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PLAINS GUARDIAN

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Kansas National Guardsmen deploy for mission in Kosovo

By Stephen D. Larson
Public Affairs Office

Twenty-one Soldiers of the Kansas National Guard were honored during a ceremony on Aug. 14 at the Topeka South Armory as they prepared to deploy for a year-long peacekeeping mission in Kosovo.

The Soldiers, from Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Company A of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, headquartered in Kansas City, Kan., were joined by families and friends who came to wish them well.

"We pray for the protection of this Balkan team," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Peter Jaramillo in his invocation, "and keep them sharp, tactical and on the alert. Guide them and enable them to perform their duties in an outstanding manner as has been the tradition and the way of Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers."

"This is as good as it gets right here," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general. "There may be only 20 Soldiers, but we don't have any 20 or 21, counting their commander, any better than these gentlemen right here."

"I want to say a special thanks to the families," Bunting continued. "We've been around for a hundred and fifty-four years in Kansas and we serve for you. So when I

"...when I look over this crowd, there's no one more important to us than the families that are sitting here. So I thank you in advance for the sacrifices you're going to make."

*Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting,
the adjutant general*

look over this crowd, there's no one more important to us than the families that are sitting here. So I thank you in advance for the sacrifices you're going to make."

Bunting also read letters from Gov. Mark Parkinson and Sen. Pat Roberts, who both expressed their pride in the Soldiers and their best wishes for a successful mission.

Capt. Darren Koberlein, commander of the unit, also spoke of the sacrifices the families would be making.

"We talk about the sacrifice of the Citizen Soldier... but the sacrifices of the families, I would contend is a greater burden and yet

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Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Company A of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment stand together in formation at the conclusion of a ceremony honoring them as they prepare to deploy for a year-long mission in Kosovo. (Photo by Sharon Watson, Public Affairs Office)

Kansas Soldiers prepare for mission to Sinai Peninsula

By Sgt. John L. Zimmer III

More than 80 Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, Kansas National Guard, headed to Fort Lewis, Wash., July 24 to begin the final phases of their training before deploying to the Sinai Peninsula for their year-long rotation.

The trip to Fort Lewis came after more than three weeks at the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina. There, the Soldiers learned some basic skills and were given refresher training in certain areas such as marksmanship, basic first aid and

infantry skills.

The Soldiers were also given their final training exercise to determine if they were prepared to serve the state and the United States Army in a full-time capacity.

"This training allowed our battalion to train in their home state and use state resources and personnel in that training," said Capt. Murl Riedel, commander, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery. "I am very proud of our performance at this point."

The battery acquired their first bragging

(Continued on Page 2)

Multistate Vigilant Guard exercise highlights many firsts for Kansas

By Sharon Watson
Public Affairs Office

To better prepare to respond to large scale disasters and terrorist attacks, four states took part in the Vigilant Guard 2009 exercise, June 18-23, in Salina, Kan., at the Great Plains Joint Training Center's "Crisis City" training venue.

The exercise included hundreds of local and state emergency responders such as police, fire, hazmat responders and search and rescue teams, K-9 search units and the use of unmanned aerial systems to search for disaster victims. Approximately 80 Kansas National Guard members took part along with members of the Iowa National Guard Civil Support Team transported to the site on C-130s by the Kentucky National Guard.

"This exercise took a tremendous amount of planning and includes a number of firsts for our state," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general and director of Kansas Division of Emergency Management. "It is the first time we have used our Crisis City venue for a multi-agency training since we began construction here last year."

The exercise began in Kansas June 18 with a scenario which simulated the intentional introduction of foreign animal disease into the state. The state activated its Emergency Operations Center in Topeka, where decisions were made and actions taken to contain the simulated disease. State agencies participating included Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Kansas Animal Health, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas Wildlife and Parks and Kansas National Guard. The foreign animal disease exercise concluded at the end of the day June 18 and the focus of events shifted to Salina.

First Multi-Agency Crisis City Exercise

The Salina portion of Vigilant Guard began June 22, with a scenario involving an explosion resulting in a train derailment and a hazardous chemical spill, which resulted

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Spc. Derick Maschmeier, right, begins an intravenous fluid infusion into the arm of Pfc. Jordon Budreau, center, as a medic ensures the Soldiers are safely conducting the training, during a combat lifesaver course at the Great Plains Joint Training Center, Salina. (Photo by Sgt. John H. Zimmer III)

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Guardsmen teach Afghanistan's next generation of farmers

By Elizabeth Raney
4th Brigade Combat Team,
4th Infantry Division Public Affairs

National Guard members from the Kansas Agribusiness Development Team of Task Force Mountain Warrior conducted an agricultural development class at Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam's district Research and Demonstration Farm, July 12-16.

The five-day class, coordinated with members of the U.S. Agency for International Development, taught students from Nangarhar University more effective farming techniques so they may teach the current and future generations of Afghan farmers.

"These classes are designed to teach future agricultural leaders modern techniques of growing, irrigating, harvesting and preserving their crops, as well as taking better care of their livestock," said, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Roger Beekman, the task force commander.

Beekman began the instruction with classes on food storage and preservation, and sanitation.

Fellow instructors taught additional farming techniques, such as irrigation, soil management, care of livestock, preventive veterinary medicine and pest management.

A favorite among the Afghan students was the hands-on soil management class,

"The students loved to dig into and analyze the soil samples. They were very curious about the chemicals used to separate the nutrients from the soil and asked many questions."

Capt. Jeffrey Mann

given by Capt. Jeffrey Mann, a Kansas National Guardsman and soil scientist from Manhattan, Kan.

"The students loved to dig into and analyze the soil samples," said Mann. "They were very curious about the chemicals used to separate the nutrients from the soil and asked many questions."

Beekman said that he felt the classes would have long term positive effects on agriculture in Laghman.

"If these students take just some of these ideas and work with local farmers, who will then put them into practice, we'll see a more productive and efficient farming society in Afghanistan," said Beekman.



Capt. Jeffrey Mann, a soil scientist and Kansas National Guardsman from Manhattan, Kan., with the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery out of Hiawatha, Kan., currently serving with 1-6th Kansas Agribusiness Development Team, Task Force Mountain Warrior, teaches students from Nangarhar University how to test soil for nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium using chemical tablets, soil and water. (Photo by Elizabeth Raney, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division Public Affairs)

Race car hood has new owner

By Staff Sgt. Tim Traynor
Public Affairs Office

One of Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s #88 NASCAR hoods isn't taking laps around the track anymore. It was presented by members of the Kansas Army National Guard to its new owner, Jonathan Ragan, of Ellinwood, Kan.

Ragan was all smiles and speechless as the truck, its bed filled by a single box, rolled up to the curb in front of his house Aug. 14. Much like a child waiting for a parent's permission to open a present on Christmas morning, he was eagerly waiting by the tailgate before the driver's door was open.

Ragan was chosen at random from the nearly 20,000 members of the Dale Jr. Guard Garage Fan Club. After his selection, the National Guard Bureau shipped the hood to the Kansas Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention office in Topeka, Kan.

"It was a proud honor for the Kansas National Guard to be a part of this," said Col. Tim Marlur, director of personnel for the Kansas National Guard, who presented the hood to Ragan. "Mr. Ragan is clearly a deserving fan and it was a great experience to be the one delivering the Citizen Soldier hood to him."

The Citizen Soldier paint-schemed hood, signed by Earnhardt and the band Three Doors Down, quickly left its packaging. Though Ragan has never been able to attend a race, he now held a piece of racing right from the track in his hands.

"Wow," said Ragan, "thank you, thank you."

The 26-year-old became a fan of the racer

after Earnhardt Jr. experienced the loss of his father in a NASCAR accident and then won a race soon after, having respect for the racer's driving skills and character.

"Not too many people go 200 mph, just inches apart," said Ragan, "but it's his values that are really impressive."

Ragan said it was Earnhardt Jr.'s honesty and integrity, including being able to own up to causing an accident, that truly made him a fan.

"I want to instill in my kids the same values Junior shows," said Ragan.

And it's evident the racer's influence will be part of his sons' upbringing with one glance in their room. Wall emblems of Earnhardt Jr.'s #88 car adorn the room at every angle, including a wallpaper border encircling the room near the ceiling.

Just outside the youngsters' room sits Ragan's tower of memorabilia, chalk-full of all things Earnhardt Jr. The glass-shelved tower displays five levels of hats, baseballs, die-cast models, a metal lunch pail and even an Earnhardt-themed lamp. However, the hood is Ragan's first autographed piece.

After looking up Dale Jr. fan clubs online, Ragan came across the Dale Jr. Guard Garage Fan Club. Despite seeing the large amount of members, some 20,000 which were all automatically entrants to win the hood, he decided to join in. He sent in a picture and a story explaining why he was such a diehard fan.

Though his winning entry was chosen at random, what isn't random about Ragan's contest involvement is his shared connection to the Army and Army National

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Kansas Soldiers prepare for mission to Sinai Peninsula

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rights before heading to the Sinai. They were the first battery in the battalion to complete all required training before heading to Fort Lewis for mobilization.

"Our completion of 100 percent symbolizes just how aggressive our Soldiers are at their training," said Riedel, a 31-year-old Tipton, Kan, native. "I think that being able to train in Kansas at a National Guard facility allowed this to happen. I also like that we were able to train... before coming to Fort Lewis because it gave the Soldiers a progressive transition into active duty."

Some of the training the Soldiers received will not only help them on their trip overseas, it could come in handy while at home.

"One course we did was CLS (Combat Lifesavers) and it was good because it is something you can use in the real world and while on our rotation," said Spc. Cody Lee. "It was also good because anything can happen and it's good to know what to do in an emergency."

Combat Lifesavers is a one-week course where Soldiers learn the basics of how to treat a casualty both on and off the battlefield, including how to administer an intravenous fluid infusion.

"I liked the field training because I have never given an IV," said Lee, a 20-year-old Marysville native. "If we would have gotten over there (Egypt) I never would have known what to do. Whether we use it or not, it was good training."

Another difficult part of the training for some was the land navigation, where Soldiers learned to move from one point to another with and without the use of a compass or map.

"I like the land navigation because it is something I can use when I am out hunting or camping," said Spc. Nathan Bruna, Hanover. "The drown-proof training (swim qualification) we did was the best part of the training. We got to spend almost an entire day at a swimming pool learning to float wearing all our military gear."

There was a healthy balance of enjoyable training and long days, but Riedel believes the battery gained more than just a few useful tactics and classes.

"There was an elevated tempo of training, but it facilitated a team building environment," Riedel said. "We had some long days and long nights and we will have the same here, but I have no doubt we will be able to achieve the same level of success here."

Kansas Guardsmen deploy

Continued from Page 1

you guys hang in there with us," said Koberlein. "The strength of a Soldier derives directly from the strength of his family. And you do this without recognition." Koberlein said it was common for Soldiers in uniform at an airport or local restaurant to receive spontaneous expressions of thanks from the public.

"And you don't get that," said Koberlein. "You don't get to feel the gratitude of the citizens of the United States of America. It is extremely empowering and it drives us in what we do. So on behalf of us... I want to say 'Thank you for your service'."

Koberlein said the Soldiers do what they do for "duty, honor and country."

"It's not just a party-line," he said. "It's really, truly what we feel."

"You're going to ask yourself why my man does what he does," he continued, acknowledging that Soldiers miss birthdays, anniversaries and other important events that come during any given year.

"There's just no good year to be away," said Koberlein, "but we do what we do so we can look our family, our wives and our

children in the eyes and honestly say that we've done our duty for this country."

Koberlein said that Soldiers also do what they do to honor the veterans who came before them and to leave a legacy for their children and grandchildren. "So that we can show our grandchildren one day... what grandma and grandpa did to contribute to the safety of the United States of America."

"General," Koberlein concluded, "the assembled Citizen-Soldiers here are trained and mobilized and prepared to deploy for missions abroad, with your permission."

