I am always entertained by the great ideas he has at a drop of a hat,” he continued. “I think he is truly the right person. He will sustain the things we have going and take this organization to the next level.”

While reflecting on his military career and what he would do differently, education was a central theme.

“It took me some growing up and several years to circle back around and realize the importance of formal education beyond high school,” said Windham. “Once I did that, it was very enlightening; it was life changing for me.

“I remember sitting in a class on economics getting goose bumps. It was like a curtain had been pulled back and my head had been split open and this knowledge was coming in. Now I have two master’s degrees and a number of certifications, but I got there late.



Brig. Gen. Robert E. Windham reflects on his nearly 40 years of military service as he is preparing to retire later this year. (Photo by Master Sgt. Brent Anders, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

“So, if I had to do it again, I would do that earlier rather than later in my career. One can make all sorts of excuses like, ‘When I had time I didn’t have money and when I had the money I didn’t have the time,’ but those are just excuses,” said Windham.

Physical fitness readiness is a necessity that Windham wanted to be sure all Soldiers remembered.

“I think the two, physical fitness and physical readiness, are irrevocably intertwined,” said Windham. “You can’t have one without the other. I’m not talking about how your unit APFT (Army Physical Fitness Training) score pass rate impacts your score for readiness. I’m talking about personal readiness.

“We are here to do one of two things: either assist with domestic civil support situations or to fight and win our nation’s wars. You have to be physically fit enough to get you and your gear on the scene. If you’re not fit, it will either kill you or you’ll injure yourself well before you ever get there. So the fitness thing makes a lot of sense in that regard, not even in what you have to do when you get there, but just getting yourself there in the first place.”

Windham sees a great future for the Kansas Army National Guard.

“The National Guard has a very bright future,” said Windham. “Leaders on all sides know that. So, there’s going to continue to be an improved relationship between the National Guard and the active Army, regardless of the budgetary challenges, regardless of the threats from other nations and terrorist organizations.”

Windham explained how he thinks the Kansas National Guard will stay relevant.

“The future is through what we are doing now and the adjutant general’s priority, which is our partnerships. If you look at what we are doing with the 1st Infantry Division and the potential to grow that relationship, it would be a tremendous benefit if such partnerships and collaborations could be expanded across all the states. There is a lot of common ground where we can collaborate and grow partnerships that will make us relevant and cost effective in the future.”

Windham will continue to work for the Army in his civilian position as the re-

gional director of Network Enterprise Centers at Fort Riley, Kansas.

“I’ll have to deal with the hardship of having every weekend off for the rest of my life,” he said.

Windham plans to use his extra time gardening, working on his cars and spending time with his family.

“I have three grandchildren, who know who I am, but they don’t know much about me, so I’ll fix that. For them it will probably be good and bad,” said Windham with a laugh. “I’ll still see folks around at events here and there.”

Thinking about the prospect of donning his uniform one final time, Windham recalled a comment his daughter once made.

“‘I like your costume,’ said my daughter at an early age. She was referring to my uniform,” said Windham. “To me it is a costume. This uniform has always just been a costume, because I’ve always worn my uniform on the inside. So, regardless of what’s on the outside, I’ll always wear this uniform on the inside.”

Windham concluded his reminiscing with a story from his past. He described being outside in 120-degree heat looking for someone at the Baghdad airport in Iraq when he saw a company of Soldiers sitting on the gravel with their rucksacks and gear.

“I said to a young buck sergeant ‘Are you guys coming or going?’

“He said ‘We’re going, we’ve been here for a year.’

“I said ‘I thought so, you look like you’re in pretty good spirits.’ I asked what his patch was and he said Forces Command and they were a military police company. I said ‘Great, good luck to you.’ He then asked me about my unit and I told him.

“Then he said--I know his real question was ‘How old are you,’ but he had really good manners--so he asked me, ‘Sir, if you don’t mind me asking, how many years have you been in?’

“I said ‘Well I think it’s getting close to about 30.’ To a young guy who isn’t even 30 it seems like a lot.

“He said ‘My goodness, that’s a long time.’ He said ‘Do you have any regrets?’

“I said ‘Wow that’s a great question,’ I said ‘Really the only thing that comes to mind, I do have one regret, I don’t have 30 more years to spend with great Americans like you, so that’s my regret.’

