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# PLAINS GUARDIAN

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

MAY 2008

## Ribbon cutting, groundbreaking enhance Homeland Security

By Sharon Watson

Governor Kathleen Sebelius and Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the Adjutant General and Director of Kansas Homeland Security, hosted a ribbon cutting for the debut of the Crisis City Rail Venue at the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center (GPJRTC) in Salina on March 28.

The railcar venue is the first training feature of Crisis City, which is a hands-on homeland security public safety training area at the GPJRTC. This rail training venue will allow emergency responders from local, state and federal organizations, including law enforcement, search and rescue teams, medical response teams, public and private industry safety professionals and the National Guard, to train together, conduct exercises and work through realistic disaster scenarios.

"Kansas is among one of the first states in the country to develop such a training opportunity for our first responders and National Guardsmen to better prepare together for emergencies and disasters," said Sebelius. "Crisis City, at the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center, will

fill a gap that our state has had for some time and that's the chance for those who work together in a disaster response to actually come together in a realistic training environment and determine the best course of action before lives are at stake."

"Until now, Kansas first responders, including the National Guard, train on their own, but today this will change with a new opportunity for inter-agency training on a regular basis," said Bunting. "In 2007, we learned a great deal about how well we can work together and we'll take our lessons learned from those disasters and improve our response capabilities even more."

In-kind contributions of approximately \$12 million made the rail venue possible. The locomotive and other rail cars were provided by Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway. They were moved and the tracks set in place by R.J. Corman Railroad Group. Other contributions of equipment and labor came from Union Pacific Railway Company, Occidental Chemical Corporation, J.R. Simplot Company, Mid-

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Federal, state and local dignitaries joined together to cut the ribbon at the Crisis City Rail Venue, the first section to be completed at the multidiscipline training facility, located at the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center at Smoky Hill Range outside of Salina. The center will provide a variety of training scenarios so that law enforcement, search and rescue, emergency medical, fire, military and other public and private organizations can train together to respond to emergency situations. (Photo by Jane Welch)

## 161st Field Artillery Battalion Soldiers reunited with medics

By Tech. Sgt. Jami Perusich

On Feb. 22, seven Soldiers from the Kansas Army National Guard's Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Dodge City, were reunited with the three medics that assisted when they were wounded in Iraq exactly one year earlier. The reunion took place at McConnell Air Force Base, Wichita, and around 60 people were present.

Among those in attendance was Kathleen Berry, the widow of Staff Sgt. David Berry, who was killed in the same attack. Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, stated that "while 22 February 2007 was a dark day for the State of Kansas, today is an important, but particularly difficult day for the people who have come together here."

While the reunion's main purpose was to allow the wounded Soldiers to meet the medics under happier circumstances,

Bunting also used the opportunity to thank the three medics for helping Kansas Guardsmen, saying that he wanted to "recognize some people who have done incredible things."

Sgt. Allison Justice, Florida Army National Guard; Spc. Amanda Kistler, Wisconsin Army National Guard; and Spc. Billy Jo Bush, New York Army National Guard were all presented with the Kansas National Guard Medal of Excellence for their actions. Bunting also recognized the seven Kansas Guardsmen who were wounded in the attack. 1st Lt. Todd Miller, Sgt. 1st Class Jerrod Hays, Sgt. 1st Class Lloyd Mattix, Sgt. Johnny Jones, Sgt. Mike Miller, Sgt. Pete Richert and Spc. Curtis Turpin were all present at the reunion. An eighth Kansas Soldier, Spc. Simon Makovic, was injured in the same attack, but was unable to attend the ceremony.



(Left to right) Sgt. 1st Class Jerrod Hays, Jennifer Turpin and Spc. Curtis Turpin, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, talk with Sgt. Allison Justice and Spc. Amanda Kistler, two of the medics who attended to the Soldiers when they were wounded in Iraq in 2007. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt McCoy)

## Kansans bring World War II aircrew back from watery grave

By Staff Sgt. W. Michael Houk

A drama unfolded in the skies above the western Pacific island nation of Palau on Sept. 1, 1944, as intense fighting between American and Japanese forces was getting under way. During a raid, comrades of the U.S. Army Air Forces looked on helplessly as the crew of a B-24 Liberator bomber, the Babes in Arms, was brought down by anti-aircraft fire. Three of the crew reportedly bailed out, one without a parachute, before the bomber dove headlong into the ocean never to be found — or so it was

thought back then.

Thanks to an organization called BentProp, who found the crash site in 2004, the location is no longer a mystery. BentProp is a privately funded organization that searches for planes and their crews who crashed after being shot down by the Japanese in 1944-45. They reported it to the Joint POW-MIA Accounting Command, who for the last three years investigated and recovered the remains from the site. The Kansas Coyotes had the

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U.S. Navy divers hand Master Sgt. Matt Miltz, 190th Air Refueling Wing, Kansas Air National Guard, a sealed case containing remains of U.S. B-24 crewmembers shot down during World War II off the western Pacific island of Palau. Miltz placed the case and another like it in the cabin of the KC-135 tanker that flew the remains to Hawaii for identification. (Photo by Staff Sgt. W. Michael Houk)

# Ribbon cutting, groundbreaking enhance Homeland Security

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America Car, Inc. and Energy Transportation.

“The rail industry shares the state’s interest in safety training and the rail venue at this facility will provide permanent training capabilities not previously available to emergency responders in Kansas,” said Mark Stehly, BNSF’s assistant vice president, Environmental/Haz Mat/Technical Research and Development.

Crisis City at the GPJRTC will eventually be expanded to include an incident command training center, an engineered concrete rubble pile, urban search and rescue venues, a grain bin for search and rescue training, a farm venue to provide training for farming and grain silo accidents and a five-story rescue training tower. It will also provide training in military operations and urban terrain.

“We are building a state of the art joint training center to ensure the people we call upon to save lives and property have the best resources possible to prepare to respond during what could be very challenging circumstances,” said Col. Randy Roebuck, GPJRTC garrison commander.

## 284th Air Support Operations Squadron

Sebelius and Bunting also hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for a new facility for the Kansas Air Guard’s 284th Air Support Operations Squadron at the Smoky Hill Range in Salina.

The 284th ASOS is a new Kansas Air National Guard unit and will provide joint training capabilities with the Kansas Army

National Guard.

Senator Sam Brownback secured \$9 million dollars in funding for the ASOS’s new facility.

“The ASOS facility adds an important new dimension to operations at the Smoky Hill Range, which has become a unique national training asset,” Brownback said. “The new squadron that will operate out of this facility will train our Soldiers and Airmen to coordinate their operations in the field, making them safer and more combat-capable.”

The targeted completion date for the 284th ASOS facility is one year.

“This unit is unique because it brings the ground forces and air forces together to conduct joint training,” said Lt. Col. J.J. Jordan, commander of the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron. “The ASOS can facilitate the process by training the Army how to best employ air power. We do this in military operations, but don’t typically have a training venue where we can train jointly.”

“Because of the ASOS mission to provide air power to ground forces, the 284th will be a key component to joint military training operations at the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center,” Jordan said.

In addition, the ASOS can also provide communications resources for homeland security needs in Kansas during disaster response.

## Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center Future Capabilities

In addition to the Crisis City Rail Venue



Gov. Kathleen Sebelius joined Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Sen. Sam Brownback, Congressman Jerry Moran and other officials in breaking ground for a new facility for the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron, located at Smoky Hill Range. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)

and the 284th ASOS facility, some additional training capabilities are currently being constructed at the GPJRTC and will be completed in the next year.

Congressman Jerry Moran secured \$3.5 million dollars in funding for the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center. Specifically, he secured \$2.4 million for establishing urban terrain operations, which will include military and civilian training components and will be built over the next year, and \$1.1 million for refurbishing and providing additional space at the Smoky Hill Range’s operations facility for training, mission planning and debriefing.

“These added capabilities will help put Smoky Hill Range on the map as one of the top joint training installations in the country,” Moran said. “Today, we witnessed collaboration from all levels of government and from private partners to support our war fighters and first responders. We have something special here in Salina. Smoky Hill Range plays a vital role in national and homeland defense. We will continue to enhance and highlight this jewel on the Kansas prairie.”

Congresswoman Nancy Boyda also secured \$2.1 million in federal funds for equipment, radio and safety upgrades for the training capabilities at Smoky Hill Range.

“I am happy to support the Kansas Guard’s efforts to make the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center a reality,” said Boyda. “This type of facility is badly needed not only within the state, but across the nation. This equipment will

allow anyone using the facility to train as close to real world as possible.”

“The Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center is preparing our military forces for missions here and abroad and the joint military and civilian training venues will ensure they are not only ready to respond, but also prepared to take the best course of action due to extensive training with others involved,” Sebelius said.

Another military training capability at GPJRTC, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, will provide a potential homeland security response in the future. The testing of different unmanned vehicles, to include the Aerosonde and CQ10 SnowGoose, for disaster response scenarios is ongoing and will expand in the future. Combining UAV flights in the GPJRTC with the skilled imagery analysts of the Wichita-based 184th Intelligence Wing of the Kansas Air National Guard provides a unique opportunity to perfect the delivery of real time video and imagery products for first responders during emergencies.

“Both the Crisis City and ASOS capabilities will enhance our military pre-mobilization training,” Bunting added. “Recently the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery made history when conducting the first Kansas Guard pre-mobilization training here at the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center before deploying to Iraq. This resulted in a much shorter training time out of state and kept the Soldiers closer to home and their families for a longer time period.”



The Crisis City Rail Venue simulates a train derailment. First responders will be able to use the site for training on haz-mat spills, rescue and other scenarios. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)

# 35th Division staff completes disaster preparedness training

By Maj. Angela Halvorson

The 35th Infantry Division staff took part in disaster preparedness training at Division Headquarters, Fort Leavenworth, on March 15.

The class, Incident Command System for executives/senior officials, is a part of a series of ICS courses mandated for all federal employees who could be a part of a disaster response.

The division has been tasked by Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, to be prepared to serve as the command and control element for National Guard troops should a disaster strike Jackson and/or Wyandotte County or other large areas around the state.

The division could also serve as the command and control element for National Guard troops throughout Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 7, which includes Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

ICS is a standardized, on-scene incident

management system that allows organizations from different jurisdictions and different functions to communicate during a disaster response.

Following the attacks on Sept. 11, it became apparent that different emergency responders from different jurisdictions were unable to communicate on radios and other communication networks. Additionally, there was no standard response to a disaster in terms of incident operations, incident communications, personnel qualifications, resource management, and information management and supporting technology. In response, the National Incident Management System was created.

The March 15 training was one class in a series of required courses that Soldiers from the 35th headquarters have been working on for the last several months as a part of their on-going civil support operations training. Each Soldier who completed the course received two hours of continuing education credit.



Trainer John Marmon addresses a question from Maj. Mike Kitchens, Division Information Operations section, during ICS 402 training at Division Headquarters in March. (Photo by Maj. Angela Halvorson)

## Riedel takes command of battery

By Sally Gray, Marysville Advocate

Capt. Murl Riedel, Topeka, assumed command of Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, succeeding Capt. Larry Leupold, Hiawatha, who served as commander for the past two years.

Lt. Col. John Rueger, Lenexa, battalion commander, participated in the change of command ceremony. Rueger said Leupold did an outstanding job increasing the operational readiness of the battery and that he appreciated everything Leupold did "to make this a better battalion and battery."

"We expect great things from you," Rueger told Riedel.

"We've got a great group of Soldiers," Leupold said. "You guys are ready to respond in a way the adjutant general and governor can be proud of."

He said he appreciated the Soldiers' and families' sacrifices. Leupold will transfer to headquarters battery as personnel officer.

Riedel said the first time he was at the Marysville armory was in 2003 when the battalion was activated to deploy to Iraq and "I wondered what I was getting into."

