

# Prairie Soldier

THE JOINT NEWSPAPER OF THE NEBRASKA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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## Thundering over the Heartland

U.S. Air Force Photo

**Red, White and Blue Escorts:** Nebraska employers and civic leaders flying aboard a Nebraska Air National Guard KC-135R Stratotanker during a Bosslift to Fort Lewis, Wash., experienced a rare treat, July 19, when they had the opportunity to watch a 155th Air Refueling Wing boomer refuel the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds. The trip to Fort Lewis, Wash., was one of several efforts the Nebraska National Guard sponsored this summer in an effort to educate Nebraska bosses and community leaders about the work that Nebraska Army and Air National Guard members are doing when away from their jobs.

See stories and photos on 10-11.



Photo by David Nore

## Operation Iraqi Freedom comes to end

■ President Barack Obama thanks military members as Operation New Dawn begins in Iraq

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama announced the official end to combat operations in Iraq during an Aug. 31 prime-time Oval Office address, declaring “a new beginning” for the Iraqi people.

“Operation Iraqi Freedom is over,” Obama said, speaking just hours after the launch of Operation New Dawn in Iraq. “The Iraqi people now have the lead responsibility for the security of their country.”

Obama offered high praise for the men and women in uniform whose service and sacrifice led to this “historic moment” in time.

“The Americans who have served in Iraq completed every mission they were given,” he said. “They defeated a regime that had terrorized its people. Together with Iraqis and coalition partners who made huge sacrifices of their own, our troops fought block-by-block to help Iraq seize the chance for a better future.”

That effort came at a tremendous cost, he said, noting more than 4,400 U.S. troops

See IRAQ on 2.

## Nebraskans providing crucial nursing training in Afghanistan

By Maj. Kevin Hynes  
Editor

A group of four Nebraska National Guard nurses are currently blazing a trail in Afghanistan with the hopes of leaving an impact that will have long-term positive effects on the people of the war-torn nation.

The Guardsmen – two members of the Nebraska Army Guard’s Medical Detachment and two members of the Nebraska Air Guard’s 155th Medical Group – are currently completing a rotation to

Kabul, Afghanistan, where they are responsible for the daily training and mentoring of 37 Afghan nursing students. The mission is a direct result of an August 2009 visit to Nebraska by the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police surgeons general to discuss the critical shortage of Afghan nurses.

According to Maj. Brenda Ruhrer, a Nebraska Army Guard nursing instructor from Wahoo, Neb., the work she and her three counterparts are doing in Afghanistan is sorely needed.

“There is a severe nursing short-

age in Afghanistan where the nursing education is not consistent,” said Ruhrer recently via e-mail. “Many of the nurses they have work in administrative or housekeeping roles.”

“If there is no family in the hospital, then the patient doesn’t receive care, as in help with activities of daily living or food,” Ruhrer said. “Families must feed the patients.”

For example, Ruhrer said, one particular paraplegic patient has been in the hospital for the past 12 months. Once he leaves the hospital, he will need help at home,

however because he does not have any family, no one is available to take him home.

The experience, said Ruhrer, has been eye-opening to say the least. “This assignment has really opened my eyes to how I have taken so many things for granted... that our health care system (although not perfect) is much better than this system,” she said.

Capt. Mark Bales, a pacemaker clinical representative from Grand Island, seconded those thoughts.

“There are times in the Afghan

See NURSES on 9.

## Guard enlisting ancient Greeks to open dialogue with today’s military

By Maj. Kevin Hynes  
Editor

It is possible that a 2,500-year-old Greek tragedy written by an Athenian general for 17,000 of his citizen soldiers might also be speaking to today’s modern Warriors and their families as well?

Surprisingly, yes.

Or at least that’s what the Department of Defense and a group of actors believe.

The actors are part of an independent production company called “Theater of War,” which was given a \$3.7 million Defense Department contract in 2008 to conduct 100 performances of two 2,500-year-old plays at 50 military sites. So far, the group has visited such sites as Fort Riley, Kan., the U.S. Army War College, Walter Reed Medical Center, Camp Pendleton, Calif., Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., Fort Benning, Ga., and various American military posts in Germany.

On Aug. 24 they performed in front of their first National Guard audience as

See THEATER OF WAR on 7.

## Air Guardsmen welcomed home after mission to Iraq

By Senior Airman Brandon Kusek  
Staff Writer

Nearly two dozen members of the Nebraska Air National Guard’s 155th Security Forces Squadron returned home in August after a six-month deployment to Iraq.

The 22 Airmen were deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom along with units from two other states and a few active duty personnel.

According to Master Sgt. James Restau, a 155th SFS flight chief, even though the mission was basic police work, many things outside the usual gate control and perimeter patrolling made the deployment memorable. This included having several foreign security guards under his responsibility and the availability of social media.

“Most of (the foreign guards) spoke really good English and were well educated. They just made more money working contract work in Iraq than they did back home,” said Restau.

Restau said that many of the members who deployed made good friendship with their foreign

See 155TH SFS on 6.



Photo by Senior Airman Brandon Kusek

**A Quick Kiss:** Tech. Sgt. Jeff Quick kisses his wife Jeanie shortly after the 155th Security Forces Squadron Airman stepped off an airplane in Lincoln, Neb., ending a six-month deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 155th Security Forces Squadron is part of the 155th Air Refueling Wing.



# NEWS DIGEST

## ■Gates: 'Iraq has chance now, thanks to American service members' hard work'

MILWAUKEE (AFPS) – It is thanks to the blood, sweat and tears of American servicemembers that Iraq has the chance for political freedom, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates told the annual convention of the American Legion, Aug. 31.

The secretary cautioned that much remains to be done in Iraq, but the people have the chance to move forward after 30 years of Saddam Hussein's oppression.

Gates ticked off the major signs of progress. Despite recent al-Qaida attacks on Iraqi civilians the overall level of violence in the country remains at the lowest level since 2003. U.S. Forces Iraq has not launched an airstrike in more than six months.

"In an important victory against transnational terror, al-Qaida in Iraq has been largely cut from its masters abroad," he said.

August 31 marked the last day of Operation Iraqi Freedom; the 50,000 American troops that remain in Iraq will now operate under Operation New Dawn. U.S. servicemembers will continue to advise and assist Iraqi security forces – now 660,000-strong – until all American troops leave Iraq at the end of next year. Since the height of the surge, about 84,000 American troops have redeployed out of the country.

The secretary said he is a realist about Iraq. "I am not saying that all is, or necessarily will be, well in Iraq," he told the Legionnaires. "The most recent elections have yet to result in a coalition government. Sectarian tensions remain a fact of life. Al-Qaida in Iraq is beaten, but not gone."

Americans should not celebrate prematurely, and no one should become complacent. "We still have a job to do and responsibilities there," Gates said.

The secretary asked the Legionnaires to remember the sacrifices service members have made. "Today, at the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom, 4,427 American service members have died in Iraq – 3,502 of them killed in action; 34,268 have been wounded or injured," he said. "The courage of these men and women, their determination, their sacrifice – and that of their families – along with the service and sacrifice of so many others in uniform, have made this day – this transition – possible."

"We must never forget," he said.

## ■Combat, hardship pays remain for troops in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AFPS) – The change from Operation Iraqi Freedom to Operation New Dawn does not affect combat and other hazardous-duty entitlements troops serving in Iraq receive, a Pentagon spokeswoman said Aug. 31.

Service members deployed to Iraq will still receive hostile fire/imminent danger pay,

hardship-duty pay, and incidental expenses. Some troops will qualify for family separation allowances. Also, all pay for warrant officers and enlisted members is tax exempt, while officers are exempt from taxes for up to \$7,611.30 each month they serve in an eligible area.

"These pays compensate a member for the arduous conditions and additional burdens and dangers associated with being deployed to a combat zone," Eileen Lainez said.

For some troops, the additional pay could mean as much as \$680 a month, not including tax exemptions, while deployed to a combat zone.

Troop levels in Iraq peaked at nearly 170,000 in 2007 during the height of the troop surge. Combat operations there officially ended Aug. 31. Fewer than 50,000 troops will remain in Iraq until Dec. 31, 2011, to serve in an advise and assist role for Iraqi security forces. Troop levels do not affect special pay entitlements, Lainez explained.

"Additional entitlements in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait or other countries in the Arabian Peninsula designated as combat zones, or direct support areas, are not tied to troop levels," she said. "Rather, the additional entitlements members receive are based upon a location's designation as a combat zone or direct support area."

## ■Additional troops providing 'game changer' in northern Afghanistan, commander says

WASHINGTON (AFPS) – The addition of U.S. forces in northern Afghanistan has changed the face of the NATO mission there, the top U.S. commander for the NATO International Security Assistance Force element in the region said Sept. 21.

The additional troops – some 6,000-plus – come from 10th Mountain Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team and 4th Infantry Division's 4th Combat Aviation Brigade. The added forces are having a positive effect in security efforts as well as in training Afghan soldiers and police, Col. Sean Mulholland, deputy commander of Regional Command North, told Pentagon reporters in a video news conference from his headquarters in Afghanistan.

"That has been a game-changer up here," Mulholland said.

The colonel explained that the 10th Mountain Division troops aren't responsible for any particular battle space. Rather, he said, they are partnered with Afghan police under the command and control of provincial reconstruction teams, which are led by State Department civilians.

"(Their) major task is to raise the level or capability of the Afghan National Police, and they've done a great job so far," he said. "With the 4th CAB, they've brought a lot of combat power, a lot of agility, a lot of movement and mobility, and obviously more freedom of action, to include casualty evacuation for coalition forces, (Afghan soldiers) and Afghan civilians."

## IRAQ continued from page 1.

killed and thousands more wounded during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Ending this war is not only in Iraq's interest; it is in our own," Obama said. "The United States has paid a huge price to put the future of Iraq in the hands of its people. We have sent our young men and women to make enormous sacrifices in Iraq and spent vast resources abroad at a time of tight budgets home."

"We have persevered because of a belief we share with the Iraqi people: a belief that out of the ashes of war, a new beginning could be born in this cradle of civilization," he continued.

"Through this remarkable chapter in the history of the United States and Iraq, we have met our responsibility," he said. "Now, it is time to turn the page."

Obama outlined the future role of the transitional force of U.S. troops to remain in Iraq through December 2011. They'll advise and assist Iraqi security forces, support Iraqi troops in targeted counterterrorism missions and protect U.S. civilians.

"Consistent with our agreement with the Iraqi government, all U.S. troops will leave by the end of next year," he said.

And as the military draws down, civilian diplomats, aid workers and

advisors will step up to help Iraq strengthen its government, institutions and ties with the region and the world. "This new approach reflects our long-term partnership with Iraq – one based upon mutual interests and mutual respect," the president said.

Obama conceded that violence in Iraq will not stop with the end of the U.S. combat mission there and that enemies of Iraq will keep up their attempts to derail progress. He expressed confidence, however, that the Iraqis have the will, and Iraqi security forces, the capability, to stand up to the extremists.

"Ultimately, these terrorists will fail to achieve their goals," the president said, offering assurance that the United States will continue to support Iraq as a friend and partner.

While building that long-term partnership, the United States will take the lessons learned in Iraq as it confronts what Obama called its most pressing security challenge: the fight against al-Qaida.

"As we speak, al-Qaida continues to plot against us and its leadership remains anchored in the border region of Afghanistan and Pakistan," he said. "We will disrupt, dismantle and defeat al-Qaida, while prevent-

ing Afghanistan from again serving as a base for terrorists.

"And because of the drawdown in Iraq," he said, "we are able to apply the resources necessary to go on the offense."

The surge forces in Afghanistan will serve for a limited time to break the Taliban's momentum and help the Afghans build their capacity and secure their future, Obama said.

As in Iraq, he said Afghanistan's future ultimately will depend on its own government and security forces' capabilities. Toward that end, the United States will begin a transition to Afghan security responsibility next July, with the pace of troop reductions based on conditions on the ground.

One of the lessons of Iraq, he said, is that "American influence around the world is not a function of military force alone."

Obama called the milestone achieved in Iraq a reminder to all Americans that "the future is ours to shape, if we move forward with confidence and commitment."

"It should also serve as a message to the world that the United States intends to strengthen our leadership in this young century," he added.



Photo by David Nore

**Honoring A Fallen Warrior:** Family and friends of the late 1st Lt. Mark Noziska release 24 red, white, green and gold balloons in memory of the fallen Soldier's passion for the U.S. Army and the Nebraska Cornhuskers. Noziska was killed in Afghanistan on Aug. 14.

## Former top Nebraska Guard Soldier honored after death in Afghanistan

By Maj. Kevin Hynes

Editor

The life of a fallen Soldier was celebrated, Sept. 17, when the late 1st Lt. Mark Noziska, 24, was laid to rest in Grand Island, Neb.

A former star student and Soldier, Noziska was killed Aug. 14 in Malajat, Afghanistan, by an improvised explosive device. He was a member of the Fort Carson, Colo.-based 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, at the time of his death.



Noziska

"All his life he wanted to be a Soldier," said Troy Noziska, the fallen Soldier's older brother following the funeral. "He idolized his two grandfathers, who also served in the Army. They tried to convince him to join the Air Force, but he was committed to becoming a Soldier."

"It's just who he was."

Noziska was born on Oct. 15, 1985, in Grand Island, Neb., to William F. and Doreatha "Dee" Noziska. He grew up in Grand Island until his parents moved to Papillion, Neb., in 2000, where he attended Papillion Jr. High and Papillion Lavista High School, graduating in 2004.

Noziska was recognized in Who's Who (2001-02) and was selected to represent Nebraska in People to People in 2002, traveling to Australia and New Zealand. He was also named "Mr. Monarch" in 2004.

He enlisted as a chemical operations specialist in the Nebraska Army National Guard's 254th Chemical Company on

March 11, 2004, attending basic and advanced individual training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. In 2005 he was named the Nebraska Army National Guard's Soldier of the Year and was later named the national first runner-up Army National Guard Soldier of the Year.