“That was how I felt then, that’s how I feel now. You just don’t find finer people than those people around here in the Kansas Army National Guard.”

Awards and Decorations

KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Meritorious Service Medal



- Lt. Col. Richard Fisher, HQ, 235th Rgt, Salina, with oak leaf cluster
- Chief Warrant Officer 4 Terrell Bonnett, HHD, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster
- Master Sgt. William Quaney, 997th BSB, Hays, with oak leaf cluster
- Master Sgt. Rickie Christie, HHC, 169th CSSB, Olathe
- Sgt. 1st Class David Istas, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
- Sgt. 1st Class Theodore Meyer, 287th SB, Wichita
- Sgt. 1st Class Charlie Williams, Jr., HHC, 169th CSSB, Olathe
- Staff Sgt. Steven Michealson, HHC, 287th SB, Wichita
- Staff Sgt. Keith Wilson, 2nd Bn, 235th Rgt, Salina

Army Commendation Medal



- Senior Master Sgt. Kristina Perkins, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka
- Staff Sgt. Brian McKinney, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Hutchinson, with two oak leaf clusters
- Sgt. Shawn Evans, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters

Kansas Medal of Excellence



- Brig. Gen. Robert Windham, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka

Kansas Achievement Ribbon



- Spc. Ethan Kelly, Co A, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lawrence

KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD Meritorious Service Medal



- Lt. Col. Tamra Buettgenbach, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Lt. Col. Jared Maag, JQHF KS-AC, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster

- Maj. Robert Sanders, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Chief Master Sgt. James Helms, 184th IW, Wichita, with two oak leaf cluster

- Master Sgt. John Bogart, 184th IW, Wichita
- Master Sgt. Crystal Falk, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Master Sgt. Deonna Jacobs, 184th IW, Wichita
- Master Sgt. Jeffrey Rick, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
- Master Sgt. Karen Riley, 184th IW, Wichita

Air Force Commendation Medal



- Maj. Jessica Dean, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster
- Maj. Douglas King, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Maj. Kimberly Peregrin, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Chief Master Sgt. Denise Montgomery, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
- Senior Master Sgt. Michael Chandler, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster
- Senior Master Sgt. Jessie Wolfe, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster
- Master Sgt. Stefan Kuhn, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Master Sgt. Thomas Lafountain, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Master Sgt. Christian Parmentier, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Master Sgt. Ron Rindt, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Tech. Sgt. Keith Eccles, 184th IW, Wichita
- Tech. Sgt. James Stevens, 184th IW, Wichita, with oak leaf cluster
- Staff Sgt. Stephanie Stratton, 190th ARW, Topeka

Air Force Achievement Medal



- Maj. Christian Pilgrim, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Capt. Dustin Harlin, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Capt. Lindsay Kovach, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Tech. Sgt. Camrey Gayer, 190th ARW, Topeka
- Tech. Sgt. Justin Nightingale, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster
- Staff Sgt. Andrew Jundt, 184th IW, Wichita
- Staff Sgt. Ceara Shaughnessy, 184th IW, Wichita
- Senior Airman Tess Brackemyer, 190th ARW, Topeka

- Staff Sgt. Erik Eagles, Co D, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Emporia
- Staff Sgt. Mark Holycross, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
- Staff Sgt. Christopher Johnston, Co B, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Wichita
- Staff Sgt. Edgardo Melo, Co A (-), 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth
- Staff Sgt. Michael Rectenwald, KSARNG Training Center
- Staff Sgt. Harold Wespe, Det 1, 995th Maint Co, Concordia
- Sgt. Julia Brock, 226th Eng Co (-), Augusta
- Sgt. Bethany Edwards, HHC, 891st Eng Bn, Iola
- Sgt. Edward Lewis, Det 2, 778th Trans Co, Salina
- Sgt. Thomas Monaghan, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
- Sgt. Michael Morgan, Det 2, 778th Trans Co, Salina
- Sgt. Michael Morrissey, 287th SB, Wichita
- Sgt. Jason Morton, 242nd Eng Co (Horz) (-), Coffeyville
- Sgt. Curtis Smith, 242nd Eng Co (Horz) (-), Coffeyville
- Sgt. Shannon Thys, 1161st FSC, Wichita
- Sgt. Cory Vonfeldt, 995th Maint Co (-), Smith Center
- Spc. Joseph Hasker, Det 1, HHC, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Junction City

