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PLAINS GUARDIAN

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35th Infantry Division assumes authority for Task Force Spartan

By Staff Sgt. Jeremy Miller

Maj. Gen. Victor J. Braden, commanding general, 35th Infantry Division, assumed command of Task Force Spartan from Maj. Gen. Blake Ortner, commanding general, 29th Infantry Division, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, July 13. The transfer of authority ceremony was presided over by Lt. Gen. Michael Garrett, commanding general, U.S. Army Central.

TF Spartan’s mission in the Middle East is to support the United States’ global strategic plan, provide regional stability, security, and maintain a land-ready operational force, said Braden.

“It’s a challenge we accept,” said Braden. “We will build upon the success of the 29th and expand Gulf Cooperation

Council partnerships.”

Task Force Spartan is a multicomponent organization made up of active Army and National Guard units rounded out by U.S. Army Reserve support units.

“In this role, they will perform the critical task of mission command for Operation Spartan Shield, an operation ongoing since 2011,” said, Garrett, “Now in its sixth year, OSS is U.S. Central Command’s effort to deter regional aggression and malign influence in the region.”

Operation Spartan Shield is U.S. Central Command’s means to deter regional aggression and stabilize countries within the region. From Egypt to Pakistan, Kazakhstan to Yemen, the U.S. Central Command’s area of responsibility is



Maj. Gen. Victor J. Braden, commanding general, 35th Infantry Division, and Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Newton, senior enlisted advisor, uncasing the division’s colors during the Task Force Spartan transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, July 13. The 35th Infantry Division assumed command of TF Spartan from the 29th Infantry Division. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Hanson)

strategically important as well as volatile.

“We remain indebted to the National Guard Bureau, and the Director of the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve Command for all they have done to ensure we can continue this important mission here in the Central Command AOR,” Garrett said.

The two divisions also have a storied past with shared experiences since World War I. Both divisions fought in Europe during World War I and World War II, including 1918’s Meuse-Argonne Offensive and the battle for Saint-Lo in July 1944.

Now, the unit once known as “The Infantry Spearhead” of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton’s Third Army, the 35th ID is part of the Third Army again to assume the mission of Task Force Spartan.

The 35th “Santa Fe” Division deployed to Kuwait to accept the responsibility of Task Force Spartan and oversight of Operation Spartan Shield.

“The Santa Fe Division looks forward to building and maintaining a ready land force that supports our nation’s goals of regional stability and security,” said Braden. “We relish the challenge before us.”

35th Infantry Division

- Headquarters at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
- Commanding general is Maj. Gen. Victor Braden. Deputy commanders are Brig. Gen. John W. Rueger, Kansas, and Col. Jeffrey P. Van, Missouri.
- One of 18 U.S. Army divisions.
- Approximately 500 soldiers from headquarters element are involved in this deployment. This is the first time since 1944 the entire 35th Infantry Division Headquarters has been activated.
- Known as the Santa Fe Division. Shoulder patch is based on the Santa Fe cross used to mark the Santa Fe Trail.
- The division has a training alignment with 33rd Infantry Battalion; Illinois; 45th Infantry Brigade, Oklahoma; 48th Infantry Brigade, Georgia; 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Nebraska; 142nd Fires Brigade, Arkansas; 35th Aviation Brigade, Missouri; and 110th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Missouri.
- Organized in 1917 for deployment during World War I. Consisted of units from Kansas and Missouri. The division trained at Camp Doniphan and departed for France in 1918; involved in the Meuse-Argonne offensive in September–October.
- Elements of the 35th Infantry Division deployed in 2003, 2007, 2013 and 2014 to support higher commands in peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Kosovo.

Gillock takes command of 997th Brigade Support Battalion

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

Lt. Col. Erica Christie relinquished command of the Kansas National Guard’s

997th Brigade Support Battalion to Lt. Col. Molly Gillock during a change of command ceremony June 16 at the Kansas National Guard armory in Manhattan.



Lt. Col. Molly Gillock (left) accepts the command flag of the 997th Brigade Support Battalion from Col. Thomas Burke, commander of the 130th Field Artillery Brigade, during a change of command ceremony June 16 in Manhattan. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)

Christie had been commander of the battalion since it was activated in July 2016. Standing up the battalion was “a lot of hard work, a lot of extra weekends, which nobody complained about.”

Christie said leaving the battalion produced “mixed emotions at this point.”

“It’s always a blessing to take command and you have a lot more time when you’re not in command,” she said, “but there’s 584 of my favorite people that I just said good-bye to.”

Christie stepped down from her position to attend the U.S. Army War College in Carlyle, Pennsylvania, where she will study strategic studies. She will also transition to a job at Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas.

For her part, Gillock said she had big shoes to fill, but she was ready to get to work.

“I’m very, very excited to have the opportunity to be a battalion commander,” said Gillock. “I’m looking forward to working with the soldiers. I’ve been out here for the last two weeks... to shadow Colonel Christie and get her battle rhythm and work with Sergeant Major Posch.

“I’m going to pick up where she left off. We’ve got a lot of training challenges with a new battalion, a lot of work to do. We’re going to keep pushing on.”

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Kansas Soldiers, Missouri Airmen conduct joint exercise

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

The maximum allowable payload of the C-130 Hercules aircraft is approximately 42,000 pounds in a cargo hold that measures some nine feet high.

On June 6-7, those limits were tested as Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery loaded a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System into a C-130H at Rosecrans Memorial Airport in St. Joseph, Missouri. Airmen assigned to the 139th Airlift Wing of the Missouri Air National Guard then transported the HIMARS to Fort Riley, Kansas, where it was unloaded in a rapid-infiltration, simulated-fire exercise.

The joint exercise was a first for both units. “We’ve been told that these HIMARS are transportable in an aircraft since we fielded them in 2011,” said Army Staff Sgt. Aaron Cairo, section chief, Battery B, 2-130 FA. “I was skeptical because of the weight and size, but now we’ve done it.”

The HIMARS stands more than 10 feet tall at its highest elevation, and though it weighs approximately 32,000 pounds without rockets loaded, it’s considered a “light” multiple rocket launcher. Mounted on an Army Medium Tactical Vehicle frame, it can carry six rockets in a pod and is operated by a crew of three Soldiers. It was designed to be airlifted into hostile areas for swift fire support, with the rocket pod ready to fire within a matter of minutes after the aircraft lands.

Fitting it aboard the C-130H is an exercise in precision. The Soldiers had to reduce air pressure in all six of the HIMARS tires, to, in the words of Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Rhys Wilson, “stuff” it into the aircraft.

“This was two months of planning to bear fruition for about six minutes on the ground,” said Wilson, an aerial port superintendent with the 139th Aerial Port Squadron.

The rapid infiltration simulated fire exercise is a drill of expeditionary accuracy, and it is something that each component would expect to conduct in realistic operations. With the 1st Infantry Division coordinating the air space and landing zone, the exercise gave both the Army and Air Guard, and active-duty Army the chance to build on partnerships.

“The partnerships have been great,” said Cairo. “We’ve done a few things over the last year with the 1st ID and now this with the Missouri National Guard and their C-130s. Having to do this downrange in a deployment would have been a lot tougher without this practice today.”

“It’s extremely important for us to all work together,” said Wilson. “Every time we do joint training like this, people’s networks get larger. Everyone did well. The aircrew did a great job; the Army did a fantastic job preparing their weapon for flight.

“One force is more than just a slogan.”

Capt. Matthew Zahler, an air mobility liaison officer with the 621st Mobility Support Operations Squadron, stationed at Fort



A High Mobility Artillery Rocket System from the Kansas National Guard’s 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, is unloaded from a C-130 Hercules flown by the 139th Airlift Wing out of St. Joseph, Missouri. The HIMARS was loaded and unloaded from the plane as part of a joint exercise conducted at Fort Riley, Kansas, June 7. (Photo by Sgt. Zachary Sheely, Public Affairs Office)

Riley, said that it’s more than just getting face time with other service members.

“This is the responsibility we have as air mobility liaison officers,” said Zahler, “being able to translate the training objectives that the Army has into Air Force objectives where each side can benefit.”

Cairo noted the experience and skill of the aircrew and HIMARS crew members and said that everyone who participated benefited from the experience.

“This is a confidence builder, getting to do it,” Cairo said. “Now we know it will work going forward.”

Kansas National Guard supports military appreciation event



Medal of Honor recipient retired Col. Don Ballard, a former Kansas National Guardsman, prepares to toss the coin before the start of the game between Sporting KC and Atlanta United FC during the “Sporting Salutes” military appreciation event Aug. 6. (Photo by Katie Horner, Public Affairs Office)



Surrounded by members of the U.S. military branches from the Kansas City area, Kansas City, Missouri, Mayor Sly James leads the crowd in a cheer during the Sporting KC “Sporting Salutes” military appreciation event Aug. 6. (Photo by Katie Horner, Public Affairs Office)

**By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office**

The Sporting KC soccer team hosted “Sporting Salutes,” a military appreciation night, Aug. 6, at Children’s Mercy Park in Kansas City, Kansas, to express thanks and support for all past and present U.S. service members.

More than 14,000 people turned out for the event, including approximately 500 military members, Gold Star families, veterans and retirees. Special guests included Medal of Honor recipient retired Col. Don Ballard; Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the Kansas adjutant general and dignitaries

from other military service branches.

In keeping with the event’s military theme, the 35th Infantry Division Band played in concert on the plaza prior to the start of the game and the Kansas National Guard had several soldiers on hand to visit with the public and display a variety of military equipment. Four A-10 Thunderbolt fighter jets from Whitman Air Force Base, Missouri, performed a flyover prior to the game and Gold Star families from Kansas and Missouri were recognized at special ceremony prior to the game.

“The center point of the event was to

(Continued on Page 10)

Warrant Officers must understand key Army National Guard tasks

**By Chief Warrant Officer 5 Michael Smith
Command Chief Warrant Officer**

I’m deviating from the Warrant Officer centric discussion this month to explain the key tasks to make the Warrant Officer Cohort and the Kansas Army National Guard stronger.

Sustained Readiness

Readiness is our #1 priority. We must be ready to fight and support what happens today and we will always prepare to fight and support tomorrow. There will be an emphasis on collective training and generating ready forces to enhance the mastery of skills that support combined arms maneuver and wide area security. To do this, units must reinvigorate the basic fundamentals of warfighting, focusing on decisive action, basic Soldier field craft, and continuous assessment of unit training plans that enable unit collective training readiness.

Soldier Care

Every day we must keep foremost in our minds our Soldiers, civilians, employers and their families. We must treat others better than you want to be treated.



**Chief Warrant Officer 5
Michael Smith**

Our strength depends on developing ourselves in our units through challenging training and leadership opportunities and repetitions allowing for the growth of unit readiness and unit end-strength.

Things to focus on:

- 1) Annual evaluations -- technical appraisals, Officer Evaluation Reports, Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Reports and career/performance counseling
- 2) Recognition -- Recognize others that are doing an outstanding job
- 3) Predictability -- Avoid surprises
- 4) Benefits -- Make sure your Soldiers understand them
- 5) Chaplain visits
- 6) Employer Support -- Recognition
- 7) Family Readiness -- Events, holiday gatherings, etc.
- 8) Timely promotions for Soldiers

Shared Understanding

Inform and influence audiences, inside and outside the Kansas Army National Guard. Shared understanding allows for mission command and for synchronization of efforts toward the end state. Our Soldiers must always understand the intent of the mission and what is expected of them. There is never too much counseling, whether it’s formal or informal.

Strengthening Partnerships

Develop teams within the U.S. armed forces and in the communities we support.