Noziska attended the University of Nebraska-Omaha, earning his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice as well as his commission as a second lieutenant from the UNO ROTC program. He subsequently transferred to the active Army, graduating from the Infantry Officer's Basic Course and Airborne School in 2009 before being assigned as a platoon leader in Company D, 1-22nd Infantry, at Fort Carson.

He deployed to Afghanistan last July. "He just had so much going for him," said one teary-eyed woman as she looked at several collections of photographs and certificates that stood in the hallway of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Grand Island detailing the officer's life. Inside, the church was filled to capacity by an estimated crowd of 500, most of whom wore Nebraska Cornhusker-themed shirts and outfits at the request of Noziska's family in recognition of the fallen lieutenant's favorite college football team.

Outside, more than 270 members of the Patriot Guard stood holding flags near the church while thousands of other Grand Island natives – many holding signs and flags – bordered the streets from the church to Westlawn Memorial Park Cemetery.

Following the burial services, members of Noziska's family, who also wore red Nebraska shirts, released 12 bright red and white balloons and 12 green and black balloons, one for each of the Soldier's years on earth as well as in memory of his love for the Cornhuskers and the Army.

## Prairie Soldier

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Photo by Capt. Camara Minks

**All Together Now:** Members of the Nebraska Air National Guard paint a house that was nominated for the Brush Up Nebraska Paint-a-Thon in Lincoln, Neb., Aug. 21, 2010. The Paint-a-Thon is an annual Lincoln, Neb., project that provides free house painting to elderly and disabled low-income members of the Lincoln community.



**Final Touches:** Senior Master Sgt. Susan Spence, Joint Force Headquarters-Nebraska, applies paint to Margaret Hardesty's house during the Brush Up Nebraska Paint-a-Thon in Lincoln, Neb., Aug. 21.

Nebraska Air Guardsmen lend

# Helping Brushes

during annual Paint-a-Thon

By Capt. Camara Minks

Staff Writer

**M**argaret Hardesty of Lincoln, Neb., was smiling gratefully at the dozen or so Nebraska Air National Guard members who arrived at her home in north Lincoln Saturday, Aug. 21, to give her house a much-needed fresh coat of paint.

The members were participating in the annual Lincoln Paint-a-Thon, which provides free house painting to elderly and disabled low-income members of the Lincoln community since 1992.

"I don't remember how long ago the house was painted," said Hardesty.

The Lincoln Paint-a-Thon is an affiliate of Brush Up Nebraska Paint-a-Thon, Inc. a non-profit cooperation based in Omaha, Neb., since 1989 according to their website. On average, the organization paints 40-45 houses in Lincoln and 80-85 houses in the Omaha metro area every year.

The Nebraska Air National Guard has been participating in the Paint-a-Thon for approximately the last 12 years, forming a painting team comprised of volunteers of all ranks from the many different squadrons all over the base in Lincoln, Neb., said Senior Master Sgt. Doug Schultz, a coordinator for the Air Guard team.

All the team members painting and prepping enjoy helping those in need.

"I have formed a relationship with every one of the homeowners," said Schultz. "To this day if I'm driving through one of the neighbor-



Photo by Master Sgt. Vern Moore

**Applying The Paint:** Master Sergeant Jonel Doriocourt, 155th Communications Squadron, helps paint a house that was selected for the Lincoln Paint-a-Thon in Lincoln, Neb., Aug. 21.



Photo by Master Sgt. Vern Moore

**Taking A Number:** Master Sergeant Michelle Laframboise, 155th Maintenance Squadron non-destructive inspection shop, removes address numbers from a house that was selected to be painted for the Lincoln Paint-a-Thon in Lincoln, Neb., Aug. 21, before it receives a new coat of paint. Members of the Nebraska Air National Guard joined together to paint 93-year-old Margaret Hardesty's home during the annual Brush Up Nebraska Paint-a-Thon.

hoods and I pass by one of the houses that we painted, if I see them I'll stop and I'll go talk to them and see how they're doin'. For me it's that connection with those people that we help, for me that's the biggest thing."

Anyone interested in helping next year with the painting or prepping is encouraged to volunteer.

"Anybody that can hold a paint brush can help," said Schultz.



# Refueling wing smiling after inspection results

By Capt. Camara Minks  
Staff Writer

Only 18 months after celebrating their successful Unit Readiness Inspection results, the members of the 155th Air Refueling Wing are cheering again — this time for the exceptional performance they recorded during the unit's compliance inspection completed Sept. 17-22 at the Lincoln base.

"The overall rating was well-deserved and hard-earned," wrote Col. Richard Evans III, 155th ARW commander, in an e-mail addressed to all unit members shortly after the inspection results were announced. "Our team effort gave the (inspector general) team plenty to compliment and left them impressed with the 155th ARW."

The compliance inspection or CI, formally known as the UCI, looks at several federally-mandated areas, depending on the size and mission of the base. Inspectors look at compliance with federal and Department of Defense regulations that impact the safety and mission readiness of the unit.

This year, the approximately 50 inspectors looked at 19 areas, two more than the last CI which occurred in 2005.

While the overall inspection results are confidential, the Nebraska Air National

Guard scored very high marks overall with nine coin recipients, eight individuals and seven teams earning special recognition by the inspector general for Air Mobility Command, according to the inspection out brief.

One coin recipient was Senior Airman Luciana Jarzynka, who works in vehicle distribution. Jarzynka joined the 155th ARW two years ago after transferring from the Army National Guard and has been in her current position since January. Despite being in her position for less than a year, she excelled at learning what needed to be done.

"There were programs that had to be put in place. I got the checklist together, basically. That's basically how I learned my job," said Jarzynka.

Jarzynka said that since vehicle operations and vehicle maintenance became separate entities two years ago, programs hadn't been completely updated.

"My boss pretty much let me take the reins. I got everyone up to speed on training. I didn't do anything out of the ordinary," said Jarzynka.

Her dedication was apparent even during the inspection out brief where most others received their IG coins.

"I wasn't there. I was driving the inspectors in the bus up to the flight line. As I was getting the inspectors up to the flight

line, the wing commander and IG came up there and they congratulated me and said there's a coin back at the shop for me. My commander gave it to me when I got back," said Jarzynka.

She remains humble, reminding others that without the support of her commander and the others who worked extra days, she couldn't have had it all in place.

Another difference this year was the fact that there were several new areas that weren't previously rated, even for bases inspected last year. One area that is a new major graded area is fitness.

Recently, the Air Force instituted new physical fitness requirements for all active duty, Guard and reserve military members. The inspection team not only looked at how many members were meeting these new guidelines, but observed an actual fitness test including push-ups, sit-ups and a 1.5-mile run.

Despite having the new program on board for only a few months, the inspectors gave the program high marks according to inspection documents.

Doing well on the inspection takes dedication to detail and an attitude that is both hospitable to the feedback an inspection gives and confident in a member's area of expertise. Attitude can change an average result to a

superior, said Lt. Col. Jeff Mathmeier, who coordinated the inspection readiness at the Lincoln-based Air Guard unit. Mathmeier congratulated the whole base for functioning as a team and going the extra mile to make things happen at a celebratory lunch on the first weekend Guard drill after the inspection results were released.

"It takes everyone, 850-plus people. Not one team, not one person," said Mathmeier. Mathmeier said he saw people from every section doing more than he expected and that the inspectors and the wing commander noticed it.

"We can all be proud that both IG teams raved about the attitude and quality of our people, the condition of the base and the hospitality they were shown while here as our guests. That was great to hear and it definitely helped get us through these tests successfully," said Evans of both the CI and the Health Services Inspection that occurred at the same time of the CI, but was restricted to looking at areas of the medical squadron.

The inspectors gave one final statement of how they felt to Mathmeier when they were leaving: "Thanks for making it easy."

The base has a moment to take breath after the inspection, but they aren't relaxing. They now have to prepare for the upcoming air show in September 2011.

## New Nose Art Unveiled



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alex Salmon



Photo by Senior Airman James Lieth

**Unveiling A Nose:** The winning entry in the 2010 Community Nose Art competition was unveiled, Oct. 3, at the Nebraska Air National Guard base in Lincoln, Neb..

BreAnna Rogman, a ninth grade student at Sterling High School in Sterling Neb., her friends, family, teachers, and civic leaders from Sterling and surrounding areas watched with smiles and cheers as the cover was pulled from the design placed on the nose of a Nebraska KC-135 Stratotanker. A special family member, her grandfather who was a World War II Hellcat pilot, was also there to help her celebrate.

Rogman said she wasn't used to this much attention.

"I was shocked that many people came. I just thought some Sterling people would come," said Rogman. "It was an honor to me. I loved it."

Rogman plans to study fashion design after graduating from high school.

## Air Force selects new motto

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Incorporating extensive inputs from all ranks and career fields in the development effort, Airmen have selected "Aim High... Fly-Fight-Win" as the service's motto.

"The call and the response are two sides of the same coin," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz. "Airmen indicated 'Aim High' and the response 'Fly-Fight-Win' as indicative of their enduring commitment to do just that in defense of our nation."

When the motto team embarked on the project, they promised Airmen they would conduct an inclusive, well-researched effort rooted in Air Force culture and identity.

"Airmen recognize a motto should represent something enduring," Schwartz said. "It must

be bigger than any single person, something that gives voice to the pride of service of all who've worn this nation's Air Force uniform — past, present and future."

"We took the time to try to get this right," Schwartz said. "A service motto belongs to those who serve and we've done our best to give voice to how Airmen feel about serving this nation."

The chief master sergeant of the Air Force, the director of Air Force Public Affairs, the Air Force director of Force Management Policy, and the commander of Air Force Recruiting Service provided the leadership oversight for the research team. In early 2010 the motto team engaged in almost nine months of hands-on research that began with extensive face-to-face meetings with nearly 300 total force Airmen from all job

specialties and in every major command. Airmen described what they thought it means to be an Airman, to serve and what is unique about the Air Force.

"The exhaustive research process showed that Airmen share a core set of identity concepts that serve as a basis for an Air Force motto," said Gen. Stephen Lorenz, Air Education and Training Command commander.

"No matter what career field they serve in, Airmen consistently told us they see themselves, and they see the heritage of the Air Force, as those entrusted by the nation to defend the modern, complex security domains — first air, then space and now cyberspace," Lorenz added. "Airmen take this sense of mission very seriously."

## Air Guard readies for 2011 air show

■ U.S. Navy's Blue Angels to headline air show scheduled for 10th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks

By Tech. Sgt. Alex Salmon  
Assistant Editor

The Nebraska Air National Guard has started planning an air show for the weekend commemorating the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Military and civilian officials will welcome thousands of guests for an air show scheduled for Sept. 10-11, 2011, at the Lincoln Airport. Although planning is not complete, according to organizers arguably the most popular aerial display team in the world is locked in to perform.

"The Blue Angels are the most popular military jet team in the world and they bring a greater draw of people than any other jet team," said Lt. Col. Bob Stevenson, who is serving as the air show director. "Their show is new and different than last time, so we're looking forward to seeing that."

The Blue Angels participated in the 2006 Nebraska Air National Guard air show and, according to Stevenson, enjoyed the show so much that they called to offer their services on next year's significant anniversary.

"We find it as a compliment that we hosted them so well in 2006 that they wanted to come back again and they offered this date and we took it," he said. "That was an honor in and of itself."

The Blue Angels are the anchor



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Lee Straube

**Coming Soon To Lincoln:** A formation of U.S. Navy Blue Angels performs during the 2006 Nebraska National Guard air show held in Lincoln, Neb.

of the show, but many more aerial displays and sights are expected.

Possible displays include a glider performance, World War II Warbirds, a jet-powered vehicle and civil aerobatic teams.

Officials are also planning for multiple static aircraft, a kid's area, concessions and more.

Stevenson said the goal for the 2011 air show is to promote and encourage patriotism, recruiting and community relations throughout the Midwest. The group hopes to do this through demonstrations of front line and historic military and civil aircraft at a safe, educational and entertaining event that celebrates 65 years of excellence by the Nebraska National Guard, 100 years of Naval aviation and commemorates the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

He said that along with spotlighting the Nebraska National Guard, it's also a significant event for Lincoln, Neb.

"It's a huge economic impact as well for the community," said Stevenson. "It's an opportunity for us to recruit; it's an opportunity for us to show the taxpayers the capabilities of front-line military aircraft up close."

"It is going to happen on the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and there will be ceremonies honoring and commemorating that event," he added.

"This is an open house for the public to not only come and witness, but also get up close and talk to the men and women in uniform who put their lives on the line everyday to defend the United States as well as honoring those in civil service such as the police force, fire department and other emergency agencies who protect them. That's what this show is all about."

Look for updates on the 2011 air show in future editions of the "Prairie Soldier."



# Camp Ashland regiment welcomes new commander

By Maj. Kevin Hynes  
Editor

The Nebraska Army National Guard's primary educational institute welcomed a new commander to the organization while thanking its outgoing leader, Sept. 12.

Standing before a formation representing the organization's three educational battalions at Camp Ashland, Neb., Col. Bryan Saucerman officially relinquished the regimental colors of the 209th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), to Brig. Gen. Judd Lyons, Nebraska adjutant general, who then issued them to Col. Scott Gronewold, incoming commander.

Lyons said both Guard officers exemplify what he is looking for in his senior commanders.

"I've known both of them for many, many years. We've served in the same organization and have come up through the ranks together," said Lyons.

"What distinguishes both Colonel Gronewold and Colonel Saucerman is that they exhibit those traits that I seek out when I'm looking for senior leadership and that is both of them throughout their careers have sought out the toughest jobs," Lyons said.

Additionally, Lyons said, both officers have never turned down the opportunity to command and, when in command, always "give it their all."

Lyons said Saucerman and Gronewold also both are quick to credit any success to those who serve with them, while also being equally quick to take responsibility when "sometimes life throws you a curveball and the mission doesn't go exactly the way that you thought it would."