Kansas Air National Guard

- Senior Master Sgt. Ron Gray, 190th ARW, Topeka

Retirements

Kansas Army National Guard

- Col. John Campbell, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
- Col. Russell Richardson, Co A (-), 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth
- Maj. Eduardo Rosa III, Det 1, Co B, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth
- Command Sgt. Maj. James Crosby, Rec & Ret Bn, Topeka
- 1st Sgt. John Stubbs, Co C, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Lenexa
- Master Sgt. Thomas Becher, MTC, Fort Leavenworth
- Master Sgt. Rickie Christie, HHC, 169th CSSB, Olathe
- Master Sgt. Charles Hughes, 778th Trans Co (-), Kansas City
- Master Sgt. Tony Parsons, 287th SB, Wichita
- Sgt. 1st Class Philip Clayton, Det 1, Kansas Rec & Ret Bn, Topeka
- Sgt. 1st Class Harold Longberg, 287th SB, Wichita
- Sgt. 1st Class Richard Mounts, 369th Signal Co, Kansas City
- Sgt. 1st Class Kurt Wassenberg, 130th FAB, Manhattan
- Sgt. 1st Class Calvin Wilson, 287th SB, Wichita

Civilian career

(Continued from Page 4)
permanently begin his career. After noticing a post about available positions at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri, Jurado applied and was hired almost immediately.

For Jurado, the Army National Guard has beneficial experience.

“My experience with the military has given me the training I need to excel in my field of work.,” said Jurado. “I enjoy what I do, and I believe that having ‘mili-

tary trained’ on my resumé played a large part in my hire. That is something that employers notice, something that employers seek out.

“I enjoy my drill weekends. During drill I am faced with new challenges, different equipment, and that makes me a better technician. Because of working drill weekends, I now can perform maintenance on an even larger variety of xray equipment.

“Drilling is not an issue,” said Jurado, “because I’m doing what I enjoy and I am becoming more efficient at what I do day-today in my career field.”

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635th Regional Support Group takes a walk through history



Command and staff with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 635th Regional Support Group, walk the trail at the historic Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield near Springfield, Missouri, Sept. 12. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

By Sgt. Zach Sheely
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Bleeding Kansas, 1855-1861.

Visitors are met by this historical marker at the entrance of the Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield Visitor Center near Springfield, Missouri.

Command and staff Soldiers with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 635th Regional Support Group, Kansas Army National Guard, walked the historic site Sept. 10 in a military tradition called a staff ride. Staff rides represent a unique and persuasive method of conveying the lessons of the past to the present-day Army leadership for current application.

“We chose this battlefield because of its close proximity to Topeka, Kansas, where we’re headquartered,” said Lt. Col. Dirk Christian, deputy commander of the 635th. “It’s also significant for the state of Kansas and Missouri as one of the first battles of the American Civil War.”

Wilson’s Creek was the site of the second major battle of the Civil War, a battle that included Kansas citizen Soldiers.

“Missouri (was) highly contested at that time, whether it was going to remain a

slave state,” said Christian. “Several Kansas volunteer regiments fought here, including First and Second Kansas. With this being the second major battle of the Civil War, it was truly a test for the volunteer regiments that were mustered.”

According to Christian, the volunteer regiments earned their keep.

“This battle really proved to both sides the mettle, the merit and the absolute worth of volunteer regiments for the remainder of the war,” said Christian. “There was a renewed faith that the citizen soldier and volunteer soldier, proving himself in battle, was absolutely worthy of being called a Soldier.”

The 635th RSG Soldiers toured the Visitor’s Center and then stopped at key locations along a tour road that loops through the battlefield. Christian said that a staff ride is also a great way to develop and build rapport and morale amongst Soldiers.

“I would encourage units to do this,” said Christian. “Taking the time after annual training to focus on professional development and getting out of the armories and readiness centers and getting away from home for a weekend and really studying our craft is very beneficial.”