Riedel was born at Beloit and graduated from Tipton High School. He received a bachelor of science in history from Kansas State University and is working on a master's degree in museum studies from the University of Kansas. He is the assistant curator at the Kansas Museum of History.

In 1998, Riedel enlisted in the Kansas Army National Guard with Battery B, 1st Battalion, 127th Field Artillery as a field artillery howitzer crewman. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 2001 through the Kansas Officer Candidate School in Salina. His assignments have included fire direction officer, Multiple Launch Rocket System platoon leader, operations officer and battalion logistics officer.

He is a graduate of the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course. His awards include the Army Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal and the Army Commendation Medal.

## Medical Detachment performs health assessments for 635th Armor

By Spc. Joseph Andaverde, UPAR

Over 200 Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 635th Armor participated in the Periodic Health Assessment during the March drill weekend. The Kansas Army National Guard Medical Detachment was responsible for processing these Soldiers and finished processing 172 on the first day.

Staff Sgt. Debe Pierce, noncommissioned officer in charge of the operation, commended her Soldiers for being extremely flexible and efficient. Capt. Brian Komar, officer in charge, shared similar regards, but added that he prides their operation on the amount of cross training of each Soldier. One week a Soldier can be doing vitals and the next taking x-rays. Both Komar and Pierce mentioned that there had been some changes to the process recently and were pleased that their soldiers had adapted well.

One of the changes involves the integration of the Dent Class system. This system maintains Soldiers' dental records electronically. Initially, the Dent Class system was non-operational due to network issues. However, because of the level of expertise of the staff the issue was quickly resolved.

For Soldiers of the Medical Detachment, this is a regular occurrence. They often have two to four missions per month. Each mission is to perform Periodic Health Assessments and out-process Soldiers for

deployment. In addition, they provide walk-in clinics in Salina and Lenexa.

Sgt. Jennifer Carroll was recognized for her performance through Soldier feedback. Carroll, in collaboration with Kerry Manning, performed an excellent job ensuring that all Soldiers had updated and accurate immunization records.

"Working with the military is the highlight of my week," Kerry commented when asked about her thoughts on the operation. Kerry works in drug and alcohol testing in addition to her work with the military. Carroll and others also work in the medical field as civilians, which they believe helps them to be more effective and accurate in their duties.

The Periodic Health Assessment replaces the Annual Medical Screening process with more in-depth testing. Some of the tests include vitals, dental, vision and hearing. The improved process identifies the medical readiness for deployment of Soldiers and records the results electronically. Komar believes the Periodic Health Assessment is useful because it gives units an accurate idea of the overall health of their Soldiers.

The weekend was a great success for the 635th Armor Battalion and the Medical Detachment. Every Soldier from the battalion completed his Periodic Health Assessment and is current with the system.

## New technology enhances mission of Medical Detachment

By Col. Jason Showman

On March 8, the members of the Medical Detachment of the Kansas Army National Guard supported a readiness mission in the Smoky Hill Joint Forces Medical Center, at the Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina, Kan.

The 180 Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 635th Armor underwent yearly examinations and physicals that included hearing tests, immunizations and complete dental evaluations that field tested mobile x-ray equipment and electronic data entry of personal health information into the new DEN-CLASS automated system. The National Guard Bureau's Office of the Chief Surgeon has mandated that the new systems be incorporated into all Guard units' SRP events. This will enable a paperless record to be stored and archived for future recovery on behalf of deploying Soldiers.

The web-based system utilizes a secure network to retain vital health information for Soldiers that will be readily available by accessing the network worldwide. This will reduce the potential duplication of ser-

vices that currently exists and will ultimately increase Soldiers availability for training.

The Kansas Army National Guard is on the cutting edge of technology for supporting the readiness events that are required for all Soldiers. The unit, under the command of Col. Gordon Kuntz, has accepted the responsibility of ensuring that every avenue available for improving the medical and dental readiness of Kansas Soldiers will be exploited to the fullest degree. This includes the innovative mobile hand-held x-ray machines.

The "Nomad" is a 14 pound piece of technology which replaces the older and awkward radiology machines of the past. A briefcase with a laptop computer, digital sensor and hand-held x-ray machine can now be exported for use where and whenever necessary.

Kuntz's philosophy of always taking care of Soldiers and seeking innovative approaches to medical care has placed Kansas in the top echelon of all states for measurable readiness statistics.

## 137th Transportation Company welcomes new commander

By Sgt. 1st Class John Melnick

The 137th Transportation Company (PLS) welcomed a new commander, Capt. Flora M. Carson. A change of command ceremony was held March 2 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in Olathe. The 137th stood in ranks to continue the honored military tradition of passing the company guidon from the departing commander, Capt. Robert Parvin, who is taking

a new assignment at the 35th Division, to the newly arriving commander.

With 2008 underway and the calendar filling up with training events, Carson will have her hands full. Carson accepts the challenges and the responsibility with honor. She isn't a new face to the 137th. As a former cadet with the company, Carson knows the quality and expectations the Soldiers uphold.

## 190th brings home aircrew's remains

Continued from Page 1

honor of transporting the fallen back to U.S. soil — to Hawaii for identification.

"That seemed like a pretty good thing to do to give some closure to some families back home in the states," said Master Sgt. Mark Mertel, adding that it was an honorable thing to do and "a fine way to end my career with the Kansas Air Guard. I jumped on it. It's a great opportunity."

The Kansas crew flew from its home at Forbes Field, just outside Topeka, to Hawaii then Guam and, from Guam, another hour and a half to the Republic of Palau.

"It was really moving to see that island and kind of imagine what might have happened that day," Maj. Jeff Warrender said from the pilot's seat. "It really made me think about how brave those guys must have been and what they might've gone through before they died. To see how beautiful the island was, it was just kind of eerie."

Warrender first did a flyover inspection of the destination, a short airstrip with no tower that is usually used by smaller aircraft, in order for the crew to ensure conditions on the runway would permit a safe landing. Standing water, among other conditions, might keep the lumbering tanker from landing. Satisfied, Warrender circled back around, smoothly touched down and brought the big plane to a quick halt on the island nation.

Local officials, whose cooperation made the Palau recovery efforts possible, met the KC-135 crew on the runway. Jennifer Anson, executive assistant to the vice president of Palau, said the event was emotional for her.

"A lot of my relatives were here during the war and a lot of them went missing and we never found them," she said.

"I'm happy for whoever's family has that peace of mind now, knowing that their family members are being returned back home," Anson added.

U.S. Navy divers sat in the back of a

large truck with their cargo: two sealed black cases containing the remains of the B-24's lost crew. These divers, dispatched by Joint POW-MIA Accounting Command to this site, spent a month and a half under 70 feet of water meticulously recovering the remains and, in some cases, personal effects of the bomber's crew.

When BentProp personnel find a site, they tell Joint POW-MIA Accounting Command and an investigation is begun involving archaeologists, doctors, forensic scientists, divers, and whoever else is required to recover and identify a servicemember so that a family might be notified and the remains appropriately honored.

At the tanker, Air Force Capt. Jarrod Ramsey, a pilot, and Master Sgt. Matt Miltz, a refueling boom operator, carefully helped the divers, who handed the cases up from the truck into the side cargo door of the KC-135. Other members of the crew got the aircraft ready to fly again, checking and rechecking its structure and systems.

At the end of the runway, the engines whined louder and louder about not going anywhere as the pilot let their power build. Finally, the pilot released the brakes, and the tanker rocketed down a rapidly shortening runway and into the Pacific sky with the remaining crew of the Babes in Arms finally on their way to completing a trip that took much longer than anyone would have imagined.

After a quick stop back in Guam, the KC-135 flew east to Hawaii, where the remains of the B-24 crew would be examined forensically by JPAC experts to verify their identities. Once identified, the servicemembers will be flown the rest of the way home to their families, but that honor will be for another aircrew. The Kansas Coyotes had accomplished their mission.

"We've had some fairly long days and not a lot of ground time," Miltz explained. "But it's all been worth it, helping to bring these people back."



Sgt. Gabriel Bailey, a member of the Kansas Army National Guard Medical Detachment, draws blood from Spc. Kyle Bridges, a Soldier from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 635th Armor, as part of the Periodic Health Assessment. (Photo by Spc. Joseph Andaverde, UPAR)

# Planning, preparedness key to safety and security

By Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting

Months of hard work paid off in late March as we unveiled two new invaluable resources to ensure the state of Kansas is better prepared for disaster and terrorism response. The first is a rail training venue at the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center in Salina which the Adjutant General's Department began developing plans for in 2005. This is a tremendous training asset for our first responders and Guard to train together. The second resource is the new 284th Air Support Operations Squadron facility that will house the newest Guard unit which has joint air and army training capabilities as well as potential homeland security communications capacity during disaster response.



Maj. Gen.  
Tod M. Bunting

As new venues are opened at the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center, the result will be many more opportunities for Kansas first responders to improve disaster response capabilities while training side by

## Soldier to Soldier

### Pre-mob training at home works

By Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Quenzer

In January, I had the pleasure to visit the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, while they were at their mob station, Fort Bliss, Texas. The trip again reaffirmed my belief that the Kansas Guard has some of the finest Soldiers in the Army.



Command Sgt. Maj.  
Michael Quenzer

Our trip was to visit and to check on these great Americans as well as to find out what else we could do to assist them in getting ready for their deployment.

One of the things that we were interested in was to find out how the training they got before leaving Kansas had helped or hindered them.

The 161st was the first of Kansas units to deploy under the new policy of the states pre-training their troops, thus reducing the amount of time that the units have to spend at mob station and shortening their entire deployment time. When this policy was first put in place it created both pro and con feelings about the ability of each state being responsible for much of the training that each unit needs in order to be successful when they deploy.

Having returned recently from a deployment, I knew that much of what we were trained on could be done right here in the state, but the huge challenge of actually setting up a program that would honestly prepare these troops, remained a question mark.

To the credit of the Kansas Guard, it appears that we got it as close to right the first time as we could hope for. The Soldiers echoed time and again that their time spent in Salina and the training that took place there gave them a big head start over the other units that they are deploying with. These facts were not just the dreams of these Soldiers from Kansas, it became apparent from visiting with the non-commissioned officers and officers of the unit that was training, and preparing them for deployment, that the 161st had indeed

*While we work to improve the state's preparedness level, one of our best defense strategies is individual preparedness.*

side with their partners around the state.

While we work to improve the state's preparedness level, one of our best defense strategies is individual preparedness. With storm season upon us, it's critical we all check our home emergency supply kits and ensure they have water, food, medications, and other necessities to survive on our own following an emergency. Having a weather radio to alert us and our families to storm warnings is another important measure to ensure our safety.

Prepared individuals ensure we're better prepared as a state. The residents of Greensburg proved that. With the town nearly destroyed, the loss of lives could have been much worse. The residents of Greensburg are to be commended for heeding the warnings, preparing for the worst, and for their resiliency since that difficult day.

With a year behind us since the

arrived trained well ahead of their peer units.

I congratulate the Premobilization Training Assistance and Evaluation Team and the leadership of the Kansas Army National Guard on a job well done. The 161st Field Artillery deserves much of the credit for their success, because most of the training was done by their own Soldiers, Soldiers who stepped up to teach and train their fellow Guardsmen.

Those who were involved in the planning and the training of the 161st know that it has not been an easy road, but it displays that we do know how to get things done in the Kansas Guard. This success cannot be used as an excuse to relax and take it easy and to believe that we have all the answers. We have many, many more troops to train and get ready to go into combat. To let one Soldier though our training without the maximum effort on our part to prepare them, would be a tragedy! This is one job that we must be able to look in a mirror and know that we did our best.

This is just another success story that we can carry with us as members of the Kansas Army National Guard. During my 37 years as a Guardsman it has become very clear to me that we as Soldiers stand as tall as any of our brothers in uniform. As Guardsman we bring some special benefits to the table that the full time forces may lack, such as our ability to think outside the box, because we work and live in a different world from the regular Army. We switch back and forth from one week-end to the next, from one drill to the next. We have another world to compare our goals to and how to accomplish them. Our loyalty and belief in our country and fellow Guardsman cannot be questioned. We are the ones who put down our plows, pick up our rifles and defend this country of ours.