"Both are great officers," Lyons said.

Saucerman is a native of Brighton, Colo. His military career began when he enlisted in Combat Service Company, 2-134th Infantry (Mechanized), in Crete, Neb., on Aug. 23, 1982. He received his commission as a second lieutenant from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln ROTC program in 1984.

Since then, Saucerman has served in numerous leadership positions including anti-armor platoon leader, rifle company executive officer, commander of Company C, 2-134th Infantry (Mech.), and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-134th Infantry (Mech.), and in leadership positions with the 209th RTI and the 92nd Troop Command.

Saucerman also served as commander of the Nebraska Army Guard's 41st Corps Support Center



Photos by Maj. Kevin Hynes

**Accepting The Colors:** Col. Scott Gronewold accepts the regimental colors of the 209th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) from Brig. Gen. Judd Lyons, Nebraska adjutant general, during a change of command ceremony held Sept. 12 at Camp Ashland, Neb. The 209th RTI is responsible for a wide variety of educational training affecting active, U.S. Army Reserve and Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers.

(Rear Area Operations Center), chief of staff for Task Force Falcon (Rear), and as commander of Camp Able Sentry and commander of Base Support Battalion Falcon at Camp Able Sentry in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Following that deployment, Saucerman served as deputy commander of the 67th Support Group (Area), as deputy commander of State Area Command, as joint personnel officer and the joint intelligence officer for Joint Force Headquarters-Nebraska.

He has served as commander of the 209th RTI since September 2006.

As commander of the 209th RTI, Saucerman commanded an organization responsible for conducting the state officer candidate and warrant officer candidate programs as well as the regional noncommissioned officer academy and the truck drivers course.

In leaving the organization, Saucerman, who was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, credited the members of the 209th RTI for the success the organization achieved during his tenure.



**Honoring A Commander's Service:** Brig. Gen. Judd Lyons (right) pins the Meritorious Service Medal onto Col. Bryan Saucerman's uniform during the change of command ceremony for the 209th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) held at Camp Ashland, Sept. 12. Saucerman, who had served as commander of the 209th RTI since September 2006, was honored for a wide variety of accomplishments his organization made during his tenure.

"I think the 209th RTI is a stronger organization today than when I took command," Saucerman told the assembled Soldiers following the ceremonial exchange of the flag. "Not because of me, but because of the officers and the NCOs that are assembled on the field today and because of those that preceded them."

"You're the reason why the RTI has been so successful," Saucerman

said. "Your hard work, your dedication and your commitment to the more than 20,000 Soldiers who have been trained in the three battalions present today during the past four years (are the reasons why we've been successful)."

Among that success, Saucerman said, was the growth of the Warrior Leaders Course at Camp Ashland and a satellite campus at Fort Riley, Kan., the training of future officers and warrant officers, and the development of the organization's 3rd Battalion, which is now one of only two Reserve Component Schools teaching active duty Soldiers military occupational specialty qualifications.

Additionally, the organization's headquarters section has continued to successfully oversee the RTI educational efforts while also continuing to be recognized as one of the top supply operations in the nation.

"There's no more important job than teaching the future leaders of the Army and you've taken that to heart," Saucerman said. "You've done it well with common theme

of teamwork, dedication to the mission, to the Soldiers and to the families, and last, but not least, by sheer hard work."

Saucerman and his wife Elly have one daughter, Mia. In civilian life Saucerman is the deputy general manager of the Rail Division for Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corporation in Lincoln, Neb.

In accepting command of the 209th RTI, Gronewold vowed to work hard to uphold the high standards of the organization.

"The high standards that Colonel Saucerman and his staff set are reflected not only in the hands-on training conducted by his staff, but also in the critical support functions that have been nationally recognized," he said. "Never in my lifetime has our country needed competent, innovative and dynamic leaders more than the last nine years. Colonel Saucerman and the members of the 209th have stepped up to the challenge and developed literally thousands of today's leaders."

Gronewold is a native of Beatrice, Neb. His military career began in December 1984 when he enlisted as a private first class in the Nebraska Army National Guard's Company C, 1-134th Infantry, in Beatrice.

He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in June 1986 after graduating from the Nebraska National Guard Military Academy.

Since then, Gronewold has served in numerous leadership positions including aero scout platoon leader, commander of Troop C, 1-167th Cavalry, commander of the 24th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), assistant operations and training officer for the 92nd Troop Command, executive officer and commander of the 110th Medical Battalion (Evacuation), Medical Command commander, Joint Force Headquarters domestic operations officer and director of Aviation for the state of Nebraska.

Gronewold deployed overseas twice, first as commander of the 24th Med. Co. and later as commander of the 110th Med. Bn. (Evac.)

Gronewold said that he understands he has an equally important mission ahead of him now.

"Our mandate is to anticipate the threat our future leaders will face, develop the solutions, write the standard, resource and train accordingly," he said, before adding, "I am confident that the RTI will continue to meet that challenge to produce leaders with the skills and abilities that our Soldiers (and) our nation needs today and tomorrow."

Gronewold and his wife Diane have three children, Jenna, Jonathan and Joel.

## New battalion commander takes helm in Scottsbluff during July ceremony

By Tech. Sgt. Alex Salmon  
Assistant Editor

The 168th Quartermaster Petroleum Supply Battalion welcomed in a new commander during a change of command ceremony held in Scottsbluff, Neb., July 10.

In front of distinguished guests, fellow Soldiers, family and friends,

Lt. Col. Randall S. Ames assumed command of the 168th QM Bn. from Lt. Col. David J. DuBois.

Ames enlisted in the South Dakota Army National Guard on Feb. 6, 1985.

He was commissioned as an Engineer Officer on May 11, 1990 from the Reserve Officers' Training

Corps program. Ames transferred to the Nebraska National Guard in April 1997.

Ames received a bachelor's degree from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, SD.

His military education includes the Engineer Officers Basic Course, Signal Officer Advanced Course, combined Arms and Services Staff School, and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Ames has held a variety of leadership positions including Company command, Company A and B, 135th Signal Battalion; manager of Greenleaf Training Site in Hastings, Neb.; training site commander of Camp Ashland and Battalion

executive officer. In 2008, Ames deployed to Afghanistan as part of the Nebraska National Guard's Embedded Training Team.

He resides in Grand Island, Neb. with his wife Kate and has three sons; Garrett, Wyatt and Levi.

DuBois enlisted in the Nebraska National Guard on July 5, 1983. He was commissioned in August 1989 from the New Mexico Army National Guard's Officer Candidate School.

He received an associate's degree in Electrical Technology from Southeast Community College in 1985, and a bachelor's degree in Applied Management from National American University in 2000.

He has an extensive military education and is currently enrolled in the Army War College, scheduled for completion in 2012.

DuBois and his wife Sue reside in Wahoo, Neb., and have four children; Malinda, 23, Erica, 21, Sam, 7, and Allison, 4.



Ames



DuBois



Photo by Master Sgt. Vern Moore

## Air refueling wing receives 10th Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

**Adding Another Streamer:** Brig. Gen. Judd Lyons, Nebraska adjutant general, places the 155th Air Refueling Wing's 10th Air Force Outstanding Unit Award streamer on the organization's flag during the Honors Day Ceremony on the base parade grounds, Oct. 2. The Nebraska Air National Guard air refueling wing was among only 14 other Air National Guard units to receive the prestigious award for 2009.



# Nebraska brigade officially takes over mission in Iraq

## 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade assumes authority during ceremony at COB Adder, Iraq

By 1st Lt. Nathan Levy

224th Sustainment Brigade

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq — Formations of Soldiers from the 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade from Joint Base Lewis-McCord, Wash., and the 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade from Lincoln, Neb., gathered in Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq's, Memorial Hall, Sept. 15, to transfer authority and congratulate the 201st BfSB on a job well done.

"You see a few of our BfSB troops here in Memorial Hall today. They're standing in for over 1,400 Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen who are members of the BfSB task force up and down the country (Iraq)," said Col. Robert P. Whalen, Jr., commander of the 201st BfSB in his speech to those in attendance.

On Sept. 27, 2009, the 201st BfSB deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit's lineage dates back to 1942 and World War II. The 201st has served honorably in the Southwest Pacific Area, New Guinea, Philippines, and Korean War.

"To our new friends in the 67th Battlefield



Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Bob Vrana

**Unfurling The Colors:** 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade Commander, Col. Philip Stemple, and Command Sgt. Maj. Philip Perrone uncased the 67th BfSB colors, signifying the organization's transfer of authority, Sept. 15, at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. The 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade is from Lincoln, Neb.

Surveillance Brigade, who showed up on time, trained, enthusiastic and ready, despite the many curve balls pitched their way," Whalen said, "the Army put the pike symbol on their left shoulders and sent them to Iraq where they pick up the guidon from us today."

Whalen, along with Command Sgt. Maj.

Mark Thornton, the brigade command sergeant major of the 201st BfSB, then cased their unit's colors signifying the completion of their mission in Iraq.

"On this historic day, the transfer of authority from the 201st BfSB to the 67th BfSB, to Col. Bob Whalen and his staff: Thank you

for the relief in place, for the subject matter expertise, for the hospitality, for raising the bar and setting it and posturing my brigade, the 67th BfSB, for success," said Col. Philip A. Stemple, commander of the 67th BfSB.

"To the Soldiers of the 201st: Your courage and vision was instrumental in the significant success of Operation Iraqi Freedom that has allowed the new dawn to break over Iraq," Stemple said. "You can go home to your families confident that your contribution will be a lasting and an enduring one. Well done, 201st, well done."

Moments later Stemple was joined by Command Sgt. Maj. Philip G. Perrone, brigade command sergeant major of the 67th BfSB, to uncased their unit colors, signifying the successful transfer of authority and start of their mission in Iraq.

The 67th's lineage dates back to 1963 and has honorably served during Hurricane Gustav in Louisiana and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The name "67th" was used to pay tribute to the year Nebraska became a state in 1867. The 67th is the first Reserve Component BfSB to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn.

The ceremony's honored guests included Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, the commanding general of the United States Division—South, Maj. Gen. Eddy Spurgin, the commanding general of the 36th Infantry Division, Maj. Gen. Charles Anderson, the commanding general of First Army Division West, Brig. Gen. Stephen Sanders, the deputy commanding general of the 36th Infantry Division, Brig. Gen. Randal Dragon, the deputy commanding general for the 1st Infantry Division, and Brig. Gen. John Rossi, the United States Forces-Iraq J33.

## 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade Soldiers receive second pike patch



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mark Newsom

By Lt. Col. Bob Vrana

67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq — 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade Soldiers serving in Iraq are now wearing the organization's "pike patch" on both shoulders.

They are the first to wear the pike as a right shoulder patch, designating wartime service, since the patch was designed in 1963.

Brigade Headquarters and 67th Network Signal Company Soldiers received their patches during a Sept. 14 ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Adder's Memorial Hall.

**Patched:** Col. Philip Stemple, 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade commander, "patches" Capt. Robert Rodgers, 67th Brigade Headquarters Company commander, Sept. 14.

## 155TH SFS continued from page 1.

counterparts and are still keeping in touch using common social media sites.

"Some of the guys are still friends on Facebook with them," said Restau.

According to the Air Guardsmen, even though the deployment was hot and dusty, it was made bearable by the availability of Skype and Facebook, and social media sites open to military deployed overseas.

"It was incredible. I don't think I made a single phone call home between Skype and Facebook. I'll never deploy again without a laptop," said Restau.

Having deployed to several other locations over his 12-year career in the active Air Force and the Air National Guard, Restau said the latest deployments was by far the easiest.

"Before I would call home once or twice a week and the echo was so bad. Now, I could keep updated with everybody I knew with Facebook. I can't believe the difference, even from when I deployed to Spain in '04," said Restau.

Members could not access Facebook during work hours, but they were able to purchase private wireless internet service that they could access from a personal laptop in their rooms. The access to the social media sites made transitioning from deployment to home life easier said Master Sgt. Daniel Emken, who deployed as a unit training manager with the SFS.

"When I came back this time, I was able to jump back into my role. It was a lot easier this time coming back home because we had talked about what's going on," said Emken who was able to speak nightly to his wife back home.

On Emken's past deployments he had to

share a computer room with other deployed personnel.

"Previously there were five computers and 50 guys and you only got limited time to talk to loved ones," said Emken.

Social media aside, the 155th SFS members from Nebraska felt like they accomplished a great deal during their deployment.

"We had an impact, whether the troops see it or not, because nothing happened while we were there. We secured the area, we didn't have any incidents, so it was a good mission," said Emken. "We brought everybody back safely and we didn't have major incidents."

The deployment also earned several 155th SFS personnel a chance to receive honors for the hard work they did in preparing and executing the mission by receiving the most recognition and awards of the three units there, all while having the smallest number of deployed personnel.

"We sent 22 people and we had more coining and recognition than the other two units put together," said Restau. "The group commander came down and recognized four of the 22. I'm proud as (heck) of them."

Even with Facebook, Skype and a successful mission, the wives and family members of the returning troops were glad to have them back.

"This deployment has gone a lot smoother. We've been able to communicate and see each other using Skype," said Jeanie Quick, wife of Tech. Sgt. Jeff Quick who is a 155th SFS fire team leader home from his third deployment. "I'm excited, nervous, anxious and just ready for him to be home."