Bunting presented the unit a Kansas flag that had flown at the Kansas statehouse so that the unit may display it over their headquarters in Kosovo.

The Soldiers have deployed to their mobilization station at Camp Atterbury, Ind., for additional mission-specific training prior to leaving for Kosovo, where they will be attached to the 231st Brigade Support Battalion, North Dakota National Guard, as the Quick Reaction Force for Task Force Defender, KFOR 12, Multinational Task Force East.



Jonathan Ragan (left) helps Col. Tim Marlur and Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Hammeke unload the hood of the National Guard #88 NASCAR racer, driven by Dale Earnhardt Jr., at Ragan's home in Ellinwood, Kan. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Traynor)



Ask the TAG



Resources for military families; how to become a MFHT member

As a military family member, who do I contact for events, Family Readiness Groups, Family Assistance Centers, and other resources?

The Family Program Office is always available to answer questions about deployment ceremonies, where to get help, etc. The main office number is (785) 274-1171. Information can also be obtained by calling the Soldier and Family Assistance Center Coordinator Office: (785) 742-5652 or cell: (785) 806-1761 and the State Family Readiness Assistance Office: (785) 213-1208 or cell: (785) 213-3012.

** ** *

I've recently seen information in the news about the Kansas Army National Guard Funeral Honors Team. What does it take to become a member of the team?

On any given day the call can come in to honor one of our country's heroes. Currently, the Kansas Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors Team performs more than 50 military funerals each month, as well as fulfilling several public event requests. They are always looking for new Honor Team members.

Soldiers interested in joining the Team

must be able to meet height and weight standards and pass the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT). Team members are held to a higher standard and will be required to go through an application process and an interview. Potential team members must also have a letter of support from their commander.

The hours are long, the standards far exceed the regulations and everything else must be able to be put aside when the call comes in. For the Kansas National Guard Military Funeral Honors Team, nothing comes close to paying their and their country's respects to the fallen heroes and the service members' families.

For more information about becoming a member of the Kansas National Guard Military Funeral Honors Program, contact Rod Moyer at: (785) 274-1520 or by e-mail at rodney.moyer1@us.army.mil.

** ** *

Send your question(s) by email to Tagquestions@us.army.mil or by mail to the Adjutant General's Public Affairs Office, Att: Sharon Watson, 2722 S. Topeka Blvd., Room 108, Topeka KS 66611. Questions may be submitted anonymously.

Duckworth pins on single star

By Staff Sgt. James M. Grosdidier
35th Division Public Affairs Office

On June 27, Col. Alexander E. Duckworth was promoted to the rank of brigadier general at a ceremony held at the 35th Infantry Division Headquarters, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Duckworth serves as a deputy commanding general of the 35th ID.

Upon graduation from high school in Clinton, Okla., in 1978, Duckworth enlisted as an artilleryman in a National Guard artillery battery. Since then, he has held almost every field artillery position in the Army National Guard, most recently being the commander of the 130th Field Artillery Brigade, Kansas Army National Guard.

According to Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, the commander of the 35th Division, Duckworth will be a valued asset.

"General Duckworth fills a critical senior leadership position within the division," said Pierson. "His years of experience and expertise have enriched the readiness and

capabilities of this division. I know what his leadership has brought to the division so far. I look forward to the opportunity of continuing to work with him in the future."

Duckworth gives much of the credit for his career to his family and to the people with whom he has served.

"I had a great foundation to build upon. I had fantastic support from both family and friends, as well the Soldiers I have worked with in the Guard," Duckworth said. "My father [also a general officer] was terrific role model. I knew what a citizen Soldier, what an officer was supposed to be like early on. It is really cool to be able to walk down the same path my dad did a few years ago."

"I also can't give enough credit to the Soldiers I have worked with along the way," said Duckworth. "They are a big part of my, of anyone's success. I have had great mentors to guide me and incredibly professional subordinates, to whom a great

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Col. Alexander Duckworth (center) and Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, 35th Infantry Division commander, listen to the reading of the orders promoting Duckworth to a brigadier general during a ceremony on June 27. (Photo by Staff Sgt. James Grosdidier, 35th Division Public Affairs Office)

Time-honored ceremony highlights battalion change of command

By 1st Lt. Jason Latham

On Aug. 16, 2009, a time-honored military tradition took place at the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment change of command ceremony held at the 18th Street Armory in Kansas City, Kan.

The ceremony required the organizational colors be passed from the outgoing commander, Lt. Col. Anthony Mohatt, to Col. Lee Tafanelli, commander of 69th Troop Command, which signified the relinquishment of command. The colors were then passed from Tafanelli to the incoming commander, Lt. Col. Gregory Mittman, which signified the passing of authority, responsibility and trust.

The United States Army adopted the custom of passing the colors from the British and instituted it when Gen. George Washington assumed command of the Continental Army in Boston on July 3, 1775.

Historically, these colors served as a point around which Soldiers rallied as they moved forward in battle and signified unit cohesion, even if the commander fell in battle. All others in the organization may perish, but the colors live forever. The transfer of the colors also signifies and embodies the transfer of responsibility for the welfare of the Soldiers and the accomplishment of the mission.

The purpose of the ceremony is to pass the command and control from the old commander to the new. Additionally, the passing of the colors emphasizes the organization is more important than any one individual. The commander may change, but the organization remains.

With this transfer, the unit's legacy is passed on as a building block for the future. This is even more relevant since the transformation of the 1st Battalion, 635th Armor and the 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry into the Combined Arms Battalion in 2008.

"Lieutenant Colonel Mittman and I have



Lt. Col. Gregory Mittman accepts the battalion colors during a change of command ceremony for the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment. (Photo by 1st Lt. Jason Latham)

worked very closely since the beginning of the transformation to ensure the two cultures would successfully meld into the last ground maneuver force in the state of Kansas," said Mohatt. "I was the guy who got to transform the Armor and Infantry (battalions); Lieutenant Colonel Mittman gets to build on it."

The battalion's next mission is to the Horn of Africa in early 2010. Mittman said he will prepare his troops by, "Stressing the importance of leadership development and decision-making at the lowest level."

By working closely with Mohatt during the transition, Mittman indicated there would be little noticeable change as they both shared the same philosophy.

"I will stress the principles I have used in my career (military and civilian); be polite, be professional and be prepared," said Mittman.

Lockhart receives command

By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR

On Sunday morning Aug. 16, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment received a new commanding officer. The change of command was conducted on the drill floor of the Armed Forces Reserve Center, Forbes Field, Topeka.

In formal military tradition, Capt. Todd M. Loughney, the outgoing commander, passed the unit guidon to Lt. Col. David Leger, the battalion commander. Leger passed the guidon, representing all the responsibilities of command, to Capt. Adam Lockhart.

Loughney assumed command of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company in May 2005. During his command, the unit was mobilized and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He also served as the battalion's logistic officer. Loughney's next assignment is as the Force Integration Readiness Officer at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Topeka.

In his comments, after thanking his family, Loughney said "A special thanks to the Soldiers and noncommissioned officers with whom I have had the honor to serve with. Your hard work and dedication lead to the successful completion of the battalion mission over the past four years."

Lockhart, a graduate from Pittsburg State University, is assuming command on leaving his position as the assistant operations



Capt. Adam Lockhart receives the guidon of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, from Lt. Col. David Leger, battalion commander. Lockhart assumed command of the company during a ceremony on Aug. 16. (Photo by Sgt. Michael Mathewson, UPAR)

officer of Headquarters Support Company, 891st Engineer Battalion in Iola.

"I look forward to overcoming the challenges and the celebrating the successes we will embark on in the years to come," said Lockhart. "Thank you for your trust as we start this new journey together."

The 108th is the UH 60 Black Hawk helicopter battalion based in Topeka and Salina.

NASCAR hood has new owner

Continued from Page 2

Guard. His father served as an aircraft electrician in the Army. His sister was also an active duty Soldier who served a tour in Iraq as a unit supply specialist. Although she is now separated from the service, her husband continues to serve in the Wisconsin Army National Guard and is serving as a motor transport operator on his second

tour to Iraq.

Hendrick Motorsports donated the hood, and the National Guard, through DJGG Fan Club, awarded it as part of a series of Earnhardt Jr. memorabilia contest and drawing prizes.

For more information about the Dale Jr. Guard Garage Fan Club, visit www.dalejrguardgarage.com.

Preparing for worst-case scenario is critical for us all

By Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting
The Adjutant General

We've had an extremely busy summer and fall getting ready for the emergence of H1N1. In addition to reviewing emergency plans and getting information out, we've identified a number of National Guard members with medical expertise to support civilian organizations with



Maj. Gen.
Tod M. Bunting

vaccination efforts, if necessary. We've also worked closely with Kansas Department of Health and Environment to identify other potential areas of need the state and counties may have as we progress through the flu season. KDEM is prepared to assist the state and counties with resource management whenever the situation warrants.

Fortunately, H1N1 vaccine has been available in limited supplies, which puts the nation and world in a much better state than earlier predictions regarding pandemics. However, the time needed to produce more vaccines means a portion of our population will remain vulnerable for a time. Young people and children are most at risk and parents are encouraged to get their kids vaccinated as vaccine becomes available. It's important to note that many other actions can be taken to protect ourselves from both seasonal and H1N1 flu in-

cluding hand washing, covering our coughs, staying home when sick and keeping children home if they are sick.

The Kansas National Guard, Kansas Division of Emergency Management and our state partners conducted two exercises this past summer and fall testing our plans and capabilities for significant disaster response efforts. In June, the state participated with Iowa in Vigilant Guard, a training exercise with a scenario involving foot and mouth disease in livestock in Kansas. This was the state's first exercise involving Crisis City's rail venue and rubble pile. Hundreds of first responders from all over Kansas were able to train with one another and Kansas Guard members.

In October, we were involved in the nation's first ever bi-state foreign animal disease exercise with a scenario of foot and mouth disease in Alabama, but with the potential of progressing to Kansas through livestock shipments. The exercise involved stopping truck traffic along the Kansas and Oklahoma border, testing both the foreign animal disease plan and the actual livestock traffic movement stops. The initiative was made possible through Homeland Security Funds secured by the state through the Multi-State Partnership Program for Agricultural Security. It's only through testing our plans and working through the process now with our border states and our many partners, that we can be successful in our response efforts.

We recently welcomed home nearly 225 of our soldiers in the 287th Sustainment Brigade from Iraq, while preparing another

approximately 425 troops with the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery to serve in Egypt as part of a Multinational Force and Observers mission. Another group of soldiers left for Kosovo this fall from Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Company A of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment.

Our Agribusiness Development Team in Afghanistan is preparing to return in the winter. We will send another team to follow them and continue their work with Kansas State University to showcase new and effective agricultural techniques to enhance their economic efforts.

We have increased the amount of training we provide our Guardsmen in Kansas prior to deployment to reduce their time away from their home state. We'll continue to find more ways to improve and increase the Kansas training time and cut down on time at out-of-state mobilization stations through our training in Salina.

Two significant developments occurred in Salina this fall with the official stand-up of the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron and the addition of the Crisis City Incident Command facility. We believe bringing additional support capabilities like these ensure the Kansas National Guard endures as a relevant force and civilian first responders have a place to train for which they are extremely proud.

However, our preparedness efforts don't stop there. We recently held the Kansas Safe and Prepared Schools Conference in Salina to bring educators, school resource officers and anyone involved in keeping schools safe to the table. It was the first annual conference of its kind in Kansas and the exchange of ideas will result in better collaboration toward safer schools in the state in the years to come.

As we move into November our focus must shift to preparing for winter weather and ensuring we're ready to support the needs of counties hit by ice storms and heavy snow.

As we move into November, our focus must shift to preparing for winter weather and ensuring we're ready to support the needs of counties hit by ice storms and heavy snow. We have more than 50 Kansas Guard armories around the state with potential resources including people and equipment to assist us in a disaster.