(Continued on Page 11)

Devastation of Hurricane Harvey affected us all

By Maj. Gen Lee Tafanelli
The Adjutant General

Hurricane Harvey is another tragedy that has galvanized the entire nation into action. First, we saw the utter devastation such a disaster wreaks on people – lives lost, homes and businesses destroyed, an entire city’s infrastructure severely damaged in ways it will take months, if not years, to fully restore.

It is hard to fully envision the magnitude of the destruction. Hurricane Harvey did not affect just one town, or even two. There were miles and miles of destruction all along the Texas and Louisiana coastline, extending well inland.

In the great city of Houston, there was hardly a street that did not experience flooding to some degree. You could hardly open a newspaper or look at a television screen without seeing image after image of water that reached to the rooftops in many suburban neighborhoods. We saw patches of metal that seemed to float along the surface of the floodwaters and we suddenly realized they were the roofs of cars. Even where the water was not as deep, we saw homes where the floods poured through doors and windows, destroying household contents and treasured family heirlooms.

And then there were the faces. Faces that showed fear, shock, and disbelief that such a thing could be happening to them, to their friends, to their city. Other faces were weary from long hours of the struggle just to survive.

And then those faces began to smile, to cry with joy as the hope of rescue came into sight. Whenever something like this happens, wherever it may be, that’s when emergency responders go to work. Police, search and rescue squads, emergency medical workers, and, of course, the National Guard immediately went into action to serve the people they have sworn to protect. They were joined by hundreds of ordinary citizens who turned out with boats of all sizes to look for victims stranded by swift floodwaters that turned streets into rivers.

Help came from all over the country and even from other nations, all ready to do whatever they could to save lives and ease the suffering of Harvey’s devastation.

Kansas is the lead state this year for the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, a multistate agreement that expedites emergency assistance between states when disasters occur and local resources are exhausted. The staff in the Kansas Division of Emergency Management have done outstanding work in coordinating personnel and equipment to send to Texas and Louisiana. It is a job that is still ongoing and will probably continue for some time.

Kansas sent a number of swiftwater/

flood rescue teams to join in the emergency response operations. These teams were from the Kansas Fire Marshal’s Office, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, Derby Fire Department, Chanute Fire Department, Hutchinson Fire Department, South Hutchinson Police Department, Manhattan Fire Department, Mission Township Fire Department, Neodesha Fire Department, Newton Fire Department/EMS, Parsons Fire Department, Pittsburg Fire Department, Salina Fire Department, Saline County Sheriff’s Office, Sedgwick County Fire Department, Shawnee Fire Department, and Winfield Fire Department. Their objectives was to search for and rescue individuals, provide basic life support medical care, transport humans and animals to the nearest location for secondary air or land transport, provide shore-based and boat-based water rescue, provide animal rescues, and support helicopter and urban search and rescue in water environments.

We also have Kansas National Guardsmen and equipment on standby, ready to mobilize if requested. These are the type of missions we train for and there is never a shortage of Kansas Guardsmen ready to volunteer.

In addition to the trained emergency response personnel, we have seen an outpouring of support from everyday citizens. However, as much as it is human nature to want to rush to the aid of our fellow man, that aid must be given in a way that truly helps and does not hinder rescue and recovery efforts.

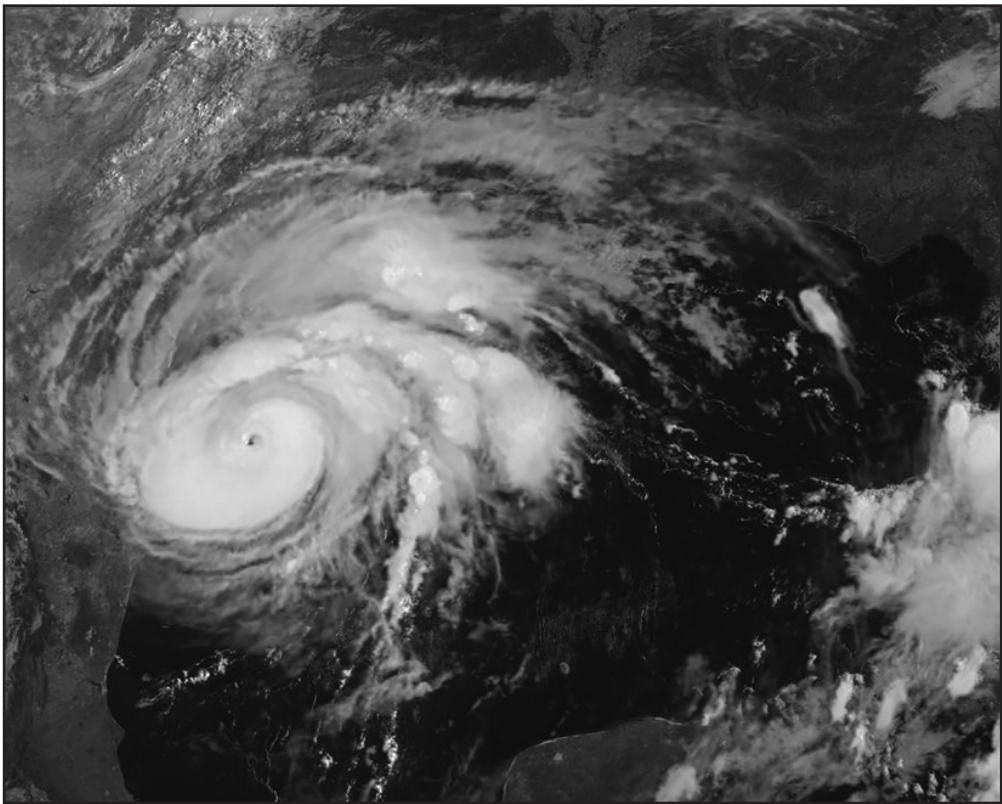
While sending truckloads of food, clothing and other such items displays the good intentions of the heart, it often only causes more problems. Such items need to be sorted, packaged and stored, which requires manpower that could be put to better use. There also has to be a place to store the goods until they can be distributed; sometimes there is nowhere to do that. Looking at the pictures from Texas and Louisiana, you can easily see why that may be the case.

Perishable foods present their own special time-sensitive problems and even non-perishable foods still have to be sorted, packaged and stored. Often, there is a glut of some items and not enough of others. We have seen instances where tons of donated items had to be discarded because they could not be used.

The best way to help the people of Texas and Louisiana is to donate money to reputable civic, service and faith-based organizations experienced in disaster response and recovery operations. Donating money allows these groups to buy exactly what is needed, when it is needed.

Too often, well-meaning people self-deploy to a disaster area, which often does more harm than good. Food, water and other resources are already scarce in those areas and those self-deployed volunteers take resources from others who need it.

Search and rescue is dangerous work. I have heard tragic stories of people who



have lost their own lives in the effort to save others. It is better to allow those who are trained for such work to conduct those rescue operations. They do not need to be rescuing volunteers in addition to those who are truly storm victims.

If you really feel the desire to volunteer your time and skills to help the people of Texas and Louisiana, I urge you to register with one of those agencies mentioned above, letting them know you are available and what skills you have. If there is a need for your assistance, you will be contacted.

And remember, while there are very real and very immediate needs in Texas and Louisiana, recovery is going to be a long, slow process. If you can’t give money or volunteer now, there will be plenty of opportunities to serve later.

In the meantime, I urge all Kansans to take a look at their own emergency preparations. Do you have an emergency kit in your home and in your car? Do you have an emergency plan? Have you practiced it? When severe weather is imminent, do you listen to your weather radio or local news station and heed the warnings?

Every year, September is designated as Kansas Preparedness Month. That makes it the perfect time to make a kit and a plan if you don’t already have one. Whatever you can do now to safeguard the lives and safety of you own family will make it easier for our dedicated emergency response workers should the unthinkable every happen in your own community.

Stay safe and remember the people of Texas and Louisiana.

Warrior to Warrior Enlisted Force Advisory Council works to address Airmen concerns

By State Command Chief Master Sgt. William Stacey
State Command Chief - Air

The Air National Guard Enlisted Force Advisory Council is broken up into seven regions which represent more than 91,000 enlisted members of the ANG. The sole purpose of EFAC is to identify and fix issues that impact all Airmen at the national level.

The state of Kansas is in Region Five, which includes Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana; representing 12,312 enlisted Airmen. The EFAC council is made up of 17 current command chiefs on a two-year tour that fill the council roles of president, vice president, secretary and a primary and alternate representative from each region. The council works directly with the Air National Guard Command Chief’s office, identifying and resolving issues that affect the entire enlisted force. The council has recently joined with the equivalent Army National Guard council to work related issues that affect both Airmen and Soldiers across the entire National Guard.

What are some of the top current issues affecting Airmen in the ANG?

- Post 9-11 GI Bill four-year retainability
- Standardized promotion boards for ANG Airmen

- Title 10 to title 32 transition barriers
- Title 10 to title 32 orders
- ANG mobilization requirements
- Tricare Reserve Select for temporary technicians, and
- 30-day myPers timeout with EPRs.

How does this process work? Airmen in the field will identify an issue and fill out a form 802, stating the concern/issue that affects Airmen at the national level. The form will be submitted to your wing command chief, followed by the regional primary representative. During the quarterly meetings, the council will address the proposed issue to identify if it is a local or national level issue.

Once the decision has been made to take on the task, it will be assigned to a region. The region will then figure out if the issue is policy, procedural or legislative and engage as required. Some issues may be resolved quickly, while others make take some serious time. Issues which require a change in the law may take up to a year or longer to resolve.

As your state command chief, I am currently the alternate representative for Region Five. I encourage all of you to highlight any issues that are affecting readiness and well-being. Any Airman at any level can submit a form 802 if you feel there is an issue with any program or procedure that has a negative impact at a national level.

If you have an issue, identify it, do your homework on said subject and then forward it to your wing command chief. If we don’t know it’s broken, we can’t fix it. Thank you all for what you do every day! Be sure to take care of yourself, your family and your wingman!



State Command Chief Master Sgt. William Stacey

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>

Black Hawks up

Kansas National Guard choppers wow area residents during flights

By Dale Hogg
By permission of the Great Bend Tribune

Community leaders from several central Kansas communities got a bird’s-eye view of Barton County during a June 21 orientation flight sponsored by the Kansas National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion.

With a loud roar and “thumpa, thumpa, thumpa,” two olive green Black Hawk helicopters from Company B, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation, lifted off from a Barton Community College parking lot with elected officials, educators, media and other professionals on board. In all, 37 passengers from central Kansas took turns taking 20-minute flights.

“Wow, that was pretty wild,” said Rob Bauer as he hopped out of the helicopter after his ride. “That was cool.”

The UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter is the aerial workhorse of the Kansas Army Na-

tional Guard. It is a four-bladed, twin-engine, medium-lift utility helicopter used for soldier and equipment transport, medical evacuation, support for ground troops, and other missions.

It holds 11 passengers and a four-person crew. The choppers in use were two-year-old versions of the Black Hawks, which were first introduced in 1994.

The two Black Hawks were dubbed “Chalk 1” and “Chalk 2.” Before the flights, the pilots gave passengers a brief rundown of the aircraft, safety procedures and what to do in the event of an emergency.

Then, with the blades loudly whirling overhead, the passengers climbed aboard and buckled themselves into the harnesses. With the cargo doors wide open and a rush of wind, the birds left the ground, revealing a miniature world below.

They passed over the patchwork quilt of gold and green fields dotted with farms,



Maj. Chuck Leivan, Education Services officer for the Kansas National Guard, tells orientation flight participants about the many programs and benefits of joining the Kansas National Guard. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office)

and criss-crossed by roads and highways. The snake-like Arkansas River cut across the landscape and Cheyenne Bottoms looked like a shimmering medallion.