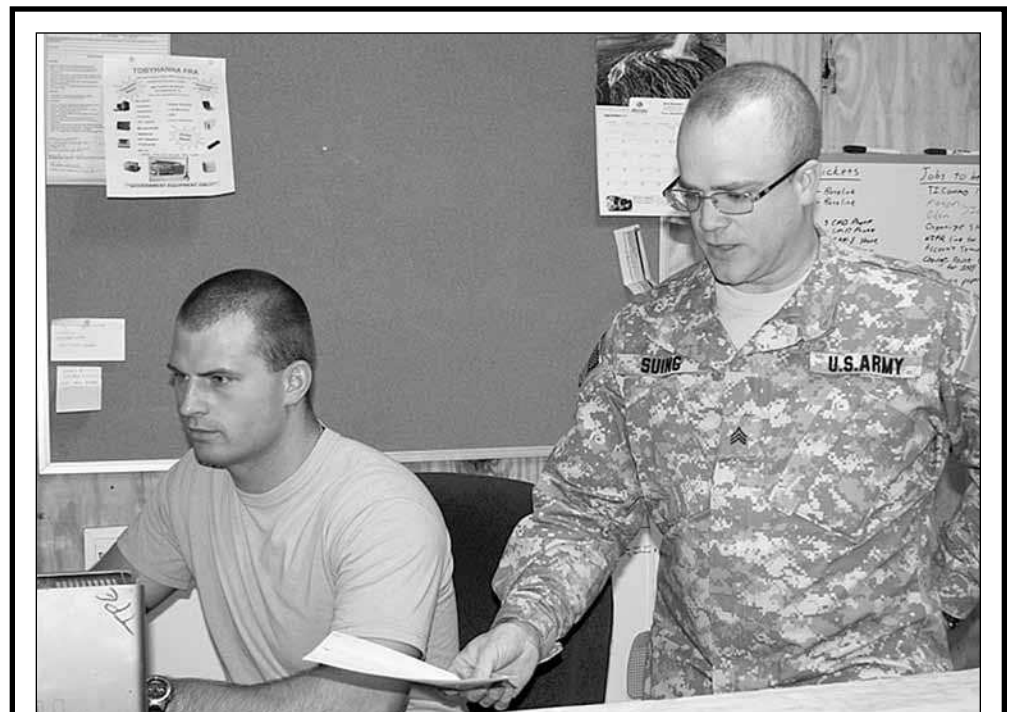


Photo by Spc. Kara Tarr

**Taking Care Of Business:** Sgt. David Suing goes over the day's tasks with Spc. James Adelman at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The two Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers are currently working to help their unit, the 1167th Brigade Support Company from Lincoln, Neb., set up operations in their new working environment.

## Team faces daily challenges while setting up operations

By Spc. Kara Tarr

1167th Brigade Support Company

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — Everyone in Logistic Support Team 1 has had plenty to do since the end of August when this part of the 1167th Brigade Support Company arrived at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Gear must be unloaded; offices and shops must be arranged; equipment must be inventoried. The whole LST is hard at work, but even Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Vater, unit platoon sergeant, will tell anyone who asks that Sgt. David Suing is one of the busiest guys around.

As the head of the two-man communication team for the 1167th BSC at Joint Base Balad, Suing has a lot on his plate.

Just getting established at a new location is quite a job — networks have to be set up and cable run to support the LST's operation.

As the LST unloads its equipment, Suing also has to inspect all the electronics, including various radios and global positioning system receivers.

As the information management officer, Suing additionally must find time to take the mandatory courses that allow

him to oversee the various systems he's responsible for setting up.

Suing also doubles as the electronic warfare officer, so, while juggling everything else, he has to inspect the systems installed in each of the LST's Mine Resistant Ambush Protective (MRAP) vehicles.

This kind of work is nothing new to Suing. He has been in the Army National Guard for 11-and-a-half-years and has been in communications since he joined.

Military and communications were natural decisions for him to pursue. His father works in the communications field on the civilian side and he has a family history of service, with both grandfathers serving in World War II and uncles who fought in Vietnam and Desert Storm respectively.

For the first week or so, Suing was accomplishing everything on his own. Spc. James Adelman, the other half of the communications team, just arrived to help out.

Despite having an assistant, Suing says, "the work never ends."

However, the smile on his face tells it all: That a positive attitude and his years of experience make him an invaluable asset here at Joint Base Balad.



# Purple Power: Nebraska preparing to send state's first joint agricultural team to Afghanistan

By Tech. Sgt. Alex Salmon  
Assistant Editor

For the second time in three years, the Nebraska National Guard is preparing a team for a unique deployment aimed at assisting the hard-hit agricultural community of Afghanistan.

This time the team will be "purple."

The Nebraska National Guard's Agribusiness Development Team Number 2 will mark the first time that the Nebraska National Guard has sent a joint Nebraska Army and Air National Guard agricultural team on an overseas deployment.

Scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan in the summer of 2011, the 58-person team will be comprised of Nebraska National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who have a wealth of skills from both military and civilian experience in the areas of agronomy, agricultural economics and soil science. Some of the members will be professional farmers with a lifetime of agricultural skills.

The ADT will also have several members dedicated to providing security.

The first Nebraska-based ADT served a year-long mission in Afghanistan from 2008-09.

According to organizers, the goal of the ADT is to expand and rebuild an agricultural system that was decimated following the 1979

Soviet invasion and subsequent Taliban reign, which transformed a once self-sufficient and profitable agricultural system into a corrupt producer of illicit poppies and opium for the international drug trade.

The ADT will expand legal agriculture, agribusiness services and agricultural education, which officials hope will lead to reduced rural poverty, increased agricultural employment opportunities and a deeper knowledge of agricultural techniques.

According to Maj. Dick Jones, who will serve as the ADT's executive officer, the ADT has a three-part mission.

"The obvious one you look at is working directly with farmers and different markets over there on technical skills," he said. "The other is to manage. We'll have a group of projects that we'll manage in our area...like grain storage facilities. And the third part is really like a civil-military mission where we're there to support and enhance the Ministry of Agriculture under the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan."

Because this is the first major joint overseas deployment for the Nebraska National Guard, officials said there have been several challenges. Still, the team is almost fully assembled with 33 Soldiers, 22 Airmen. Only three vacancies remain.

Lt. Col. Lynn Heng, who will serve as the team's commander, said there isn't a challenge the team

won't overcome.

"Having key leadership on the team from the Army and Air sides has proven essential in working out the many challenges we are facing," he said. "Logistics, personnel, training, etc., have all presented numerous issues to be worked out and we are ensuring that open lines of communication exist on both sides in order to prevent any unnecessary surprises."

"It is really quite amazing how different it is between how the Army (mobilizes) compared to the Air," Heng added.

Despite the challenges, Jones said the team members are excited. "So far it has been administratively challenging," he said. "But as far as a team coming together, it's happening very (quickly). A lot of the preconceptions that you might have of being joint – a lot of the issues haven't materialized...everybody wants to be on the mission."

The fact that the team is made up of volunteers has helped tremendously, Jones said. "The motivation is high," he said. "I think people are looking forward to it."

Heng said having team members from both the Army and Air National Guard should only enhance the mission by bringing experiences from two different operational perspectives.

"Each of us do things similarly, but yet differently in many ways," he said. "Anytime you can get a

different, educated view on how to accomplish a task you are better off in the long run, which increases your chances for success."

Jones said the services will come together to make one strong team while maintaining their branch identity. "We're bringing strong skill sets, but they're coming from different experienced sets, so it's not an Army mission, it's not an Air mission, it's an ADT mission," he said. "We are one team of Nebraskans, but everybody will always keep their branch identity...operationally we're all the same team."

Now, with the team almost fully assembled, Jones said the focus shifts to ironing out the wrinkles and ensuring training is complete. Team members will begin drilling jointly in December and continue through April. In May they will have a three-week annual training before going to Camp Atterbury, Ind., near Indianapolis for their final pre-mobilization training.

Jones said the training will include Afghan cultural training, combat training, agricultural training and training to familiarize each branch with the workings of the other.

He added that the majority of the Air Force personnel are from the Security Forces field and will provide security for the team. To strengthen the security team, Jones is working on sending them to an infantry training school.

Although the learning process of putting together the first joint team is long and sometimes difficult, the benefits will make it worth it, he said.

"I think there is some prestige in pulling it off because it's challenging," said Jones. "It's challenging for a normal organic unit to mobilize... for us it really doubles the effort on the front end, but hopefully you'll get double the performance during the mission because you've adapted to it."

"I think it's a little prestigious, too, because it's one thing to say 'OK, we're going to throw a unit together to go do this mission,' but then on a national scale to say that there's only a few states that do it joint and to be able to pull that off shows that your Army and Air is working together in your state well enough to pull off a complicated mission plan," he added.

A third ADT from Nebraska is already in the planning stage and will also be joint. Jones said all of the work going into this second team will make putting the third ADT together that much easier.

He added that the nature of the mission makes the teams easy to field.

"It's such a different mission and I think everybody, when they deploy, likes something tangible – that they've made a difference and their time away from home did some good for the people and for the government over there, to help make it stronger."

## THEATER OF WAR continued from page 1.

part of the Nebraska National Guard Family Program Office Wellness Conference in Omaha, Neb.

According to the group's founder, Bryan Doerries, Theater of War is designed to serve as a catalyst for current military members and their families to discuss and deal with the emotional and psychological effects of combat and war, and the challenges of homecoming through the readings of two plays.

"The idea is simple," said Doerries during the Omaha performance. "When people live lives of mythological proportions – ie: people who live with life and death situations on a daily basis – see their lives reflected in ancient myth, things open up."

"I had a Vietnam veteran come up to me after one of our performances recently in New York City and he said, 'Bryan, knowing that (post traumatic stress disorder) is from BC makes me less alone in the world,'" Doerries recalled. "That's the spirit behind our project: to take the long view. We're not experts; we're just story-tellers. We're here to learn from you. We're here to hear what you have to say."

The first play, entitled "Ajax," is a story about a decorated warrior who slips into depression during the Trojan War. After trying to murder his commanding officers in a fit of rage, Ajax takes his own life. The story also shows how his wife and fellow warriors attempt to intervene, but also ultimately fail.

Theater of War performers say that the play speaks to service members, veterans and their families today "with a directness and immediacy rarely achieved by war narratives."

The second play, "Philoctetes," is a tragedy about a famed Greek warrior who is marooned by his troops on a desert island after he contracts a horrifying disease. First performed in 409 BC, Theater of War staff members say "the title character's sense of abandonment and search for meaning in his pain still resonates strongly with today's physically and psychologically injured combat veterans."

The performance readings, which each last about 55 minutes, are followed by a four-person panel discussion as well as an open discussion amongst the audience.

Doerries said during his first performance before an audience of U.S. Marines in 2008, he slotted 45 minutes for the discussion period. It actually lasted three-and-a-half hours.

"People were jumping out of their seats and they were quoting lines from the play as if they knew it intimately, but no one knows this play... it's a rare play," said Doerries, who marked his 107th performance of Theater of War in Omaha. "I realized as people told their stories and talked openly and emotionally about the struggles they had faced at home and at war, that we had stumbled across a very powerful technology."

"And it's the most ancient technology that there is," he added. "It's story-telling."

The program has been so successful that

the Departments of Navy, Army and Air Force recently agreed to fund the Theater of War for another year.

Doerries said the idea behind the project started as a hunch.

"I directed a full production of the play in 2001 and at the time I had no idea of what PTSD was. I had no idea what the play was referencing," he said.

However, as the Global War on Terrorism entered its third, fourth and fifth years, Doerries said he started becoming more interested in the psychological injuries being sustained by American military veterans.

"I started reading everyday about psychological injury, about suicide, about people who sounded like the character Ajax," he said. "And then I realized what an idiot I was. I directed this play and I didn't know what it was about. And then it occurred to me that I was asking all of the wrong questions."

"The question isn't what is the actor wearing or what kind of lighting designs are we going to do? The question is, for whom is this story being told?" he added. "I went back and did some research and it became clear that that story was being told for Soldiers."

Through Doerries' research he has learned much about the history behind the two plays. Initially, the plays were written during a stressful period of ancient Greek history in which 80 years of the century were dominated by the Trojan War. At that point, said Doerries, Athens – widely considered to be the strongest of the Greek city-states – was defended by citizen warriors who, like members of the today's National Guard and U.S. Reserves, continuously moved back and forth between civilian and military lives.

"It's my belief, having performed for reserve units in the Marine Corps, that the Guard and Reserve audiences are perhaps the closest connection across time to the Greeks because the Greeks were all citizens... citizens meant to be warriors," said Doerries. "And the Greeks moved through those 80 years of war going from citizen to citizen soldiers, sometimes on a daily basis."

"The operational tempo was really fast, so



Photo by Maj. Kevin Hynes

**Opening Up A Conversation With Today's Veterans:** Theater of War actors perform "Ajax" during the Aug. 24 Nebraska National Guard Wellness Conference held in Omaha, Neb. Theater of War is an innovative project designed to serve as a catalyst for current military members and their families to discuss and deal with the emotional and psychological effects of combat and war, and the challenges of homecoming through the readings of two ancient Greek plays.

the stresses that were put on this population were very similar to the stresses put on (the National Guard and Reserve) community," he said. "So it comes as no coincidence that a general would come up with a story that tries to address these needs and these stresses in an interactive way that reaches people not only in their heads the way a briefing might, but their hearts."

Doerries said his goal is to translate the plays' messages to reach today's modern military audience.

"I started putting two and two together. What would a story written for soldiers by a soldier that dealt specifically with topics that only soldiers or those who care for them possibly understand have to say to us today? And then I asked a question further, Who would it be for today?" said Doerries. "And I came up with the U.S. military."

It took approximately two years of constant advocating for the Defense Department to finally take a hard look at what the Theater of War production company proposed. After 12 initial performances to military audiences, the Defense Center of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury contracted the company for 100 performances and town hall meetings at military installations across the country.

Unlike most plays with massive stage productions and designs, Theater of War is much simpler. A group of four actors – most of whom come from either Chicago or New York City with often impressive theatrical or movie resumes – sit at a table in front of the audience and dramatically read Doerries' interpretation of the plays.

Yet, while the play is performed rather simplistically, the impact that it has on a military audience is often dramatic.

Doerries said the impact is often felt by the actors as well.

"Once you realize that people listening in this way that no theater audience ever listens, where they understand experientially what's being talked about and the stakes are life and death for them, then it changes the

way you perform," he said. "It changes the attention with which you come."