We as Kansas Guardsmen need to be extra proud of who and what we are. We need not be arrogant and rude with our pride, but we do need to remember that people are looking at us and are measuring us, each step we take in uniform. It becomes extra important that the person watching sees a professional, in deed and dress. We serve and set the example! What example are you setting?

Greensburg tornado, we've learned a tremendous amount about the needs a disaster of that nature can bring. We've seen the town begin the long process of rebuilding. As a result of lessons we learned there, we are working hard to expand our partnerships with business and industry to improve our preparedness capabilities.

In May, we will host our First Annual Business and Industry Forum for Disaster Operations. It will provide a forum for utility, telecommunications, transportation and other businesses to determine how the public and private sectors can support the state in an emergency response. We are also working on developing a Kansas Emergency Resources Registry which will provide information about what private sector resources and expertise exist in the state to help in disasters.

To improve our service to Soldiers, Airmen and their families, the Adjutant General's Department is creating a new program to prepare soldiers and airmen for the psychological stress they and their families may face during a deployment. The development of the Resiliency Program is in the early stages at this time. We are partnering with others around the state and nation to ensure the best center

and program possible for our Guardsmen right here in Kansas.

Approximately 900 of our Kansas Guard members are deployed this month, many serving in Kosovo, others in Iraq and some in Afghanistan. We appreciate the sacrifice the Guardsmen, families and friends are making and the many things you do to help your Guard member through the deployment.

The Kansas Air National Guard recently welcomed new commanders to the 184th Intelligence Wing and the 190th Air Refueling Wing. Congratulations to Col. Michael Foster, who took command of the 184th while outgoing commander Col. Randy Roebuck became the garrison commander of the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center. And congratulations to Col Keith Lang, who assumed command of the 190th from retiring commander Col. Gregg Burden.

Recently our department developed its Strategic Implementation Plan for 2008 to 2014 which outlines our four priorities. Additional information will be coming out in the months ahead about this planning effort. Please take a moment to review it at our web site, <http://www.kansas.gov/ksadjutantgeneral>.

## Timeline changed for Basic Officer Leadership Course

By Command Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mark Jensen

Chiefs: Just a note to bring you up to speed on a couple of pending actions in the Warrant Officer community.

The Basic Officer Leadership Course II (BOLC II) implementation timeline for Warrant Officers has been moved to the right, with Col. Mark Jones, commandant for the Warrant Officer Career Course, indicating that so many changes are being considered for condition based training that right now "No one goes." I think it realistic to conclude that 2010 or later would be the earliest we might expect to hear additional guidance on implementation of BOLC II for Warrant Officers.

This is a pretty dramatic change from past guidance and welcome news for the Warrant Officer community. Warrant Officers currently make up 14 percent of the entire Army Officer Corps and two

percent of the Army.

Col. Jones also relates that actions have been initiated to increase the course lengths for the Warrant Officer Staff Course to five weeks and the Warrant Officer Senior Staff Course to four weeks. For those Soldiers considering a Signal Warrant career, the proponency has related that it will adhere strictly to the experience requirements for predetermination. For 251A it will be four years documented experience, for 250N four years and for 254A also four years documented experience. The Quartermaster proponency has indicated that it will adhere strictly to the regulatory requirements for becoming a Signal Warrant.

My point in illustrating this is that it is apparent that the Active Army proponencies are no longer as willing to consider waivers for required military education and documented experience when considering Warrant Officer predetermination packets. I would still encourage anyone interested to process a packet, but be conscientious when ensuring you include everything that documents your time in the feeder MOS.

There will be a Warrant Officer Senior Leaders Conference at NGB late in the summer and each CCWO will be permitted to bring two additional Warrant

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Command Chief  
Warrant Officer 5  
Mark Jensen

## PLAINS GUARDIAN

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# Kansas team takes first at Bataan Memorial Death March

The 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery presented a strong showing at the Bataan Memorial Death March on March 28 at White Sands, N.M. Two teams from the battalion competed and the Battery B Team took first in the Military Heavy National Guard category with a time of 7 hours and 12 minutes. 1st Lt. Jessica Walker, chemical officer for the battalion, placed 4th in the civilian light category with an impressive time of 4:00 and 1st Lt. Aleshia Bedore placed 11th in the military heavy individual female category in a time of 8:39.

The Battery B Team consisted of Capt. Steven Schneider, 1st Lt. Jeff Mann, 1st Lt. Allen Vonderschmidt, 2nd Lt. Derek Leeds and Sgt. Gabriel Bailey.

Members from Battery C that competed were Sgt. 1st Class Steve Ahlstedt, Staff Sgt. Marc Beswick, Staff Sgt. Chip Cunningham, Sgt. Shawn Dillon and Sgt. Randal Milleson. Other Kansas National Guard Soldiers that competed were Col. Robert Bloomquist, 1st Lt. Jason Davee, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Steven Peak and retired Sgt. Maj. Steve Gfeller.

The Bataan Memorial Death March — 2008 was the 19th year for the event — is a

26.2 mile march through White Sands Missile Range that commemorates and honors the sacrifice of tens of thousands of American and Filipino Soldiers who were responsible for the defense of the islands of Luzon, Corregidor, and the harbor defense forts in the Philippines in World War II.

Civilians, military personnel, some children, an occasional military police dog and people from across the globe participate in different categories such as military, civilian, team and many walk the shorter 15 mile route in honor of the veterans. 2008 brought a new record of more than 4,400 participants.

Marchers compete for different reasons, often to honor a particular loved one or honor all veterans. Some march year after year. Bloomquist said he couldn't remember exactly how many times he'd been to the Bataan Memorial Death March and said he "thought this was my sixth, but can only count five shirts (marchers receive a different color shirt every year)! Two of them were in heavy category, that I am sure of!"

Gfeller marched for the seventh time this year in honor of his father, a World



**Battery B marches toward the finish line. Seen here are Sgt. Gabriel Bailey, 1st Lt. Allen Vonderschmidt, Capt. Steve Schneider, 1st Lt. Jeff Mann and 2nd Lt. Derek Leeds.** (Photo by 1st Lt. Jessica Walker)

War II engineer who cleared landing beaches on the Pacific islands and built airfields on them as Allied forces leap-frogged their way closer to Japan. He says, "The opening ceremony roll call is the part that gets me the most. Every year fewer survivors answer the roll call and (hearing) the list of those who have passed away is very sad."

Others like the mental and physical challenge the march represents.

"(I march) because it's there," said Mann. "It's to challenge myself, but it's also significant because it honors the veterans." Mann has coordinated competitive teams both last year and again this year.

"Overall, I am extremely proud of the team for such a solid performance and for never giving in to the pain of the event," Mann said. "I'm also honored to be a

member of the winning National Guard Military Heavy Team for 2008."

Mann's team trained hard before the event, both individually and as a team with some members logging around 100 miles with their rucksacks and the bare minimum 35 pounds. Training in Kansas did not provide the altitude, the weather, the hills or the sand like that found at White Sands.

Ahlstedt said, "It was much more difficult than I expected. You can't train enough for this event. The hills of central Kansas don't compare to the sand and mountains of the White Sands Missile Range."

"The Bataan Death March might possibly be my best accomplishment and I'll never do it again."

"The opening ceremony was incredible," said Cunningham. "Several veterans of the

(Continued on Page 8)

## Guardsmen earning their spurs

By Maj. John Clark

On March 8, the Kansas National Guard's 1st Battalion, 635th Armor Regiment spurred four new members into the Order of the Spur. The new members of the Order of the Spur are Capt. Ernest Kratina, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 635th Armor; 1st Lt. Christopher Coco, 35th Military Police Company; Sgt. 1st Class Erik Kaltenborn, Company A, 1-635 AR; Staff Sgt. Darin Liefried, Company C, 1-635 AR and Spc. Nathan Sparks, Company C, 1-635 AR.

Donning Stetsons and spurs, Soldiers in the armor battalion are hosting a spur ride for their Soldiers in order to honor their cavalry and armor traditions. Couched in the traditions of the Kansas Volunteer Cavalry serving on the Great Plains of Kansas, spur candidates will participate in training events that symbolize duties that cavalry troopers have done historically to prepare themselves for combat. For instance, Soldiers are expected to demonstrate care for their steed through pre-maintenance checks and services certification on a vehicle they serve upon. They are required to demonstrate rifle marksmanship through individual weapons qualification. In all, the areas of training are grouped in three phases: pre-requisite training requirements, the spur ride and lifelong service to the armor community.

This year's spur ride events began in January and will end in July. In January, spur candidates demonstrated personal expertise at Army warrior tasks. In February, they demonstrated proficiency at tank crew gunnery skills test in preparation for live fire exercises. In March, they performed individual weapons qualification. Remaining trials for them on the spur ride include dismounted land navigation and a small unit raid that will serve as a capstone training event. It will culminate with a spur dinner to mark everyone's accomplishments.

The Spur Ride is an outstanding way to build esprit within Kansas National Guard units. The spurs are definitely not a "give me." Not every Soldier that begins their spur ride will complete the required crucible. It's a great way to honor our traditions rooted in the Kansas Volunteer Cavalry while emphasizing key tasks that Soldiers must master to survive and win on today's battlefield."

The group most recently awarded their spurs performed their spur ride as trial by fire through combat experience with armor/cavalry units or by earning a Combat Action Badge, Combat Infantrymen's Badge, Combat Medical Badge, or Purple Heart. They will now serve as spur holders during the remainder of the battalion's spur ride to train new members into the Order of the Spur.



**Lt. Col. Howard E. Wheeler, president of the Spur Committee, awards Order of the Spur certificates to the newest Spur Holders: Capt. Ernest Kratina, Sgt. 1st Class Erik Kaltenborn, Staff Sgt. Darin Liefried, Spc. Nathan Sparks, and 1st Lt. Christopher Coco.** (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David Miles)

## Team "Bravo" competes in Bataan Memorial Death March

By Sgt. 1st Class Chris Baker

The Bataan Memorial Death March is a challenging march through the high desert terrain of White Sands Missile Range, N.M. The march honors the heroic Soldiers who defended the Philippine Islands during World War II, sacrificing their freedom, health and, for some, their lives.

Company B, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry, Kansas National Guard, Wichita, was represented in this year's Memorial March by five of their own: Sgt. 1st Class Bonifacio Purganan, Staff Sgt. Benton

Day, Sgt. Devry Jeffress, Spc. Beau Gene Allen and Spc. Arthur Rodriguez. Team "Bandit" trained for weeks preparing for the grueling 26.2 mile Memorial March. The march weaved through diverse terrain, including high desert trails, sandy washes and overgrown hillsides.

The Bravo "Bandits" competed in the National Guard Light Team portion of the march. The team completed the march in 8 hours, 28 minutes, 4 seconds, finishing fourth out of nine teams, a respectable first outing in the event.



**From the left: Sgt. Devry Jeffress, Staff Sgt. Benton Day (in back with guidon), Spc. Beau Gene Allen and Spc. Arthur Rodriguez march across the New Mexico desert as part of the Bataan Memorial Death March event.** (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Bonifacio Purganan)

## Foster assumes command of 184th Intelligence Wing

By Maj. DeAnn Barr

Command of the 184th Intelligence Wing, Kansas Air National Guard, passed from Col. Randy Roebuck to Col. Michael Foster during a ceremony on Sunday, March 2.

Roebuck is leaving his position to become garrison commander of the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center near Salina. This center is the first of five proposed centers throughout the state that will provide training facilities for law enforcement, fire, emergency rescue, military and other first responders.