In addition to the Black Hawks, the Guard had demonstrations of various military weapons and vehicles.

This marked the fifth orientation flight the KANG has done this year. There have been stops in Garden City, Hays, Pittsburg

and Salina, and there are plans to visit Topeka and Wichita.

The goal of the flights was to educate the public on what the Guard does and what it offers, said Guard Public Affairs Officer Katie Horner during a pre-flight briefing in the BCC student union. “This is a chance for us to share our story and it is a chance for you to share our story.”

(Continued on Page 9)



Sgt. Tony Dickey, a UH-60 Black Hawk crew chief, gives a safety briefing to participants of the Great Bend orientation flight June 21. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office)

Big benefits from using GTCC

By Tech. Sgt. Maria Ruiz
184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

Airmen hear it every time they travel: “Use your GTCC for everything and pay it off right when you get back.” But why? How does using the Government Travel Charge Card benefit Airmen and the 184th Intelligence Wing?

The answer is a Department of Defense rebate program from the GTCC. The more the card is used to make legal purchases, the more of a rebate the base receives to spend on different programs and projects focusing on morale, welfare, quality of life, and equipment that couldn’t be covered from the standard budget.

“I am excited about the extra resource that can be used for quality of life items for the wing,” said Col. David Weishaar, commander, 184th IW. “We don’t get this money without the work of the finance personnel and our Airmen’s timely payments.”

Unless otherwise exempt, all DoD military or civilian personnel who travel as part of their duties may obtain and use a GTCC. The GTCC program provides card carriers a safe and commercially available method to pay for expenses associated with official travel without using their own personal funds. Examples include, purchases for airline tickets, hotels, rental cars, food, and taxis.

Two types of rebates, sales and productivity, are available from the travel card vendor. Sales rebates are based on charge volume and productivity rebates are based on payment timeliness.

“All the rebate money comes back to our wing and is allocated to different groups to take care of our Airmen,” said Chief Master Sgt. Kelly Fugate, wing agency pro-

gram coordinator, 184th IW, and superintendent, 184th Comptroller Flight. Fugate manages and tracks the wing’s overall GTCC program.

Rebates are received at the end of every fiscal quarter if the wing’s delinquencies are under a two percent margin of total dollars spent using the GTCC. If delinquencies exceed the two percent margin, no rebate will be awarded for that quarter. The wing earned rebates during three out the four quarters for the 2016 fiscal year, receiving a total of \$37,255. The first quarter of the 2017 fiscal year has earned \$12,300.

The GTCC program rebates are briefed during senior staff meetings where group and squadron commanders can request funds through the commander of the 184th Comptroller Flight. The 2016 rebates have been used to upgrade the 184th Medical Group breakroom, updating the 184th Public Affairs equipment, and the 184th Civil Engineer Squadron installing water bottle filling stations wing wide.

“In addition to expanding the breakroom, we are purchasing equipment including a commercial sized fridge and freezer to replace the two household sized refrigerators, two coffee makers, two microwaves, a toaster oven, and tables and chairs for our members to store, prepare and enjoy their lunches in one area,” said Master Sgt. Melinda Kellogg, noncommissioned officer in charge of Bioenvironmental Engineering, 184th MDG. “Personnel are responding with excitement and enthusiasm to have a more functional breakroom space.”

“If we want to continue using these benefits then we need to continue paying our bills on time,” said Weishaar.

Sept. 30 is deadline to apply for \$500 scholarships

Applications will be accepted until Sept. 30 for four \$500 education scholarships to be awarded by the 635th Armor Regiment and 137th Infantry Regiment Scholarship fund. The purpose of the fund is to provide scholarship grants to assist direct descendants, legally adopted children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of those who served honorably to attend accredited schools of higher learning.

Eligibility for scholarships is linked to honorable service of parents and/or grandparents in the following past and present military organizations:

- 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Battalions, 137th Infantry Regiment.
- 1st or 2nd Battalions, 635th Armor Regiment.
- 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment.
- 635th Tank Destroyer Battalion (World War II).

The primary criteria upon which grants will be decided include scholastics, aptitude and involvement in the many forms of

extracurricular activities in and out of school, participation in civic and community services, career intentions with a special emphasis on service to state and nation, and financial need.

The Scholarship Committee, in conjunction with the Topeka Community Foundation, manages the 137th/635th Regiment Scholarship Fund. If you are interested in donating to this scholarship, you may contribute via the web site, www.topekacomunityfoundation.org or mail to Topeka Community Foundation, ATTN: 635th/137th Scholarship, 5431 SW 29th Street, Suite 300, Topeka, KS 66614-4486. Contributions are income tax deductible and easy to accomplish. 100% of the administration fees are paid by investment return or covered by a board member, so your entire contribution goes to the scholarship.

Contact retired Col. Robert Bloomquist at bbloom843@aol.com or 785-234-2688 for the application form or questions about eligibility.

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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).

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Kansas Guardsmen, British soldiers train with Armenian firefighters

By Sgt. Zach Sheely
Public Affairs Office

“This has been the best experience of my life,” said Staff Sgt. Clinton Mumbower, the medical readiness noncommissioned officer with the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery.

Mumbower was part of a joint multinational team of medical and hazardous materials experts from the Kansas National Guard and British Army who participated in a training exchange with firefighters in the Shirak Province of the Republic of Armenia July 18-28.

The training team consisted of 12 Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers and six Royal Army Medical Corps soldiers with 6th Battalion, The Rifles. Together, they trained approximately 200 Armenian firefighters at six Ministry of Emergency Situations fire rescue stations across Northwestern Armenia.

“The Ministry of Emergency Situations is working to increase the firefighters’ ability to provide medical care and to protect themselves and others from chemical weapons and industrial chemical hazards that may occur in everyday life,” said Capt. Jason Davee, a physician assistant with the 73rd Civil Support Team, KSARNG.

The training teams led instruction on first-response care and the steps to assess and triage a casualty. The course also included basic chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threat awareness, recognition and response information.

“These fire personnel are already very knowledgeable,” said Cpl. Michael Ward, a combat medic with the 1077th Ground Ambulance Company, KSARNG. “They already have a pretty good basic life-saving

change of experience with the Shirak Rescue Service in the 14-year partnership. While the Kansas and British soldiers were there to teach, the education was mutual.

“I’ve learned so many things,” said Cpl. Nigel “Scotty” Scott, a combat medical technician with 6 Rifles. “One example is, I have seen these guys make things happen with limited resources. They’re great at improvisation.”

“My experience has been fantastic. I’d come back in a heartbeat.”

Cpl. Michael Ward
Kansas National Guard

When combining multiple languages and cultures, communication would be impossible without translators. A team of six Armenian interpreters provided this vital link in communication.

“The interpreters have been phenomenal,” said Davee. “Not only are they well versed in the language itself, they also studied before we even got here. So even a lot of the acronyms that we’re using and medical terms, scientific terms, they’ve taken the time to study.”

Armenian interpreter Sophie Simonyan said that, in Armenia, it is common to speak multiple languages, and English courses start at the primary school level.

“Being a very small country, we have the need to learn many languages,” said Simonyan. “Learning English and speaking it well is the first step to communicating with anyone in the world.”



Armenian firefighters practice CPR techniques under the watchful eye of two Kansas National Guardsmen. Twelve Guardsmen and six soldiers of the British Army’s Royal Army Medical Corps, 6th Battalion, The Rifles, were in Armenia July 18-28 under a training exchange arranged through the National Guard Bureau’s Partnership for Peace program. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office)

between the (three) countries,” said Pike. “Wherever we’ve gone, we’ve done that.”

While this was this first event of its kind, many participants noted the good relationships forged with their Armenian counterparts.

“I think we’ve built some strong bonds,” said Ward. “Anyone I’ve talked to has said ‘You can come stay at my house.’ That is a bond. That’s about as good as you can get.

“My experience has been fantastic. I’d come back in a heartbeat.”

National Guard Bureau and TACOM come to Kansas

By Staff Sgt. Mark Nussbaumer
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Representatives from the National Guard Bureau and the U.S. Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command paid a site visit Feb. 14 to the Advanced Turbine Engine Army Maintenance facility at Marshall Army Air Field, Fort Riley, Kansas. Other representatives included Brian Ferber from Honeywell and members of the Kansas Army National Guard.

The visit was part of a team that looked at the facility and the operations aspect of maintaining the AGT 1500 engine, X-1100 transmission and Full-Up Power Packs, and concluded with a tour of the facility with special attention paid to the AGT 1500 dynamometer. The dyno, as it is called, runs an AGT 1500 engine as it would be run in an actual M-1 Abrams Battle Tank. This puts the engine through the same extremes a tank could potentially face in combat to test their durability.

The ATEAM is part of the Kansas National Guard federal technician system and

employs more than 60 people. The facility officially began operations in February 1999 and produced its 1000th engine May 13, 2013.

Many of the products produced are part of the Foreign Military Sales program, although there are many that are shipped to customers inside the United States. The FMS program allows the allies of the United States to trade certain products with the United States. The ATEAM’s primary FMS program customer is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The ATEAM also provides onsite annual training support for all states. This support allows the states to keep training even during a catastrophic failure. The company performs various forms of support which can include sending an inspector and possibly a mechanic to their location to replace or repair almost any part of the engine that can cause a tank to be shut down or allowing the units to come the ATEAM facility to utilize their equipment. This allows the units to maintain an extremely high level of productivity and to minimize downtime.



Cpl. Michael Ward (center), a combat medic with the Kansas National Guard’s 1077th Ground Ambulance Company, explains a medical technique to a group of Armenian firefighters with the aid of a British soldier and an interpreter. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office)

knowledge base. We just sort of tweaked that and updated it, gave them some new tools that they can use.”

The Kansas Guard and British soldiers presented the training curriculum in small, joint teams to a rotating shift of firefighters at fire rescue stations in the towns of Akuryan, Amasia, Artik, Ashotsk, Gyumri, and Maralik Armenia.

1st Sgt. Sarah Sell, the noncommissioned officer in charge, said she was pleased with the rapid cohesion formed by the American and United Kingdom soldiers, and the training they delivered.

“This team gelled quickly and worked well together,” said Sell, who serves as the first sergeant of the 190th Air Refueling Wing Security Forces Squadron in Topeka. “That’s a testament to the professionalism and level of expertise of these soldiers.”

The Kansas National Guard and the Republic of Armenia are partners in the National Guard Bureau’s State Partnership Program and this circumstance management event was the first direct peer ex-

In addition to translating the language, the interpreters also served as liaisons to help cultural assimilation on all sides.

“Through our fantastic interpreter, we could joke back and forth, and once we established that we both have the same sense of humor, they accepted me, and we moved right along as a family,” said Spc. Matt Chastain, a combat medic with the 1077th.

For many of the Kansas and British soldiers, it was their first trip to the Republic of Armenia.

“I’ve never been out of the (U.S.) before,” said Pfc. Audrey Wilson, a combat medic with the 1077th. “I’ve also never been in a teaching position before, so that’s some excellent experience for me that I can take back to my unit and be better at communicating there as well.”

Multinational partnerships are strengthened at the ground level between peers, and 6 Rifles Cpl. Jessica Pike said that this mission was about more than improving health care and medical readiness.