Although the Omaha production was the first performance in front of a National Guard audience, Doerries said he hopes it isn't the last. In fact, he said, he hopes to be able to perform the production for Guardsmen and their families from all 54 states and territories.

"I may eat these words, but if I were to do nothing but be given access to the National Guard for the next year, I would be happy because I feel that in our nation, because of all the unique operational challenges that the National Guard men and women face, they need all the resources that we have at our disposal," he said. "And this is just one tool."

"I think the ancient Greeks were most similar to our Guard men and women because they moved back and forth between fighting and being a citizen," Doerries added. "And a healthy democracy in the community that they lived hinged upon their ability to make that transition all the time."

He admits that he often thinks of reservists when studying the ancient Greeks.

"I think about the Guardsmen and these Reservists that I've met who go to Iraq and then come back and they're an Eighth Grade science teacher or they work for the city or whatever it is. And I think about the fact that many units have individuals who don't share the same zip code; that there are a number of people who fought together and then go back to cities and municipalities where they don't see each other," he said.

Theater of War, he said, gives these people and their families the opportunity to come together in a safe environment and "communitize" about their experiences during the war and connect them with the resources they need.

"In some ways, Theater of War is simply about – and I think Sophocles was doing this as well – naming it," he said. "Just bringing a bunch of people into a room and stating what it is we're all facing."

According to Brig. Gen. Roma Amundson, Nebraska assistant adjutant, Army, she hopes the Theater of War's first performances in the state aren't its last.

"We are involved in the Long War," said Amundson, who was instrumental in bringing the Theater of War group to Omaha. She added that with the Long War, many Nebraska service members have faced numerous deployments, putting stresses on them and their families.

Amundson added that she hopes to bring the Theater of War group back to Nebraska in the future to perform in front of a larger audience of Nebraska National Guard members.

For more information about the Theater of War, check out their website at [www.theater-of-war.com](http://www.theater-of-war.com).

■ Park project becomes capstone accomplishment for Nebraska Army Guard officer serving in Afghanistan

# Building the Dream

By Maj. Kevin Hynes  
Editor

Most called it the graveyard, a final resting place for dozens of abandoned vehicles and aircraft, their giant armored hulks slowly rusting away like the Soviet dreams that had brought them here decades earlier.

However, where most of his fellow Soldiers and local Afghans simply saw a forlorn place of shattered dreams and an equally tragic reality, 1st Lt. Russell Bartholow saw the faint glimmers of hope. Granted, he admits now, one almost had to suspend reality to see it, but it was there. Hope. A simple word, but one that the Nebraska Army National Guard officer became convinced that he could somehow transform this dangerous, nightmarish 16-acre graveyard into.

The idea, he said, didn't simply dawn on him one day, but instead evolved over time based upon the situation he saw daily while serving as the head of a five-person Effects Cell at Forward Operations Base Spann near the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

"On the edge of the city and the edge of our base was the gate that we would come in," said Bartholow. "Right there, there were 16 acres, empty acres, of blown up BMPs, MiGs that had crashed and buses that had blown up. It was just a wasteland."

"Signs were up that it hadn't been de-mined. A couple acres was cemetery," he said. "It was literally a dead zone of battle... graveyards of empire."

Travelling by the graveyard almost daily, Bartholow not only noticed the rusting hulks, he also watched as hundreds of kids played along the side of the road, barely inches away from where hundreds of Afghan and coalition vehicles passed by.

And then he began to wonder why all these kids had to play so close to such a dangerous road.

"Kids there don't have parks," said Bartholow. "They play in cemeteries, they play on the streets... they play on the top of roofs."

"And they die," he added, his voice barely about a raspy whisper.

"They get hit by vehicles, they get run over and kicked by donkeys."

According to the former Lincoln, Neb., internet businessman who had sold his business and four-bedroom home so that he could join the Nebraska Army National Guard in 2007, this was exactly the type of situation he had thought of after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, when he used to spend countless nights researching Afghanistan and the problems and dangers the Afghans faced.

It was also the type of situation that Bartholow had been looking for in his search to somehow make a concrete difference in the lives of ordinary Afghans.

"Being (at the base) for so long, and seeing the increase in vehicles and people going out the gates, I knew a kid – a child – was going to be maimed or killed at some point," he said.

But how to get these kids off the road? That was a significant question.

And then suddenly Bartholow said he realized that what the kids in the area needed was a safe place where they could go and play. They needed a place where they could simply be kids.

What they needed was a park.

## Capstone To A Journey

Bartholow's journey to this moment had taken many twists and turns along the way. Barely two years earlier Bartholow was an owner of a growing internet business in Lincoln, where, by all accounts, he seemed to be living the American dream. What most didn't know, though, was that Bartholow had become increasingly conflicted. A former active duty and U.S. Army Reserve infantryman, Bartholow figured that his military career was long behind him when he first moved from California to Lincoln, Neb., where he briefly attended law school before starting his business career.

The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, changed all that, though.

In the months that followed, Bartholow became consumed by the war in Afghanistan, spending countless nights reading books, blogs and articles about the troubled, war-torn Central Asian nation and

22 Months In  
Afghanistan  
Fourth of a  
Multipart Series



Photos courtesy of 1st Lt. Russell Bartholow

**First Ride:** 1st Lt. Russell Bartholow smiles as he tries out one of the newly-installed playground equipment pieces at the Deh Dadi park. Such playground equipment had to be tested prior to the opening of the park, said Bartholow, adding that the contractor intentionally put up the spring toy first in order to see Bartholow ride it.



**Hands In Concrete:** 1st Lt. Russell Bartholow and a few of the more than 150 Afghan children who attended the grand opening place their hands in the wet concrete of a newly-placed sidewalk at the Deh Dadi Park. Bartholow said the goal was to give the local children "ownership" of the new park.

all of the difficulties that the people there faced.

He also became consumed by an idea whose genesis began during those late-night study sessions: If given the chance and put into the right position, Bartholow knew... absolutely knew... that he could make a difference.

That dream eventually put him back into uniform when he followed the advice of his uncle, Col. George Boshae, and joined the Nebraska Army National Guard. Despite his age, Bartholow soon graduated from Officer Candidate School and his Basic Officers Course and then volunteered to deploy with an Afghan National Army Embedded Training Team from South Dakota to Afghanistan.

Opportunity soon followed. Within a few months of his arrival in northern Afghanistan in early 2008, the 38-year-old made a deal to extend his deployment in Afghanistan in exchange for the opportunity to lead FOB Spann's five-person Effect Cell, which was responsible for developing and conducting civil-military projects in the nine northern provinces along the Afghanistan-Uzbekistan border.

By the time Bartholow returned home, the Nebraska Army Guard officer recorded 22 uninterrupted months in Afghanistan, the longest of any other Nebraska Army Guard Soldier. He also left in his wake a list of accomplishments that included 12 successful school-building projects, the construction of 300 kilometers of road, 12 newly

dug wells and several weapons buy-back projects and humanitarian aid missions.

Bartholow also helped his team successfully survive a Taliban ambush (see *August Prairie Soldier*.)

Yet, despite all these accomplishments, Bartholow said he quickly realized that if he was able to turn the rusting graveyard into a hope-filled park for the local Afghans, it would be the capstone achievement of his time in Afghanistan.

## Funding The Park

Serving and working in Afghanistan for 22 months, Bartholow learned many different skills and developed many relationships with the local Afghan power brokers, which helped him navigate through the often complicated Afghan social and business systems. He admitted later that he needed all of these skills to create the park.

After learning that he couldn't use Commander's Emergency Response Plan (CERP) funds, which are congressionally appropriated funds designated for such reconstruction projects as building schools and digging wells, Bartholow said he realized he needed to think creatively and use the relationships he had developed over the past months to get the process started.

"The first thing I did was go to the general who I found out owned the land and I had developed a relationship with because over the past two years I had delivered

over 30 tons of humanitarian assistance and probably built five schools on just his suggestion," said Bartholow. "I went to him and said, 'Here's my idea.'"

The Afghan general, a local corps commander, was receptive to the idea, but he had one requirement: If Bartholow could raise the money for the park, the general would donate the land and the engineering assets to de-mine the land, remove the tanks and MiG jets, and resurface the entire 16 acres.

But how to raise the approximately \$120,000 it would take to build the park without using American taxpayers money? The answer, Bartholow quickly realized, lie in the other relationships he'd developed in Afghanistan.

"The relationship I had built with 12 businessmen in all of northern Afghanistan was significant," he said, adding that he'd also spent much time trying to communicate the idea that part of being a good citizen – especially for those in community leadership positions – is the willingness to give back to one's community to make life better for all.

"The concept of giving back to your community – not your family network, but giving back to your community as a whole – that's not a huge concept in Afghanistan," said Bartholow. "But I approached them and said, 'Here is my idea, here is what you can do... you can give back to your community and empower not only yourself and your community, but also Afghanistan.'"

He then laid out his idea of building an "oasis of hope" for the local kids. "Every day that these kids play here, their expectations and standard of living will increase," Bartholow told the assembled business leaders. "Their happiness and joy – something that they do not have now – will increase... they will have hope because they will see colors and they will have emotions that they might not have even had before besides fear, fright and oppression."

"All these things you will create for generations to come," he added.

Bartholow figured the project would be a hard sell. He admits now that he underestimated the relationship he'd developed with the Afghan leaders.

"In a matter of a week I had roughly \$100-120,000," he said. "And let me tell you, this was something not like the way we donate

See PARK on 9.



**Popular Spot:** Local Afghan children try out the first equipment installed at the Deh Dadi Park. Bartholow said the merry-go-round, the only one within 25 kilometers of the park, was visited daily by a core group of 30-50 Afghan kids who were allowed to play on the equipment throughout the construction of the park. As such, the merry-go-round had to be replaced two times before the actual opening of the park.





Photos courtesy of Maj. Brenda Ruhrer

**Lifesaving Skills:** Capt. Mark Bales, Nebraska Army National Guard Medical Detachment, teaches a CPR class to a group of Afghan National Army soldiers.



**New Working Clothes:** Afghan nursing students display their new scrubs donated by Grand Island's St. Francis Medical Center with help from Capt. Mark Bales.



**Gentle Touch:** 1st Lt. Yolanda Canter, 155th Medical Group, poses for a photograph with some of the local children who live near where Canter and other Nebraska National Guard nurses are conducting a training program for Afghan nurses.

**NURSES** continued from page 1.

hospital where they lack even pain medication for patients," said Bales, a member of the Nebraska Army Guard's Medical Detachment. "Professionally, I am using a lot of basic skills that I may have become complacent with over the years. I also have to find ways to get basic tasks completed by being resourceful due to lack of equipment."

Making the Afghan medical training system better is the primary goal of the program, said Maj. Sheryl Wohleb, a member of the Nebraska Air Guard's 155th Medical Group who also works as a staff nurse at the Offutt Air Force Base's Family Medicine Residency Clinic.

"(The) goal is to train the trainer so in two years the program will be run entirely by the Afghans," said Wohleb via e-mail. Wohleb said the curriculum is based around the Army's 68WM6 program, which essentially teaches people to perform at the licensed practical nurse level.

"We are training and mentoring the Afghan faculty," said Wohleb, adding that the students come from both the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police, which makes up the greater Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). "ANSF Nursing Program will serve as a pipeline for providing an adequate number of nurses who are capable of caring for soldiers, police and their beneficiaries."

It's a need that is constantly growing, Wohleb said.

"ANSF is increasing in size and needs nurses to keep up with the demands," she said. "The country already has a shortage of nurses and increasing (the size of) ANSF only adds to the shortage of nurses."



**Building Friendships:** Maj. Sheryl Wohleb and Maj. Brenda Ruhrer (center and left) pose with Col. Mahboob, director of Nursing for the Afghan National Army, after Mahboob presented the two Nebraska Guard officers with head scarves.

Ruhrer said they're essentially providing basic nursing instruction in a number of different areas including clinical rotations in obstetrics and mother/child care in addition to adult care.

Bales said the Afghans are eager students. "The best part of this mission, hands down, is the interaction with the students," he said. "They ask great questions. They study hard. They love the opportunity to train with Americans."

"One of my most memorable moments here happened when we had trained our students in CPR. The next week while in clinical setting, our students got to perform CPR on a patient who had 'coded.' They successfully revived the patient," Bales said. "They were definitely as strong clinically as the nurses who had been working in ICU setting for

many years."

Wohleb said she and 1st Lt. Yolanda Canter, another 155th Med. Group nurse from Lincoln, Neb., who is also instructing in Afghanistan, have also been impressed with the Afghan students.

"I enjoy working with the Afghans," Wohleb said. "The students are very eager to learn (especially from the Americans). Once you develop the relationship with the Afghans, you are mentoring. They seem to be very attentive to learning. They really try to get the goals/problems solved (or at least try to anyway) and value your guidance and mentorship."

This is the second class to graduate from the program, however it is the first year that Nebraska nurses have participated in the mission. That means that the Nebraskans have had to play a key role in developing the current curriculum.

All four Nebraskans say that trying to establish a nursing program in a place like Afghanistan is not without its frustrations.

For example, simple things like paper aren't always available. Teaching materials needed to be translated before starting the course. Classroom space had to be found. Faculty members had to be interviewed, hired and trained. Cultural differences had to be learned.

Another on-going issue, said the Nebraskans, is helping the Afghan nursing students become self-sufficient instead of leaning on the Americans to make the correct decisions.

"Sometimes they just want you to solve the problem, however you wouldn't be doing them a favor if you do this," said Wohleb. "They need to learn to solve problems and develop their own system."

It's an on-going process, say the Guardsmen. Still, measurable success has been made, they add.

"The experience is much better than I anticipated," said Bales. "I had heard of the lack of equipment and resources, but no one told me how ambitious the students were to learn."

"Some of these students see this course as a great opportunity to help their country. Also, many of the students are utilizing this course to escape the poverty from which they were raised in," he added.

The instructors also say that they, too, are learning much from their experience in Afghanistan.