While it's critical for our agency to be prepared for H1N1, winter storms and other potential crises, we also need Kansans to do their part. Our Preparedness Day efforts at the State Fair again this year highlighted that. On Sept. 15, we showcased local emergency management response capabilities, Kansas Guard and other state agency equipment and partnership efforts during the fair. We plan to take the event back to the fair again next year to ensure even more Kansans get our message encouraging families to have a family plan and to have emergency kits for each individual in the home.

Veterans Day and Thanksgiving are both just around the corner and I want to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have served and continue to serve. May we never take our freedom for granted and may we never forget those who have sacrificed so much so we can live on in this great country.

Soldier to Soldier

Philosophy of Leadership

By Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Hester
2nd Combined Arms Battalion,
137th Infantry Regiment

As a leader and a noncommissioned officer, the task of providing leadership and Soldier care is paramount for the success of the Kansas Army National Guard, the United States Army, and the well being of our Soldiers.

It is my belief that without honest Soldier care there is no real leadership. When the individual Soldier has experienced "no-bull" Soldier care as demonstrated through your actions, not by your words, then you will have accomplished the setting of your first leadership "building block."

Soldier care is a series of leader-related tasks that have to happen every hour of every day by the entire chain of command. The leadership chain and chain of concern is the mortar that holds the stone work of the unit foundation together.

I want to share my five rules of effective leadership: Soldier care, Training, Maintaining, Communicating, and Leadership.

Soldier care

Caring for Soldiers begins with the immediate leadership getting to honestly know their Soldiers. In order to provide for them, the leader has to have knowledge of what makes the individual Soldier tick and, in return, the Soldier has to see a concerted effort by his immediate supervisor to demonstrate Soldier care. Leaders provide care by providing the Soldier with the knowledge of how to perform their duties to high standards through discipline and attainable goals.

It is by providing the Soldier a combat effective skill set, demonstrated by a confident and competent leader that is technically and tactically proficient in War Fighting Skills, that true Soldier care is rec-



Command Sgt. Maj.
Troy Hester

ognized.

Recognize your Soldier for a job well done. Provide mentorship that is about building a stronger Soldier and team when the mission goal has not been met. Pre-combat checks by immediate leadership and the involvement of the Soldier in the development of team, squad and platoon standard operating procedures demonstrates to the Soldier his worth to the unit.

Listen actively when the Soldier has something to say during mission preparation and planning. This builds unit cohesion and allows the leader the opportunity to get a clear understanding of the Soldier's concept of the current operation and his capabilities as a Soldier.

Leaders must understand that Soldiers are arriving at our units knowing they will face the enemy in combat. They will work hard for you and they will often put their families second or even third to their unit mission.

Leaders must ensure that we are mentoring Soldiers on the importance that families have to mission readiness and accomplishment. Unit family readiness groups are an active part in any unit's sustainability before, during, and after combat operations. It requires input and support from all levels of the chain of command and their spouses. As a leader you must encourage your spouse to be involved with family readiness.

Remember that single Soldiers have families, too. During deployments it is imperative that they are brought into the family. The unit as a family is a strong unit. Together, a lot can be accomplished. Think sustainment.

Training

Realistic and challenging training is paramount to mission readiness and mission accomplishment in the combat theater of operations of today's fight against terrorism. Leaders must understand that training has to be tailored to today's fight and that the fight is ever evolving. The training we provide for our Soldiers must evolve with it. Continuous training evaluation both from unit leadership and independent evaluators is especially important in order to

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The warrant officer corps wants you

By Command Chief Warrant Officer 5
Mark Jensen

Well folks, it's back to school time and I'm certain everyone is consumed with all the preparations, running around to practices and games and everything else that comes with the school year.

I would ask each of you to take a moment and encourage your children to be safe and alert to all the dangers our young people face when traveling on their own. Each of them has a bright and prosperous future available that is much too valuable to have damaged by intentional or unintentional acts of others.

tional acts of others.

That said, keep in mind that each of them also has the opportunity to become warrant officers in the Kansas Army National Guard, just as you either have or should. Our warrant officer accession numbers have been excellent the past two years, but we are still a long way from perfect and, with an older work force, we must be diligent to ensure our gains offset those eligible for retirement.

It's notable that around 60 percent of our warrant officer corps in Kansas is eligible for retirement with more than 20 years in the National Guard. Quite a sobering statistic and one not to be taken lightly when we think an increase in numbers is acceptable. We must keep up the efforts to recruit quality Soldiers into the warrant officer ranks, not just to satisfy the numbers game, but rather to ensure our Army stays strong with warrant

(Continued on Page 9)



Command Chief
Warrant Officer 5
Mark Jensen

PLAINS GUARDIAN

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Multistate Vigilant Guard exercise highlights many firsts for Kansas

Continued from Page 1

in a second explosion propelling a railcar into a building and causing a building collapse. The scenario included indications that terrorism was behind the events, which impacted the search and rescue efforts.

The train derailment scenario took place at Crisis City's rail disaster venue, which includes an engine, rail cars, tracks and services donated by Union Pacific, BNSF, RJ Corman, Mid America Cars Inc., Oxy-Chem, Simplot, Energy Transportation Incorporated and Transcaer.

Search and Rescue Team First in Kansas

In the scenario, a building collapse resulted in seven of eight State Urban Search and Rescue Teams being called to the site from June 22 – 23. These seven teams include approximately 165 people.

"This is the first time all of these teams have trained together at the same event," Bunting said.

Incident Management Response Team

Kansas Division of Emergency Management has been training individuals in each of the state's Homeland Security Regions to participate in Incident Response Teams and this was the first time individuals from four IMTs have trained together. A full team (23 individuals) from the Northeast Region participated, along with partial teams from the South Central, Southeast and North Central Regions.

Rail Company First in Kansas

In addition, the exercise provided the first opportunity for BNSF and Union Pacific Rail companies, which donated equipment to the Crisis City site, to train their response teams with local responders and hazmat teams in Salina.

"This is exactly what we planned for when we set this site up, a place where pri-

vate industry, local, state, and federal partners could come together, just as they would in a real disaster, and work out issues in a training scenario, rather than try to resolve issues when they meet for the first time in a disaster," Bunting noted.

UAV Use in Disaster Search

The use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to search for disaster victims was also exercised during Vigilant Guard and was another first for the state. The Federal Aviation Administration issued a Certificate of Authorization June 8 for Flint Hills Solutions' Aerosonde, an unmanned aerial vehicle. The COA allows the Aerosonde to fly over Crisis City. It is the result of the combined efforts of Kansas State University, Flint Hills Solutions and the Salina Airport Authority.

Communications Equipment First

Communications equipment was also being tested and exercised during this event. The Kansas Adjutant General's Department provided the Incident Response Vehicle which provides wireless and satellite capabilities to the site. The Kansas Department of Transportation provided its Communications on Wheels which supports 800 megahertz radio systems for responders. The 731st Civil Support Team, Kansas National Guard provided its Universal Command Suite. Local responders provided an Incident Command Trailer and the Northeast Incident Management Team provided its Incident Command Trailer.

"This is the first time we've been able to conduct an exercise in which our communications systems are connecting with an unmanned aerial vehicle and providing a video feed to the incident command as to what the UAV is recording on is flight near the disaster site," Bunting said.



Members of a search and rescue team move rubble to locate and free "victims" trapped beneath. The team was one of several that honed their techniques during the exercise. (Photo by Great Plains Joint Training Center staff)



Suited up and ready to go. Two members of the Kansas National Guard's 73rd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) move downrange to investigate a suspicious package as part of the 2009 Vigilant Guard exercise. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Traynor, Public Affairs Office)



An emergency team works to contain a chemical leak at the Crisis City train derailment venue during the 2009 Vigilant Guard exercise. (Photo by Bill Brubaker, Northeast Region Homeland Security Coordinator)



Two search and rescue dogs and their handlers wait for take-off aboard a Kansas National Guard UH-60 helicopter. This was the first time search and rescue dogs had flown with members of the Kansas Army National Guard. (Photo by Jane Welch)



When completed, the Great Plains Joint Training Center will have training venues for rail accidents, farm incidents, a collapsed wall rescue site and more, all arranged around a central observation building. (Photo by Lt. Col. Richard Foster)

Kansas National Guard honors and supports Armenian military

By Sharon Watson
Public Affairs Office

A six-year partnership between the Kansas National Guard and the Republic of Armenia has resulted in Armenian troops training with Kansas Guardsmen and later fighting side by side in Iraq and Afghanistan, and supporting the peace-keeping efforts in Kosovo.

Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas Adjutant General, visited Yerevan, Armenia in July for the fifth time in six years, bringing with him a team of Kansas experts in the fields of agriculture, bio-security, education and law enforcement. Although the State Partnership Program is exploring ways to partner in these areas, the exchanges between the Kansas National Guard and the Armenian military forces remains strong and is growing.

U.S. Ambassador Marie L. Yovanovitch participated with Bunting and Seyran Ohanyan, Armenia's Minister of Defense, in a ceremony to honor Armenia's 2nd Battalion Peacekeeping Brigade. Many of the brigade's troops have deployed to Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq alongside Kansas Guardsmen. Some members of Armenia's Peacekeeping Brigade have been to Kansas to participate in military training and also trained with Kansas soldiers in Armenia.

"Not every day do you put an Army commendation medal on someone from another nation," Bunting said following the July 21 awards ceremony. "I was glad to hand the ambassador of the United States a military decoration from the U.S. for people who were prepared to fight and die side by side with us. Today is as good



Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general, addresses members of the Armenian Peacekeeping Brigade during a ceremony in Yerevan, Armenia, to present awards for their cooperative efforts in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kosovo. To Bunting's right is Marie L. Yovanovitch, U.S. ambassador to Armenia. (Photo by Sharon Watson, Public Affairs Office)

as it gets."

"That was really a great honor for us," said Maj. Aron Sahayan, chief of staff with the 2nd Battalion Peacekeeping Brigade. "Our cooperation with the U.S. military in mission area and here is at a great level and we enjoy working together."

During his visit, Bunting met with

Ohanyan, who spoke through an interpreter, to discuss possible ways to enhance their military-to-military exchanges and partnership.

"It is due to this cooperation that we develop our capabilities in peacekeeping, demining, and medical fields, and today we agreed to organize cooperation in fields of military justice and developing the professional non-commissioned officer corps in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia," said Ohanyan.

Armenian officials have been interested in the Kansas Guard's training for its non-commissioned officers for some time and recently brought soldiers to the Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina to participate in this training program.

Medical exchanges have been a part of the program in the past with the Kansas Air Guard providing dentists for humanitarian aid missions. Another mission related to medical capacity is a project to improve Armenia's ability to use its Expeditionary Medical Support System (EMEDS), a mobile hospital for use in response to disasters or in combat.

Kansas was the first state to purchase an EMEDS for disaster response and, as a result of the State Partnership Program, Armenian government officials decided to also purchase one. However, the storage facility where the EMEDS is currently housed in Yerevan is not climate-controlled, as is required to properly maintain the equipment.

As a result, 37 Kansas Air Guardsmen from the 190th Air Refueling Wing's Civil Engineering Squadron arrived in Armenia

July 19 on a KC-135 Boeing Stratotanker for a two-week mission, which included building a new EMEDS warehouse.

"The ability to build the right storage capacity hasn't existed," Bunting noted. "So as part of our ongoing partnership, it's also allowed us to have a unique training opportunity for our engineers from Kansas who are experienced in deploying it."

Tech. Sgt. Robert Ogen with the Civil Engineers Squadron served as a crew leader on the EMEDS warehouse mission and was proud to be involved.

"I love doing this stuff. It just gives you a good feeling, like you're helping people out that need the help," he said.

"It makes you feel good," said Tech. Sgt. Michelle Givens. "In the long run, you know it's going to help people."

Maj. Jake Salmand, who is in charge of the civil engineers crew building the warehouse, saw many benefits to the mission, including training and improving their teamwork in preparation for potential combat missions, while also helping the Armenians, but said the mission was not without a few struggles.