“It’s been about building a relationship



Sgt. Maj. Mark Haselhorst (left), a surface maintenance mechanic supervisor, and Master Sgt. Alberto Allamby (center), surface maintenance mechanic inspector supervisor, explain a problem to Master Sgt. Eric Jaeger, National Guard Bureau Maintenance Branch Noncommissioned Officer. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Nussbaumer, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

891st Engineer Battalion conducts field training in Coffeyville

By Steve McBride
Community Editor, Coffeyville Journal
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Under a bright sun with high winds, the 891st Engineer Battalion, Kansas Army National Guard, conducted field training exercises near the Army National Guard armory in Coffeyville April 7-8.

Sgt. 1st Class Frank Hull, operations noncommissioned officer, 242nd Engineer Company, set forth the plan for the day.

“We will implement a lot of team-building exercises. They will go through different scenario-based obstacles such as the movement to contact which teams will carry paintball guns and move through an area where the ‘bad guys’ will attack the group,” Hull said. “When a member of the group is shot they will keep moving through that area to a point they will evaluate the casualties and perform medical attention by bandaging arms, legs, or whatever requires medical attention from a wound.

“If a Soldier needs more immediate medical attention we will have an area where the casualty can be evacuated by helicopter or ambulance to move them out of the area. That’s one series of lanes the Soldiers will be training on.”

For two days these Soldiers - 11 teams - worked on every aspect of team building. They participated in exercises, such as nuclear biological chemical.

“This is where they have to put on the protective mask and protective suits and it is a timed exercise,” said Hull. “This can be very competitive on an individual basis yet it is a team building exercise where each team member helps each other succeed. This is important especially on the battle field.”

Hull said teams will go through a series of lanes, com-

peting against time and other teams.

“One lane will be the push up/sit up event,” said Hull. “There is a grenade throw, where Soldiers learn to practice placing their grenades on the target. Another lane will be a leadership course that teaches them to move from one area to another without touching the ground. They will do this on a piece of plywood and PVC pipe. This course will make them think about working together to develop ideas to accomplish their mission and working together to achieve their goal.”

Other exercises included the dismantling of an M-16 rifle and reassembling it in approximately one minute. Teams will compete on time with the M-16 exercise. Going hand over hand, each team competed for best time crossing a rope bridge set up across a creek.

“These are some of the exercises these Soldiers have to participate in,” Hull explained. “A lot of this training is about making these Soldiers think about how to overcome obstacles and build as a team. It’s not about being your own person. It’s about a group effort.”

As the exercises were beginning, they had just returned from a 12-mile march. Each member was carrying their weapons and full duffel bag, called a ruck. They marched out six miles and returned another six miles, Hull said.

When the teams left for the field training exercises, each team had a pack radio that, when they get to a location, they used to call into the command post, where it was logged in by the command staff, which allowed the command support staff to practice their skills. These field training exercises give every Soldier in the field the proper training to react at a moment’s notice in case the time comes they are needed in any conflict situation.

Maj. Gen. Lee Tafarielli, adjutant general for the state of



A team of Soldiers from the 891st Engineer Battalion use their problem-solving skills to move their plywood platform over the ground. (Photo by Steve McBride, Coffeyville Journal)

Kansas, briefed the tour group on the 891st Engineer Battalion’s capabilities.

“I am commander of the Kansas National Guard Army and Air Force and the director of (the Kansas Division of) Emergency Management and director of (Kansas) Homeland Security,” Tafarielli explained. “What we are attempting to do at this event, and what our Army units do across the state, is they prepare for one of their two missions, and that could be either a federal mission to prepare for deployment or preparing for the state support that we do for the citizens in Kansas. This could be working with floods or other incidents that call upon our training. What we try to do is grow Army units that can do these two types of missions.”

Tafarielli said that part of the Army National Guard’s mission is recruiting and trying to grow the numbers of their formations.

“If you have any ideas on how to do that, please talk to us,” said Tafarielli.

Tafarielli also addressed the building of relationships through partnerships.

“We are asking our command teams to go out and work with the community and create those partnerships not just for recruiting but for building awareness for what the Guard can do to help the community,” he said.

As the tour came to a close, Hull said the city of Coffeyville approached the 891st Engineer Battalion and offered them all of the land on the other side of the National Guard armory property, approximately 200 acres that included tree lines, creek and a lot of land. The land allowed the battalion to expand its training exercises to reflect real-world scenarios.

“We want to thank the city of Coffeyville and the Coffeyville Community College for allowing us to train on this land and for the support everyone in the community has shown us,” said Hull. “It’s been a great partnership.”



A Soldier of the 891st Engineer Battalion traverses a stream during field training exercise conducted in April at Fort Riley. (Photo by Steve McBride, Coffeyville Journal)

Paola American Legion riders visit 190th Air Refueling Wing

By Senior Airman Emily Amyotte
190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The American Legion Riders, Chapter 156 from Paola visited the 190th Air Refueling Wing on June 25 to show their support for Airmen and the refueling mission.

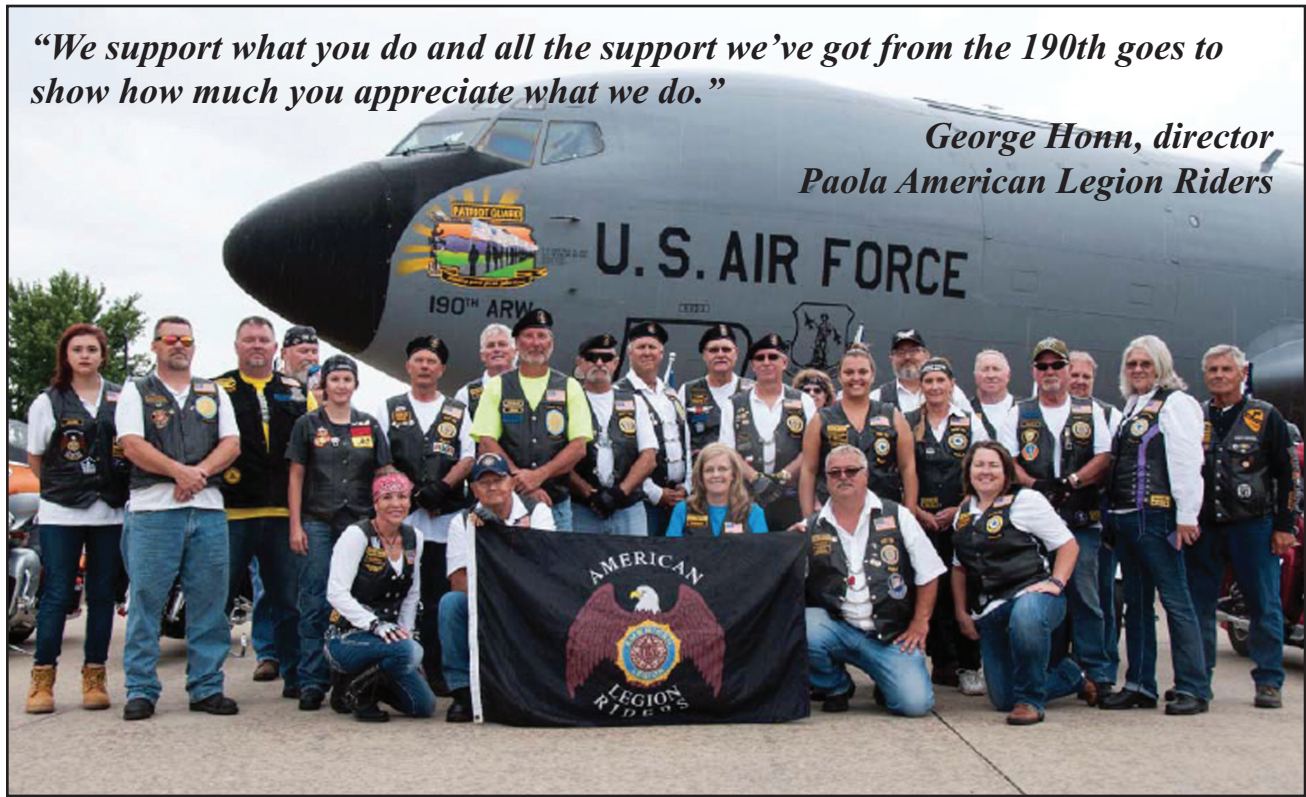
The American Legion Riders are a national motorcycle club split into regional sectors that provide support for veterans and their families. The Paola chapter is one of the most active in Kansas and often rides in gratitude for military funerals as well as numerous parades, Veteran’s Day and Memorial Day programs.

“We support what you do,” said George Honn, Paola American Legion Riders director. “And all the support we’ve got from the 190th goes to show how much you appreciate what we do. Not very often do you get an invitation to do something like a personal visit onto base.”

During their visit they met with Airmen, observed the Patriot Guard nose art painted on a KC-135 and paraded their roaring engines with American flags waving proudly behind each bike.

Master Sgt. Chris Dubois, 190th ARW crew chief, conceived the idea of the Patriot Guard nose art; Senior Airman Skylar Caldwell, another 190th ARW crew chief, later designed and painted the image on the aircraft. Caldwell completed the artwork in three days and revealed it in April 2016. The American Legion Riders agreed that it was a privilege to

(Continued on Page 10)



More than 25 members of the Paola American Legion Riders came to Forbes to see the nose art honoring their efforts. (Photo by Senior Airman Emily Amyotte, 190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs)

Civil engineer Airman builds civilian and military career

By Tech. Sgt. Erich B. Smith
National Guard Bureau

Though Senior Airman Samantha Ghareeb’s Air Force occupation involves excavators and bulldozers, one of her more memorable experiences in uniform – helping to renovate an orphanage in Latvia – required only hand tools.

“I was tasked with putting what felt like 50 layers of stucco on the outside of the building,” she said. “It was a great experience to help those kids.”

On the civilian side, Ghareeb, a heavy equipment operator with the Kansas Air National Guard’s 190th Civil Engineer Squadron, is a site safety coordinator for an energy company. Her entry into the construction world began in a warehouse.

“I was a fork lift operator and I actually enjoyed it, besides the fact that it was a dead-end job that had no future,” she said.

When Ghareeb was in the process of choosing her Air Force career path, she wanted to do something “hands-on that allowed me to be outside.” Nearly four years after enlisting, Ghareeb plans on staying in civil engineering, a career field that plays a crucial role of sustaining solid air power from the ground, she said.

“Basically, we fit into the mission by maintaining aircraft runways and parking aprons,” Ghareeb said. “Some of the highlights of our job involve operating, transporting and maintaining equipment while ensuring compliance with environmental and safety regulations.”

She added her military experience helps her communicate better with civilian equipment operators by identifying what tasks and responsibilities they have on a job site.

“I can understand what they need from me and what I need from them,” Ghareeb said, adding that improved organizational and planning skills can be attributed to the hours she spends in uniform. “It’s [construction] all very precise. It’s not just about pushing dirt around.”



Senior Airman Samantha Ghareeb, a heavy equipment operator with the Kansas Air National Guard’s 190th Civil Engineer Squadron, applies mortar to a building in Daugavpils, Latvia, in June 2015. Ghareeb was part of a humanitarian project between her unit and Latvian military engineers. (Photo by Master Sgt. Allen Pickert, 190th Air Refueling Wing)

She said the skill sets acquired from the Air Guard have paved her way for high-quality, civilian job opportunities. “Employers see the value in the ability to operate various pieces of equipment, which can help me get a better

job,” Ghareeb said.

Her ambition on the civilian side parallels her obligation to her squadron, said Ghareeb’s supervisor, Air Force Master Sgt. Michael Martin, describing her as a “vital asset.”

“She’s always the first to volunteer,” he said, adding that she is “almost looking for the hardest job there is to do.”

But it’s variety, Ghareeb said, that keeps her maneuvering equipment, interpreting blueprints and wearing hard hats.