"Professionally (this) has challenged me to be more patient and not get frustrated at the way things are done or how long it takes to get something accomplished," Wohleb said. "Afghanistan culture is very different and one really needs to develop the relationship with the Afghan you are mentoring before they even begin to trust you and this takes time."

"I would have to say that I have polished up my lecturing, Power Point and clinical skills," said Ruhrer. "It has been interesting working with the interpreters and trying to instruct. It adds a lot more time to the lesson."

Ultimately, the Nebraskans say, it's a labor of love as they work to help the Afghans, who've they've grown to respect and like, develop a critical skill that will hopefully have major positive impacts in the future.

"It is rewarding to be part of a mission that is so vital in Afghanistan and hopefully developing this program to develop nursing care in Afghanistan is only the beginning," said Wohleb.

**PARK** continued from page 8.

money where we go to a dining-in or to the March of Dimes."

Bartholow said the donations came during a meeting in the office of the Afghan general. The leaders, who were accompanied by their assistants, sat in the general's office and listened as Bartholow presented his idea. He said he had no idea how to take the initial impression he had while speaking.

"These are very serious people when it comes to money," he said, adding that asking each of the men to donate \$5,000 – a huge sum in Afghan society – was extremely serious. "They're barely surviving, so \$5,000... to give that is a sacrifice."

Following his presentation, Bartholow said the ceremony that unfolded in the general's office is something that will stay with him forever.

"When we went around the room, they stood up and held their money over their head, thanked God and said, 'I am a clean man.

This is money from my family...' and they came forward and presented this money."

"This is what it meant to them," Bartholow added. "Then it was counted and they would turn around. This is just the most awesome amount of pride I've ever witnessed from 12 men."

When the money was counted, more than \$100,000 was collected.

The park – and Bartholow's dream – was a go.

**Construction**

Work on the park began within a few weeks. Vehicles were towed away. Minefields were cleared. Trash was cleaned up.

Over the weeks and months that followed, the park began to take shape until finally on Thanksgiving 2009, Bartholow and other U.S. military leaders gathered with their Afghan military and business counterparts to officially open the park, which had an es-

timated value of approximately \$300,000.

Hundreds of local Afghans, including around 150 local children, attended the grand opening.

Bartholow's voice beams with pride when he describes the finished project, which included an international-sized soccer field, a volleyball court, an NBA-sized basketball court designed by a local "NBA fanatic" on FOB Spann, playground systems in a cul-de-sac complete with slides, swings and fake palm trees, a little cantina equipped to sell candy and sodas to the kids and a \$52,000 security fence that surrounded the 16-acre park.

The center piece of the development was a large 25-foot metal tree with green leaves and an eagle on top of an engraving encouraging people to trust in God, be clean men and live righteous lives. Additionally, a well had been dug in the park to water the grass, an unheard of

luxury in Afghanistan.

"When we had the grand opening, it was a grand, grand day," said Bartholow, who was invited to place his hands in wet concrete during the grand opening in recognition of the role he played in getting the park completed.

**A Dream Realized**

A few weeks after the grand opening of the park, Bartholow was scheduled to return home to Nebraska. He said that his last view of the park, which he visited a few days before he left Afghanistan, left a lasting memory.

"(It was) packed," he said. "800, 900 kids in line to play volleyball. Three or four teams filled the soccer field. The cantina itself had a line of 10 people buying gum and soda and pistachios."

Other people, Bartholow said, were wandering along the parks winding paths, deeply engrossed in conversation. "(Afghans) love

to walk paths. There were dozens walking, holding hands together, walking, talking, contemplating their future," said Bartholow.

The kids left an even deeper impression.

"There were kids on the spring toys. They'd already blown through two merry-go-rounds that I had to replace because it was the first piece of equipment and nothing else showed up until late in the game," he said. "So all that was there was this merry-go-round that the vendor built twice – \$500 a piece – because so many kids were on that merry-go-round."

"And they were playing tag and they'd created a 10-foot-square area where they were shooting marbles," Bartholow said, his voice rising. "You know, man, it was a safe haven... of enjoyment. And it was a glimpse, I think, of the future of Afghanistan."

**Coming in December: Home Again**



**OnTarget:** A pair of employers takes aim at a group of digital targets under the watchful eye of a 734th Transportation Battalion Soldier during the battalion's Bosslift to the Greenleaf Training Site, Aug. 11.



# Educating the Bosses

■Nebraska National Guard pulls out stops in 2010 by supporting multiple Bosslift efforts during busy training year

By Maj. Kevin Hynes  
Editor

For a few moments Dr. Richard Brown found himself imagining a far different situation.

Sitting aboard a crowded Nebraska Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook Helicopter during a Sept. 8 flight from Lincoln, Neb., to Fort Riley, Kan., Brown, suddenly began imagining what it would've been like to have flown aboard the helicopter under far different circumstances.

"I felt like I was in Vietnam or somewhere," said a smiling Brown, chief executive officer for the Omaha-based Charles Drew Health Center. "All I needed was a gunner to help the troops on the ground."

All kidding aside, Brown said the flight – part of a day-long Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve Bosslift to Fort Riley – was an important step in learning more about the work that members of the National Guard and U.S. Reserves are doing to prepare for overseas deployments or to help members of the active components conduct a wide array of operations, both in the United States and around the world.

"It was really eye-opening," said Brown after he and 18 other Nebraska civic leaders and employers returned to Lincoln following the visit to Fort Riley. "I just didn't know how closely the National Guard is working with the regular Army."

"To see them working together is just fantastic," he added. "I just have great respect for the work that they do."

Helping open the eyes of civic leaders and employers to the jobs that Nebraska reservists are doing

when away from work is the primary goal of ESGR Bosslifts, said retired Maj. Gen. Walter Zink, chairman of the Nebraska ESGR Committee.

"I think it's important to give employers the opportunity to see what our service members do on a day-to-day basis and particularly to understand not only their missions, but also the amount of training that they receive, the skill sets they develop and the professionalism they exhibit," Zink said following the Sept. 8 bossflight.

The concept behind bosslifts is really quite simple and actually a fairly old practice. Prior to a Bosslift flight National Guardsmen and reservists are encouraged to nominate one or two of their employers who they feel might benefit from learning more about the jobs they do in the military.

The ESGR committee then selects names from those nominations and invites the employers and civic leaders to travel, usually via military aircraft, to various military installations and meet Guardsmen and reservists working there while receiving briefings about the roles that reservists now play in the military's daily activities.

In the past, ESGR would typically plan one three-day trip per year, usually to a place like San Diego, Calif., San Antonio, Texas, or Charleston, S.C., where there is a high concentration of active and reserve military installations. Other times, the committee would plan similar one-day trips to visit Nebraska units during their annual training exercises, giving the employers and civic leaders the opportunity to interact with Nebraska Guardsmen and reservists.

2010 was anything but typical, however.



Photos by Maj. Kevin Hynes

**Everything Snug?** Staff Sgt. Kyla Boersma, 734th Transportation Battalion, adjusts Jan Collins' helmet prior to a ride aboard a Humvee during the 734th Transportation Battalion's Bosslift, conducted Aug. 11 at the Greenleaf Training Site near Hastings, Neb.



**Listening In:** Dr. Richard Brown, chief executive officer for Omaha's Charles Drew Health Center, listens to a CH-47 Chinook helicopter crew as they fly their helicopter to Fort Riley, Kan., Sept. 8.

This year, due to the Nebraska Army National Guard's high tempo as multiple units and organizations trained for mobilizations or other domestic operations, ESGR conducted six one-day bosslifts to such places as Camp Guernsey, Wyo, Camp Shelby, Miss., Fort Riley, Kan., the Greenleaf Training Site at Hastings, Neb., and Camp Ashland, along with its traditional three-day bosslift to Fort Lewis, Wash., where they visited members of Nebraska's 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, which as conducting mobilization training there.

According to Zink, 2010 offered many "targets of opportunity" to educate the state's employers and civic leaders about the transforming nature of the National Guard and U.S. Reserves.

"We saw the single day bosslifts as an opportunity to get individual bosses (to locations) that were relatively close to Nebraska," said Zink. "(The employers) can then see in a rather compressed timeframe what their employees are doing and the employees can see the support of their bosses. We can kind of marry up the interests."

Brown was a good example of the types of employers that ESGR was able to reach through the smaller bosslifts, said Zink, many of whom do not have the schedule flexibility to travel out of state for three days.

As head of the Omaha-based medical facility, Brown said that one of

their physician assistants – Capt. Tom Weise – has been deployed away from work multiple times over the past six to seven years.

By traveling to Fort Riley, Brown said he was able to see firsthand the work that Guardsmen and reservists like Brown are doing to support the larger military effort.

It's a message Brown said he plans on communicating to the rest of his Omaha staff.

"I'll be able to talk to them about Capt. Tom Weise and what he's really been involved with," he said. "Hopefully it will elevate the respect that they have for what he has done while he's served in the National Guard."

The Bosslifts don't only affect the employers, either. According to Lt. Co. Kevin Garner, commander of the Kearney-based 734th Transportation Battalion which hosted a one-day Bosslift during the organization's annual training at the Greenleaf Training Site in August, the ability to bring bosses out to see what Soldiers do during their training also affects his bottom line: having ready and trained Soldiers prepared to do whatever's asked of them by the president or the governor of Nebraska.

"It really is a readiness issue," said Garner. "By bringing the Soldiers' bosses out to see what their Soldiers are doing, to see the types of equipment they're able to train on and more importantly to learn about the importance of the training that they're receiving, makes it easier for those Soldiers to ask their employers for time off from work to attend training."

"It also allows us as leaders to talk to our Soldiers' employers about the importance of the training that we're conducting, especially in

regards to the new Army Force Generation Model and how this training will cut time off of deployments later on down the road," he said. "It also gives us the opportunity to thank them for giving their employees the time off they need to get this important training accomplished."

During the Greenleaf visit, employers had an opportunity to watch Soldiers train on the Hum-Vee rollover trainer, to try their hand on the convoy and marksmanship simulators, and then ride along behind a convoy of battalion Soldiers as they conducted a training operation through the training site, encountering ambushes and improvised explosive devices along the way.

Garner said the Aug. 11 bosslift was a definite success.

"It definitely gave us the opportunity to talk to the employers directly and hopefully give them a little more information about what goes on during training versus what their employee, who might be a little nervous talking about National Guard training, may be telling them," Garner said.

Considering the nature of the National Guard today, the ability to communicate directly with employers is extremely important, said Zink.

"I think that employers have a better understanding (today than they did 10 years ago,) but it's an on-going process because you've got new people from the same employers that don't have the same appreciation that their predecessors' had. Plus, you have such a small percentage of people in this country who have military experience," Zink said.

"It's an on-going education process. We try to augment what service members tell their employers," he added. "We're better off than when I started out 30 years ago, but it's going to be an on-going continuum of education."

Zink said the bosslifts have had a major impact in that educational process, adding that most participating employers tell him that they are eye-opening experiences.

"We're very pleased with how they've played out and the level of education we've been able to give our employers," he said. "The bosslifts provide a unique opportunity to support the service members when they're actually doing missions or preparing to deploy."

Brown said he believes that participating in Bosslift is important.

"I would recommend it 150 percent to other employers to be supportive of their military personnel and employees (and) go on such a trip as this," he said. "This was great."



**Through The Smoke:** A Humvee gunner emerges from a wall of orange smoke during a convoy exercise at the Greenleaf Training Site near Hastings, Neb. Nebraska employers and local civic leaders had an opportunity to see some of the different types of training that Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers receive during their two-week annual training exercises during a 734th Transportation Battalion Bosslift, Aug. 11.



# Employers say eyes opened during Fort Lewis trip

By David Nore  
Public Information Officer

After leaving the Nebraska Air National Guard operations briefing auditorium, July 19, and walking into a typical cloudy, warm and humid Nebraska day, employers going on the Bosslift to Fort Lewis, Wash., had the realization that something special was about to happen on their "Husker 55" refueling mission.

They were about to see the elite U.S. Air Force demonstration team, better known as the Thunderbirds, up close and personal.

Yes, they were going to see the 67th Battle Surveillance Brigade as it conducted mobilization training at Fort Lewis, currently known as Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington State, but first they would witness that aerial dance the Nebraska Air National Guard refers to as an in-flight refueling.

"We have picked up a mission to refuel the Thunderbirds who are returning from a performance at an air show in Duluth, Minn.," said Master Sgt. Mark Stocking, boom operator for the mission, during the safety briefing for the employers attending the Employer Support to the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) trip to Washington. "This is going to be a special refueling that not even most of the Husker 55 crew have witnessed."

The Thunderbirds were refueling in the air on their way back to their home base near Las Vegas, Nev., so that they wouldn't have to land at an airport or air base. The 30,000 gallons of fuel that the Nebraska KC 135R held would be enough for the Thunderbirds to continue on to Las Vegas without landing, a stop that would take more aircraft fuel than in-flight refueling, according to Stocking.

The mid-air refueling was conducted without a hitch and all passengers on the flight were able to view the Thunderbirds up close and personal in flight.

"This was just an amazing sight that I thought I would never see," said Kevin Oswald, a Target store manager. "If the trip would have ended there I would have been totally impressed."

Following the refueling, the Nebraska Air Guard KC-135R from the 155th Air Refueling Wing, made a beautiful aerial approach into Joint Base Lewis-McChord, which offered the sight of snow-capped Mount Rainier out of the front window of the tanker aircraft, further impressing the employers participating on the ESGR trip.

After landing at McChord Air

Force Base, the group of employers and ESGR members met with 67th BfSB commander Col. Philip Stemple, starting a busy two-day tour of the post and the mobilization training that was being conducted there by the Nebraska Army Guard brigade.

"I want to tell you this today, that your employees bring to the fight a set of civilian skill sets," Stemple told the group during his briefing. "Whether it is a school teacher, or a guy that owns his own plumbing business, or someone that works with a lawyer, doctor, or principal, those civilian skill sets are very much in need."