"The communication barrier is a challenge," he noted. "Tools are the same, but we both call them different things... We have a few guys assigned to us to help interpret when necessary and get us stuff. They're great. They have good attitudes, they're more than willing to help us out and they want to accommodate us in any way they can, so it's good."

Meanwhile, Chief Master Sgt. Danny Roush worked across town, leading another crew of civil engineers in the installation of air conditioners at the Armenian Air Institute, where the local military receives academic training.

"I think we'll make a big difference. We'll leave a mark here that Armenians will enjoy a long time after we leave," Roush said.

He, too, was working through the language differences with his airmen and the Armenian military, while maintaining a good sense of humor.

"Seems like you can point to things and most of the Armenians can understand a little bit of English," Roush said. "They know more English than we know Armenian. That's for sure!"

Other missions for the civil engineers during their two weeks in Armenia included completely rewiring a kindergarten building.

The Kansas Guardsmen left Armenia Aug. 1, turning over their work to the Texas Air National Guard, which arrived to continue the mission.

The State Partnership Program is a program of the Department of Defense working in cooperation with the National Guard Bureau to help create stable environments in partner countries, increase partner capacities and prevent conflict. Currently, there are 61 partnerships worldwide.



Members of the Armenian Peacekeeping Brigade pass in review after the awards ceremony. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Hanson, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



Airmen of the 190th Air Refueling Wing's Civil Engineering Squadron, Kansas National Guard, lay out (above) and assemble (at right) structural beams of a new warehouse for an Expeditionary Medical System purchased by the Republic of Armenia. (Photo by Sharon Watson, Public Affairs Office)



Kansas ag experts pursue partnership possibilities with Armenia

By Sharon Watson
Public Affairs Office

A team of agricultural experts from Kansas State University recently visited Armenia through an initiative of the Kansas National Guard's State Partnership Program. Finding common ground wasn't hard for the team as they explored ways to partner in agricultural endeavors.

Armenia, located in southwestern Asia has a population similar to Kansas, and has 46 percent of its people working in agriculture or forestry, according to the State Department.

The main agricultural differences between Kansas and Armenia are the much larger livestock operations in Kansas, and the fact that foot and mouth disease is already present in Armenia, something the U.S. hasn't seen since 1929 and experts predict would have devastating results on the U.S. economy.

Dr. Marty Vanier, director of operations for the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center in Manhattan and her colleague Craig Beardsley, conducted a workshop in Yerevan, Armenia, with government officials regarding partnership possibilities. NABC's focus is on protecting America's agricultural infrastructure and economy from endemic and emerging biological threats.

"We basically started by explaining what the National Biosecurity Center does, but we also did some explanation of the agricultural economy in Kansas and a quick explanation of the foreign animal disease plan," said Vanier.

"It became clear through the (workshop) interchanges, not only with us from Kansas but also among themselves, the various ministries in Armenia, that there are some really significant differences," Vanier noted. "Not only in how we approach disease control, but also with respect to the challenges that we have in controlling a disease outbreak, and that's driven in large part by the significant differences in our agricultural economies."

Discussions have continued following the fall trip, and next steps in the process have been identified.

Kansas will assist Armenia in developing a Foreign Animal Disease Response Plan modeled on the current Kansas plan, according to Maj. Brent Salmans, State Partnership Program director. The Kansas plan has been provided to the US Embassy-Yerevan and the Armenian Rescue Service. Vanier and her team will work with Armenian government officials as they adapt the Kansas plan to conform to the differences in governmental organizations and authori-



Representatives from the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center in Manhattan, Kan., toured this dairy farm in Armenia during a trip to explore potential partnerships in agricultural initiatives. (Photo by retired Lt. Col. Craig Beardsley)

ties found in Armenia. Vanier and Beardsley toured a dairy farm while in Armenia and their hope is Armenian agriculture officials will come to the U.S. for a similar experience in Kansas. Initial plans are underway for such a visit next spring. An appropriate delegation will come to Kansas to observe a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak exercise in the spring of 2010. During the visit they will also develop a similar exercise to be conducted in Armenia later in the year.

Kansas first partnered with Armenia in 2003, focusing its initial efforts on military exchange efforts, but now the partnership involves connecting businesses and industry to the counterparts in Armenia to determine how the two may benefit from one another.

U.S. Ambassador Marie L. Yovanovitch is pleased to see the partnership expand to include agricultural initiatives.

"There are clear and lasting and close relationships between folks in Kansas and people here in Armenia and over the last six years, those relationships have deepened and so have the things that can be accomplished as a result," Yovanovitch said. "I think there are a number of different areas where the partnership has benefited Armenia, whether it's humanitarian determining so that experts from the Kansas National Guard have helped with the expertise

on how best to clear fields, and so forth, not only is that a big plus for public safety, but it also returns those lands to agriculture and of course, that's one of the ways I think Kansas can also benefit Armenia in that clearly Kansas has huge expertise in agriculture."

Another focus of the recent trip was agricultural education.

Fred Cholick, dean of Agriculture, Kansas State University, and director of KSU's Research and Extension, also part of the ag team visiting Armenia, met with the Ministry of Agriculture and the International Center for Ag Business and Research in Education.

"One of their goals is to develop a master's degree program of which our Ag business program within the Ag Economics department should be able to support this development," Cholick said.

Cholick was optimistic about his visit and plans to continue working on the connections made.

This is the second agricultural initiative this year involving the Kansas National Guard and Kansas State University working together to assist a country with improved agricultural processes. Earlier this year, Kansas sent the first of three agribusiness development teams to Afghanistan to share skills and lessons learned in agricultural production.



Cattle crossing a highway is not an unusual sight in rural areas of the Republic of Armenia. (Photo by Sharon Watson, Public Affairs Office)

Kansas to assist Armenia with law enforcement and education

By Sharon Watson
Public Affairs Office

As a result of recent discussions between Kansas law enforcement officials and Armenian police, police departments in Kansas will be assisting Armenia with training, community policing tactics and other efforts to improve law enforcement capabilities. An education initiative is also being explored to align workforce development programs with strategic economic issues. These efforts are an expansion of the Kansas National Guard's State Partnership Program which links civilian organizations to their counterparts in Armenia.

Law enforcement initiative

Armenia, formerly a part of the Soviet Union until 1991, is interested in developing some of the same police programs as the U.S. and other European nations.

During a recent trip to Armenia with the State Partnership Program, Maj. James Brown with the Kansas City, Kan., Police Department, talked about the success of community policing programs in Kansas.

"Community policing was introduced to Kansas around 1995 and they're (Armenian police) struggling with what we struggled with back then as far as incorporating it into the police department," said Brown, who also serves in the Kansas Air Guard. "They'll have to work with developing relationships within their community just as we did in Kansas City, Topeka, Overland Park."

"We're exchanging stories, some of the good things we've tried that worked for us and maybe they can do the same things in Armenia," Brown added.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe started a community policing pilot program in April in Armenian. Carel Hofstra, deputy head of OSCE's

Yerevan office believes the timing of the Kansas assistance will help the project.

"We need further deepening, we need exchanges with an established community policing model," Hofstra said. "We need up and coming middle ranking police officers to see how it's being done because an image says more than a thousand words.



Maj. James Brown (far right) with the Kansas City, Kan., Police Department and Kansas Air National Guard talked with Carl Hofstra, deputy head of Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, regarding how Kansas law enforcement officials might partner with Armenia on community policing initiatives. (Photo by Sharon Watson, Public Affairs Office)

That's why we want to tie to the Kansas partnership."

Training is another area where Armenian officials believe Kansas can assist. Police in Armenia attend several different training academies, rather than one central training center like the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in Hutchinson.

John Maher with the U.S. Embassy and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement is also excited to see the assistance from Kansas.

"My office has funds to assist Armenia through various projects, but often it requires more than money," Maher said. "We need expertise and having assistance from experienced law enforcement professionals in Kansas is a real plus."

Education Initiative

Another area where Kansas and Armenia may partner is workforce development. Blake Flanders, Ph.D., V.P. of workforce development with Kansas Board of Regents, visited with Armenian officials regarding a two-year study to provide incentives to educational institutions to produce graduates in specific fields.

"That is an initiative the Kansas Board of Regents has been working on for the last few years, and so we have developed some expertise in that area that we are excited to share with Armenia," Flanders said.

Flanders is pursuing a Fulbright Scholarship to continue to work with the Armenian Ministry of Education.

778th Transportation Company makes a big haul for artillery battalion

By Sgt Charles Malloy, UPAR
Det. 3, 778th Transportation Company

On June 3, 2009, under the command of Capt. Erin Kearney, 1st Lt. Jerry Monasmith, 2nd Lt. Donnetta Harris and 1st Sgt. Paul Jackson, the 778th Transportation Company departed Fort Riley, Kan., for their two week annual training, hauling the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery to Camp Guernsey, Wyo.

The 778th left Fort Riley with 37 M1070 HETTs, all loaded with M109 Paladin 155 MM self-propelled howitzers, ammo carriers, M88 recovery vehicles and other tracked vehicles. The three-serial convoy started its 2,500 mile trip in the early morning hours with the load up and securing of its heavy cargo. Although it was raining when the load up was taking place, the men

and women of the 778th persevered. But they would soon learn that rain would be the least of their problems.

Before their first day was over, three trucks would break down with seized axle bearings. The axles were isolated on the side of the road and repaired in the Colby High School parking lot. The maintenance section really earned their pay and a lot more. As soon as the damaged vehicles arrived at the school, maintenance went right to work and, with the assistance of the drivers, were able to get all trucks up and running.

Over the next two weeks, the same trucks would repeat the same issues of day one. There was only one truck that would end its trip on the back of the wrecker, and that one had a cracked head.

When the company arrived at Camp

Guernsey, Wyo., they were met with a severe thunderstorm that produced two-inch hail. Later, that same storm dropped a tornado about 30 miles east of the camp. A second storm moved through as they were settling in for a much-deserved rest for the night.

On June 6, the 778th arrived in Rapid City, S.D. A Morale, Welfare and Recreation day was scheduled and the company parked at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

After a day of relaxing and sightseeing, the 778th went back to the Air Force base to attend to any maintenance issue that the rest of the trucks had, tires being the biggest issue, before moving back to Kansas City. With over half of annual train-

ing behind them, the 778th was in high gear to get home. Though safety was and is a very high priority, the remainder of the trip was thankfully uneventful.

Back in Kansas City, post-trip preventive maintenance checks and services was the order of the day. Unloading of personal equipment and winding down was foremost on the minds of the Soldiers of the 778th. Later, awards from annual training were handed out to all ranks of Soldiers. And as members from different detachments headed to their various armories anticipating reunions with families, the only task left to do was to clean the trucks and put them away until the next mission.



Spc. Robby W. Webb, Detachment 1, 778th Transportation Company, welds a broken axle. (Photo by Sgt. Charles Malloy, UPAR)



An M88 recovery vehicle is loaded on a M1070 Heavy Equipment and Truck Transport by members of the 778th Transportation Company. The company hauled howitzers, ammunition carriers, recovery and other tracked vehicles to Camp Guernsey, Wyo., for the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery. (Photo by Sgt. Charles Malloy, UPAR)

169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion trains at NTC

By Spc. Sharon Smart

The 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion conducted their annual training at the National Training Center, Calif., July 6 - 26. The 169th CSSB conducted their doctrinal mission as a unit "in the box" at NTC and supported 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Benning, Ga.

The 169th CSSB's primary mission at NTC was to maintain a Forward Operating Base and support the delivery of numerous classes of supply to the 3/3 HBCT. The battalion command and controlled four companies totaling approximately 450 Soldiers during the rotation. As in current deployments, the battalion had units from the National Guard, Reserves and Active duty as part of their structure. These units are: 872nd Maintenance Company, a Reserve

unit from Ogden, Utah; 2nd Transportation Company (Heavy Equipment Transport), an active duty company stationed at Fort Irwin, Calif.; 266th Ordinance Company, a Reserve unit from Puerto Rico and 2123rd Transportation Company (Palletized Loading System), a National Guard company from Kentucky.