Foster was vice commander of 184th Intelligence Wing. The wing supports the Air Force Global Engagement Strategy by operating a diverse set of missions focusing on intelligence and information technology. These missions greatly enhance the U. S. Air Force's capability to accomplish cyber warfare and provide intelligence supremacy and information dominance for combat forces around the globe.

"I can't run this wing by myself, it's definitely a team effort and I'm humbled and honored to be named as your commander — the commander of the first and finest Intelligence Wing in the Air National Guard," said Foster, during the Change of

Command ceremony attended by 184th unit members.

Foster, a native of Indianola, Iowa, graduated from Central Missouri State University in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science degree. Commissioned in the U.S. Air Force on Dec. 21, 1984, Foster subsequently attended Undergraduate Navigator Training and Electronic Warfare Officer Training at Mather Air Force Base and was designated a rated navigator / electronic warfare officer in 1986. He attended B-52 Combat Crew Training at Castle Air Force Base. During his initial B-52 tour, he was selected as a B-1B weapon systems officer. Following B-1B Combat Crew Training at Dyess Air Force Base, he completed B-1B tours at McConnell and Dyess Air Force Bases, respectively. Foster joined the Kansas Air National Guard's 184th Bomb Wing in 1994 as an instructor weapons systems officer in the B-1B.

Foster has accumulated nearly 4,000 hours flight time and has held positions in the Operations Group, Maintenance Group, Mission Support Group and Headquarters.

Foster and his wife Alicia have three children: Aaron, Andrew, and Matthew and reside in Derby, Kan.



Col. Michael Foster (right center) accepts congratulations from Brig. Gen. Ed Flora, commander of the Kansas Air National Guard, during a change of command ceremony at the 184th Intelligence Wing on March 2. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt McCoy)

## Lang becomes commander of 190th Air Refueling Wing



Col. Keith Lang (left) assumed command of the 190th Air Refueling Wing, Kansas National Guard, from Col. Gregg Burden during a ceremony on March 8. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mandy Johnson)

By Master Sgt. Greg Burnetta

In a change of command ceremony held at Forbes Field on March 8, 2008, Col. Gregg Burden, retiring as 190th Air Refueling Wing Commander, handed the unit's flag to Brig. Gen. Edward Flora, commanding general, Kansas Air National Guard. Flora, in turn, handed that flag to Col. Keith Lang, signifying Lang's appointment as the new wing commander.

Lang is the first traditional unit commander in the 190th. He is a professional, civilian airline pilot when not performing military duties. He currently has logged more than 4,000 military flight hours and in excess of 20,000 civilian flight hours. His military flight hours include more than 130 hours flying combat missions.

The change of command ceremony is steeped in military tradition dating back to 18th century Prussia. The purpose of the ceremony is to serve as an outward sign of one commander leaving a unit while being replaced immediately by another commander in one seamless manner.

Burden, wing commander since August 2003, is retiring after 26 years combined service to the U.S. Air Force and the Kansas Air National Guard. He has been a member of the 190th for the past 17 years. His military career began in 1982 when he graduated from Kansas State University and was commissioned a second lieutenant through the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps program.

Burden served in several leadership and command positions at the squadron and wing levels and logged more than 4,700 flight hours in military aircraft while participating in combat and peacetime missions.

Lang's last assignment was director of operations for Joint Forces Headquarters where he coordinated air operations involving more than 3,000 flight hours and more than 500 missions flown world-wide annually.

Lang was born in Fargo, N.D., and began his military career when he enlisted into the North Dakota Air Guard when he was 19 years old as an F-4 Phantom crew chief.

Lang moved to the Kansas City area and transferred to the Kansas Air Guard and was assigned to the 190th ARW. He was selected for pilot training and, in 1991, was commissioned a second lieutenant. Since graduating from pilot training, he has logged over 3,000 hours flying KC-135 A, D, E and R models.

During the ceremony, Burden was recognized for his many achievements which helped the 190th obtain its designated Outstanding Unit status by the Air Force, as well as being awarded the Spaatz Trophy for being the Air National Guard's Outstanding Flying Unit. Lang vowed to maintain the high standards which have been set by this unit's members and their predecessors.

## Annual Easter event accomplished with help from Kansas Guard

By Sgt. Michael Mathewson, UPAR

The Soldiers arrived at 6 a.m. "Why does it seem that every mission starts before dawn," said Sgt. Bradley Carney.

This mission would be much like many others that the 35th Military Police Company has run over the years. No one could remember how many times the MPs had conducted this mission. What they did know, it was the 51st Annual Governor's Easter Egg Hunt.

There was not a lot talk as the sergeants inspected the Soldiers and the four M1025 HMMWVs. By phone, Maj. Tony Randall, officer in charge for the hunt, said "There is a real possibility that the main event will be rained out and we will have to go with Plan B." Plan B involved the eggs being moved down town to a State parking garage. Cars would be allowed to drive through and the eggs would be handed out. At 7:30 a.m. Staff Sgt. David Palmer, non-commissioned officer in charge, said "Get ready to roll, we are a go for the main event."

The cold and rain flooded the maintenance bay as the door opened. Arriving at

Cedar Crest, the crews moved into a lower level room of the mansion. Out of the weather, in a room used by the Capital Police and the Cedar Crest staff, Randall and Palmer briefed the Soldiers. The mission was, in Soldier terminology, to secure the main supply route and provide on-call Force Protection. In other words, they would provide traffic and, if needed, crowd control. To complete their mission, the National Guard Soldiers would be working with the Kansas Highway Patrol, Capital Police and the Topeka Police Department. Randall and Palmer planned where to position the four HMMWVs on 6th Avenue. This was the bus route between Security Benefit and Cedar Crest. Assignments were also given to the Soldiers who would be on foot patrol at the entrances to the Governor's Mansion.

Staff Sgt. Marc Henry and Spc. Jason Colobong rolled their M1026 to the Security Benefit parking lot, where they provided traffic control. It was there that the young egg hunters and their parents board buses for the ride to Cedar Crest. The security of the bus route was provided by three other teams: Carney and Spc.

Isaac Burbank; Sgt. Danny Cheatham and Spc. Athena Cobb; and Sgt. William Fisk and Spc. Nathan Decker. Pvt. 2 Bobby

Cole and Pvt. 1 Joseph Bonner stood outside the front and side entrances to insure  
(Continued on Page 7)



Gov. Kathleen Sebelius consults with Maj. Tony Randall, officer in charge, on the order of events for the Governor's Annual Easter Egg Hunt. (Photo by Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR)

# Gen. Norton Schwartz is guest speaker for banquet

By Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

Air Force Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, the commander for the U.S. Transportation Command and the highest ranking military officer in charge of logistics, was the guest speaker during the annual Combat Service Support banquet honoring the 287th Sustainment Brigade on the night of Feb. 16 at the Hyatt Hotel and Convention Center in Wichita, Kan.

Schwartz pointed out the relationship between the branches of the services. "We're a joint team. It is important to acknowledge that logistics in the Department of Defense is independent of service and independent of components, including active components, Guard or Reserve."

Schwartz and his wife, Susan, braved inclement weather and flew from St. Louis to attend the banquet.

Schwartz's speech was not long, but hit on interesting points. "Since beginning operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, more than 1,600,000 people have been

deployed."

"About 460,000 of those are from the National Guard and Reserve," he continued. "Right now, more than 50,000 Guard members are deployed and more than 4.5 million passengers, some 10 million tons of cargo and around five billion gallons of fuel are just a part of what we have moved and supplied."

He thanked those Kansas Army National Guard members attending, acknowledging their upcoming deployment to Iraq later this year.

"Commitment! That is why you and I serve, especially in the Army and the Air National Guard. Many of you have lived this commitment for a long time to our nation."

"There's an old saying that you must be committed to have an impact. No one is impressed with the won-lost record of a referee. If you're not in the game, you're not scoring any points."

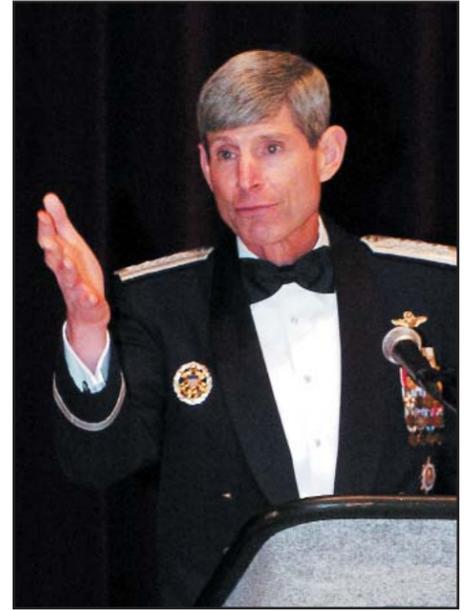
Schwartz summed up the missions that the Kansas Army and Air Guard has. "At

the core, we know that we are citizens of a good and decent nation. We're called on to make the world better by defending the innocent, by confronting the violence, by helping millions secure their freedom and by ensuring peace and liberty at home."

Also attending the banquet was the Kansas Air National Guard Commander, Brig. Gen. Ed Flora, who was representing Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, during the evening's activities.

Flora had met Schwartz before at the Transcom conference, where he saw the full scope of Transcom, which includes getting Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers and all their equipment where they need to be.

"The partnership that the Kansas Army and Air Guard is replicated at a much larger level in General Schwartz's arena at a much larger scale, and Kansas Army and Air Guard members excel in their part of this joint team," said Flora.



Gen. Norton A. Schwartz points out that all branches of the armed forces are important members in a joint team. (Photo by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD)

## Black shows support for the Red, White and Blue at military banquet

By Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

Clint Black recently had a first in his professional career as a country-western superstar—he sang the National Anthem for an assembly.

He sang at the Hyatt Hotel and Convention Center in Wichita on Feb. 16 while attending the annual Combined Service and Support banquet for the 287th Sustainment Brigade. The Kansas Army National Guard unit is slated to be deployed to Iraq this fall.



Country music artist Clint Black sings the National Anthem for the Combined Service and Support banquet for the 287th Sustainment Brigade (Photo by Maj. Mike Wallace, UPAR)

"This is the first time I've ever sang the National Anthem professionally and I wanted it to be special," said Black. Even though the opportunity has come close many times, Black was never given the opportunity to sing the National Anthem.

Black had been slated to sing the National Anthem for the Yankees at the World Series, but the Yankees only went four games and his slot to sing the Anthem never arrived.

"When this opportunity arrived, I thought, 'World Series are great, Super Bowls are great, but nothing can be more special than singing the Anthem for the people of the Armed Services getting ready to deploy to Iraq this evening,'" he said.

According to Black, the night was special. "As a song-

writer, this song inspires me," he said.

"Not to give a history lesson, but when Francis Scott Key wrote the National Anthem he was a prisoner of war on an English Frigate, waiting to see if his country's Fort McHenry would last out the night from the English bombardment. To see the Star Spangled Banner still waving after such an intense night, well, I just don't know of many things that could be more inspirational, so it was with great emotion that I practiced the song and thought about that song-writer, standing, watching and waiting on the frigate for dawn to see if the battle was won."

"I have traveled some, and it is truly an inspiration to see our beautiful flag when I get home. It is such a beacon of hope to people around the world," Black said.

While Black talked to more than 500 Kansas Guard Soldiers and Airmen and their families, he related where he once met a vendor in the music industry that was from Iraq and they began to talk.

During their conversation, the Iraqi man broke down in tears and told him about members of his family who were discovered in a mass grave — put there by Saddam's regime. But the man was thankful now that America has helped stabilize the area, that other members of his family still living in Iraq have the hope that they can go on without fear of ending up in one of those graves.

"I don't say this tongue-in-cheek," said Black, "but I think it's only the communists still remaining among us who don't appreciate the effort to go abroad and free other people and it's with great disdain for the politics injected into these sort of things that I look at it, and look for the beauty in it."