Pokémon Go leads to security concerns on military installations

By Airman Alexandria Brun
184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

July 6 was a highly anticipated day for Pokémon enthusiasts across the country with the release of the game Pokémon Go. The new game uses a Smartphone GPS and camera to allow players to catch Pokémon in the surrounding area.

Although the game is loved by many, it is causing severe concern to military base security and cybersecurity professionals.

“As a kid, I was a super-fan. I had all of the Pokémon videos, cards, plush toys and a backpack,” said Airman 1st Class Orlando Saenz, services specialist, 184th Force Support Squadron. “There have been Pokémon games and play systems throughout the years, but now that technology has advanced, it has been very cool to feel like you are living the game in Pokémon Go.”

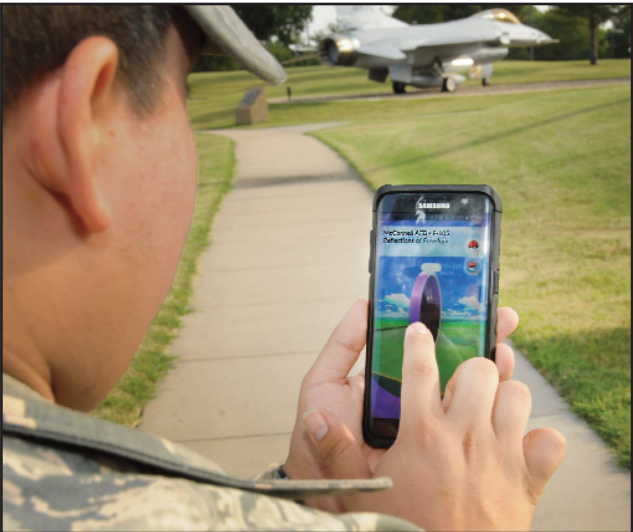
The purpose of Pokémon Go is to get gamers off the couch and out in the community through an interactive game.

“It is a good way to get out and explore your area because certain landmarks around you are part of the game,” said Saenz. “You can pull up your phone and see a Squirtle on your desk or Pikachu in your living room. It’s special because it is incorporated into everyday life.”

The widespread success of Pokémon Go has led to safety and security concerns for military installations, including McConnell Air Force Base.

“There have been a lot of incidents because some people are taking it too extreme,” said Saenz. “It’s definitely something that I would not pursue around base.”

“We know that there are known locations on the installa-



Airman 1st Class Orlando Saenz, services specialist, 184th Force Support Squadron, finds a Pokéstop in the airpark at McConnell Air Force Base July 27. (Photo by Airman Alexandria Brun, 184th IW Public Affairs)

tion,” said Senior Master Sgt. Stacie Smith, superintendent, 184th Security Forces Squadron. “It’s been reported that there have been groups of people gathering on multiple locations at McConnell to catch Pokémon.”

Potential for trespassing due to Pokémon hunting is a safety concern for McConnell Air Force Base and action has been taken to address the issue.

“The procedures are already in place to control access to the installation as well as restricted areas on base,” said

Smith. “If somebody breaks those rules, they could face trespassing charges and if they are a military member going into areas that they are not authorized to be in, or do not have the commanders approval, they could face disciplinary action.”

Along with trespassing, another area of concern is an increase in distracted driving.

“Electronic devices are prohibited while driving on the installation, so they would face the same consequences as if they were texting and driving or using a phone while operating a vehicle,” said Smith.

In addition to safety concerns, cybersecurity and privacy issues are arising.

“It’s reported that the privacy statement that you have to agree to, to download Pokémon Go, is 20 pages, and few will actually read it,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Scott Sackrider, cybersecurity officer, Joint Forces Headquarters, Kansas National Guard.

Behind the scenes, Pokémon Go, is gaining access to the private information of its users.

“When it was originally coded, if you were on an iPhone, the game allowed access to all of your Google Drive documents, your email, it could send an email as you, it could access photos that you store in Google Photos and more,” said Sackrider.

Sackrider stated that what can be used for good can also be used for evil, so he emphasizes using caution if you play it.

“Pokémon Go has captured the attention of everyone,” said Sackrider. “We are just waiting to see where to go from here.”