The battalion commander, Lt. Col. Thomas Foster, said "This was a perfect venue for our battalion headquarters. We were able to conduct our mission and command and control units from every component, just like we would have to do deployed."

The battalion received training in operating in a contemporary operating environment, Iraq specific cultural and language skills, individual warrior tasks and Command Post of the Future and Battle Com-

mand Sustainment Support System.

The battalion executed a very successful rotation proving that a rotational CSSB with appropriate subordinate companies could sustain a rotational brigade. This is an important test that NTC wanted to learn.

The National Training Center is located in the middle of California's Mojave Desert and is one of the United States Army's premier training environments and dates back

as a military reservation/installation to its establishment in 1940. The goal of NTC is to provide a tough, realistic joint and combined arms training with the focus at the battalion task force and brigade levels; it also provides a realistic environment both in geographic location and in climate that is comparable to those found in current real-world contingencies of Iraq and Afghanistan.

170th Maintenance Company receives new commander

By Staff Sgt. Mark W. Reasoner

The September drill weekend was a busy one for Soldiers of the 170th Maintenance Company. Not only did they qualify 100 percent of the Soldiers in attendance with their individual weapon, but also transferred command in a ceremony held on the grounds of Nickell Hall in Salina, Kan.

The ceremony took place on Sunday, Sept. 13. The event was attended by a number of military and civilian guests including Brig. Gen. Norman Steen, commander of the Great Plains Joint Training Center; Lt. Col. Gregory Salisbury, 287th Sustainment Brigade Rear Detachment commander; Lt. Col. Thomas Foster, 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Cullen, 169th CSSB command sergeant major.

Capt. Wesley O. Topel relinquished the

reins of command by transferring the company guidon from 1st Sgt. Mark Zafran to Foster, who passed the guidon to the incoming commander, 1st Lt. Todd J. Stuke.

During the ceremony, Topel was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for his work and accomplishments with the company over the past two years. Additionally, Mrs. Topel received an open red rose while Rayanan Vanhoutan, Stuke's fiancée, was presented with a closed yellow rose from Sgt. 1st Class Craig J. Wellnitz. Cake and punch were served following the ceremony; the cakes featured the company's unit crest.

"Everyone told me going into command this would be the best two years of your military career," said Topel. "At times I doubted that, but looking back on it now, something great is going to have to happen in the future to surpass this."



Soldiers of the 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion listen to a briefing as they prepare for the day's mission during annual training. (Photo by Spc. Sharon Smart)

Get Ready to Fly!

The 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment (Assault), with units in Topeka and Salina, is looking for Officers and Noncommissioned Officers interested in becoming pilots with the Kansas Army National Guard. The sky is the limit of your future! For information, contact Capt. Catherine Forsyth at 785-861-3516 or e-mail her at catherine.forsyth@us.army.mil.

Kansas Coyotes deploy in support of federal missions

More than 250 members of the 190th Air Refueling Wing of the Kansas Air National Guard are deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom over the course of the next few months. The Kansas Coyotes are providing in-flight refueling during their deployment.

The deploying Guardsmen are from the 190th Air Refueling Wing's Operations and Maintenance Groups as well as additional administrative and support personnel. All individuals are based at Forbes Field Air National Guard Base in Topeka, Kan.

"The men and women of the 190th ARW are well-trained, dedicated to their mission and truly exemplify the 190th's Mission Statement: The Standard of Excellence. I

have full confidence that they will operate at the level that has become the standard for our unit," said Col. Keith Lang, 190th Air Refueling Wing Commander.

The Airmen will deploy to forward operating bases within the Central Command and European Command Theater of operations.

"The training and experience that the members of the 190th will bring to this deployment is a testament to the Kansas National Guard," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general. "Their efforts are another indication of the level of expertise and dedication to duty that members of the Kansas National Guard exhibit each and every day. We wish them good luck in their mission."

Safety Corner

"Think safety" is the first lesson

By Chief Warrant Officer 3
Marvin Terhune

First let me take this opportunity to introduce myself and tell you about the Safety Office. My name is Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marvin Terhune and I have worked in the Safety Office since 2001 as the State Safety Specialist. In 2008, I replaced Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mark Jensen as the State Safety Manager. The Safety Specialist position was filled by Master Sgt. Jeffrey Arnold who previously worked at the Combined Surface Maintenance Shop. We complete safety inspections statewide for the organization as well as support the overall state safety program.

I had the opportunity to fill in for Arnold during in-processing of new employees last week. It occurred to me that everyone looked really "young." That made me think that maybe I just might be getting "older." With age hopefully the wisdom followed. I consider myself wiser now having safely

survived to this point in my military career. As part of the older and wiser generation we like to pass on our success stories to the younger folks.

To establish my baseline or starting point for safety let me explain what I tell all of the new hires in our system. As an organization we owe everyone at least three things. We will properly train you to do the job we hired you to do. We will provide you the tools and equipment necessary to do that job and we will provide the protective equipment required to perform your job safely. What then do you owe us in return? You will perform your assigned task "by the book" and to standard. You will maintain and use the assigned equipment and tools correctly and perform these assigned tasks using all required protective equipment.

I will continue the "Safety Corner" and hopefully pass on a few tips that make you stop and think. Or hopefully, keep you and your family safe! Be safe!

Duckworth pins on single star

Continued from Page 3

deal of credit has to be given."

Duckworth is one of three people in his family to follow a military career. In addition to his father, his brother is an active duty Army chaplain. However, when enlisting at 18 years of age, Duckworth hadn't planned on 32 years in the Army.

"Actually, I joined the Army on a whim," Duckworth said. "I very quickly decided to take advantage of what the military offered. I often tell new second lieutenants and any young Soldiers to keep an open mind and clear head regarding their careers: have great expectations about what the Army offers you and set high goals for yourself. There are no limits on what you can achieve and have fun doing it."

Like many Guard Soldiers, Duckworth has spent time overseas. He spent a year in Iraq with the 1st Cavalry Division as the base defense brigade commander for the Camp Victory complex in Bagdad. In that role, he was responsible for the protection of 72,000 coalition soldiers and civilians living within the 13 forward operating bases.

"Iraq was a rewarding experience in a lot of ways," said Duckworth. "In training you are always given a lot of guidance and oversight, but when you deploy, it is like flying solo. It is validation of your abilities and years of training."

As the 35th Division deputy commanding general for maneuver, Duckworth provides oversight and guidance for the day-to-day operations and training of the division.

"I am excited about the journey ahead," Duckworth said. "This is a fascinating time to be in the Kansas National Guard. We have obvious real world combat and stability operations to train for. Simultaneously, training for Homeland Security, our traditional state missions, are becoming increasingly important. Our challenge is to apply the capabilities that we have gained from doing our overseas missions to our internal state and Homeland Security missions."

Duckworth lives in Lee's Summit, Mo., with his wife, Kelly, and their three children: Shelby Noel, Drake, and Gunnar. As a civilian, he is employed by his family's real estate and property management company.

The warrant officer corps wants you

Continued from Page 4

officers, the men and women that provide the expertise and continuity that keeps the machine working.

Commanders, senior noncommissioned officers and other supervisors move about with assignments designed to assist them in career development and career progression. The warrant officer often remains in a chosen career field, becoming the most knowledgeable and often the person consistently available to provide expertise that only experience can develop. Our senior leaders are acutely aware of the value the warrant officer brings to the table and it is the duty

of the warrant officer to enhance this perception through our continued professionalism and dedication to a job not just well done, but done the best it can be.

I invite every Soldier to consider becoming a warrant officer and welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you might have. You can add to the story of great things done by warrant officers, but first you must become one.

Enjoy the Friday night games, the helping with the homework and all the additional running around to school functions, but most of all do it all safely. Thanks for all that you do.

Enlisted Promotion System a success

By Command Sgt. Maj. Glenn Peterson

I wanted to take this opportunity to share with all of you the success that we are having with our Enlisted Promotion System for 2009 in the Kansas Army National Guard.

Many of you that have not been affected by the opportunity of a promotion during the current 2009 EPS cycle may be asking "What success?"

I just want to let you know that over the past two years, our processes and percentage of EPS fills by grades have increased significantly. This has been brought about by the added emphasis by your chain of commands to successfully manage their vacancies within our units. Your leadership has made improvements in their knowledge of the regulatory guidance, procedures to ensure that EPS fills are requested in a timely manner and selecting qualified Soldiers to fill those vacancies improving the unit's readiness.

Now for some statistical information to inform you of our current 2009 EPS fill rates by grades:

E9 – 100 percent

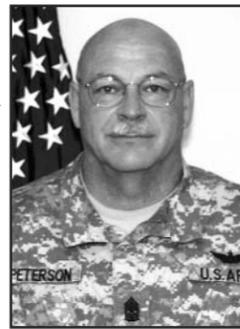
E8 – 96 percent

E7 – 83 percent

E6 – 95 percent

E5 – 96 percent, a 30 percent increase of fill from 2008

Now that you see the percentages, under-



Command Sgt. Maj.
Glenn Peterson

stand that they change on a daily basis caused by the constant cycle of filling senior noncommissioned officer positions, which then leads to vacancies at the lower noncommissioned officer positions.

I hope that you are now asking yourself, "How can I ensure that I am competitive for a possible promotion?" I just want you to know that it is the individual Soldier's responsibility to ensure that he is promotion eligible. If you have met all of the gates, were boarded and you are on the 2009 EPS list, this is not where it stops for you! There are two major areas that prevent your leadership from sending an EPS acceptance letter out to Soldiers. They are current height and weight and Army Physical Fitness Test within the timeframe that the EPS control number was issued for the vacant position.

I challenge you to manage your career and ensure that you are current in those two areas, so you have the opportunity for advancement to the next higher grade of rank. You may be asking what are the time-limits for those areas so that I am promotion eligible when the EPS control number is issued. The time-frame is as follows:

- Traditional Soldiers and military technicians: APFT – within 12 months; Height and weight – within 6 months

- AGR Soldiers: APFT – within 6 months; Height and weight – within 6 months

We have had outstanding success during 2009, but to continue our progress, I need you to make sure that you are managing your career, are within the standards for promotion and ready to take your place within the noncommissioned officer ranks.

Back To School – EPS 101

By Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Hall

So, you want to be a noncommissioned officer in the Kansas Army National Guard? Or, you want to be promoted to the next noncommissioned officer rank? Here are some items that you need to do so that you are always in a promotable status.

First, what is EPS? EPS is the Enlisted Promotion System and AR 600-8-19 is the governing regulation. Chapter 7 of this regulation is the specific chapter that we use. When the unit identifies a non-commissioned officer vacancy, the unit looks to see if they have any excess personnel at that rank. If they do not, the unit then looks to see if there are any Soldiers at that rank that would like to move laterally. If no one is identified through this process to fill the vacancy, it is then ready to go to the EPS process.

The first step in the EPS process is for the unit to request a control number for the vacancy. This request goes to the Enlisted Personnel office here at the State Personnel Office. A control number is assigned from our database and a listing of names from the current EPS list of Soldiers. Enlisted Personnel sends this list to the requesting unit for them to start the process of sending out letters to eligible Soldiers on the list.

The second step is for the unit to determine from the list the eligible Soldiers. The eligibility rules are that the Soldier must be current on Army Physical Fitness Test and height/weight as of the date of the control number issuance. The unit must contact the unit of the Soldier to verify this information.

For the purpose of promotion, a current APFT is within 12 months to the day of control number issuance and the date of signature on the letter of acceptance for traditional Soldiers and six months for AGR Soldiers. A current height/weight is within six months for all Soldiers. If the Soldier is not current with both of these, the unit will note what's not current and bypass that Soldier.