Black was beginning to choke up as he finished his short speech to the attendees. "Even with all the tragedies involved, the beauty is in the effort, in the wishes in the hearts of all of you who will go abroad and try to help other people have what we have. So, as one person that is free, I'm hoping for all the other people and I thank you all, and all of your families who wait behind. We all love you, appreciate you and are proud of you. God speed and a safe return for all of you."

It has been Black's pleasure to perform for the troops in other countries and around the United States. For his support of the Kansas National Guard, he was presented a plaque by Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, commander of the U.S. Transportation Command, and Col. Robert Schmitt, commander of the 287th Sustainment Brigade.

## Jayhawks fly last refueling mission

By Tech. Sgt. Sabrina Foster

The flying chapter was finally closed Dec. 1 for the last two members of the 127th Air Refueling Squadron at a base in Southwest Asia.

Maj. Gary "Sluggo" Nash, KC-135 pilot, and Master Sgt. Steven "Bull" Albers, boom operator, both assigned to the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, flew their final refueling mission supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom - closing the doors of the 127th ARS forever.

"This is a bittersweet day for us," said Nash. "We knew it was coming, so it's just good to put it behind us and look forward to the future."

Nash is now working to stand up the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron. He started his military career 21 years ago as an enlisted crew chief on the T-37, F-4 and the F-16. He eventually went Palace Chase and later earned his commission. He was a B-1B Weapons System Officer, Electronics Warfare Officer, Range Control Officer and Weapons Instructor Course graduate before becoming an aircraft commander of the KC-135.



Maj. Gary "Sluggo" Nash checks out the gauges in the cockpit as he piloted his final refueling flight during an Operation Iraqi Freedom mission Dec. 1. (Photo provided)

Albers has started a new career in munitions. He began his military career 20 years ago as a crew chief on the F-4, F-16 and then finally the B-1B. When the unit converted to KC-135s, he became a boom operator.

The last two members of the 127th ARS wrote the final chapter with a combat refueling sortie, a fitting end to an era of combat and combat support from the Flying Jayhawks. Flight over. Mission complete!

## Annual Easter event accomplished with help from Kansas Guard

Continued from Page 6

that no one wandered into the building. Although public property, it is, after all, the Governor's home. The traffic control point in front of the mansion was manned by Pfc. Travis Weaver and a member of the Capital Police Force.

The rain had stopped, but it was wet and cold with an overcast sky. The buses started running at 9 a.m., bringing the crowds. The poor weather did keep the attendance down when compared to previous years. As the young and young-at-heart waited; 12,000 candy-filled plastic eggs

were scattered across Cedar Crest's lower lawn by a score of volunteers. For fairness, the hunting grounds were divided up into four age groups. As Gov. Kathleen Sebelius walked down the hill to the stage, several of the Soldiers had the opportunity to have their picture taken with her. At 11 a.m., with the Easter Bunny at her side, the governor started the hunt by counting down.

"Is everybody ready? Three, two, one go."

The hunt was on. It did not take long for the crowd to clear the lawn of eggs. Because of the ratio of children to

eggs, baskets were over flowing.

With the eggs collected, lines quickly formed for the buses. It did not take long for the buses to return everyone back to their cars. Master Sgt. Gregory Cochran, 35th Military Police Company first sergeant, said "Weather aside, this was a great event."

The Soldiers maintained their posts until the last of the hunters were safely on the buses heading for their parents' cars. Only then did the Soldiers head back to their armory at Forbes Field.

# KC-135 Stratotanker marks 30 years of service at Forbes Field

By Master Sgt. Bill Gilliland

The arrival of the first tanker at Forbes Field on March 22, 1978, came with a whole new set of inspections and evaluations. The Strategic Air Command was the new reporting command, and they had the most ambitious inspection and operational schedule in the entire Air Force.

Organizational Readiness Inspections were new to the unit and the Kansas Coyotes responded with their usual excellent results. In fact, the unit completed the conversion ahead of schedule. When the conversion was first planned, the first

refueling mission wasn't scheduled until July, but due to the rapid pace of the training taking place, it actually took place on the May 25, 1978.

Col. William Mahler piloted the unit's first refueling mission with Tech. Sgt. Michael Madden on the boom. Tempo 01 was the call sign as the 190th successfully completed the refueling of an E-3 Sentry from Tinker AFB.

Over the next few months, Kansas Coyotes would prove that they were up to the challenge of a new mission. The 190th's first ORI in 1979 resulted in an



A 190th Air Refueling Wing KC-135D stands at RAF Fairford in 1997, with special tail art tribute to the Air Force and the 190th on their birthdays. (Photo provided)

outstanding rating. Over the next several years, similar results were achieved.

By 1980, only three years after the change, the 190th Air Refueling Group was selected by the National Guard Bureau to represent the Air National Guard in competition for the Daedalian Maintenance Award, meaning the 190th was selected as the best of the 92 flying units in the Guard. While the 190th did not win the Air Force wide competition, being selected as the National Guard representative was an outstanding accomplishment in itself.

In 1984, the KC-135 A-model was converted to the E-model with more powerful, quieter and more fuel efficient engines. This would be the jet that the unit would fly for more than 20 years, including through Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. It was during Desert Storm that an E-model belonging to another unit with a 190th crew aboard lost two engines off one side, resulting in some very dramatic moments for the crew.

During the mid 90s, the 190th had the

distinction of having the only four KC-135 D-models in the world. These were KC-135s that had been converted from EC-135 models and had very different electrical systems. Coincidentally, several of these same jets had spent part of their former EC-135 days at Forbes Field as part of an active duty unit stationed here before Forbes Air Force Base was closed. They ended their flying days as part of the 190th Air Refueling Wing. The tail at the main gate to Forbes Field with the Minuteman on it was displayed as part of the Air Force's 50th and the unit's 40th anniversary and was originally painted on one of the D-Models.

The Base Realignment and Closure process in 2005 brought another significant change - the KC-135 R-model. The most recent upgrade to the KC series gives the unit increased capability and responsibility.

It has now been 30 years since the first KC-135 was placed into service with the 190th, but what a 30 years it has been.



## Ask the TAG



## Why has the Central Issue Facility been closed?

Below is a question from one of our Soldiers. I asked our United States Property and Fiscal Office to respond. Thank you for your questions.

\*\* \*\* \*

*My Supply Sergeant has told me that the Central Issue Facility in Topeka has been closed for issue/turn-in of individual TA-50 for almost three months now and will remain closed for another month or so. What's going on? And why, when headquarters is trying to improve service to our Soldiers, is CIF permitted to be closed for four months straight?*

*Follow-up question: What is the plan to issue the Rapid Fielding Initiative clothing and equipment to Soldiers that have not received it yet?*

*A Curious M-day Soldier.*

There was an impact to the service of the KSARNG from the Central Issue Facility service due to inventory and command priority to the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery mobilization. The CIF was closed from Jan. 21 through March 6. The CIF did not close completely until Jan. 21 when our inventory counts actually started.

We were still issuing to Soldiers that were going to school and taking turn-ins for Soldiers that had Enlisted Termination of Service. We opened the CIF back up for full operation on March 6. This took longer than we expected, partly due to supporting 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Release From Active

Duty Feb. 29 through March 2.

We take pride that our Central Issue Facility exports the equipment to our Soldier Readiness Processing sites to support the Soldier on the ground. However, the CIF isn't manned to provide this and continue with normal operations.

We regret this had a negative impact on the remainder of the state. We were flexible when asked to provide emergency service and will be in the future. In this case, we did turn away requests for body armor and Rapid Fielding Initiative equipment that we held back for deploying soldiers. Rapid Fielding Initiative equipment will only be issued to deploying Soldiers due to budget and availability issues. We will however, issue Advanced Combat Helmets, helmet covers, universal camouflage wet weather gear and universal body armor as long as we have enough for deploying Soldiers.

Customer service is a priority for the USPFO and in the CIF. If there are concerns or suggestions, please contact me or Sgt. 1st Class Clay Winters at 785-274-1311.

Master Sgt. Bobby Dodd, USPFO,  
Central Issue Facility manager

\*\* \*\* \*

Do you have a question you'd like to ask me? Please submit it to [Tagquestions@us.army.mil](mailto:Tagquestions@us.army.mil) or mail it to Adjutant General's Department, Public Affairs Office, Room 108, Attention Sharon Watson, 2722 SW Topeka Boulevard, Topeka, KS 66611. You may submit it anonymously, if you prefer.

## Troops to Teachers provides new career opportunities

The Troops to Teachers program enriches the quality of American education by helping to place and retain mature, motivated, experienced and dedicated personnel in our nation's classrooms. Thousands of current and former military personnel are discovering new and rewarding careers in teaching, helping to build and sustain our nation's communities.

Through the Troops to Teachers program eligible military members are able to obtain a \$5,000 stipend for educational expenses to obtain a teacher's license. Military members already teaching may utilize the \$5,000 stipend to obtain a second endorsement in a high-need subject area such as math, science or special education. Additionally, eligible military members who work in low-income schools may receive a \$10,000 bonus. Military members interested in financial assistance can visit [www.proudtoserveagain.com](http://www.proudtoserveagain.com) to determine eligibility.

To assist military spouses interested in pursuing teaching careers the Department of Defense has recently developed Spouses to Teachers. Through the Spouses to Teachers program eligible military spouses receive up to \$600 in reimbursement for teacher examinations.

Both the Troops to Teachers and Spouses to Teachers programs provide information on a variety of teacher licensure programs and state requirements. There is a national network of education specialist available to assist military members and spouses obtain their initial teacher's license, transfer a license from state to state, obtain a second endorsement or secure employment.

For further information regarding the Troops to Teachers or Spouses to Teachers programs, please contact Mountain West Troops to Teachers at 1-800-438-6851 or visit [www.mwttt.com](http://www.mwttt.com).

## Kansas team takes first place

Continued from Page 5

actual Bataan Death March were in attendance and shook our hands on our way past the starting line." Veterans also greet marchers at different mile markers.

"Experiencing an event like that really puts in perspective what Soldiers in the past have had to endure," said Beswick. "Most Soldiers today have no idea how good we have it. Those Soldiers who survived the

actual Death March should be held in the highest respect and are a symbol of what the American Soldier is all about."

Results for the 2008 Bataan Memorial Death March can be found at <http://www.arizonarunningeventsco.com/bataanmilmar08.htm>

Information about the 2009 Bataan Memorial Death March can be found at [www.bataanmarch.com](http://www.bataanmarch.com)

## In memoriam

Written by: Holli Gill, Step-daughter of Sgt. 1st Class David R. Berry, Killed In Action Feb. 22, 2007

On that awful  
Thursday morn  
We got the devastating  
News you were gone.

Our lives were ripped  
Apart that day  
It wasn't supposed  
To happen this way

Your life was taken  
In the blink of an eye  
We never even got  
To tell you "Goodbye"

The "Ultimate Soldier"  
Is what they all say



But to us we never  
Thought of you that way

You're our husband, uncle,  
Brother and son  
Papa, best friend  
And Big Daddy to one

It seems like just yesterday  
But it's been a whole year  
Not a day has gone by  
That we haven't shed tears

With the ultimate sacrifice  
You answered the call  
Always a hero to us  
Now forever a hero to all!

**Interested in being a SCOUT for your county?**  
We're looking for Kansas Guard members and retirees of the Guard to consider this important role, please call 785-274-1117.

# Training teaches Soldiers how to protect the health of their unit

By Sgt. CJ Tustin

On the weekends of Jan. 12 - 13 and Feb. 9 - 10, 2008, the Preventive Medicine Section from the Medical Detachment in Lenexa, Kan., conducted and successfully certified 27 Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers as field sanitation team members. The instructors were 1st Lt. Rick Upshaw, a veterinarian; 1st Lt. John Rule, a preventive medicine officer; and Sgt. CJ Tustin, a preventive medicine specialist. The purpose of the course was to ensure that all units are in compliance with the Army requirements to have field sanitation teams for every unit in the state.