Stemple explained to the employers that their employee Soldiers were training to help the Iraqi forces gain control of the insurgency so that Iraq could become self-reliant.

"Everything we do will be by, with and through Iraqi security forces," he said. "We are to paint a picture for the Iraqi forces so they can go out and secure the country and gain control of the insurgency. Iraqi forces will be involved in all operations" he added.

As the ESGR group visited the many training lanes that the 67th BfSB Soldiers were training on, the impact of the training was driven home.

At one stop, the bosses visited an improvised explosive device (IED) factory, described as 'Omar's Bomb Factory,' that contained every imaginable method to manufacture IED's using common materials. One example involved using two hacksaw blades to craft a detonating device triggered by a Soldier stepping on the blades, thus closing a circuit that detonates hidden explosives.

"I never knew what could be done with two hacksaw blades... how simple it could be, but how effective some of these explosive devices could be," said Jason Korth, Speedway Motors warehouse manager from Lincoln.

Korth and the others also toured the IED 'petting zoo,' described as such due to many examples of IEDs and also the fact that the Nebraska employers could actually touch all of the components used by insurgents.

"I thought I knew so much about the military before I got here and it's amazing. You think you know about the military, but it is such an eye-opener" said Jane Goertzen HR director for Crete Carriers. "I have always had a lot of respect for Soldiers, but I have gained so much more respect for what they do, leaving their families, coming here. We are so lucky that we have them do this for us."

Goertzen had two employees she



Photos by David Nore

**Try This On For Size:** Jane Goertzen, human relations director for Crete Carriers, is fitted with a combat load bearing vest by Crete Carrier employee 2nd Lt. Charles McGreer, platoon leader with the 1167th Battlefield Support Company. Goertzen visited two employees while on the Employer Support Guard and Reserve trip to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.



**Petting Zoo:** Employers visually experienced the end result of crafting improvised explosive devices from commonly available materials at the IED Petting Zoo, so named because of its 'hands-on' approach to training Soldiers on the sight, touch and feel of IEDs.

was able to visit in the 67th BfSB. By going on the trip she realized that the training the Soldiers received has a direct impact on their civilian job skills.

"I was already thinking that I should be looking at this guy for a management position because they are taught so many skills, they are taught so many leadership skills," she said.

Observing the Army training gave the ESGR leaders a chance to feature what Soldiers experience in the preparation for a full 12-month mobilization.

"One of my goals has been to get employers to an installation

where we are training our Army National Guard," said retired Maj. Gen. Walter Zink, chairman of the Nebraska ESGR Committee. "So you can see why it is important for employers and community leaders to take back the message to our friends and neighbors and other employers on what these great Americans are doing in terms of the Global War on Terrorism."

The ESGR committee hosted an evening meal that allowed the leadership of the 67th BfSB and the visiting employers to visit and talk about training experiences and preparations for the mobilization.

The ESGR committee and

National Guard leadership also explained the total impact of the Citizen Soldier on the state of Nebraska.

"I just want to put out some details of the Nebraska National Guard. The Army National Guard is about 3,800 Soldiers strong," said Col. Kevin Neumann, Army National Guard chief of staff. "Our annual budget for the Army Guard is about \$130 million in the state of Nebraska for training, pay and allowances and maintenance. And these figures don't include the approximately 1,000 Air National Guardsmen in the state or their equipment."

"The BfSB is located in Lincoln, but the Soldiers that fill the unit come from across the state impacting all communities in Nebraska," he added.

"It is indescribable what your employees go through for training on a weekend basis or during a mobilization. It is hard to describe to you without you seeing it, so hopefully you have been able to see what they do firsthand," Neumann said.

The return trip on the Nebraska KC 135R was not as dramatic as the Thunderbird re-fueling, but the overall impact of viewing the military training had a lasting impact on the Nebraska employers.

"The entire trip was inspiring and overwhelming, mind-broadening and life-changing. Already I am paying closer attention to the news about our troops in the Middle East and my views about military service have changed," said Tracy Jatzcak, chief financial officer for Box Butte General Hospital in Alliance, Neb.

## Cavalry Soldiers demonstrate training to Nebraska visitors



**Hands On:** Spc. Brandon LaPointe, Troop C (Long Range Surveillance), 1-134th Cavalry (Reconnaissance and Surveillance), shows retired Brig. Gen. James Murphy, current civilian aide to the secretary of the Army, some of the advances that have been made to an infantryman's weapons system, Sept. 1, at Camp Shelby, Miss.



Photos by Spc. Joshua Johnson

**Unmanned Aerial Vehicle:** Sgt. Casey Lindsey, a member of Troop C (Long Range Surveillance), 1-134th Cavalry (Reconnaissance and Surveillance), demonstrates the capabilities of an unmanned aerial vehicle to several civilian leaders during a visit to Camp Shelby, Miss., Sept. 1. Members of the Nebraska Army National Guard's 1-134th Cavalry (R&S), were training at the Mississippi training post in preparation for a deployment to Afghanistan in support of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, Iowa Army National Guard.

By Maj. Kevin Hynes

Editor

Members of the Nebraska Army National Guard's 1-134th Cavalry Squadron (Reconnaissance and Surveillance) had an opportunity to show off the training they've been conducting at Camp Shelby, Miss., in preparation for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan to a group of Nebraska dignitaries, Aug. 31 - Sept. 1.

During the two-day visit, the Soldiers, who are mobilizing with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, from the Iowa Army National Guard, demonstrated a few of the various training exercises they've been conducting while also giving the dignitaries a chance to get a close-up look at some of the equipment they will be using while deployed to Afghanistan.

The visitors also had an opportunity to have dinner and lunch with the Soldiers. The visit was sponsored by the 2-34th Brigade Combat Team.

The 1-134th Cavalry Squadron (R&S) has been mobilized since July 31. They are expected to deploy overseas in the near future. The organization is commanded by Lt. Col. Thomas Rynders.



# State's newest lieutenants graduate from Camp Ashland's Officer Candidate School

By Maj. Kevin Hynes

Editor

The Nebraska Army National Guard officer corps saw a substantial growth, Aug. 14, when 17 Soldiers graduated from the Officer Candidate School and Accelerated Officer Candidate School at Camp Ashland, Neb.

Of the 17 Soldiers that graduated from the two commissioning programs, 15 accepted their commissions as second lieutenants while two other Soldiers accepted certificates of completion, meaning that they hope to take their commissions in the near future.

According to Brig. Gen. Judd Lyons, Nebraska adjutant general, the Soldiers are now about to step into a new and challenging phase of their military careers.

"We're going to ask a lot of you over the course of the rest of your career," Lyons told the graduating OCS and Warrant Officer Candidate School students. "Things that you haven't even thought of yet."

"So all the leadership instruction that you've gotten here at Warrant Officer Candidate School and Officer Candidate School—trust me, you're going to have the opportunity to bring that to bear."

Lyons offered the new leaders a few pieces of advice to take with them into their next assignments: "Keep your Soldiers' welfare always in front of you, but always remember to accomplish your mission. If you do those two things, you're going to have a great career in front of you."

Officer Candidate School is a Camp Ashland-based commissioning program conducted by the 209th Regiment (Regional Training Institute.) It consists of 17 months of leadership training including two weeks of annual training followed by one weekend of training per month. It concludes with an additional two weeks of annual training.

The Accelerated OCS Program consists of the same course requirements as the traditional OCS program, however it is conducted over a two-month period of training conducted in June and July at Camp Rapid, S.D.

According to two of the newly commissioned second lieutenants, the day was almost surreal.

"It's kind of a big shock," said new 2nd Lt. Lisa Brand, a native of Wallace, Neb., who attended the traditional OCS program and will soon be serving as an officer in the 110th Medical Battalion. "It's been a long year and I've made a lot of good friends. It's a relief to be done, but it's also a new phase."

"It's a little bit scary, but I'm sure that we're all going to do great," she added.

According to new 2nd Lt. Bradley Johnson,



Photo by Maj. Kevin Hynes

**Making Sure The Bars Are On Straight:** (From left) Newly commissioned 2nd Lt. Natasha Preston makes sure that her classmate 2nd Lt. Lisa Brand's new gold second lieutenant's bars are on straight shortly after the two Soldiers graduated from Officer Candidate School, Aug. 14.

son, a graduate of Crete High School who attended the accelerated OCS course, he is also anxious to take the skills he learned during OCS and apply it to his new assignment with the 168th Quartermaster Battalion (Petroleum Support).

"I see this as the first step of many steps to come," said Johnson. "I see this as an achievement, but the hardest part is still to come. I know that I've got a lot of work in front of me."

Both Johnson and Brand agreed that OCS gave them many new skills that will help them succeed in their new assignments.

"They teach many things," Johnson said. "They give you many leadership tools. I don't know that I could pick just one, but based upon the training, I know that I'm a better officer because of it."

Brand said probably the biggest skill she developed was the knowledge of how important teamwork is to accomplishing often difficult missions.

"We all used each other's strengths to accomplish the mission," she said. "There's definitely no way any one of us could have made it individually out of here without each other."

Graduating from the traditional OCS

Class Number 53 were:

Lisa M. Brand  
Matthew T. Broman  
David A. Budler  
Ryan M. Carlson  
David M. Easterday  
David C. Harper  
Joseph L. Howard  
Michael A. Kilgore  
Ryan M. Lemke  
Natasha M. Preston  
Cecilio T. Roman  
and Clark J. Splichal.

Earning awards were: Matthew Broman, who earned the Distinguished Honor Graduate award as well as the Physical Fitness Award; Benjamin Harper, who earned the Academic Excellence Award; David Harper, who earned the Leadership Excellence Award; Travis Wahlmeier, who also earned the Leadership Excellence Award.

Graduating from the 2010 Accelerated OCS Class were:

Benjamin C. Harper  
Bradley G. Johnson  
Matthew B. Rippenkroeger  
Joshua W. Stephens  
and Travis J. Wahlmeier.



Kuehn



Butler

## Camp Ashland adds two more to Hall of Fame

By Maj. Kevin Hynes

Editor

The Nebraska Regional Training Institute's Hall of Fame grew by two, Aug. 14, when two retired Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers became the 47th and 48th inductees into the prestigious institute.

Retired Brig. Gen. William F. Kuehn and retired Master Sgt. Billy R. Butler were honored during the Officer Candidate School and Warrant Officer Candidate School graduation ceremonies held at Camp Ashland's Memorial Hall.

The Nebraska RTI Hall of Fame was established to honor former staff members and/or graduates of the officer candidate program who have distinguished themselves in military or civilian pursuits. Individuals selected for induction must have contributed significantly to the overall development of the 209th Training Regiment (RTI) or the Nebraska National Guard Military Academy.

"It's good to be back," said Kuehn after being presented with his medal honoring him as a 2010 member of the Hall of Fame. Kuehn, who served as the assistant adjutant general for the Nebraska Army National Guard, spent numerous assignments at Camp Ashland including command of the 209th RTI.

"I don't think it's any secret of my love for the academy," said Kuehn. "I spent quite a few years up here. It's changed quite a bit over the years."

Along with serving as the assistant adjutant general for the Nebraska Army National Guard, Kuehn served in many different positions including platoon leader, section leader, brigade aide-de-camp, Teach-Assess-Counsel (TAC) officer, finance and accounting officer, director of Information Management and Nebraska Army National Guard chief of staff.

Kuehn was inducted "for his dedicated service, leadership and commitment to the 209th Regional Training Institute from July 1978 to January 1982, July 1993 to January 1996, and March 2000 to June 2002."

Along with serving in multiple leadership positions with the 209th RTI, Kuehn was credited with negotiating with National Guard Bureau to designate Nebraska as a full-time supply noncommissioned officer school, which resulted in the authorization and funding for full-time instructors, equipment, supplies and operational resources.

Kuehn credited his successes to the members of the 209th RTI. "I always thought over the last few years we were the best RTI in the nation and I still do," he said. "I want to thank the staff that I had over the years... what a great staff. Keep on doing what you do so well because you're the greatest."

Butler, who served in multiple roles at Camp Ashland, was inducted "for his dedicated service, leadership and commitment to the 209th Regional Training Institute from May 1990 to January 2008."

While assigned to the Nebraska National Guard Military Academy, Butler served with both the 1st and 2nd Battalions, where he was assigned as an instructor with the OCS program. He also served as the senior instructor/writer and training quality assurance operations sergeant.

During his tenure, 209th RTI officials said Butler was frequently requested by name to serve on the Phase I OCS staff at Salina, Kan., because of his expert knowledge and commitment. He was also named the Annual Training Instructor of the Year in Training Year 1996.

Butler said he was humbled. "I am one of the people who is known as a man of few words," he said.

"The two words 'thank you' truly seem too small, but I think that's all that needs to be said. Thank you to all of the people in this building, from the supporters to all the people who have served in any form. Thank you to the families. Each and every one of you play an important part."

## Three graduate from Warrant Officer Candidate School

By Maj. Kevin Hynes

Editor

The Nebraska National Guard graduated three Soldiers from its third in-state Warrant Officer Candidate School class, Aug. 14, at Camp Ashland.

Held in conjunction with the annual Officer Candidate School graduation ceremonies, Warrant Officer Candidates Heath Blackwell, Dustin Guenther and Jennifer Kramer each accepted their graduation diplomas from Brig. Gen. Judd Lyons, Nebraska adjutant general, and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Steve Weber, Nebraska state command chief warrant officer, while their families watched from a crowded Memorial Hall floor.

Two other warrant officer candidates from the Kansas Army National Guard also were members of Camp Ashland's Warrant Officer Class 10-001, but they attended graduation ceremonies in their home state.

Warrant Officer Candidate School is a five-month program during which Soldiers receive academic and field training designed to prepare them to become Army National Guard warrant officers. The training ended with a two-week annual training period at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

Speaking to the combined class of officer and warrant officer candidates, Brig. Gen. David Petersen, a Nebraska Army National Guard officer who is currently serving a tour as the assistant division commander of the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kan., gave the new officers several pieces of advice.