The third step is to send out letters to the eligible Soldiers. The unit will send the letter to the first Soldier and if the Soldier accepts the position, he signs and return the letter. The Soldier also attaches a copy of their most current APFT (DA Form 705) and height/weight statement (AGO Kan Form 600-9b and DA Form 5500/5501 (if applicable)) and returns the letter. The DA Form 705 and the Height/Weight information must show the Soldier was in compliance on the date of the control number issuance and was still in compliance on the date of signature.

The unit verifies the letter and attachments and sends it up through their chain to Enlisted Personnel for the promotion processing. Each level of the chain verifies the validity of the fill and sends it on to the next level. The unit owning the Soldier that accepted the position at this time initiates a Personnel Action Request.

When Enlisted Personnel receives the packet of information, they will verify once again that the Soldier meets all requirements. Two personnel within the Enlisted Personnel office, prior to the promotion PAR being actioned, review this packet. After the Soldier is found to be eligible, the PAR is processed and the promotion order is cut.

The final step in this process is that the unit holds an appropriate promotion ceremony. It is important that the unit accomplish this ceremony in a timely and dignified manner. The unit should invite family and friends to this important event in the Soldier's career.

The bottom line that I hope you take from this article is to keep yourself, and your Soldiers, in an eligible status at all times. You never know when you are going to be the top Soldier on the EPS list and receive a letter. If you are getting within a month of being out of date on either APFT or height/weight, I strongly encourage you to get with your unit and get back in an eligible status. We want to promote as many eligible Soldiers in the Kansas Army National Guard as we can!

Awards and Decorations

KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Legion of Merit



Sgt. Maj. John Birdsong Jr., R&R, Topeka

Bronze Star Medal



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Robert Good, Det 37, OSA (Cmd), Topeka
 Chief Warrant Officer 5 Wayne Spry, Det 37, OSA (Cmd), Topeka
 Chief Warrant Officer 4 Douglas Clark, Det 37, OSA (Cmd), Topeka
 Chief Warrant Officer 3 Scott Sims, Det 37, OSA (Cmd), Topeka

Air Medal



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Robert Good, Det 37, OSA (Cmd), Topeka
 Chief Warrant Officer 5 Wayne Spry, Det 37, OSA (Cmd), Topeka
 Chief Warrant Officer 4 Douglas Clark, Det 37, OSA (Cmd), Topeka
 Chief Warrant Officer 4 Andrew Clements, Det 37, OSA (Cmd), Topeka
 Chief Warrant Officer 4 Darrell Linenberger, Det 37, OSA (Cmd), Topeka
 Chief Warrant Officer 3 Scott Sims, Det 37, OSA (Cmd), Topeka
 Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark Kingman, Det 37, OSA (Cmd), Topeka

Joint Service Commendation Medal



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Andrew Clements, Det 37, OSA (Cmd), Topeka
 Chief Warrant Officer 4 Darrell Linenberger, Det 37, OSA (Cmd), Topeka
 Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark Kingman, Det 37, OSA (Cmd), Topeka
 Sgt. 1st Class Sherri Jackson, Det 37, OSA, (Cmd), Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Shawn Perkins, Det 37, OSA, (Cmd), Topeka

Meritorious Service Medal



Col. John Andrew II, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with four oak leaf clusters
 Lt. Col. Anthony Mohatt, HHC, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf (CAB), Kansas City, with one oak leaf cluster
 Maj. Steven Denney, HHC, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf (CAB), Kansas City, with two oak leaf clusters
 Maj. Donald Matcheck, HHC, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf (CAB), Kansas City, with two oak leaf clusters
 Capt. Darren Koberlein, Co A, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf (CAB), Kansas City, with one oak leaf cluster
 Capt. Larry Leupold, HHC, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha
 Capt. Rodney Seaba, HHC, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf (CAB), Kansas City
 Chief Warrant Officer 4 Victor Pape Jr., 287th Sustainment Brigade, Wichita
 Chief Warrant Officer 4 Lawrence Thomas, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka
 Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Hester, HQ, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf (CAB), Kansas City
 Master Sgt. Raymond Babcock, 2nd Bn, 235th Regt, Salina
 Master Sgt. Roger Sinclair, Rec and Ret, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 1st Sgt. Anthony Hemard, 13th Trans Co (PLS), Olathe
 Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Bryson, Co B, 1st Bn, 635th Ar, Junction City
 Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Kehres, Co D, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf (CAB), Emporia, with one oak leaf cluster
 Sgt. 1st Class John Krenowicz, Training Site Det, Salina
 Sgt. 1st Class Mark McCarter, Rec and Ret, Topeka
 Sgt. 1st Class Larry Reed, BCTC, Fort Leavenworth
 Sgt. 1st Class Eric Thompson, HHC, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha
 Staff Sgt. Keith Kraushaar, 1st Bn, 108th Aviation, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Jill R. Weems, Co B, 1st Bn (OCS), 235th Regt, Salina
 Sgt. Thomas Simpkins, Det 37, OSA (CMD), Topeka

Army Commendation Medal



Maj. Jared Maag, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita
 Capt. Erin Kearney, 778th Trans Co, Kansas City, with two oak leaf clusters
 Capt. Wesley Topel, 170th Maint Co, Norton
 Chief Warrant Officer 2 Martin Anschutz, HHC, 169th CSSB, Olathe, with five oak leaf clusters
 Sgt. 1st Class John Taylor, KSRTI Range Control, Salina, with one oak leaf cluster
 Sgt. 1st Class Thomas West, HQ, 235th Regt, Salina
 Staff Sgt. Thomas Heiter, KSRTI, Salina, with one oak leaf cluster
 Staff Sgt. Jose Ortiz, Rec and Ret, Topeka
 Sgt. Samuel Cruz, KSRTI Range Control, Salina
 Sgt. Orval Weber, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita
 Spc. Dru Payne, 35th ID Band, Olathe
 Spc. Joseph Swann, 35th ID Band, Olathe

Army Achievement Medal



Spc. Lonnie Hajney, HHS(-), 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Hiawatha

Retirements

Kansas Army National Guard

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Victor Pape Jr., HHC, 287th Sustainment Bde, Wichita
 Chief Warrant Officer 3 Scott Sims, Det 37, OSA Cmd, Topeka
 Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark Kingman, Det 37, OSA Cmd, Topeka
 1st Sgt. Robert Bearce, Co A, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka
 1st Sgt. Anthony Hemard, 137th Trans Co (-), Olathe
 Master Sgt. Roman Asebedo, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Master Sgt. Timothy Roloff, FSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola
 Master Sgt. Jerry Vest, HQ, 235th Rgt (RTI), Salina
 Sgt. 1st Class Leon Dupuis Sr., HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola
 Sgt. 1st Class Sherri Jackson, Det 37, OSA Cmd, Topeka
 Sgt. 1st Class John Krenowicz, Training Site Det, Salina
 Sgt. 1st Class Gary Thompson, HHD, 635th Support Group, Hutchinson
 Staff Sgt. Michael Gerber, 226th Eng Co, Augusta
 Staff Sgt. Lonnie Henkle, HSC (-), 891st Eng Bn, Iola
 Staff Sgt. Kelvin Hicks, Det 1, 242nd Eng Co, Winfield

Kansas National Guard Meritorious Service Ribbon



Sgt. 1st Class Tate West, 69th TC, Topeka

Kansas National Guard Commendation Ribbon



Staff Sgt. David Wymore, 242nd Eng Co, Coffeyville

Kansas National Guard Service Medal



Maj. Dirk Christian, ADT #1, Topeka
 Capt. Jeffrey Mann, ADT #1, Manhattan
 Sgt. Major Jay Jackson, ADT #1, Holcomb
 Master Sgt. Robert Audano, ADT #1, Waverly
 Master Sgt. Sean Matthews, ADT #1, Manhattan
 Sgt. 1st Class William Alexander, ADT #1, Topeka
 Sgt. 1st Class Dwane Clifford, ADT #1, Wichita
 Sgt. 1st Class Michael Dickmeyer, ADT #1, Overland Park
 Sgt. 1st Class Paul Johnston, ADT #1, Girard
 Sgt. 1st Class Nancy White, ADT #1, Wakarusa
 Staff Sgt. Luke Atherton, ADT #1, Rose Hill
 Staff Sgt. Jason Carr, ADT #1, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Randy Cox, ADT #1, Andover
 Staff Sgt. Jamie Jackson, ADT #1, Clifton
 Staff Sgt. Christopher Johnston, ADT #1, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. David Rogers, ADT #1, Pittsburg
 Staff Sgt. Justin Underwood, ADT #1, Tishomingo, Okla.
 Sgt. Mark Alligood, ADT #1, Lansing
 Sgt. Anthony Boone, ADT #1, San Antonio, Texas
 Sgt. Devry Jeffress, ADT #1, Haysville
 Sgt. James Kellison, ADT #1, Lawrence
 Sgt. Robert Patrick, ADT #1, Kansas City, Mo.
 Sgt. Kristopher Simpson, ADT #1, Wichita
 Sgt. Jeconiah Spangler, ADT #1, Newton
 Cpl. Nathan Carnahan, ADT #1, Andover
 Spc. Heath Albert, ADT #1, Kansas City
 Spc. Christopher Hanke, ADT #1, Newton
 Spc. Zachory Kirkham, ADT #1, Wichita

KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Meritorious Service Medal



Col. Derek Rogers, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Lt. Col. Anthony DeJesus, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Lt. Col. Janet Hanson, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Lt. Col. Ronald Krueger, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Lt. Col. Steven Rexer, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Lt. Col. Anthony Smith, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Chief Master Sgt. James Brown, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Chief Master Sgt. Philip Mahan, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka
 Chief Master Sgt. David Rodriguez, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka
 Senior Master Sgt. Robert Bolin, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Lachelle Frojen, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Ronald Grieve, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Edgar Salazaraguire, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Angela D. McNew, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Vic Vinson, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Corlis, 190th ARW, Topeka

Air Force Commendation Medal



Col. Janet Hanson, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Col. Kerry Taylor, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Lt. Col. Joel Darbro, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Lt. Col. Mark Green, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Lt. Col. John Kerns, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Lt. Col. Ronald Krueger, 190th ARW, Topeka, with three oak leaf clusters
 Lt. Col. Hans Neidhardt, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka, with three oak leaf clusters
 Maj. Diane Bellquist, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Maj. Tamra Buettgenbach, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Maj. Erik Epperson, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Maj. Christopher Hill, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Maj. Michael Robinson, 190th ARW, Topeka, with three oak leaf clusters
 Maj. David Williams, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Capt. Nathaniel Berroth, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Capt. Joseph Blubaugh, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Capt. Alyson L. Stockton, 184th IW, Wichita
 Capt. Tanya Wehrli, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 1st Lt. Marci Solander, 190th ARW, Topeka
 2nd Lt. Casey Montgomery, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Chief Master Sgt. Jeff Appenfeller, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Chief Master Sgt. Terry Kerns, 190th ARW, Topeka, with four oak leaf clusters

Staff Sgt. Richard Hite, KSARNG Med Det, Lenexa
 Staff Sgt. David McKinney, 2137th FSC, Manhattan
 Staff Sgt. Robert Patterson, 35th Div, Fort Leavenworth
 Staff Sgt. Johnny Ralston, Co A, 2nd Bn, 137th Inf Regt, Lawrence
 Staff Sgt. William Sechler, Btry B, 2nd Bn, 130th FA, Horton
 Spc. Anthony Ewing, 35th Div, Fort Leavenworth
 Spc. Wayne Thompson, Det 1, Btry B, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Lenexa
 Pfc. Richard Faith Jr., Co E (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka

Kansas Air National Guard

Lt. Col. Jeannine Garnsey, 184th IW, Wichita
 Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Emerson, 184th IW, Wichita
 Chief Master Sgt. William Foster, 184th IW, Wichita
 Chief Master Sgt. David Wilson, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Master Sgt. Jeanie Emerson, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Master Sgt. Jeanne Bunting, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Master Sgt. William Bradford Jr., 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Steven Juhl, 184th IW, Wichita
 Master Sgt. Lanard A Paden, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Coons, 184th IW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Angela McNew, 184th IW, Wichita

184th Intelligence Wing wins Outstanding Unit Award

The Airmen of the 184th Intelligence Wing, Kansas Air National Guard, have been awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for exceptional service from October 2006 to September 2008.