The FST Certification training is designed to enhance, sustain or provide the initial training of the field sanitation teams to ensure that small units have preventive medicine resources to reduce diseases and non-battle injuries. Since field sanitation is an unfamiliar topic to many Soldiers, many of them were surprised by the depth of information they learned.

"I thought we would learn how to inspect water buffalos, but I learned that as a field sanitation team member, my job is to be the guide for our commander for preventive medicine," said Sgt. Jacob Fields. "I also learned how to set up a proper camp site."

Some of the topics that were covered during the Field Sanitation course includ-

ed: medical threat to field forces, personal hygiene and preventive medicine measures, water supply in the field, food service sanitation in the field, waste disposal in the field, arthropods and diseases, rodent management, as well as a course in hot and cold weather injuries. Many of the Soldiers who took the class came away with a better appreciation and understanding of preventive medicine and field sanitation.

"What I expected from the FST training was to get a better understanding of why we get put where we do in the field," said Pfc. Dustin Bruncken. "Also, I was interested in learning what type of sanitation rules and regulations that there are. I did learn a great deal of why rodents and other types of animals out in the field are not something that you want to mess with. Also I didn't realize that mosquitoes carried that many harmful diseases."

Field Sanitation is not only an important method to reduce risk and prevent injuries to our Soldiers, but it is also a requirement for commanders. The commander is responsible for appointing and training the field sanitation team. The commander is not alone though, the Army Medical Department, specifically the Preventive Medicine Section, is responsible for providing the necessary technical guidance.

After the completion of the course, the



**Soldiers certifying to become members of their unit's field sanitation team receive training on the Wet Bulb Temperature Gage. (Photo by Sgt. Jacob Fields)**

Soldiers came away with a better understanding of what their responsibilities now included. As a member of a FST, they are responsible for those preventive medicine measures that affect units as a whole or are beyond the resources of the individual Soldiers. Also, the role of the team is to aid the unit commander in protecting the health of the unit by advising and assisting in many duties essential to reducing diseases and non-battle injuries. All of the Soldiers who took the FST training passed the exam, which is the only way to receive FST Certification and be appointed as a member of their units' field sanitation team.

The FST must consist of at least two Soldiers, one of whom must be a noncommissioned officer to provide assistance and/or consultation. If your unit has assigned or organic Healthcare Specialists (MOS 68W), those Soldiers are a good fit

for the FST due to their MOS training in field sanitation and medical care. Members of the cooking staff do not make good candidates for the FST, as they receive separate training pertinent to their specific MOS in food sanitation. After completion of the course, Soldiers are ready to practice field sanitation and train their own units in preventive medicine.

Spc. Scott Reeves commented, "I will train my unit and keep my Soldiers and unit safe."

Pfc. Jeremy Berry stated, "The instructors kept a nice pace that even those of us who are a little slower could keep up with. The instructors' willingness to keep things in a lighter mood with humor was a very nice change of pace, also."

This course will be offered again next year, and preparations for a Food Service Sanitation course have already begun.

## Sustainment program prepares recruits to become Soldiers

By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR

What do young Soldiers do between joining the Kansas Army National Guard and the time they are ready to join their unit? From the time they join and until they complete Advanced Individual Training, they are assigned to one of the six Recruit Sustainment Program Detachments. The detachments are spread throughout the state to be closer to the Soldiers.

The weekend of March 8 and 9 was a drill weekend for the Salina-based RSP Detachment 2. Master Sgt. Roger Sinclair, noncommissioned officer in charge, and his staff, Sgt. 1st Class Clair Hoelsing, Staff Sgt. James Suber and Sgt. John Alderson are full time National Guard recruiters. "The RSP program is designed to get the new Soldiers ready for Basic Training," Hoelsing explained. "The program then supports them until they complete their Advanced Individual Training. We train the Soldiers in the skill they will need in Basic Training."

On March 8, the Soldiers trained on their map reading skills. Pvt. Leymon Harris, who joined to be an artilleryman, said "We were in the classroom this morning when it was really cold. We were taught about the symbols on the map. The five colors, how to tell a hill from a depression and what a saddle looks like."

Pvt. Kendra Raskopf, who will be joining Company D, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, said "We are shooting azimuths with our compasses."

"Once we have two azimuths we can draw lines making something like an intersection on the map," said Pvt. Jeremy Simmers. "With that, we will know the telephone pole's grid location down to eight digits." Simmers is looking forward to his training as a wheeled vehicle mechanic.

The Soldiers were shooting the azimuths from several known points to a telephone pole. Pvt. Ronald Dyke, who will be joining the 35th Military Police Company, said "That means that we know where it is within 10 meters. That is important if we need to call in artillery or a resupply air-drop or something like that."

The sergeants spend their drill weekends training the future of the Kansas Army National Guard. Hoelsing said "We want to equip our Soldiers with everything they



**Pvt. Ronald Dyke shoots an azimuth with a compass during a training exercise at the Recruit Sustainment Program Detachment 2 in Salina. (Photo by Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR)**

will need to succeed. That is why every drill we conduct an Army Physical Fitness Test and a performance counseling."

"We try to make things as real as possible," he continued. "In an upcoming drill we will be using paint ball guns when we move through a training village. Before we go on the mission, we will do a mission brief and a rehearsal. We will use sand tables and aerial photographs of the village for the mission brief."

"Although; we are geared for the Recruit that is headed for Basic Training, we do not forget our split option Soldiers," said Hoelsing. Split option Soldiers have completed Basic Training, but have yet to attend their Advanced Individual Training. "As they have been through everything, we place them in leadership positions to further develop them."

The other Recruit Sustainment Program Detachments also conducted equally challenging training. The other detachments are Detachment 1, Topeka; Detachment 3, Wichita; Detachment 4, Iola; Detachment 5, Lenexa and Detachment 6, Liberal.

## Timeline changed for course

Continued from Page 4

Officers to attend. If you would have interest please send me a note and I'll select two participants. I would prefer someone Chief Warrant Officer 3 or Chief Warrant Officer 4 that will be around for a number of years yet, so the information chain has sustainability. The conference will be sometime late in August and I will publish the date when established.

There will be another Warrant Officer Town Hall Meeting here in Kansas on June 8 in the TAG Conference Room, State Defense Building, 2800 S.W. Topeka

Blvd., from 9 to 11 a.m. Please plan on attending. Warrant Officers that do not drill that date should contact their chain of command for MUTA or SUTA options permitting attendance.

The last meeting had sparse attendance, with those present suggesting the next one be on a weekend.

Look forward to seeing all of you there. If you have questions about anything written here please call me at 785-861-3863.

Thank you all for your continued excellent service and do something special for a Soldier today.

## Retirements

### Kansas Army National Guard

Lt. Col. Larry Parrish, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
Chief Warrant Officer 5 Harold Durkes, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
Chief Warrant Officer 4 Robert Coleman, Co B (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Salina  
Chief Warrant Officer 4 James Rostine, Co B (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Salina  
Sgt. Maj. John Birdsong Jr., HHB, 130th FA Bde, Topeka  
1st Sgt. Kenneth Dewitt, 250th FSC (-), Ottawa  
1st Sgt. Larry Heck, 250th FSC (-), Ottawa  
Master Sgt. Douglas Lillich, HHD, 169th CSSB, Olathe  
Master Sgt. Marshall Martin, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Kenneth Paillet, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan  
Sgt. 1st Class Sean Aspedon, Btry C, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Kingman  
Sgt. 1st Class Michael Baker, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
Sgt. 1st Class Eric Mincks, HHD, 169th CSSB, Olathe  
Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Piatt, HHC, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Steve Boren, Btry A (-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Marysville  
Staff Sgt. Douglas Clements, 995th Maint Co (-), Smith Center  
Staff Sgt. Robert Davis, Det 2, Co E, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. James Dickson II, HHC (-), 2nd Bn, 137th Inf, Kansas City  
Staff Sgt. William Oberst, Det 3, 250th FSC, Sabetha  
Sgt. Mikael Boyd, Det 2, 778th Trans Co, Wichita  
Sgt. Mark Ford, Det 3, 250th FSC, Sabetha  
Sgt. Brant Marble, Det 1, 250th FSC, Burlington  
Sgt. Ryan Moore, HHC, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita  
Sgt. Mario Ortiz, 1161 FSC, Hutchinson  
Sgt. Jonathan Raye, Det 3, 250th FSC, Sabetha

### Kansas Air National Guard

Lt. Col. Curtis O. Coln, 184th IW, Wichita  
Lt. Col. Charles R. Morris, 184th IW, Wichita  
Maj. Randy Smith, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Chief Master Sgt. Edwin E. Kramer, 184th IW, Wichita  
Chief Master Sgt. Sheila Payne, 184th IW, Wichita  
Chief Master Sgt. Richard C. Ramsey, 184th IW, Wichita  
Chief Master Sgt. Jack L. Solter, 184th IW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Harold E. Brotemarkle, 184th IW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth E. Dent, 184th IW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Jerry W. Lucas, 184th IW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Eugene R. Turner, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Clark D. Aiken, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Kevin Bante, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Larry D. Breuninger, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Willie J. Daniels, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Steven Dearmond, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Timothy B. Greenlee, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Mary K. Hansen, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Gary D. Holtzman, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Michael P. Lowe, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Stephen D. Manker, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Dary L. McPhail, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Dennis S. Moriarty, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Ross Vermillion, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Roxann Vermillion, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. William A. Caylor, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Tona L. Diekhoff, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. William D. Gardenhire, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Charles LeGrande, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. David E. Naylor, 184th IW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Jeffrey A. Bodine, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Anthony W. Grimmett, 184th IW, Wichita

# Awards and Decorations

## KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

### Bronze Star



Maj. Bradley Burns, 731st TC, Larned  
1st Lt. Jonah Krause, 731st TC, Larned  
1st Lt. Mark Mullinax, 731st TC, Larned  
1st Lt. Justin Rutledge, 731st TC, Larned  
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Blaine Garrett, 731st TC, Larned  
1st Sgt. Darell Keller, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. 1st Class Sheila Dues, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. 1st Class Bruce Laffery, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Littlefield, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. 1st Class Darrin Sack, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. 1st Class Michael Schmidberger, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Sherwood, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. 1st Class Scott Williamson, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Robert Bieker, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Jose Flores, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Gerald Gibson, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Tyron Hudgins, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Harrison McWhorter Jr., 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Terry Murray, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Kevin Patterson, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Brian Riley, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Matthew Rubin, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Thomas West, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Alvin Winns, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Tyler Berends, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Joseph Conway, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Michael Fellman Jr., 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Jack Jackson, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Joshua Kepley, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Phillip McGlothlin II, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. William Vining, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Larry Widener, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Henry Womack, 731st TC, Larned  
Cpl. Craig Jackson, 731st TC, Larned

### Purple Heart



1st Lt. Jonah Krause, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Seth Diggs, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Justin Hicks, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Allen Hill, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Patrick Murphy, 731st TC, Larned  
Pfc. Jeffrey Jader, 731st TC, Larned

### Meritorious Service Medal



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Steven E. Kientz, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
Command Sgt. Maj. Glenn L. Peterson, HHC, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Sgt. 1st Class Steven Coup, RTS-M, Salina  
Sgt. 1st Class George H. Harris Jr., Det 2, 226th Eng Co, Cherryvale  
Sgt. 1st Class James M. Mueller, Btry A, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Marysville  
Sgt. 1st Class Doris D. Willey, 287th STB, Hays, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. William W. Wolf, HHD, 635th RSG, Hutchinson  
Staff Sgt. Rogelio Flores, HHC, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Manhattan