“I like working on different projects in different locations,” she said.

Her past fieldwork has ranged from building zoo facilities to restoring living spaces for members of her community.

While she said her work is aligned with her outdoorsy spirit, Ghareeb doesn’t discount the value of the classroom. She begins her senior year at Pittsburgh State University this fall, continuing her studies in construction and safety management.

“The classroom does have its strong points when it comes to problem solving and general knowledge that is specific to the [construction] industry,” said Ghareeb. “Having a degree is a helping hand to get you where you want to be in life.”

For now, she said she is focused on absorbing as much experience as possible, both in and out of uniform, before pursuing positions of greater responsibility, such as a field engineer or project manager for a commercial construction company.

“She has a strong sense of who she is as an Airman,” said Martin, adding she brings the qualities of a top-notch Airman to the civilian world.

Regardless of what capacity she fills on the job site, Ghareeb said construction provides a purpose-filled professional life. “Hands down, my favorite feeling about construction would have to be the moment when I can drive by a project — or look at it in pictures — that has been completed, and tell people that I helped build that.”

184th Civil Engineer Squadron makes waves in Hawaii

By Staff Sgt. Lauren Penney
184th Public Affairs

Before first light on June 3, a bustle of activity took place at the 184th Civil Engineer Squadron. Bags were loaded and last minute checks were made as Airmen prepared to leave for a two-week deployment for training at Bellows Air Force Station, Hawaii.

“What we’ve done at Bellows is, we’ve been called in to basically redo this building,” said Master Sgt. John Ives, civil operations manager and noncommissioned officer in charge of the project, 184th CES.

The initial project was simply, remodel an old security forces building at Bellows—tear out and replace old walls and carpet, along with reroofing the building.

However, during demolition, extensive termite damage was evident throughout the entire building, apart from the roof.

“As we got further into and started looking at the structural pieces of the building, we realized that we couldn’t build on what existed,” said Maj. Jeff Schmidt, 184th CES. “We needed to basically start over. So then we had to figure out a way to do that, and to salvage what we could out of the building.”

Since the damage was worse than origi-

nally thought, the engineers developed a secondary plan of removing and replacing everything under the roof. The roof was the only salvageable structure of the building.

With that decided, Airmen began propping up the roof and installing sections, while the roofers shingled the steady parts of the roof.

“It takes a huge group effort,” said Ives. “Engineers need to be able to justify and know what things can and can’t be done safely—that’s the main thing. We want to keep our people safe while we’re working in those different environments. We’re pulling all those materials out and want to make sure something doesn’t collapse on them.”

With all of the replanning, Airmen received training on jobs outside their field of expertise.

“I got a lot of experience working on things that I’m not used to working on,” said Senior Airman Ricky Navarette, 184th CES. “I don’t work with roofing, structures or anything like that and now I get to work with all the different guys that are out here working on different aspects of the project.”

Airmen from other squadrons also helped. “Well, anybody coming out here from



Engineers with the 184th Civil Engineer Squadron use a reciprocating saw to make a cut during a construction project at Bellows Air Force Station, Hawaii. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Lauren Penney, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

any kind of Air Force Specialty Code, would get some kind of training from this, being it’s construction,” said Master Sgt. Glen Godsey, civil engineering operations management at Smoky Hill. “So if you ever wanted to build your own deck, if you ever wanted to repair something in your own home, this could kind of teach you a little bit of that.”

The 184th Force Support Squadron services team provided breakfast and lunch every day for the workers, starting their meal preparations before dawn.

“It was a good experience for all of our younger Airmen who had never been on temporary duty before,” said Tech. Sgt. Chris Guild, 184th FSS. “The team really pulled together to provide food support for our fellow Jayhawks.”

“It also gave all our Airmen an opportunity to build camaraderie with others that they may not be able to do at home station,” said Master Sgt. Marla Urban, 184th FSS.

Despite the unforeseen complications, the 184th CES was able to tear down and replace the building to about 65 percent completion before the Nebraska Air Guard arrived to continue the project.

“I think that kind of resounds inside each of us of how good our Airmen are and how willing they are to take something that we had an original plan and totally change it and adapt and overcome,” said Ives. “Even though we’ve had some long days and we’ve had some challenges, financially, and some materials and so forth and obviously with the project itself, they’re willing to just put their heads down and get it done.”



Team effort: Engineers with the 184th Civil Engineer Squadron lift a frame into place at a construction site at Bellow Air Station, Hawaii. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Lauren Penney, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)



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Kansas joins nationwide emergency communication network

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

When a disaster strikes anywhere in the state, quick and effective communication is key to emergency response efforts. In today’s electronic age, that means reliable, uninterrupted voice and data transfer between fire departments, law enforcement, emergency medical services and other first response agencies of all sizes.

To better achieve that goal, Gov. Sam Brownback announced that Kansas has opted to participate in a nationwide system designed to enhance public safety communication and interoperability.

At an Aug. 15 news conference in the Kansas Statehouse, Brownback signed a letter opting the state into FirstNet, a wireless broadband network dedicated to emergency communications. This will make Kansas the 14th state or territory to opt in to FirstNet.

“This initiative positions Kansas to provide state of the art emergency communication services to the benefit of our residents, businesses and visitors,” said Brownback. “Our first responders need to quickly and securely coordinate efforts during an emergency, and FirstNet will help ensure that they have the tools they need to safeguard our state. This effort will also bring welcome broadband service enhancements to many rural parts of our state, including tribal lands and those areas most recently affected by wildfires this spring.”

Brownback said the FirstNet system has been under consideration even when he was in the U.S. Senate and was prompted by communication problems following the 9-11 attack in New York. Federal legislation authorizing the system was signed in 2012 creating the First Responder Network Authority, known as FirstNet, as in-



Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback signs a letter Aug. 15 opting the state into FirstNet, a wireless broadband network dedicated to emergency communications. Kansas is the 14th state to join the network. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)

dependent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce. AT&T, in a public-private partnership with FirstNet, will build, operate and maintain a highly secure, wireless broadband communications network for Kansas’ public safety community at no cost to the state.

“FirstNet really is a game changer for the Kansas public safety community,” said Mike Scott, president of AT&T Kansas. “It’s what they clamored for, it’s what they need and it’s something they will put into very good and effective use.”

Scott said that AT&T will be investing approximately \$40 billion nationwide on

the FirstNet system, including the construction of approximately 26 new communication sites in Kansas that will add to AT&T’s existing coverage.

“Working with an established telecommunication leader such as AT&T allows Kansas to take advantage of the experience, the expertise and existence of core infrastructure they will be bring to bear on this service,” said Brownback.

The decision to join the FirstNet system was met with great approval in the first response community.

“The governor’s decision to opt in to FirstNet will ensure that first responders in

Kansas will have a state of the art, interoperable broadband network dedicated to them at all times,” said Dick Heitschmidt, Hutchinson chief of police, and chairman of the Kansas 9-1-1 Coordinating Council.

“Kansas first responders already have a remarkable 800 megahertz system statewide, and many of the 9-1-1 centers in the state of Kansas are converting from the old legacy system to the state’s new next-generation 9-1-1 system. By the governor opting in to FirstNet, that means that Kansas will be one of the very first states in the country to have all three of these critical communication tools available to the first responders.”

“I talked to a Lawrence fireman just yesterday and he told me to pass on his thanks to the governor and all the people responsible for helping create this network,” said Scott. “(He said) ‘It makes my job as a first responder safer.’”

“What this will provide for us is mission-critical voice at high speed, along with data and video,” said Maj. Gen. Lee Tavanelli, the adjutant general and director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. Tavanelli said the FirstNet system will give the state the “ability to coordinate and synchronize resources and efforts much more effectively and efficiently.”

“They’ll get data when they need it, how they need it, uninterrupted,” said Mike Poth, chief executive officer of FirstNet. “The decision today by the governor will help save lives, including those of first responders in the communities they serve each and every day.”

Poth said FirstNet and AT&T will begin right away to offer services and features that first responders need.

“This is truly a network built for public safety by public safety.”

Don’t wait: A chimney inspection now may save you grief this winter



By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

When temperatures soar in the summer months, it’s not unusual to long for cooler, wintry weather. Some may even envision sitting in their living room while a snow storm blows outside, enjoying the gentle warmth of a cheery fireplace.

Yes, even though it’s hot, winter is coming and the prospect of that cheery fire draws closer. So now is the time to make sure that cheery fire does not turn into a dangerous chimney fire.

There are approximately 25,000 chimney fires in the nation each year, resulting in thousands of injuries, numerous deaths and causing more than \$120 million in property damage from fires that spread to the rest of the house.

The purpose of a chimney is to carry away the smoke, water vapor, hydrocarbons, gases and other byproducts of the fire. These substances gradually build up on the inner walls of a chimney and form a black or brown residue called creosote. Creosote can form due to:

- a restricted air supply -- the damper and/or air intake vents aren’t opened wide enough to allow a good air flow

that quickly draws the smoke up and out of the chimney, allowing it to condense on the chimney walls

- burning unseasoned wood, which contains more moisture, which causes
- cooler than normal chimney temperatures that allow creosote to build up.

Creosote can be crusty and flaky, or tar-like and sticky or hardened and shiny. Whatever form it takes, it is very combustible. If the internal flue temperature is high enough, the result could be a chimney fire.

Chimney fires may be loud and obvious with flames or dense smoke erupting from the chimney. Slow-burning chimney fires, on the other hand, may go undetected, but can cause as much damage to the chimney as the visible sort. And a chimney fire may escalate to a house fire.

The Chimney Safety Institute of America recommends your chimney be inspected annually. During the inspection, a professional chimney sweep looks for:

- Puffy or honey combed creosote
- Warped metal of the damper, metal smoke chamber, connector pipe or factory-built metal chimney
- Cracked or collapsed flue tiles, or tiles with large chunks missing

- Discolorations and/or distortions of the cap at the top of the chimney
 - Creosote pieces on the roof or ground near the chimney
 - Heat-damaged roofing material
 - Cracks in the chimney’s exterior brickwork
 - Evidence that smoke has escaped through mortar joints
- If the sweep suspects there has been a chimney fire, he may recommend replacing flue tiles, installing a new chimney liner, or perhaps even replacing the chimney. Costly measures, perhaps, but much safer and less costly than rebuilding a home destroyed because of a chimney fire.
- If an inspection reveals no sign of a chimney fire, it is still a good idea to have the chimney professionally cleaned and any minor repairs done now before you use the fireplace in the winter.
- So, have your chimney inspected each year by a certified inspector to make sure it is safe. To avoid being put on a waiting list

- this fall, now is a good time to arrange for an inspection.
- To help prevent chimney fires**
- Use only seasoned, dried out wood. It takes about six months for wood to season properly. Wood that is completely dry will sound hollow when hit against another piece of wood, it will be dark in color and may have cracks in the ends.
 - Start fires with clean newspaper or dry kindling. Gasoline or kerosene should never be used to start a fire.
 - Never burn cardboard boxes, wrapping paper or your Christmas tree.
 - Make smaller, hotter fires rather than large ones
- *** **
- What if you don’t have a chimney?
- Do you have a gas furnace? Now would be a good time to have it professionally inspected, cleaned and in good repair, which not only keeps you safer, but makes sure your heating system is at its peak efficiency.

Did you know?

Home fires occur more in the winter months than any other time of the year.

Follow these heating tips to help prevent winter fires and to stay safe this winter season:

Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from all heat sources including fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, space heaters or candles.

Never use an oven to heat your home.

Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.

Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected each year by a professional.