“This award recognizes the tenacity and mettle of the personnel of the 184th. The unit continues to represent the superb legacy of the Fighting Jayhawks. I couldn’t be prouder,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general.

During this period, the wing provided support to the Global War on Terror by deploying more than 1,600 personnel in support of three major military operations. The ability to adapt to a joint force environment led to the development of more than 10,400 intelligence products

derived from 12,120 hours of full motion video and included intelligence support on 101 directed combat actions. These successes were accomplished while undergoing a mandated conversion from a KC-135R equipped Air Refueling Wing to the first ever Intelligence Wing in the Air National Guard.

“This award is a testament to your collective perseverance, adaptability and innate ability to overcome adversity,” said Col. Michael Foster, 184th Intelligence Wing commander. “It represents a tremendous amount of hard work and personal sacrifice for many of you as we’ve migrated into our new mission areas. You have my utmost respect and admiration.”

Chief Master Sgt. Michael Luck, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Montgomery, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Chief Master Sgt. Ivan Perez, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Chief Master Sgt. Danny Roush, 190th ARW, Topeka, Silver oak leaf cluster, with three oak leaf clusters
 Chief Master Sgt. Brian Saunders, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Chief Master Sgt. James Steele, 190th ARW, Topeka, with three oak leaf clusters
 Chief Master Sgt. Dena Swisher, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Senior Master Sgt. Michael Akers, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Bullington, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Senior Master Sgt. Mickel Coffin, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Senior Master Sgt. Charles Copeland, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Cummings, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Senior Master Sgt. John Evans, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Senior Master Sgt. Ronald Gray, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Senior Master Sgt. Keith Guffy, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Senior Master Sgt. Clark Hansen, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Senior Master Sgt. Scott Humphrey, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Johnson, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Senior Master Sgt. Lisa Looper, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Senior Master Sgt. Steven Nelson, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Senior Master Sgt. James Peterson, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Senior Master Sgt. Janet Smith, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Senior Master Sgt. Edmund Weatherford, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Senior Master Sgt. John Willey, 190th ARW, Topeka, with three oak leaf clusters
 Senior Master Sgt. John Womer, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Master Sgt. Casey Batterton, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Master Sgt. William R. Bradford, 184th IW, Wichita, with one oak leaf cluster
 Master Sgt. James Copeland, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Master Sgt. Nicholas Deguire, 190th ARW, Topeka, with three oak leaf clusters
 Master Sgt. Deborah Henry, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Brett Higginbotham, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Michael Molter, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Master Sgt. Robert Sage, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Edgar Salazaraguire, 184th IW, Wichita, with one oak leaf cluster
 Master Sgt. Tammy Wellsswitzer, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Master Sgt. Cindy Wulfkuhle, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Tech. Sgt. Anthony C. Arellano, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. David Costales, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka
 Tech. Sgt. Francis Heiman, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Tech. Sgt. Vicki L. Knight, 184th IW, Wichita, with two oak leaf clusters
 Tech. Sgt. Stacie Lancasterkitts, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Tech. Sgt. John Miranda Jr., 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Mark Peterson, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Tech. Sgt. Levi Vincent, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. John W. Baxter, 184th IW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. Crystal Crews, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Jason E. Harkness, 184th IW, Wichita
 Staff Sgt. John J. Herrman, 184th IW, Wichita
 Senior Airman Jennifer Lord, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Senior Airman Jake Meyer, 190th ARW, Topeka

Air Force Achievement Medal



Lt. Col. Steven Rexer, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka
 Capt. Jorge Arvelo, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Capt. Julia Burns, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Capt. Alyson L. Stockton, 184th IW, Wichita
 Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Noe, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Keith Adams, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Master Sgt. Roger Brooker, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster

Master Sgt. Patrick Cochran, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Master Sgt. Frank W. Cook, 184th IW, Wichita, with two oak leaf clusters
 Master Sgt. Harold Cox, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Master Sgt. Timothy Graves, 190th ARW, Topeka, with four oak leaf clusters
 Master Sgt. Sean Hall, 190th ARW, Topeka, with three oak leaf clusters
 Master Sgt. James R. Helms, 184th IW, Wichita, with three oak leaf clusters
 Master Sgt. Thomas Lafountain, 190th ARW, Topeka, with five oak leaf clusters
 Master Sgt. Matthew Miltz, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Master Sgt. Allen Pickert, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Master Sgt. Edgar Salazaraguire, 184th IW, Wichita, with three oak leaf clusters
 Master Sgt. Steven Tremblay, 190th ARW, Topeka, with five oak leaf clusters
 Master Sgt. Larry Wallace, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Master Sgt. Joanne Weddle, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Tech. Sgt. Michael P. Balevre, 184th IW, Wichita
 Tech. Sgt. Angela Brees, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Tech. Sgt. Jason Brown, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Tech. Sgt. Daniel Davies, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Tech. Sgt. Tricia L. Deluna, 184th IW, Wichita, with one oak leaf cluster
 Tech. Sgt. Josh Falk, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Tech. Sgt. Scott Gilchrist, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Tech. Sgt. Michelle Givens, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Tech. Sgt. George Jeter, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Tech. Sgt. Dennis Lane, 190th ARW, Topeka, with four oak leaf clusters
 Tech. Sgt. Stephen Mertel, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Tech. Sgt. Carlos R. Ortiz Jr., 184th IW, Wichita, with two oak leaf clusters
 Tech. Sgt. Andrew Paterson, 190th ARW, Topeka, with four oak leaf clusters
 Tech. Sgt. Lonie Reed, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Tech. Sgt. David Salinas, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Tech. Sgt. Travis Schuler, 190th ARW, Topeka, with three oak leaf clusters
 Tech. Sgt. David Seaba, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Tech. Sgt. Sarah Sell, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Tech. Sgt. Phillip Shelite, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Tech. Sgt. Todd Smith, 190th ARW, Topeka, with three oak leaf clusters
 Tech. Sgt. Matthew Wisner, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Christopher Bourland, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Paul Cross, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Matthew Dailey, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Staff Sgt. Sean Greenlee, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Edwin Hailey, JFHQ KS-AC, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Christopher Hawkins, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Staff Sgt. Matthew Hogan, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Staff Sgt. Darrin Jones, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Kyle Kaberline, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Joshua Kennedy, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Bridget Legrand, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Blake Moulden, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Francis T. Nguyen Jr., 184th IW, Wichita, with one oak leaf cluster
 Staff Sgt. Brian Payne, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Adam Rees, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Aaron B. Santry, 184th IW, Wichita, with one oak leaf cluster
 Staff Sgt. Jason Schell, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Staff Sgt. Daniel Snider, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Staff Sgt. John Steinert, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Kory Tinsley, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Michael Tremblay, 190th ARW, Topeka
 Staff Sgt. Benjamin Webb, 190th ARW, Topeka, with one oak leaf cluster
 Staff Sgt. Gary Williams, 190th ARW, Topeka, with two oak leaf clusters
 Staff Sgt. Tonya R. Williamson, 184th IW, Wichita

Officer and Warrant Officer Career Day 2009

Find out if you have what it takes.

Join us Saturday, Nov. 21 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Kansas Wesleyan University Science Hall, Salina.

Information: Maj. John Tucker 316-213-3806 or
 Maj. Paul Schneider 785-861-3955

184th Security Forces Squadron on deployment in Southwest Asia

Forty-four members of the 184th Intelligence Wing Security Forces Squadron are currently serving in Southwest Asia on a six-month deployment that started this spring. They have combined with other National Guard Security Forces units from New Mexico, Colorado, Michigan, Illinois and Virginia to form the 64th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.

The mission is to provide force protection and law enforcement for three separate security assistance missions under a joint U.S. Department of State and Department of Defense venture. Day to day activities include the screening of several hundred foreign workers and vehicles into the village, perimeter defense, law enforcement response, local area escort of personnel outside the village and working with the host nation defense forces and tenant organiza-

tions to better integrate efforts in the area.

Highlights of the deployment include direct support to a visit by the President of the United States and a visit by Gen. David Petraeus, commander, U.S. Central Command.

Serving in a designated combat zone has been very rewarding. Letters and cards that arrive from folks across the United States, with notes of support for the troops and their efforts to defend America and support democracy truly make everyone here in uniform proud to serve.

A recent morale highlight was an effort to raise money for Air Expeditionary Group activities. In true Jayhawk fashion, members of the 184th stepped up to the cause and got involved. Master Sgt. Joe Schroeder was the overall winner in the pie-in-the-face contest. His flight spent more than \$400 for a chance to throw a pie.

Soldier to Soldier

Philosophy of Leadership

Continued from Page 4

provide the most realistic training scenarios and training feedback to our troops.

Training has to be properly staffed, planned, resourced and executed to the highest standards. The training standards are based on Army doctrine and the most current theater guidance. Leaders will not train to the standard of "Hey this is the way we did it when I was over there." Understand as a leader your Soldiers are going to join you at varied levels of mission competency. Every Soldier of the team has to be lock step with the plan and the level of training that the team is at in the "walk-mode" before you can drive into the "run-mode." Army field manuals on Combat Operations and Training have recently been rewritten. Open them up and read them.

Duty Military Occupational Skill Qualifications, Noncommissioned Officer Education System requirements and Military Specialty Identification courses are as important as Army Physical Fitness and Marksmanship Qualification. Get your Soldiers to their required qualification levels now so that they are qualified for the fight later.

We all train to standard and not to time. Some events will be time-based, but we build to that. Leaders start with a solid training foundation and build from that knowing full well that the end state is destroying the enemy. With the mission sets of today not many are purely working in current unit configurations.

How much time have the Soldiers of the 130th Field Artillery Brigade and Regiments spent in past deployments conducting security-based and clearance-based combat operations? I do not believe that this unit manned any artillery pieces in Operation Iraqi Freedom. However, they did provide critical combat skill sets to the fight against terrorism in Iraq. This was accomplished by leaders having the foresight and willingness to train the Soldiers outside of the field artillery "box."

Maintaining

Leaders maintain Soldiers and equipment. This is a "hands-on" task. The priority for each is equal. In order to properly maintain, a leader has to have visibility on all of the Soldiers assigned and all of the equipment all of the time. Mission readiness demands it.

Leaders do not just know what needs to be done, they do it. They have lived it by conducting the preventive maintenance checks with the Soldier that is assigned to do it. Successful leaders will have spoken to the Soldiers in reference to personal issues, as well as equipment issues. Through Pre-Combat Checks and Pre-Combat Inspections of all assigned equipment and assigned personnel the leader learns, mentors, directs and thus is accountable for all things within their scope and responsibility. As a leader, you can

chose to do it or not do it. The bottom line is you, as the leader, are responsible.

Communicating

Leaders will communicate with one another, the chain of command and with their Soldiers. Command teams are integral in the communication process. Leaders that are members of command teams will work diligently and consistently with one another.

Leaders will also build unit cohesion by providing their Soldiers with timely and accurate assessments. Verbal and written counseling that is conducted regularly provides the Soldier with positive and negative feedback and always a way to do better. Noncommissioned Officer Evaluations are honest and accurate.

There are three leadership rules that I stress to the senior leadership of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment in the development of Noncommissioned Officers.

1. Empowerment: Senior leaders provide noncommissioned officers with timely, accurate and honest leadership counseling in order to assist in the development and immediate empowerment of non-commissioned officers.
2. Support: Senior leaders accurately plan, resource and execute battle-focused training that is physically rigorous, emotionally challenging and rewarding to the Soldiers of the regiment. Noncommissioned officers are provided all of the equipment and resources that they require in order to successfully execute battle-focused training to standard.
3. Accountability: Leaders hold Noncommissioned Officers accountable for the good, the bad and the ugly. They ensure that it is annotated on their DA FORM 2166-8-1, NCOER Counseling and Support Form, as well as their DA FORM 2166-8 NCO Evaluation Report.