The Internet of Things

By Chief Warrant Officer 3 Scott Sackrider
Cybersecurity Officer

When the creators of the internet were determining addressing for the Internet Protocol (everything on the public internet has a unique IP address), they thought “Surely we wouldn’t need more than a couple million addresses.” So they developed a system back in 1981 of four numbers, each ranging from 0 to 255. Little did they know four billion addresses would be used up before the end of the 20th century.

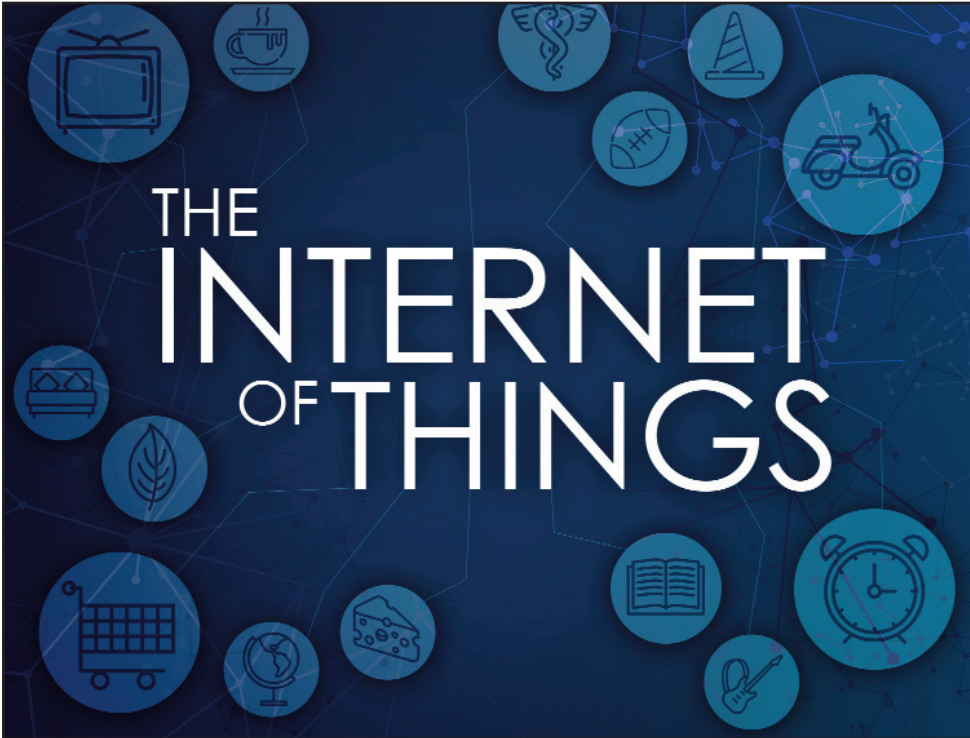
So they developed, but have yet to implement, IP version 6. The good news is this now allows for 340,282,366,920,938,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 addresses, so pretty much everything is able to have an IP addresses. Your toaster, hair dryer, even your cat is now able to have a unique presence on the internet. It is estimated that by 2020 there will be more than 20 billion devices on the internet.

This concept is called the Internet of Things. There are many movies, video games, and books which have futuristic societies under this concept. Seems none of them fare well. But that’s just to sell the idea to Hollywood. If we’re cognizant of the issues, we can lead safe lives behind the technology.

What we have to watch out for is who (or what) has access to our things. Many people – okay, most people – disregard the fine print when they sign up for a service. Even Pokémon Go originally had access to all data on your device, allowing the developers full knowledge of your activities and location. With these systems of systems, companies are able to show you advertising on your TV depending on the level of milk in your fridge. Your car is able to schedule a maintenance appointment based on driving habits and not mileage.

These concepts are nice, but some fear it can become a system of control rather than convenience. Imagine your health insurance being cancelled due to the eating habits reported by your kitchen. Or a hacker takes over your heating system and makes your bill go through the roof. It’s up to you to decide what information to share, but most people are willing to make that small sacrifice in privacy to reap a convenience, or more likely, a form of entertainment. What we don’t realize is that this small bits of information can be aggregated to paint a very detailed picture of our lives. And companies do share the information they glean.