Antiterrorism awareness

Vigilance is everyone’s business

August was Antiterrorism Awareness Month in the U.S. Army. It was the Army’s eighth annual observance of this call to action for Soldiers, Army civilians, retirees, and family members, urging them to be aware of the dangers posed by terrorism and to be prepared to help combat terrorism. As the online radicalization and mobilization to violence continues to be on the rise, vigilance and awareness remain critical to countering threats.

To commemorate the terrorist attacks of 9/11, the OPMG Antiterrorism Division established an antiterrorism information booth in the Pentagon from Aug. 8-10 to share information with the Army staff and other Pentagon employees. Army commands and installations were encouraged to conduct similar community outreach efforts to spread the message about the threat and protective measures.

Army antiterrorism initiatives address the ability to counter an increase and ad-

vancement of terrorist tactics as well as combat violent extremism. Army communities are expanding information sharing through partnerships with state, local, tribal, federal, and international law enforcement and security agencies. Prevention is a cornerstone of the Army’s antiterrorism strategy.

In support of an active antiterrorism awareness campaign, the Office of the Provost Marshal General works continuously with subordinate commands, installations, stand-alone facilities, and operational units to focus on:

- Recognizing and reporting suspicious activity (including iWATCH Army and iSALUTE).
- Understanding the threat associated with violent extremism.
- Educating the community on the ownership and use of unmanned aerial systems as well as the risks from adversarial use.

BOMB THREAT CALL PROCEDURES

Most bomb threats are received by phone. Bomb threats are serious until proven otherwise. Act quickly, but remain calm and obtain information with the checklist on the reverse of this card.

If a bomb threat is received by phone:

1. Remain calm. Keep the caller on the line for as long as possible. DO NOT HANG UP, even if the caller does.
2. Listen carefully. Be polite and show interest.
3. Try to keep the caller talking to learn more information.
4. If possible, write a note to a colleague to call the authorities or, as soon as the caller hangs up, immediately notify them yourself.
5. If your phone has a display, copy the number and/or letters on the window display.
6. Complete the Bomb Threat Checklist (reverse side) immediately. Write down as much detail as you can remember. Try to get exact words.
7. Immediately upon termination of the call, do not hang up, but from a different phone, contact FPS immediately with information and await instructions.

If a bomb threat is received by handwritten note:

- Call _____
- Handle note as minimally as possible.

If a bomb threat is received by email:

- Call _____
- Do not delete the message.

Signs of a suspicious package:

• No return address	• Poorly handwritten
• Excessive postage	• Misspelled words
• Stains	• Incorrect titles
• Strange odor	• Foreign postage
• Strange sounds	• Restrictive notes
• Unexpected delivery	

DO NOT:

- Use two-way radios or cellular phone; radio signals have the potential to detonate a bomb.
- Evacuate the building until police arrive and evaluate the threat.
- Activate the fire alarm.
- Touch or move a suspicious package.

WHO TO CONTACT (select one)

- Follow your local guidelines
- Federal Protective Service (FPS) Police
1-877-4-FPS-411 (1-877-437-7411)
- 911

BOMB THREAT CHECKLIST

Date: Time:

Time Caller Hung Up: Phone Number Where Call Received:

Ask Caller:


- Where is the bomb located? (Building, Floor, Room, etc.)
- When will it go off?
- What does it look like?
- What kind of bomb is it?
- What will make it explode?
- Did you place the bomb? Yes No
- Why?
- What is your name?

Exact Words of Threat:

Information About Caller:

- Where is the caller located? (Background and level of noise)
- Estimated age:
- Is voice familiar? If so, who does it sound like?
- Other points:

Caller's Voice	Background Sounds:	Threat Language:
<input type="checkbox"/> Accent	<input type="checkbox"/> Animal Noises	<input type="checkbox"/> Incoherent
<input type="checkbox"/> Angry	<input type="checkbox"/> House Noises	<input type="checkbox"/> Message read
<input type="checkbox"/> Calm	<input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen Noises	<input type="checkbox"/> Taped
<input type="checkbox"/> Clearing throat	<input type="checkbox"/> Street Noises	<input type="checkbox"/> Irrational
<input type="checkbox"/> Coughing	<input type="checkbox"/> Booth	<input type="checkbox"/> Profane
<input type="checkbox"/> Cracking voice	<input type="checkbox"/> PA system	<input type="checkbox"/> Well-spoken
<input type="checkbox"/> Crying	<input type="checkbox"/> Conversation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Deep	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	
<input type="checkbox"/> Deep breathing	<input type="checkbox"/> Motor	
<input type="checkbox"/> Disguised	<input type="checkbox"/> Clear	
<input type="checkbox"/> Distinct	<input type="checkbox"/> Static	
<input type="checkbox"/> Excited	<input type="checkbox"/> Office machinery	
<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Factory machinery	
<input type="checkbox"/> Laughter	<input type="checkbox"/> Local	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lisp	<input type="checkbox"/> Long distance	
<input type="checkbox"/> Loud		
<input type="checkbox"/> Male	Other Information:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nasal		
<input type="checkbox"/> Normal		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ragged		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rapid		
<input type="checkbox"/> Raspy		
<input type="checkbox"/> Slow		
<input type="checkbox"/> Slurred		
<input type="checkbox"/> Soft		
<input type="checkbox"/> Stutter		



Homeland Security

Kansas Guardsmen visit U.S. Army National Training Center

A select few Kansas National Guard Soldiers from the Recruit Sustainment Battalion visited the U.S. Army’s National Training Center in the California desert June 3.

The Soldiers invited to attend were: Spc. Hector R. Perez Cortes, Salina; Pfc. Colby Casaus, Holcomb; Pfc. Brian Coughlin, St. George; Pfc. Matthew Dickerson, Topeka; Pfc. Fernando Fernandez, Wichita; Pfc. Jaison Moravec, Wichita; Pfc. William R. Polly, Lincoln; Pvt. Benjamin Baragary, Emporia; Pvt. Magdaline McCall, Maple Hill; Pvt. 2 Dominic Caswell, Peru; Pvt. 2 Jeffrey Doshier, Andover; Pvt. 2 Jonathan Gallegos, Marquette; Pvt. 2 Ryan R. Johnston, Ellsworth; Pvt. 2 Juan Muro, Wichita; Pvt. 1 Tiffany R. Allison, Pittsburg; and Pvt. 1 Cody R. Thompson, Ottawa.

The Recruit Sustainment Program is designed to teach new Army National Guard recruits basic level tasks to help them succeed at Initial Entry Training as they transition into their respective units.

The National Training Center, located at Fort Irwin, California, is the Army’s premier training ground. Nearly the size of Rhode Island, NTC is the only training site of its kind to support brigade combat teams training together in an austere environment. The purpose of the tour was to highlight the operational demand and training opportunities available with the Kansas National Guard.

“The Soldiers selected for this tour received a unique, behind-the-scenes look at

how the National Training Center training cadre utilize controlled explosives, smoke, noise and smells to create a demanding, realistic training environment for our troops,” said Col. Roger Murdock, chief of staff, Kansas Army National Guard. “They got to experience the sights and sounds of a simulated marketplace that you’d find in many Middle Eastern nations.

“They also got to speak with support personnel and gain an understanding of how each of their jobs are vital in supporting the war fight,” said Murdock. “All in all, I believe it was a tremendous opportunity for these new Soldiers to gain perspective into the total Army experience.”

The visit coincided with the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, and 772nd Mobility Augmentation Company participating in NTC Rotation 17-07. An NTC rotation is typically three to four weeks in duration and simulates the harsh, realistic operational environment that America’s military forces may face in combat. The exercise presents scenarios with potential adversaries our nation could face and include guerrilla, insurgent, criminal and near-peer conventional forces.

The Kansas Army National Guard units were training as a part of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi Army National Guard, to demonstrate the U.S. Army’s Total Force policy.



New recruits in the Recruit Sustainment Program visited the U.S. Army’s National Training Center in California in June. (Photo provided)

Summer camp presents MAGIC opportunity for high school girls



Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation talk about their aviation careers to participants of a Mentoring a Girl in Construction summer camp at Forbes Field on June 5. The camp introduces high school girls ages 14 or older to trade skill occupations and gives them a chance to learn from women already succeeding in these jobs. (Photo by Lori Frerichs)

Great Bend orientation flight

(Continued from Page 4)

Starting out as a T.V. meteorologist, Horner said she covered plenty of disasters from a television studio and watched as the Guard came in to help victims. “Now, I have a chance to work with these heroes.”

“We want to give you a chance to see our equipment and see who we are,” said Capt. Chris Koochel, a Great Bend native who now heads up Guard recruiting efforts for most of eastern Kansas. The Guard helped with the Kansas State University engineering grad’s schooling and “gave me

a chance at life.”

Through tuition assistance, duty pay, the G.I. Bill and scholarships, members have a chance to get their schooling and career counseling. Help is available while they are in the service and after they are discharged.

But, it is more than that, he said. He has responded with Guard units to western Kansas for the recent blizzard and to Greensburg for the tornado in 2007. “There’s no greater feeling than helping your community,” he said.







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



NATIONAL GUARD

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

Awards and Decorations

KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD	
Legion of Merit	
	
Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Hall, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Sgt. Maj. Terence Goscha, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka,	
Meritorious Service Medal	
	
Col. Douglas Hinkley, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with three oak leaf clusters Lt. Col. Willy Pegues IV, KSARNG Training Center, Salina, with oak leaf cluster Maj. Wallace Miller III, HQ, 235th Rgmt, Salina Sgt. 1st Class Robert Bieker, 731st Trans Co, Great Bend Sgt. 1st Class Ricardo Moreno, Co B, Rec and Ret Bn, Wichita Sgt. 1st Class Charles Rhoten, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Hutchinson Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Thompson, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka	
KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD	
Meritorious Service Medal	
	
Lt. Col. Johnnie Adam, 184th IW, Wichita Lt. Col. Daniel Skoda, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster Lt. Col. Jesse Sojka, 184th IW, Wichita Maj Janell Blaufuss, 184th IW, Wichita Capt. Angela Brees, 190th ARW, Topeka Capt. Darral Garner, 184th IW, Wichita Capt. Keith Marshall, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Master Sgt. Darin Brun, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Master Sgt. Caron Carlile, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Master Sgt. Melanie Graber, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Master Sgt. Cornelius Hulum, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Master Sgt. David Powelson, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Christopher Pabor, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. John Williams, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Andy Wolfe, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Aaron Rausch, 184th IW, Wichita	
Air Force Commendation Medal	
	
Lt. Col. Eric Schoenberg, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster Maj. Karega Paisley, 190th ARW, Topeka Capt. Justin Moody, 184th IW, Wichita Capt. Daniel Radford, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Brooke Cessna, 190th ARW, Topeka Tech. Sgt. William Davis, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Chad Ewertz, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Troy Jones, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Quentin Morris, 184th IW, Wichita Staff Sgt. Lauren Penney, 184th IW, Wichita Staff Sgt. Marianela Sargent, 184th IW, Wichita	
Air Force Achievement Medal	
	
Maj. Scott Avery, 190th ARW, Topeka 1st Lt. Aaron Farris, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Clinton Brown, 190th ARW, Topeka, with oak leaf cluster Master Sgt. Ryan Current, 190th ARW, Topeka Master Sgt. Shawn Rucker, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Benedict Joseph Axman, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Angeline Burks, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Everardo Lopez, 184th IW, Wichita Staff Sgt. Logan Priebe, 184th IW, Wichita Staff Sgt. Colton Smith, 184th IW, Wichita	
Staff Sgt. Evan Sprague, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Airman Micah Allee, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Airman Steven Bohling, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Airman Kimbre Fritz, 190th ARW, Topeka Senior Airman Jett Jurgens, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Airman Elise Terrell, 184th IW, Wichita Airman 1st Class Abbey Evans, 184th IW, Wichita Airman 1st Class Kaila Fowler, 184th IW, Wichita Airman First Class Christopher Kirk, 190th ARW, Topeka	
Combat Readiness Medal	
	