### Army Commendation Medal



1st Lt. Jonah Krause, 731st TC, Larned  
1st Lt. Justin Rutledge, 731st TC, Larned  
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kenneth E. Hampton, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster  
Sgt. 1st Class David E. Burgoon Jr., JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster  
Sgt. 1st Class Dinah Johnson, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. 1st Class Julie A. Kempel, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster  
Staff Sgt. Shawn Crabb, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Bruce Eldred, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Robert Himelrick III, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Tyron Hudgins, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Robert Pugh, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Phillip Rider, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Brian Riley, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Ronald Allen, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Michelle Baker, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Sgt. Christopher Boyer, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Brian Dear, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Sgt. Christopher Dix, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Sgt. Michael Fellman Jr., 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Randy Fortin, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Kerry Free Jr., 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Sgt. Warren Graham, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Tyler Griffin, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Ben Guhr, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Michael Hanson, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Michael Hoffman, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Bernard Jennings, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Sgt. Danny Kelley, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. John Kuenzi, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Randall Lee, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Benjamin Lewellyn, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Jerry Mead, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Thomas Monaghan, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Ronald Moore, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. James Riggle, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Sgt. Kristina Rios, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Frank Russell, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Donald Shearmire, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Sgt. Robert Stillwagon, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Jesse Thomas, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Brandon Tippy, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Sgt. William Warner, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Sgt. Gary Wenke Sr., 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Frank White, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. John White, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Wesley Wright, 731st TC, Larned  
Cpl. Gary Hall Jr., 731st TC, Larned  
Cpl. Steven Iverson, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Cpl. Craig Jackson, 731st TC, Larned  
Cpl. Eriberto Murillo, 731st TC, Larned  
Cpl. Chad Taylor, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. Robert Bell, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Kenneth Cadwalader, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Anthony Carver, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. James Crabb, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Donald Cunningham Jr., 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Seth Diggs, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Drew Edwards, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Tyler Griffin, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. John Halley, 731st TC, Larned

Spc. James Henkle Jr., 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Allen Hill, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Clayton Hogie, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Merlin Hollis Jr., 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Ashlee Hommertzhaim, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. Linnea Jones, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. Kenneth Kester, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Michael Knapp, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. Jessie Lawrence, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. Douglas Lawson, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Jason Lee, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Patrick Murphy, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Lopez Ocasio, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Lawrence Pearce, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Matthew Pfeifer, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Daniel Philip, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. John Phillips, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Gricelia Ramosjimenez, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Dustin Randolph, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. Jorge Salazar, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Brian Sickler, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Gerald Simmons Jr., 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Erik Tipsword, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Joseph Verschelden, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Paul White, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Jay Wilson, 731st TC, Larned

### Army Achievement Medal



1st Lt. Bruce Stephenson, 731st TC, Larned  
Master Sgt. Alfred Besser Jr., 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Mickleal Blackburn, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Bryan Clark, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Clayton Davis, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Raymond Gawith, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Staff Sgt. Calvin Wilson, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Ronald Allen, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Robert Armstrong, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Sgt. Jason Baetz, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Sgt. Michelle Baker, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Alan Boatman, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Eric Brodersen, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Erik Green, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Phim Khamphouong, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Michael Mortimore, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Sgt. Christopher Roddey, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Oad Sears, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Donald Shearmire, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Jeffrey Slomba, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Kenneth Swanson, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Jesse Thomas, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Shawn Whitmore, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Randy Wilson, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Donald Yost, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Cpl. Gary Hall Jr., 731st TC, Larned  
Cpl. Kristopher Jones, 731st TC, Larned  
Cpl. Eriberto Murillo, 731st TC, Larned  
Cpl. Chad Taylor, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Christopher Akers, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Timothy Alexander, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Michael Andrews, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. Michael Arendt, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. Julia Barnes, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. Robert Bell, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Amanda Bonner, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Joshua Burrell, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Kenneth Cadwalader, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Matthew Campbell, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Daniel Chambers, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. Seth Diggs, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. Robert Frankowski, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Nicholas Gazzano, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. Ricky Gonzales, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. John Halley, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Clarence Hallner, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Clifford Harris, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. John Heater, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. James Henkle Jr., 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. Justin Hicks, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Allen Hill, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Clayton Hogie, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. Merlin Hollis Jr., 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Billy Jack, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. Kenneth Kester, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Michael Knapp, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Douglas Lawson, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Jason Lee, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Christopher Leech, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Aaron Little, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Peter Mercado, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. Kevin Moberly, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Olivia Nguyen, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Ryan Nichols, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Matthew Pfeifer, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. Daniel Philip, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. John Phillips, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Raymond Qualls, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. Matthew Richards, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. James Scott Jr., 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. Brian Sickler, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. Gerald Simmons Jr., 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Erik Tipsword, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Jeremiah Vague, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. Ronnie Wilkerson, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Carlen Williams, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Spc. James Williams, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Christopher Young, 731st TC, Larned, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Pfc. Jeffrey Jader, 731st TC, Larned  
Pfc. Samuel Rowe, 731st TC, Larned  
Pvt. 2 Andrew Fritschen, 731st TC, Larned  
Pvt. Nickalos Coone, 731st TC, Larned  
Pvt. Kelly Simmons, 731st TC, Larned

### Combat Action Badge



Maj. Bradley Burns, 731st TC, Larned  
1st Lt. Jonah Krause, 731st TC, Larned  
1st Lt. Mark Mullinax, 731st TC, Larned  
1st Lt. Justin Rutledge, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. 1st Class Dinah Johnson, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. 1st Class Bruce Laffery, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. 1st Class Darrin Sack, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. 1st Class Michael Schmidberger, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Sherwood, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. 1st Class Scott Williamson, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Bryan Clark, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Shawn Crabb, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Clayton Davis, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Bruce Eldred, 731st TC, Larned

# IN RECOGNITION

Staff Sgt. Jose Flores, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Raymond Gawith, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Gerald Gibson, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Harrison McWhorter Jr., 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Kevin Patterson, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Robert Pugh, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Brian Riley, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Matthew Rubin, 731st TC, Larned  
Staff Sgt. Alvin Winns, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Robert Armstrong, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Jason Baetz, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Michelle Baker, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Alan Boatman, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Eric Brodersen, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Joseph Conway, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Brian Dear, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Christopher Dix, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Michael Fellman Jr., 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Kerry Free Jr., 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Warren Graham, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Tyler Griffin, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Michael Hanson, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Jack Jackson, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Bernard Jennings, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Danny Kelley, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Joshua Kepley, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. John Kuenzi, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Phillip McGlothlin II, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Jerry Mead, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Thomas Monaghan, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Ronald Moore, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Michael Mortimore, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. James Riggle, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Kristina Rios, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Donald Shearmire, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Robert Stillwagon, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Brandon Tippy, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. William Vining, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Gary Wenke Sr., 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Frank White, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. John White, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Shawn Whitmore, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Larry Widener, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Henry Womack, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Wesley Wright, 731st TC, Larned  
Sgt. Donald Yost, 731st TC, Larned  
Cpl. Gary Hall Jr., 731st TC, Larned  
Cpl. Steven Iverson, 731st TC, Larned  
Cpl. Craig Jackson, 731st TC, Larned  
Cpl. Eriberto Murillo, 731st TC, Larned  
Cpl. Chad Taylor, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Christopher Akers, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Timothy Alexander, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Michael Andrews, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Michael Arendt, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Julia Barnes, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Robert Bell, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Amanda Bonner, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Joshua Burrell, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Kenneth Cadwalader, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Anthony Carver, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Daniel Chambers, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. James Crabb, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Donald Cunningham Jr., 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Seth Diggs, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Drew Edwards, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Nicholas Gazzano, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Ricky Gonzales, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. John Halley, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. John Heater, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. James Henkle Jr., 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Justin Hicks, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Allen Hill, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Clayton Hogie, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Merlin Hollis Jr., 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Ashley Hommertzhaim, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Billy Jack, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Linnea Jones, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Kenneth Kester, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Michael Knapp, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Jessie Lawrence, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Douglas Lawson, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Jason Lee, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Kentrell Lee, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Christopher Leech, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Kevin Moberly, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Patrick Murphy, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Ryan Nichols, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Lawrence Pearce, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Matthew Pfeifer, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Daniel Philip, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. John Phillips, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Raymond Qualls, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Gricelia Ramosjimenez, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Dustin Randolph, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Samuel Rowe, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Jorge Salazar, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. James Scott Jr., 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Brian Sickler, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Kelly Simmons, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Gerald Simmons Jr., 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Christian Suarez, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Erik Tipsword, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Rheavan Towns, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Jeremiah Vague, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Joseph Verschelden, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Ronnie Wilkerson, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Carlen Williams, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. James Williams, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Marques Wyble, 731st TC, Larned  
Spc. Christopher Young, 731st TC, Larned  
Pfc. Jeffrey Jader, 731st TC, Larned  
Pvt. Travis Icke, 731st TC, Larned

## KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

### Meritorious Service Medal



Col. Bradley Link, 184th IW, Wichita, Silver Oak Leaf Cluster  
Lt. Col. James Culp, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Lt. Col. Ronald Krueger, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Lt. Col. Frank Molnar Jr., 184th IW, Wichita  
Lt. Col. William Waddell, 184th IW, Wichita  
Maj. Billy Garst, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Maj. Eric Hamilton, 184th IW, Wichita  
Maj. Joanna Hupp, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Maj. Timothy Smith, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Chief Master Sgt. Larry Aldridge, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Chief Master Sgt. Elmer Logue, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Chief Master Sgt. Sheila Payne, 184th IW, Wichita, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster  
Chief Master Sgt. Jay Pine, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Chief Master Sgt. Karl Pruet, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Master Sgt. Kristine Clarke, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Senior Master Sgt. Douglas Billig, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Hren, 190th ARW, Topeka, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

## PLAINS GUARDIAN • MAY 2008

Master Sgt. Troy Abel, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Jennifer Allen, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. Jerry Atkinson, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Sandra Bearden, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. Larry Breuninger, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Greg Burnetta, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Mickel Coffin, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Tiyonna Evans, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. Deborah Kill, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. William Kneller, 190th ARW, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. Orville Lanier, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Daniel Larson, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Friedrich Maisberger III, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Stephen Manker, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Dary McPhail, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Leland McKinley, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Scott Moser, 190th ARW, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. Mitchell Powell, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Edward Simpson, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Tracy Unruh, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Barry Weiner, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Jeffrey Welshans 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Barbara King, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Damion Magee, 184th IW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Lucas Kekel, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Jay Seaman, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Alexander Wiley, 184th ARW, Topeka

### Air Force Commendation Medal



Lt. Col. Mark Stevens JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
Maj. David Williams, 190th ARW, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Capt. Jesse Sojka, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Capt. Ryan Strong, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Capt. Jeffrey Woods, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. Von Burns, 190th ARW, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. Christopher Dubois, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Thomas Gattis, 184th IW, Wichita, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. Kevin Wagner, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Valinda Atwater, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Tech. Sgt. William Haug, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Troy Hultgren, 190th ARW, Topeka, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster  
Tech. Sgt. Bradley Roberts, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Mark Wall, 184th IW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster  
Tech. Sgt. Joel Willis, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Staff Sgt. Elaina Balderes, 184th IW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. David Benton, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Christopher Hogan, 184th IW, Wichita

### Air Force Achievement Medal



Lt. Col. Janet Hanson, 190th ARW, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Lt. Col. William Hefner, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Lt. Col. William Hendricks, 190th ARW, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Lt. Col. Robert Hof, 190th ARW, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Maj. Robert Crossley, 190th ARW, Topeka, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster  
Capt. Ingrid Trevino, 190th ARW, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
1st Lt. Amy Blow, 190th ARW, Topeka, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster  
1st Lt. Michaela Parsel, 190th ARW, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. Robert Brown, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Carla Hurlbert, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Gene Meyer, 190th ARW, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. William Mick, 190th ARW, Topeka, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. Connie Moser, 190th ARW, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Tech. Sgt. Preciliano Deleon, 190th ARW, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Tech. Sgt. Adam Fortner, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Deborah Henry, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Norling, 190th ARW, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Tech. Sgt. Michael Riblett, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Joshua Smith, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Yrral White, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Rebecca Hastings, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Christopher Reese, 190th ARW, Topeka, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Staff Sgt. Joletha Sampson, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Benjamin Webb, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman David Guice, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Doysse Manz, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Matthew McQueen, 184th IW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Casey Peavler, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Tomasiena Ross, 184th IW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Ashley Stewart, 190th ARW, Topeka

### Kansas Achievement Medal



Capt. Michael Hagerty, 184th IW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Donna Buckman, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Anthony Bowmaker, 184th IW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. Jeremy Cook, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. Jammie Frakes, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. Melanie Graber, 184th IW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. Troy Henderson, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Randi Hill, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. Jack Kortkamp, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Tammy Lamar, 184th IW, Wichita, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. Gerald Singer, 184th IW, Wichita  
Master Sgt. Selina Touhey, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Brendan Boales, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Marsha Chavez, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Randall Davidson, 184th IW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster  
Tech. Sgt. William Gardenhire, 184th IW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster  
Tech. Sgt. Michael Hagen, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Charchai Halverson, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Christopher Hines, 184th IW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster  
Tech. Sgt. Thomas Link, 184th IW, Wichita, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

# 250th Forward Support Company hosts Halo 3 tournament

By Pfc. Lori Hudson

The 250th Forward Support Company held a Halo 3 tournament on Saturday, March 23, at the Kansas Army National Guard building in Ottawa. The event was sponsored by the Kansas Army National Guard Recruiting. Players from Ottawa and several nearby communities competed for prizes such as T-shirts, hats, and other Army related items.