Recommendations? If a system is con-



Pretty much everything is able to have an IP addresses. Your toaster, hair dryer, even your cat is now able to have a unique presence on the internet. (Graphic by Senior Airman Emily Amyotte, Visual Information)

trolling or reading data, ensure you have a way to disconnect it if possible in case of a cyber emergency. Keep an eye on your children’s application they install on computers and phones. And most of all, read the privacy and user agreements for any system that collects data. If it’s long or suspicious, then you have a choice. Do not allow peer pressure or a sense of entertainment cloud your judgment. Sometimes it’s better to be that person who’s not playing that new game or using the smart fridge.

Mentoring is a powerful tool

By Chief Warrant Officer 4
Michael Smith

Warrant Officer Candidate School is coming to a close after its 11th year at the 235th Regional Training Institute. I would like to thank training, advising and counseling officers Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Lockhart and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ronnie Fankhauser, as well as Chief Warrant Officer 4 Stephen Patterson, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Abra Cloyd and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Brent Campbell for their work as instructors during this course.



Chief Warrant Officer 4
Michael Smith

We are still looking for male and female warrant officers who have an interest in becoming a TAC officer. No one knows the Warrant Officer Cohort better than those of us who are in it, and being a TAC officer enables you to directly affect our growth, convey what you've learned and mentor future warrant officers.

Mentoring is a powerful tool for personal and professional development. Many organizations believe that mentoring improves individual performance, retention, morale, personal/professional development, and career progression. Mentoring offers many opportunities for mentors and those they mentor to improve their leadership, interpersonal, and technical skills as well as achieve personal and professional objectives.

A sound mentoring program will ensure that every warrant officer is provided the opportunity to receive the necessary tools for success throughout his/her career. Mentorship is a two-way street. The mentor must be willing to share knowledge, training, and experi-

Mentorship is a two-way street. The mentor must be willing to share knowledge, training, and experience ... In turn, the individual receiving the mentorship must trust and respect the mentor, while being open and receptive...

ence in a trusted, respected, and confidential atmosphere. In turn, the individual receiving the mentorship must trust and respect the mentor, while being open and receptive to the process. Caring is the core of mentorship.

We owe it to our warrant officer candidates and junior warrant officers to clarify their goals and help develop short- and long-term career strategies toward advancement. We must share our knowledge and instruct them in technical, leadership, and management skills.

I also encourage that all warrant officers to participate as members of appropriate military professional associations and organizations. This becomes another strong avenue to develop additional mentoring relationships. We should also provide personal and job counseling, where appropriate. Above all, senior warrant officers must be role models.

Inherent in the mentoring by all warrant officers is the responsibility to closely watch the enlisted Soldiers to seek out the potential warrant officers of the future. This not only includes monitoring duty performance, but ultimately encouraging them to apply for and assist in the nomination and selection process.

Again, thank you all for your support and service, and if at any time you need help or have a question please let me know.

Kansas National Guardsman contributes to inspirational book

By Sgt. Wayne Bowser
Joint Forces Headquarters

When the second book in the Living Your Best Life series was launched in April this year at a conference in Bloomington, Illinois, Sgt. 1st Class Lisa Martin was there, but not merely as a spectator. She was a contributing author.

The door to this opportunity opened when she was invited to the Les Brown Conference in late 2015. This gave her a chance to view and meet several renowned motivational speakers and possibly become a part of the National Black Belt Speaker Organization. While at the conference she was asked by one of the coordinators to submit her name as one of the potential authors for the Living Your Best Life books.

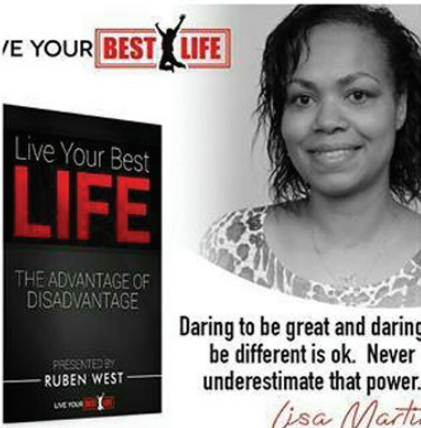
As the many submissions were trimmed down, she was interviewed over the phone and eventually selected as one of the 10 contributing authors. She and the other contributors started work on the project in December 2015 and had to be finished by February 2016.