Maj. James Bilby, 184th IW, Wichita Maj. Joseph Deeds, 184th IW, Wichita Maj. James McCosh, 184th IW, Wichita Capt. James Balten, 184th IW, Wichita Capt. Keith Marshall, 184th IW, Wichita Capt. Jonathan Weishaar, 184th IW, Wichita Chief Master Sgt. James Caughron, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Master Sgt. Emily Albers, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Master Sgt. Fred Beat, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Master Sgt. Cornelius Hulum, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Robert Bisterfeldt, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. David Chirinos, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Jayme Gabbard, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Aaron Grunden, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Robert Johnston, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Jacob Smith, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Daniel Strickland, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. John Winter, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Joseph Andra, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Casey Blair, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Phillip Boucher, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Chase Bryan, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. William Davis, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Jesse Diaz, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Sean Greenlee, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Paul Kahl, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Morales, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Norris, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Alyssa Parks, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Jeremiah Rempel, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Jamie Rivas, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Christopher Smith, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Bradley Weaver, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Williams, 184th IW, Wichita Tech. Sgt. Anthony Young, 184th IW, Wichita Staff Sgt. Patrick Demoe, 184th IW, Wichita Staff Sgt. Blake Elliott, 184th IW, Wichita Staff Sgt. James Epley, 184th IW, Wichita Staff Sgt. Jennifer Erskin, 184th IW, Wichita Staff Sgt. Michael Freeland, 184th IW, Wichita Staff Sgt. Christopher Harrington, 184th IW, Wichita Staff Sgt. Brandon Moberly, 184th IW, Wichita Staff Sgt. Rachel Mohr, 184th IW, Wichita Staff Sgt. Rachelle Schrader, 184th IW, Wichita Staff Sgt. Timothy Schuette, 184th IW, Wichita Staff Sgt. Andrew Skiles, 184th IW, Wichita Staff Sgt. Evan Sprague, 184th IW, Wichita Staff Sgt. Paul Vernacchia, 184th IW, Wichita Staff Sgt. Cody Wirth, 184th IW, Wichita Staff Sgt. Jordan Wright, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Airman Monique Adams, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Airman Anna Calhoun, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Airman Brianna Crackenberger, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Airman Mark Deabler, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Airman Judith Dunn, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Airman Brandon Fruck, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Airman Brandon Gochenour, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Airman Tyler Martin, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Airman Elizabeth O'Brien, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Airman Travis Perkins, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Airman Codi Prouty, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Airman Brannon Schmitz, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Airman Amanda Spies, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Airman Jared Stevens, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Airman Anthony Trifiletti, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Airman Luke Vanderpool, 184th IW, Wichita Senior Airman Mitchell Young, 184th IW, Wichita Airman 1st Class Kenneth Jones, 184th IW, Wichita	

Soldiers trained on Global Combat Support System

Several Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers recently received training on the Global Combat Support System-Army, a web-based, real-time Standard Army Management Information Systems that is replacing the previous multiple platforms.

When the system was distributed to Kansas in late 2016, the focus was to get the full-time force trained first. Since then, the state has recognized the need to organize classes to redistribute the training received and have traditional National Guard Soldiers carry out their roles in GCSS-Army during the drill weekend.

Over a one week period, 12 instructors from the Surface Maintenance Office successfully trained more than 60 students in various GCSS-Army tasks using the new system, including how to dispatch equipment, update notifications, create reports,

manage equipment and personnel, and other jobs.

Class instructors were Maj. Kade Garst, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Cam Wahlmeier, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marty Anschutz, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kevin Herrman, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Stuart Stupka, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mike Schmidtberger, Master Sgt. Jeff Aumen, Master Sgt. Mark George, Master Sgt. Gene Quaney, Sgt. 1st Class Chris Crawford, Sgt. 1st Class Carrie Seeger, Sgt. 1st Class Ken Scheibe, Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Scheideman, Staff Sgt. Alicia Aye, Staff Sgt. Elwin Ocasio-Lopez, and Sgt. Justin Neeley. Technical support was provided by Staff Sgt. Danny Mersch, Kansas Regional Training Institute, and the Directorate of Information Management help desk personnel.



Kansas Army National Guardsmen receive instruction on using the new Global Combat Support System - Army during drill weekend in May. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Elwin Ocasio-Lopez, UPAR)

Leadership course has benefits for National Guard and community service

As citizen-soldiers, leaders in the Kansas National Guard often interact with their counterparts in their hometown community. It was with an eye to this interaction that Maj. Daniel Mehlhaff attended the Leadership Hays course earlier this year at the request of Col. Thomas Burke, commander, 130th Field Artillery Brigade.

“I attended the course through a scholarship from National Guard Association of Kansas that they have available for their members to participate in community leadership type programs,” said Mehlhaff, executive officer for the 997th Brigade Support Battalion. “Since all meetings were during the duty day, I attended the meetings in uniform and was able to start up many conversations about service in the National Guard, benefits, types of individuals we look for, and the partnerships and benefits our Soldiers bring to civilian employers.”

Mehlhaff said the course was facilitated by the Hays Chamber of Commerce over 10 half day sessions and also included a three-day seminar at the Kansas Leadership Center in Wichita. The course was led by Chamber Executive Director Tammy Wellbrock and three other facilitators from local businesses who had previously completed the Leadership Hays program.

“Both the Leadership Hays and KLC sessions focused on how leadership is an activity, not a position, and defined leadership as the act of getting people to do hard work,” said Mehlhaff. “They focused on the community and volunteer needs and how to keep those volunteers engaged while motivating the community toward

their goals.”

Mehlhaff said coursework included such topics as Servant Leadership, Working Styles, Steps to Performing Organization, Wisdom Cycle, Collaboration, Decision Making, Vision Process, Facilitation techniques, Creative Thinking, and Listening. Mehlhaff also received introductions with key members in the Hays community including the deputy city manager, deputy police chief, Fort Hays State University Foundation, and several local businesses.

Mehlhaff said he has already completed several professional military education course including Command and General Staff College, Logistics Captains Career Course, and Ordnance Officer Basic Course. He found that many of the principles learned in those courses served him well in the Leadership Hays course.

“I was able to apply several principles learned from PME to further our class discussions,” said Mehlhaff. “Some of the elements were critical and creative thinking for problem solving, decision-making processes, and creating a common understanding of the desired end state and evaluating it against the current state.”

Mehlhaff also said techniques learned in the Leadership Hays course will help with his work for the National Guard. He recommends that all battalion and brigade administrative officers and training officers attend similar courses in their own communities.

“It was a great way to meet centers of influence in the local area and strengthen partnerships,” said Mehlhaff.

Retirements

Kansas Army National Guard	
Lt. Col. Damon Frizzell, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth Maj. Brent Buckley, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Chief Warrant Officer 4 James Cameron II, 35th ID, Fort Leavenworth Chief Warrant Officer 4 Brandy Nichols, HHC (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka Chief Warrant Officer 4 Larry Werneke, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka Master Sgt. Larry Arnold, 130th FAB, Manhattan Staff Sgt. Dale Burton, 635th RSG, Topeka	

Kansas Air National Guard	
Lt. Col. Ingrid Trevino-Garrison, 184th IW, Wichita Master Sgt. Christopher Ontiveros, 184th IW, Wichita	

American Legion Riders

(Continued from Page 6)

visit and take photos with the nose art.

“I love sharing the nose art with anyone who has ever stood the line or wants to hear the story,” Dubois said. “I believe this nose

art represents the great people of the Patriot Guard and Legion Riders. These individuals take time from their personal lives to make sure service members and their families are shown the proper respect.”

Military appreciation event

(Continued from Page 2)

honor the sacrifices of our military by partnering with the Kansas and Missouri military bases to put on an immersive military appreciation match,” said Marty Nevshemal, vice president of finance, Sporting Kansas City. “From this viewpoint, Sport-

ing Kansas City believes the event was incredibly successful. It is also important for Sporting KC to set aside a match to recognize our military because they are our neighbors, as nearly 140,000 military personnel, veterans and military families live in the greater Kansas City area.”



Active shooter exercise catches 184th Airmen off “Guard”

By Staff Sgt. Lauren Penney
184th IW Public Affairs

The sound of gun shots rang out in Building 65, McConnell Air Force Base, during the morning hours on April 13.

POP! “You’re dead!”

POP! POP! “You’re dead!”

Airmen were startled at their work stations as two members of the 184th Security Forces Squadron invaded the area, informing them this was an active-shooter exercise.

One man had a practice rifle, moving quickly and aiming at people, stating they were dead if they didn’t have time to react. Another Airman had a couple of two-by-four pieces of wood that he banged together, replicating the sound of a gun. Airmen scrambled to get behind locked doors or behind desks if they weren’t already taken out.

“I thought it was a great experience and very well put together,” said Senior Airman Rachel Mercer, 184th Force Support Squadron.

The exercise was conducted with no notification to anyone but a few key personnel who did not belong to the two units that were targeted — the 184th Force Support Squadron and the 184th Comptroller Flight.

“Since we didn’t know about it, it really got everyone’s heartrate going like it was the real deal,” said Mercer. “I think it opened a lot of the members eyes to what could possibly happen in that situation. It made everyone think exactly what they had time to do and how they were going to accomplish it to get out of harm’s way.”

Senior Master Sgt. Stephen Vogt, superintendent, 184th SFS, followed the shooter



A K-9 unit from the 22nd Security Forces Squadron checks out a room during a surprise active shooter exercise April 13. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Lauren Penney, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)

to gauge the preparedness of Airmen and see how they reacted.

“The wing antiterrorism office felt the wing needed to test our ability to act, respond and recover to a situation of this magnitude,” said Vogt. “Active-shooter events are happening at a rapid pace all over the nation and if we don’t prepare for something like that to happen here, we would be failing our fellow Airman of the 184th Intelligence Wing.”

Another part of the exercise was to give

the 22nd Security Forces, the active-duty component of McConnell Air Force Base, practice in what they need to do in the event of an active shooter -- assessing the situation, selecting a building entry point, locating the shooter and deciding how to detain him, and helping people to safety or providing first aid to the injured.

“An exercise like this demonstrates the need not only for enhanced preparation on the part of law enforcement and other first responders, but also for all Airmen to be

engaged in discussions and training on decisions they’d have to make in an active-shooter event,” said Vogt.

Despite the abruptness and surprise of the exercise, the Airmen responded well, and followed the wing instructions to barricade, escape or, if necessary, fight.

“Many Airmen barricaded themselves in their offices, while some tried to escape the area,” said Vogt. “This was a success on many levels because it allowed our Airmen to actually react to an event like this, while allowing our fellow active-duty first responders to participate in the response portion of the exercise.”

With the increased frequency of active-shooter incidents preparedness and awareness are essential to minimize casualties. Vogt suggests squadron antiterrorism representatives play a big role in readiness.

“Every squadron has antiterrorism representatives who should be, at a minimum, talking with their leadership about the importance of exercising scenarios like this with their own Airmen,” said Vogt.

Constant awareness of surroundings and having a plan could be paramount in saving lives.

“I also think gaining control of the situation is a big game changer,” said Mercer. “I think if we were in a position to get control of the gun or the gunman we can save a lot more lives. I think that is part of ‘Service Before Self.’ You are trying to save your colleagues. No matter what the outcome, as long as they are safe.”