Leadership

All of our leaders have to be tactically and technically proficient in individual and collective war fighting skills. A leader cannot do this when he lacks "people skills." Get them.

Leaders are committed to the accomplishment of their assigned missions. Leaders do not knowingly or willingly compromise the safety of their assigned Soldiers and assigned equipment.

As leaders we have to have the knowledge, ability, and intestinal fortitude to assume risk. All leaders will do everything logically possible to mitigate risk at all times in the execution of our duties and missions.

Our Soldiers are our greatest resource. As leaders, we are tasked with the health and welfare of our Soldiers. Soldier care is a task that we do not take lightly nor do we neglect this most valuable resource. So, as a leader, if you put yourself before your Soldiers, then you cease to be a leader, both in the eyes of your Soldiers and your peers.

Mmmmm! Beefy!



On July 3, 2009, the All American Beef Battalion descended upon Salina, Kan., to provide lunch for Soldiers and their families in support of the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery's deployment to the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt. The AABB's mission statement is to "Promote American Beef and to support the troops and their families fighting the war on terror." (Photo by 1st Lt. Gabriel Brockman, UPAR)

Ceremony honors Bronze Star and Purple Heart recipients

A Bronze Star and Purple Heart awards ceremony was held at the armory in Newton, Kan., on July 11, 2009, honoring six exceptional soldiers. The official party consisted of Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general of Kansas and Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Rodina. The master of ceremonies was Maj. Shawn Manley.

The ceremony honored two Bronze Star recipients. Staff Sgt. Jarrod Hays of Wellington, Kan., was wounded while serving as the assistant platoon sergeant with Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery. Staff Sgt. Kent Lockhart of Hutchinson, Kan., served as a squad leader with Battery A, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery. Both Hays and Lockhart served as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Additional honorees of the ceremony receiving the Purple Heart Medal were: Spc.

William Baker for injuries sustained while serving in Iraq as part of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery; Spc. Johnathan Lee for injuries received while serving in Iraq as a member of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery; Spc. Leopoldo Villarreal for injuries he sustained during his service in Iraq as a member of 714th Maintenance Company (SECFOR); and Pvt. 2 Michael McGraw who was injured while serving in Iraq as a part of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery.

Several family and friends were in attendance of the awards ceremony, as well Patriot Guard and American Legion riders. The Soldiers of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery stood in formation throughout the presentation of awards and offered their well wishes following the ceremony.

Sporting goods giant extends hospitality to on-the-road Soldiers

Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR
1st Battalion, 108th Aviation

July 22 was Hometown Heroes day at the Cabela's National Headquarters in Sidney, Neb. Cabela's honored Topeka and Salina-based Kansas Army National Guard units by giving them employee discounts in the Sidney store.

The 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation, along with elements of the 1st Battalion, 171st General Support Aviation Battalion, were returning home following the completion of their two week annual training at Camp Guernsey, Wyo. The 108th used Cabela's parking lot to refuel their vehicles on outbound and return convoys.

The 108th outbound convoys first passed through Sidney on July 12. There, the Soldiers were greeted by Connie Carrillo, Cabela's Retail Events Coordinator. Carrillo and her assistant passed out ice cold water and snacks to the hot and thirsty Soldiers.

"The Kansas National Guard contracted with us to use our parking lot for their refueling operations," said Carrillo. "Some water and pretzels was the least we could do for our service members."

Carrillo said that on the return trip Cabela's would offer an employee discount to the Soldiers on any purchase they make. "Say they wanted that bass boat and trailer," said Carrillo by way of example. "Instead of trying to pack it in one of their trucks, they could use the discount

here and then pick it up back in Kansas."

Carrillo also ran a shuttle van from the parking lot to the retail store, where the Soldier's had a few minutes to buy something to eat or drink before catching the shuttle van back to the convoy. There was a convoy schedule to keep, so no matter how tempting the urge to stay, they had to move on.

A few of the Soldiers did receive more of Cabela's hospitality that Sunday than they had planned. A vehicle and a trailer chose that time to break down. While the Soldiers spent the night in the nearby Nebraska National Guard Armory, maintenance teams from the Aviation Battalion's Company E were able to repair the humvee and make arrangements to transport the trailer to Camp Guernsey. The group arrived at Camp Guernsey about 12 hours behind the main body.

On July 22, arrangements were made for the Soldiers to have an extended stay in Sidney. After the refueling of their vehicles, Connie Carrillo provided a shuttle van for the Soldiers to the store. Maj. Steven O'Neil said that he was very impressed with everything that Cabela's had done.

Spc. Michael Brent said "I really want to thank Cabela's for everything that they did for us." "Everyone was very generous," agreed Spc. David Kearney.

Spc. Marc Limon, who purchased a scope for his hunting rifle, said "It was a happening."

Soldiers complete heavy equipment truck training

By Capt. Flora Carson
137th Transportation Company

High above Fort Riley, Kan., strapped aboard a Black Hawk helicopter with camera in hand, Sgt. Amanda Villa sits poised, ready to capture an aerial shot of the M1070 HET (Heavy Equipment Transport) tractor trailer traveling down a dusty tank trail.

Villa is the assigned Unit Public Affairs Representative for the 137th Transportation Company PLS (Palletized Loading System), which recently conducted their annual training with a focus on driver's training at Fort Riley along with Soldiers from the 778th Transportation Company and 242nd Engineer Company. The 137th Transportation Company, a medium truck company, completed an 80-hour comprehensive introductory heavy equipment

truck course this summer, provided by Oshkosh, the manufacturers of both the HET and PLS. The course culminated in a practical driving exercise hauling an M1A1 Tank on Fort Riley tank trails.

The Oshkosh team consisted of four professional training specialists, M'Barek Oubelkho, John Ruleau II, Derek Kraege and Keith Charles, who trained 54 soldiers over a 10-day period to be able to properly and safely operate and perform operator maintenance on the M1070 tractor truck and M1000 trailer.

Upon mobilization of the 778th Transportation Company, the 137th Transportation Company and similar truck companies will be expected to cover down on heavy transportation missions within the state of Kansas that are considered to be over dimensional or over the allowable weight.



An M1070 truck with trailer hauls an M1A1 tank at Fort Riley during annual training for the 137th Transportation Company. (Photo by Sgt. Amanda Villa, UPAR)

Top U.S. military commander recognizes Kansas Guard chaplain

By Master Sgt. Carl Mar
3rd Sustainment Command Public Affairs

During a July 14 recognition ceremony honoring accomplishments of individual Soldiers, Gen. Raymond Odierno, the top U.S. military commander in Iraq, presented a personal commemorative coin to Chaplain (Capt.) Richard Dunn, 287th Special Troops Battalion, Kansas Army National Guard, at the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armor Division headquarters building. Dunn also received a personal coin from Multi-National Corps -Iraq Command Sgt. Major Lawrence Wilson.

According to 287th STB Command Sgt. Major Manuel Rubio, "Since Chaplain Dunn's arrival here in Iraq, he has performed superbly as the battalion chaplain and has covered down as the brigade chaplain. Dunn has spent countless hours counseling a plethora of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and civilians. He has often opened his door to garrison Soldiers, as well."

"He has always been willing to give his time to lend a helping hand or be available to be a sounding board," said Rubio. "Chaplain Dunn is very well respected from the enlisted, as well as commissioned ranks, both within this brigade/battalion and other units here on Contingency Operating Base Adder, to earn him the title of a 'Soldier's Chaplain'."

Dunn is a native of Ottawa, Kan. He and his wife, Janie, have four children. David, 22, is a member of the Marine Reserves



Gen. Raymond Odierno (left), the top U.S. military commander in Iraq, presents a personal commemorative coin to Chaplain (Capt.) Richard Dunn, 287th Special Troops Battalion, Kansas Army National Guard, for accomplishments in the course of his duties, July 14. (Photo by Sgt. Frankie Schubert)

and recently returned from a tour of duty in Iraq. Nathan, 19, is a member of the Kansas Army National Guard. Alisha, 17, is a senior in high school. Rachel, the newest member of the family, is 16 months old. In civilian life, Dunn works as the clinical chaplain at the Lansing Correctional Facility.

Agricultural Development Team building rapport with villagers

By Staff Sgt. Luke Atherton
1-6 Agricultural Development Team

The 1-6 Kansas Agricultural Development Team visited the village of Eslamabad, Afghanistan, recently to further strengthen the ties between the Soldiers and the villagers. The village is located close to the district's two major roadways, sits along the Alishang River and the intersection of two major valleys. The strategic location of this village and the friendly and welcoming response of its citizens have made it one of Kansas ADT's vested areas of interest.

The mission included the inspection of corn fields and a discussion on planting techniques and practices. The Afghan's broadcast plant their corn as opposed to row planting. They then harrow the seed under the soil using a handmade wooden harrow. The Kansas ADT discussed the importance of proper seed placement, seeding depth, row spacing and population rates. It was stressed that following these practices allows the plants the best opportunity to survive on a limited water supply while increasing stalk growth and strength, the ear size and number of kernels produced per ear.

Also noted during field inspection was a minor problem with aphids residing in the top leaves at the tassel. The problem was discussed and the ADT members learned that use of insecticides is cost prohibitive.

To wrap up the field inspection, the ADT shared with the farmers the results of soil test data gathered from samples pulled back in early June. The Afghans were very interested in this information. Based upon some targeted yield goals and the nutrient value of the soil, the Afghans had applied, before they received the sample results, almost the exact amount of fertilizer recommended by the results of the soil sample.

Another item discussed was the idea of



Maj. Blaine Clowser and other members of the 1-6 Kansas Agricultural Development Team are building a relationship with villagers in Afghanistan as they work together to improve agricultural practices. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Luke Atherton)

introducing greenhouses and nethouses and the locations for such structures. The idea is to provide them the opportunity to develop a capacity for production of more vegetables and fruits. The hope is for this village to produce for sale locally the produce they normally must travel nearly 75 kilometers to purchase.

Before departing, the Kansas ADT presented to the villagers 100 kilograms of Afghan certified wheat seed and approximately 60 small backpacks with assorted school items for the children. This was a small token of the close relationship the ADT is developing with this community.

Resources are available to deal with depression, thoughts of suicide

By Chaplain (Capt.) John Potter

September was dedicated to suicide prevention. Service members and military families are encouraged to promote good health practices and reduce risk factors.

Why does the National Guard focus on this issue? Figures show that suicide is a growing problem. During the months of January and May 2009, more service members died from suicide than combat operations.

What are the risk factors for suicide? Research shows that they include depression and substance abuse. More than 90 percent of people who die by suicide have stressful life events and a failed relationship. Broken relationships were reported for 55 percent of completed suicides and 40 percent of attempted suicides.

What should I do if someone is suicidal?

If you think that someone is suicidal, do not leave that person alone. Try to get the person to seek immediate help from his or her doctor, the nearest hospital emergency room, or call 911. Eliminate access to firearms or other potential tools for suicide, including unsupervised access to medications.

What resources are available to service members and families? The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available 24-hours-a-day, seven days a week, at 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Military One Source is available 24-hours-a-day, seven days a week, at 1-800-342-9647. They also offer 12 free counseling sessions in addition to their telephone counselors.

Make time to familiarize yourself with military and local resources. Having the information available can help to save a life.

Coming down the home stretch



Airman 1st Class Jason Marfield (left) and Lt. Col. Jon Shafer complete the two-mile run portion of the 13th Annual Adjutant General's Army Physical Fitness Test competition hosted by the staff of the 235th Regiment. The competition, open to anyone including the public, also included timed push-ups and sit-ups. (Photo by Sgt. Jonathan Hopkins, 235th Regiment UPAR)