The tournament consisted of 12 teams with four players each. The teams were made up of mostly civilian players, but there was a large number of Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers on hand both as team participants and also manning various stations around the armory.

Several stations were set up, allowing competitors and visitors to experience a little of what it's like to be a Soldier in the National Guard. One station manned by Pfc. Patrick Lawson challenged guests to a physical training test. Lawson is a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Specialist for the 250th FSC.

Spc. Eric Hempel, who is a member of Detachment 1, Headquarters and Headquarters Support Company, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, taught would-be marksmen some firing techniques at the Engagement Skills Trainer Simulator. According to Hempel, this experience gives a little familiarization with the M16 rifle and showed the kids

how to get a shot grouping which is used in zeroing the weapon.

With the assistance of Spc. Nate Pharr, 250th FSC, participants also had an opportunity to get hands-on with several weapons including the Squad Automatic Weapon machine gun, a 50 caliber machine gun, a 9mm Beretta, and an M-16 rifle.

The tournaments, which were mainly designed to be recruiting events, have become much bigger than they had anticipated. They are so popular that they have been doing one every week for the last three months and have more scheduled through the end of May.

They are organized by 1st Lt. Eric Hollingsworth from the Kansas Adjutant General's office, Officer Candidate Daniel Smith of Topeka, Pfc. Brandon Chambers from Recruiting and Retention in Manhattan, and Sgt. 1st Class Brent Rose, recruiter for the 250th FSC. Smith said that these events "give Recruiters a chance to talk with more candidates than they could otherwise. This is a good recruiting event."

The tournament drew more than 50 participants, while others like the one in Wichita, held April 12, had more than 200 players. Smith says the players love to come to these events because they are loud. "They can't get that at home, so we really turn it up!"

A lot of planning goes into an event like



Spc. Eric Hempel gives marksmanship pointers to participants at the Halo 3 tournament sponsored by the 250th Forward Support Company on March 23. (Photo by Pfc. Lori Hudson)

this, according to the organizers. They have to find prizes, coordinate the food, which is free to all the players, and set up tents and the other attractions within the armory prior to the event. There is also the task of marketing the event to ensure a successful turnout.

The group is planning for a Call of Duty tournament to be announced later. For information on upcoming tournaments, contact Officer Candidate Daniel Smith, (785) 213-8449, Pfc. Brandon Chambers, (785) 817-7957 or Sgt. 1st Class Brent Rose, (785) 242-1206.

# Kansas Guardsmen face old enemies: complacency and fatigue

By 2nd Lt. Jeremy A. Clawson

In Iraq, Soldiers from 1st Platoon, 1161st Forward Support Company, are tasked with maintaining security around their bunker complex and to report suspicious activity. What that means for the Kansas Guardsmen is long hours and continuous days on point. Their major challenges are staying vigilant and remaining focused on the task at hand.

Sometimes the greatest threat to operational security is from within. As the long and continuous shift work takes its toll, the troops must develop productive ways of keeping alert and mission ready.

According to Spc. Nathan Wedel, McPherson, Kan., "Staying observant is the hardest part of our mission."

Wedel said his way of coping with the long hours and staying sharp is actually getting to know the people he works with.

"That's the best part is having people you can work well with, people you can talk to," said Wedel.

The mission he currently performs is not



Spc. Robert Ennest, Neodesha, Kan., maintains security at his post as he prepares a spot report using his map, compass and log book. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Jeremy Clawson)

what he anticipated doing in Iraq, but in this, too, he keeps focused.

"I expected to be on convoys – just

straight convoys the whole time," Wedel said. "I am a little disappointed, but all we can do is make the best of it and do our job well."

Spc. Robert Ennest, Neodesha, agrees with Wedel, the hardest part of the task here near Camp Ashraf is "staying alert and not becoming complacent."

Ennest and Wedel use some of the daylight in their long shifts to improve their

position. Half tongue-in-cheek they confessed to reinforcing their "porta-john," the small outhouse near their post.

"We filled 120 sandbags and reinforced the porta-john. So..." said Ennest, his wry wit baring its teeth, "if we ever get mortared we know we'll all be safe in the john. It's good. It's very safe."

So as these Guardsmen face down fatigue and fight complacency, they get to know each other and work to improve their slice of the warfare pie.



A fortified porta-john. Unusual? Yes. But it is about keeping Soldiers safe and keeping them sharp for mission success. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Jeremy Clawson)

# New Manhattan Vet Center opens



Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, joined state and local dignitaries at the ribbon cutting ceremony for a new Vet Center in Manhattan. The center, the second in the state, provides free trauma counseling, family mediation and educational services for military veterans. (Photo by Maj. Paul Gonzales)

# We Remember...

**Airman 1st Class Caleb M. Eilert**  
Airman 1st Class Caleb M. Eilert, 20, died March 14, 2007.

He was born Jan. 12, 1987.

Eilert was a member of the Kansas Air National Guard, where he was a civil engineer assigned to the 184th Air Refueling Wing, Wichita.

**Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Robert N. Shaumeyer**

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Robert N. Shaumeyer, 84, Kansas City, Kan., died Dec. 20, 2007.

He was born June 18, 1923.

Shaumeyer was a member of the Kansas Army National Guard where he was a command sergeant major assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry (Mechanized), Kansas City.

He retired with over 39 years of service.  
**Retired Sergeant Maj. George J. Perry**  
Retired Sergeant Maj. George J. Perry, 84, died Feb. 29, 2008.

He was born Oct. 29, 1923, in Oklahoma.

Perry was a member of the Kansas Army National Guard where he was a maneuver combat arms sergeant assigned to Detachment 1, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 635th Armor, St. Marys.

He retired with over 39 years of service.

**Staff Sgt. Lucas Michael Kekel**

Staff Sgt. Lucas Michael Kekel, 24, died April 2, 2008.

He was born June 26, 1983, in Flint Michigan.

Kekel was a member of the Kansas Air National Guard where he was a Phoenix Raven assigned to the 184th Intelligence Wing Security Forces Squadron, Wichita.

# PLAINS GUARDIAN

## Topeka business hosts National Guard Appreciation Day

By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR  
One thing that Harley Davidson motorcycle riders are noted for is their patriotism. As a display of their patriotism, on April 12 the Topeka Harley Davidson hosted a National Guard Appreciation Day.

The day started off with the assembled crowd saying the Pledge of Allegiance. A color guard, made up from members of Recruit Sustainment Program Detachment #1, Topeka, presented the flag.

The morning was cold with blowing snow but as the day progressed temperatures did warm. The 35th Military Police Company provided one of their M 1026 HMMWVs and Company C, 1st Battalion, 635th Armor provided a M 240 7.62 mm machine gun as

part of an interactive display.

Spc. Brian Wiggins, Pfc. Steffany Douglas and Pfc. Cera Sample were there to tell visitors about being in the National Guard, their HMMWV and the machine gun.

"I have been in the Guard for a few years and I still like talking about it," said Wiggins.

"It was so cold this morning, but as it warmed up people started coming out," said Sample. "It was so much fun spinning the kids around in the turret."

In addition to the MPs, the Orange County Choppers National Guard Chopper was on display on the showroom floor. Orange County Choppers should be famil-



Spc. Brian Wiggins and Pfc. Cera Sample braved the cold to show off a humvee from the 35th Military Police Company. (Photo by Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR)

## Martin receives command of Officer Candidate School

By Sgt. Veronica K. Almazan-Chapman, UPAR

Lt. Col. Judith D. Martin is the new commander of the Officer Candidate School, 1st Battalion, 235th Regiment, Salina.

Martin received command of the battalion Feb. 24, 2008, from Lt. Col. Barry L. Adams, who had commanded the battalion since March 2006. Martin was promoted to lieutenant colonel on March 10.

"My goal during my command is simple — Kansas OCS/WOCS program is the best in our region and our region is the best in the nation," said Martin. "The accomplishment of this goal requires that everyone is in the fight for building our graduation numbers — commanders at all levels, candidates and members of our

Guard family including our retirees."

Martin currently works full time for the Kansas Army National Guard as the deputy director, Office of Strategic Plans and Policies. She joined the military in 1980 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1992. Martin resides in Topeka with her husband, retired Col. Henry Martin. The Martins have five adult children: Sgt. Marion Martin, Sgt. Kristina Williams, Pfc. Klint Williams, Alycia and Anastasia.

Adams, the departing commander, works full time for the Kansas Army National Guard as the Recruiting and Retention commander in Topeka, Kan. He and wife Karen have two children, Alexander and Zackery.



Lt. Col. Judith D. Martin receives the OCS Battalion colors from Col. Norman E. Steen to signify the change in command. (Photo by Spc. Kareena Clarke)



A custom built American Chopper, constructed by Orange County Choppers in honor of the Army National Guard, was one of the special displays on hand at National Guard Appreciation day at Topeka Harley Davidson April 12. (Photo by Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR)

iar for those who watch the Discovery Channel. Regular viewers have seen Orange County Choppers build a cycle for the Army National Guard.

In Army camouflage and chrome, the cycle displays military hardware. These included M16 rounds and chrome plated M26 hand grenades and .50 cal rounds. The cycle is, in fact, one of three built by Orange County Choppers for Docupak, a marketing company contracted by the

National Guard. Members of the Recruiting Command were there with posters and giveaways. Should the displays pique someone's interest, the recruiters were prepared to start enlistment paperwork.

Ray Moorhead, general manager of the Topeka Harley Davidson, said "We are so proud of what the National Guard is doing both here in Kansas and overseas. Hosting a day like this is the least we can do for our wonderful men and women in uniform."

## World War II reenactments featured at Heartland Military Day

World War II battle re-enactments and displays of vintage military equipment will be highlighted at Heartland Military Day on Saturday, June 7. The event is being held on the grounds of the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, Forbes Field, Topeka, beginning at 8 a.m.

World War II tanks, trucks, artillery, and guns will be on display. Battle reenactments will be at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., with a panel discussion by World War II veterans at 11 a.m.

Admission is free to the Museum and its five acres of equipment displays, including helicopters, tanks, artillery guns and prime movers, trucks, and jeeps. Concessions will be sold on the grounds.

The Museum of the Kansas National Guard is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. year around, and admission is always free. Its mission is to preserve the militia heritage of the Kansas Army and Air National Guard.

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