“The exercise took true total-force integration to another level,” said Vogt. “The Airmen of McConnell Air Force Base benefited from this exercise.”

Kids Camp is a growing experience for National Guard youth

By Julie Reynolds
Intern, Oklahoma State University

Operation Kid’s Camp was a fun-filled, week long camp for military children from all over the state of Kansas.

On May 29, 56 campers ages 8-12 made their way to the Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina. Some of the most seemingly timid personalities at check-in that first day quickly transformed.

It did not take long for the kids to catch on that their brightly colored T-shirt was the ticket to find which squad they belonged to. When they met their squad and squad leaders, they met the friends that would be their family for the week! In no time, the kids were having fun decorating a guidon and making up a squad motto to show their membership in Alpha, Bravo, or Charlie Squad. The chatter and giggles coming from each room made it evident that they had already grown comfortable with one another and were ready for a week of fun!

The Kansas National Guard’s Child & Youth Program worked diligently to create an atmosphere where children would have a ton of fun while learning something valuable -- and there was always something to do and to learn: building rockets; going to the zoo, waterpark, or bowling alley; watching search and rescue dogs at work; exploring an UH-60 Army Black Hawk helicopter; or participating as a team on field day.

Each morning’s routine began with a warm, energizing breakfast in the mess hall followed by a formation led by Command Sgt. Maj. Jared Worley. Standing at attention, each squad was introduced and got to yell their squad motto. Worley went over the day’s activities and gave each squad leader the opportunity to present a streamer to their squad or an individual camper for demonstrating one of the seven Army Values or other leadership qualities. The goal

was that each squad’s guidon would have 10 streamers attached to it by the end of the week. This routine set the campers up with a mentality of self-awareness each day that would encourage them to be better friends to others.

The streamers were one way the squad leaders could assess their squad’s progress throughout the course of the week, but they were also encouraged to pay attention to how each child improved regarding the Army Values.



Some of the kids went out of their way to be a friend to others. Three members of the Alpha Girls squad noticed the camp medic sitting alone at lunch and moved to her table to keep her company. Peyton, from the girls’ Charlie Squad, never missed an opportunity

to hold a door open for her friends. Chaz, from the boys’ Alpha Squad, always demonstrated respect when addressing an adult and had the best manners. The kids’ eagerness to lend a hand did not go unnoticed.

At the closing ceremony on Friday, awards were given to reward the campers’ hard work. The Charlie Squad girls were awarded the Operation Kid’s Camp Leadership Cup for being the squad that showed the most growth as the week progressed.

Reese Perkins, Bravo Squad, was presented the Emma Williams Citizenship award. Kim Worley, camp director and lead Child and Youth Program coordinator, created the award to honor the memory of a camper named Emma Williams, who tragically lost her life this past year. Worley said Emma did a great job representing each of the Army Values, so it was only fitting that the award would be given in her honor. Michelle Erwin, Emma’s mother, was there to anonymously select the recipient of the award based on the comments their squad leader made about them. Kassidy Seaba, Reese’s squad leader, and the administrative staff were incredibly proud of Reese’s



Members of the boys Bravo Squad participate in a tug-of-war during Field Day at the annual week-long Kids Camp in Salina. (Photo by Julie Reynolds)

hard work demonstrating loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage.

The tired, but happy campers headed

home Friday morning after a week of gaining new experiences, friends, leadership skills, and confidence and looking forward to next year’s camp.

Understanding key tasks

(Continued from Page 2)

We must develop our force, and the communities they serve and live in. The days of having only an inward or “unit-based” focus are gone. As part of developing a professional force, we will develop partnerships throughout our sphere of influence.

Finally, the Kansas Regional Training Institute had its Warrant Officer Training Corps U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command accreditation this past June. It passed with a score of 100 percent. Additionally, several of the processes Kansas has developed are being recommended for implementation into the federal WOCS program. The KS WOCS program continues to set the standard, and has truly proven itself.

Thanks you to the 235th Regiment for their support. I especially thank Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Lockhart, WOCS battalion course manager; Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ronnie Fankhauser and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Mike Whisler, training, advising and counseling officers; and instructors Chief Warrant Officer 4 Sandra Lashley, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Brent Campbell, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Abra Cloyd, and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sean Litherland for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a warrant officer, please call me at 785-646-1903 or email Michael.w.smith293.mil@mail.mil.

Topel assumes command of Regional Training Site – Maintenance

Soldiers and family members met at the Regional Training Site – Maintenance June 10 to participate in the change of command of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 235th Regiment from Maj. Wallace E. Miller III to Maj. Wesley O. Topel.

“I’m honored to be given the opportunity to command the Kansas Regional Training Site- Maintenance,” said Topel. “The organization already possesses a very high standard of excellence. Together as a team, we will build upon that firm foundation to become a premier One Army School System training institution within the Ordnance Corps.”

“It’s been a great honor to command this organization over the last 20 months,” said Miller. “I’ve been able to grow personally and professionally from the mentorship I’ve received from the instructors and the command team. Major Topel will do a fantastic job carrying the organization forward.”

Miller’s next assignment will be attending a one year School of Advanced Military Studies education program at the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth.

The RTS-M is an ordnance training company providing military occupational spe-

cialty qualification, advanced and senior noncommissioned officer education, additional skill identifier, and sustainment maintenance training for multiple branches of the U.S. military.

Topel began his military career in November 1988 with the Headquarters and Service Company, 24th Marine Regiment, United States Marine Corps Reserve. He joined the Kansas Army National Guard in 1998 and was direct commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps on July 11, 2003. His past assignments include Joint Force Headquarters, 287th Sustainment Brigade, 287th Special Troops Battalion, 170th Support Maintenance Company, and 995th Support Maintenance Company.

Topel has a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology, a Master of Science in psychology, and an Educational Specialist Degree in school psychology from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. He also completed graduate programs in building and district-level school leadership from Emporia State University.

Topel works full time for the North Central Kansas Special Education Cooperative as the assistant director of special education in Phillipsburg, Kansas.



Maj. Wesley O. Topel (right center), incoming commander of the Regional Training Site - Maintenance, returns the unit’s command flag to Lt. Col. Willy F. Pegues IV, commander, Kansas National Guard Training Center, signifying his acceptance of the unit’s command. (Photo provided)

Holton dedicates Purple Heart memorial

Col. Thomas Burke, commander of the 130th Field Artillery Brigade, Manhattan, was the guest speaker at a May 6 dedication ceremony for a Purple Heart memorial at Linscott Park in Holton.

The memorial will include the names of all Purple Heart recipients from Jackson County; currently, the list includes more than 160 names. Fundraising for the memorial was spearheaded by the American Legion Riders of Post 44, Mary L. Bair American Legion Post 44, Sons of the American Legion, and Holton Veterans of

Foreign Wars Post 1367.

Holton was designated as a Purple Heart City in April 2014, only the second community in Kansas to receive that designation. The town was entered into the national register of Purple Heart cities and recognized by the Military Order of the Purple Heart, a federally-chartered fraternal organization authorized by Congress.

The Holton armory is home to Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, which mobilized in April in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

House working to expand GI Bill

By Hope Yen

House Republicans and Democrats unveiled legislation that would provide the biggest expansion of college aid for military veterans in a decade, removing a 15-year time limit to tap into benefits and increasing money for thousands in the National Guard and Reserve.

The bipartisan agreement is a sweeping effort to fill coverage gaps in the post-9/11 GI Bill amid a rapidly changing job market. Building on major legislation passed in 2008 that guaranteed a full-ride scholarship to any in-state public university — or a similar cash amount for private college students — the bill gives veterans added flexibility to enroll in college later in life. Veterans would get additional payments if they complete science, technology and engineering courses.

For a student attending a private university, the additional benefits to members of the Guard and Reserve could mean \$2,300 a year more in tuition than they are receiving now, plus a bigger housing allowance.

The American Legion, the nation’s largest veterans’ group, said the plan would mean a “new era” for those who served in uniform.

“Years from now, veterans who were unable to attend institutions of higher learning during their military service or immediately afterward will be able to earn degrees and begin rewarding careers that can lead our economy,” said Charles E. Schmidt, national commander of the American Legion. The group drafted the original GI Bill of Rights in 1944 that created the comprehensive education benefit for World War II and future veterans.

The bill’s lead sponsor is Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., chairman of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee. The No. 2 House leader, Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said the House would act quickly to help veterans.

Veterans’ issues have been one of the few areas where Republicans and Democrats have found some common ground, unlike health care, taxes and other issues.

The education benefits would take effect

for enlistees who begin using their GI Bill money next year.

Kristofer Goldsmith, assistant director for policy at Vietnam Veterans of America, said he believes it would help many former service members who, like him, aren’t ready to immediately enroll in college after their service. Goldsmith was in the Army as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005, reaching the rank of sergeant. He returned home to constant nightmares and other symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. He was kicked out of the military with a general discharge after a suicide attempt, barring him from receiving GI benefits.

“GI benefits are something service members earn while they serve, said Goldsmith. “They shouldn’t lose it just because they aren’t transitioning back the way the government wants.”

According to Student Veterans of America, only about half the 200,000 service members who leave the military each year go on to enroll in a college, while surveys indicate that veterans often outperform peers in the classroom.

The legislation combines 18 separate House bills, also providing full GI Bill eligibility to Purple Heart recipients. Previously, they had to serve at least three years. In addition, the bill would restore benefits if a college closed in the middle of the semester.

The bill hasn’t been free of controversy.

A draft circulated by Roe’s committee in April drew fire after it initially proposed paying for the \$3 billion cost of upgraded benefits over 10 years by reducing service members’ monthly pay by \$100 per month. Veterans’ groups sharply criticized that plan as an unfair “tax on troops,” noting that Army privates typically earn less than \$1,500 per month.

The latest proposal would be paid for by bringing living stipend payments under the GI Bill down to a similar level as that received by an active-duty member, whose payments were reduced in 2014 by 1 percent a year for five years.

Total government spending on the GI Bill is expected to be more than \$100 billion over 10 years.



Report

Suspicious Activity



Indicators:

- People drawing or measuring important buildings.
- Strangers asking questions about security or building security procedures.
- Briefcase, suitcase, backpack, or package left behind.
- Cars or trucks left in No Parking zones in front of important buildings.
- Intruders in secure areas where they are not supposed to be.
- A person wearing clothes that are too big and too hot for the weather.
- Chemical smells or fumes that worry you.
- People asking questions about sensitive information such as building blueprints, security plans, or VIP travel schedules without a right or need to know.
- Purchasing supplies or equipment that can be used to make bombs or weapons or purchasing uniforms without having the proper credentials

Also Report Situations Where:

- Individuals have isolated themselves or are emotionally withdrawn from friends/community
- Individuals are absent from the workplace for seemingly no reason
- Individuals with apparent grievances

Primary Reporting Methods

- Law enforcement official or agency
- Security force or guard members

Alternative Reporting Methods

- DA Civilians/Soldiers: your chain of command
- Spouses: your military member/FRG Leader
- Children: your parents or teachers
- Contractors: contract agency or COTR

What to Report

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When did suspicious activity occur• Where did activity occur• How many people involved• How many vehicles involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What type of activity• Describe what you saw• Provide pictures if you took any
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Call 785-646-1117
In an emergency 9-1-1

Organized team or lone wolf, foreign or home-grown, targeting many places or just one, using available technology or weapons made with their own hands—the fluid, obscure nature of the terrorist threat demands that we know what to look for and where to look. Familiarize yourself with indicators of suspicious activity and be ready to report such activity to proper authorities.



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