"It kind of happened all of a sudden," said Martin, training and operations non-commissioned officer for Joint Forces Headquarters.

The challenge did not deter her, as she was able to satisfy the deadline.

The ability to contribute quality writings to a published inspirational book is not something that happens overnight.

"I've always been interested in public speaking," said Martin. "I have done quite a bit of it in my lifetime and I have been a



writer all my life."

Martin's chapters in the book center on her personal life and her family. Martin was adopted as a child and wrote about the search for her biological mother. She details how she found her, their face-to-face meeting, and how they were able to bond. She tells about her struggles with alpha thalassemia, a hereditary hemoglobin disorder she has dealt with her whole life, but was only diagnosed approximately 10 years ago.

Her writings define and explain important steps to overcome obstacles: Be your authentic self; walk by faith, not by sight; physical and spiritual self-care; gratitude; smiles and hugs; and how to become aware of you.

"The dreams of yesterday are today's goals and tomorrows successes," said Martin. "Just because you go through something tough doesn't mean you can't come out the other side."

Kansas City Chiefs close training camp with Military Appreciation Day



Specialists Mitchell Stepp (left) and Jonathan Yelton (right), cannon crewmen with the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, pose for a photo with Marcus Peters, Kansas City Chiefs cornerback, during Military Appreciation Day held Aug. 18 at Chiefs training camp at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, Missouri. Stepp and Yelton were among the 10 Kansas Guardsmen who attended the event. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office)

By Sgt. Zach Sheely
Public Affairs Office

"I'm still pretty hyped up."

Meeting some of his favorite Kansas City Chiefs players left Spc. Jonathan Yelton wide-eyed and star struck.

"I got to meet a ton (of players), more than I can even remember right now," said Yelton, a cannon crewman with the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard. "I got to meet Alex Smith. Got to meet (Dontari) Poe, Jamal Charles, Marcus Peters."

At the beginning of every football season, the Chiefs invite military service members to their training camp to watch practice, get autographs, snap photos and rub elbows with players and coaches.

This year, 10 Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers, representing the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment and 2-130 FA, had the opportunity to attend Military Appreciation Day, held Aug. 18 at the Chiefs training camp facility at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, Missouri.

At the conclusion of practice, Chiefs head coach Andy Reid invited the throng of service members onto the field for a meet and greet with players.

"I'm a die-hard Chiefs fan myself," said Spc. Mitchell Stepp, a cannon crewman with Battery B, 2-130 FA, "so being able to get face-to-face interaction with the players was awesome."

On the other side of the coin, Military Appreciation Day also gave Chiefs players a rare opportunity for face time with service members.

"It's easy to take for granted the freedoms that we have," said Jarrod Pughsley, Chiefs offensive lineman. "But actually putting names to faces and seeing people out there fighting for us is a great appreciation. A lot of people are thanking us for staying after practice, but really the honor is all on us. I

"It's easy to take for granted the freedoms that we have."

*Jarrod Pughsley
Chiefs offensive lineman*

appreciate what they do for us."

Defensive lineman Dontari Poe signed dozens of autographs, but said maybe it should be the other way around.

"For them to ask me for my autograph, I halfway want to ask for theirs," said Poe. "But it's appreciated, it's definitely appreciated."

Stepp said the feeling is mutual.

"This is a great experience for us, the fans, the players, for all of us to get together and see what we're working with, see what they're working with and get together and appreciate what we do for each other," he said.

The Kansas Guard Soldiers also had the chance to show off what they work with – specifically an M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tank from the 2-137 CAB and a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System launcher from the 2-130 FA – to Chiefs fans and their children.

"I'd hope they are the future generation of the military," said Staff Sgt. Jonathan Lofgren, readiness noncommissioned officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-137 CAB.

While there were approximately 150 service members representing all branches of the military in attendance, the Chiefs also invited veterans to partake in Military Appreciation Day.

"Once you're in uniform, you're kind of always in uniform and there's always that sacred bond, that fraternal lifestyle within the ranks," said Lofgren. "Prior service, whether its 10 years ago or 50 years ago, there's always something that we have in common."

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