"Your life is really going to take a change," said Petersen. "We're really in a dynamic period. We've been at war for almost nine years in two theaters. I admire the fact that you've taken the time to get a commission."



Photo courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Kramer

**Over The Top:** A group of warrant officer candidates work together to negotiate over an obstacle during Warrant Officer School Phase III training at Camp Atterbury, Ind., in July. The training was part of a five-month program designed to prepare Soldiers to become warrant officers.

But getting that commission is only the first step, he added, while also crediting the Soldiers' families for supporting them in their pursuits. The Soldiers also need to understand that the lessons they learned at Camp Ashland need to be applied throughout their future careers.

"Surround yourself with smart people and delegate. It works," Petersen said in explaining his command philosophy. "Never compete with a sister unit... it just doesn't matter. Just work together. It's all about getting the work done."

"And then have fun," he added.

Following the graduation ceremony,

Blackwell said he and his fellow classmates were excited to complete this current step of their military careers.

"It feels amazing," said Blackwell, a current member of the Nebraska Army National Guard's Medical Detachment. "Just everything that our class went through, it made us a team of one."

Blackwell added that he feels he's gained some important lessons during his time at Camp Ashland. "I think just the different leadership styles that we were exposed to and also being rated by our peers. I think that is something that I will definitely take from this."



# Korean War set stage for Air Force-Air Guard relationship

■ Newly-created 173rd Fighter Squadron, supporting units, mobilized to train pilots for Korean War

By Richard Clark, PhD.  
State Command Historian

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Korean War (1950-1953) and an important milestone in the history of Nebraska's Air National Guard.

Established in 1947, the U.S. Air Force and the Air National Guard were only three years old when the Korean War broke out. Despite its youth, the Air Guard proved its ability to respond as an effective combat force and, as a result of the conflict, the U.S. Air Force and Air Guard established a working relationship that defined Air Force and Air Guard operations through the 20th century.

The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, when North Korean forces launched an invasion of South Korea and crossed the 38th parallel. The United Nations responded with a resolution condemning the actions of North Korea and authorizing a multi-nation task force to assist in the defense of South Korea.

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur mobilized U.S. Forces stationed in Japan to establish a defensive perimeter on the southeast corner of the Korean Peninsula around Pusan.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Air Force sent B-29s from Guam to begin the strategic bombing of industrial sites and enemy supply routes.

The Air Force's interdiction of enemy supplies and reinforcements directly contributed to MacArthur's success at Pusan.

In September, MacArthur led an ambitious amphibious assault at Inchon well behind North Korean lines and just south of the 38th Parallel. After establishing a beachhead at Inchon, United Nations forces pushed across the 38th Parallel and swept through Communist North Korea and moved within sight of the Chinese border at the Yalu River. Communist China, allies of the North Koreans, responded to the success of U.N. forces by launching a counter-invasion in late 1950 that pushed U.N. forces back across the original border at the 38th Parallel.

In the final and longest phase of the war, the frontlines stabilized near the original border until negotiations ended the conflict in 1953. On July 27, 1953, the United States, North Korea, and China signed an armistice agreement halting open conflict on the Korean Peninsula and reestablishing a border between the North and the South at the 38th Parallel.

Critics of the war pointed out that little had been achieved and that the new border was the same as the old.

Others pointed out that without the Unit-



Nebraska National Guard Historical Society photo

**On Patrol:** A Nebraska Air National pilot maneuvers his F-80C "Shooting Star" jet fighter over the rolling landscape sometime in the early 1950s. Nebraska Air Guardsmen turned in this aircraft to fly the World War II-era P-51 Mustang aircraft when they were mobilized to provide aerial training support for pilots heading overseas in support of the Korean War.

ed Nation's intervention, the North would have overwhelmed the South in 1950. They argued that the conflict was necessary to maintain the status quo.

Nebraska's major contribution to the war was to free regular Army and Air Force units from duty in the Continental United States to fight overseas. The only Nebraska Army unit mobilized for the Korean War was the 43rd Army Band.

Known as "The Fighting Forty-Third," the Fifth Army ordered the unit in to federal service on Oct. 15, 1950, for a term of 21 months. The band's mobilization station was Camp Carson, Colo., before deploying to the Alaska Territory. Stationed at Fort Richardson near Anchorage, The Fighting Forty-Third provided music for units and individuals on their way to Korea.

The Air Force showed a greater desire to mobilize the Air Guard than the regular Army showed for the Army Guard. Nebraska leaders received notice in late 1950 that almost

## Nebraska National Guard in the Korean War

**Nebraska Army National Guard**  
43rd Army Band

**Nebraska Air National Guard**  
173rd Fighter Squadron  
173rd Weather Station  
132nd Air Base Group, HHS  
132nd Communications Squadron  
132nd Air Police Squadron  
132nd Food Service Squadron  
132nd Installation Squadron

### Recommended readings:

Clay Blair, *The Forgotten War: America in Korea, 1950-1953* (1987);  
Charles Gross, *Prelude to the Total Force: The Air National Guard, 1943 - 1969* (1984).

all of the state's Air Guardsmen and equipment would mobilize for wartime duty.

In early March 1951 the first of Nebraska's Air Guard officers entered federal service with the 10th U.S. Air Force, and on April 1, the Air Force activated the remainder of the 173rd Fighter Squadron and supporting units.

In 1950 the Nebraska Air Guard was one of only four Air Guard units in the nation flying the state-of-the-art F-80C "Shooting Star" jet fighter.

As the 173rd mobilized, it received notification that it would revert to P-51s so that Nebraska's F-80Cs could be used to bring the three remaining National Guard Shooting Star squadrons to full strength. Flying World War II-era Mustangs, the Air Force assigned the 173rd to support the mission of the Strategic Air Command as long range bomber escorts.

On Jan. 1, 1952, the 173rd was reassigned to Tactical Air Command and the 132nd Fighter Bomber Wing and relocated to Alexandria, La.

(56 years later in 2008, the Nebraska National Guard would support operations in response to Hurricane Gustav.)

On Dec. 31, 1952, the Nebraska Air National Guard was released from federal service and returned to state service the following day.

Differing attitudes of the Army and Air Force towards National Guard forces was evident in the extent of mobilization of personnel and equipment. By the time the war ended in 1953, 34 percent of the nation's Army National Guard and 84 percent of the Air National Guard had mobilized in support of the war effort.

In Nebraska, the comparison was even greater. The regular Army mobilized approximately 29 Soldiers from Nebraska while the Air Force mobilized 479 Airmen.

Nebraska's Air Guardsmen proved themselves to be a valuable and competent reserve force. In addition, Air Guard units from other states established an impressive combat record including 39,530 combat sorties and more than 1,300 medals and citations.

The demonstrated ability of the Air National Guard during the Korean War defined the future of its relationship with the Air Force and its integral role as a reserve component of the Air Force.

After the war, the Air Force increased authorized troop strength of the Air Guard from 44,728 to 67,000. From 1953 to 1960, appropriations more than doubled from \$106 to \$223.44 million.

Long before the Total Force Policy of the U.S. Armed Force was set in place, the Air Force was determined to make the Air Guard an integral part of the branch's wartime planning.

## Joint Force Headquarters welcomes first Air Guard commander in September

By Tech. Sgt. Alex Salmon  
Assistant Editor

The Nebraska National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters welcomed its first Air National Guard commander during a change of command ceremony, Sept. 12.

Standing in front of distinguished guests, fellow Soldiers, Airmen, family and friends, Maj. Brenda Fujan assumed command from Maj. David Rasmussen.



Rasmussen

During the ceremony Brig. Gen. Roma Amundson, assistant adjutant general, thanked the families of both Rasmussen and Fujan for their support through the years. She also thanked Rasmussen for the time he spent as the commander.

"Major Rasmussen has done an exceptional job," said Amundson.

Amundson also expressed her confidence in Fujan and charged her with continuing to uphold the commitment to the core values of integrity, service before self and loyalty. "I know that you'll do a great

job and I thank you for your acceptance to command," said Amundson.

Fujan thanked her family for their support, the military leaders for their confidence in her and said she is prepared for the challenge.

"In many ways I feel like I've unknowingly been preparing myself for this joint command in the number positions I've held and the duties I've accomplished," said Fujan. "While jointness certainly isn't new to the Nebraska National Guard, I, along with the Joint Force Headquarters team, will do our best to execute your vision and move forward in the direction that you have given me guidance on."

Fujan began her military career when she enlisted in the Nebraska Air National Guard in February 1985. She was commissioned as a second lieutenant in May 1997 through the Academy of Military Science at Knoxville, Tenn., and was assigned as a personnel officer for the Headquarters, Nebraska Air National Guard in Lincoln, Neb.

During the course of her career,



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alex Salmon

**New Commander:** Maj. Brenda Fujan (right) accepts the colors for the Joint Force Headquarters-Nebraska from Brig. Gen. Roma Amundson.

Fujan has served in a variety of positions including personnel officer, State Partnership Program director/international affairs officer, deputy human resource officer and wing executive officer.

In Fujan's current full-time position as the State Partnership Program director, she plans, develops and executes the State Partnership Program and international relationships for the Nebraska National Guard, designed to strengthen U.S. alliances and

support U.S. strategic goals and objectives. Her primary international engagements, while serving in her current position, have been activities with the Czech Republic, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan.

In relinquishing command, Rasmussen said leaving was bittersweet. He thanked his family for their support and wished Fujan good luck. "The command has been great, we've accomplished a lot in the last year," said Rasmussen. "Major Fujan, good luck with your command."

Rasmussen began his military career after graduating from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln ROTC program and being commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force in 1984. He joined the Missouri Air National Guard in 2006 and worked as a plans officer in 157th Air Operations Center at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, Mo. In 2007 he joined the Nebraska Army National Guard where he has served as the Army Guard comptroller and most recently as the JFHQ commander.

Rasmussen currently serves as the full-time deputy financial man-

ager for the United States Property and Fiscal Office in Lincoln, Neb.

He resides in Lincoln, Neb., with his wife, Felicia and has two children: Sara, who is member of the Nebraska Air National Guard and James, who just became a member of the Nebraska Army National Guard.

As the first Air National Guard member to command JFHQ, Fujan challenged the unit to not just talk about working jointly, but to put it into practice.

"To the Soldiers and Airmen who make up Joint Forces Headquarters, it is now our time to lean forward and take the next steps in defining jointness," she said. "This is not for the purpose of being able to say we're joint for joint's sake, but to come together and integrate where we can and where it makes sense, while at the same time recognizing and respecting the uniqueness of each of the services which make up the Joint Forces Headquarters."

"Together we will figure out how to work smarter as one team. We have both the challenge and great opportunity to define and lay the foundation for how we're going to operate and what the Nebraska National Guard will look like in the future."



# Kids orner

## News & Features Affecting Nebraska's Military Children

### Kids build much more than robots during seminar

By Maj. Kevin Hynes

Editor

**B**uilding a robot from scratch is hard enough for any kid.

Building one out of Lego blocks with help from about a dozen kids between the ages of 4 and 12... well, that's a new challenge, all together.

Just ask Nathan Paisley.

The 10-year-old son of Lt. Col. Troy and Beth Paisley, Nathan recently had to accomplish just such a task when he attended the Nebraska National Guard Youth Symposium held Aug. 28 at the Hilton Hotel in Omaha, Neb.

"It's supposed to follow the track and if it runs into a wall, it will stop," said Paisley as he attempted to get the robot his group built from a Lego set to successfully negotiate its way around a cardboard trail.

Paisley, who teamed with Nik Ehler, 12, to lead the construction effort, said he quickly learned that it was hard to build the robot while also making sure that the other kids on his team were kept involved.

"We started building it... and then everybody just started helping in to build all the other pieces of it," said Paisley. "Then we all connected it together and we created the robot."

And what did he learn?

"It was easier because I had a lot of help from all my friends," said Paisley.

That's just the types of lessons that the Nebraska National Guard Family Program Office hoped to impart upon the military kids during the Youth Symposium, said Jessica Cooley, state youth coordinator.

"A lot of these youths have friends who really don't know what they're going through when their parent deploys," said Cooley. "Our goal is to give them a place where they can be around other military kids and open up with them and share some of the emotions that they're experiencing."



Photos by Maj. Kevin Hynes

**Fine Tuning:** Nik Ehler, 12, makes adjustments to the robot his group created during the Nebraska National Guard Youth Symposium held Aug. 28 at the Hilton Hotel in Omaha, Neb.

Cooley said approximately 40 military kids attended the Aug. 27-28 symposium, which was held in conjunction with the annual National Guard Family Program Office Wellness Conference. During the symposium, the kids had an opportunity to participate in a Wii video game competition, swimming, ice-breaker games and a visit the Henry Doorly Zoo.

Cooley said she was pleased with the results of the first symposium.

"Originally, we wanted to host a teen symposium, but we had to change it to a youth symposium open to military kids of all ages," she said. "I think we had a very good turn out considering it was our very first year."

"Hopefully as we go forward we will be able to also host a teen symposium to give our older military kids a chance to get together with others their own age, but overall we were very pleased with how the symposium went."

**Working Together:** A group of military kids work together to construct a robot out of Lego building blocks during the Nebraska National Guard Youth Symposium at the Hilton Hotel in Omaha, Neb. The project was one of several designed to get the military kids to begin communicating with each other.



## Nebraska BRIEFS

### ■Nebraska Guardsmen sought to help tell organization's story

The Nebraska National Guard Public Affairs Office is looking for National Guardsmen to help tell the organization's story during upcoming Veterans' Day activities as well as within state classrooms as part of the Nebraska Secretary of State's "Honor a Veteran" program.

Prospective speakers can be of any age or rank and must simply have a passion for the organization. In particular, the Nebraska National Guard Public Affairs Office is looking for speakers from both the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard who are willing to speak at venues across the state. A number of prepared speeches and presentations are available for use.

For more information, contact Maj. Kevin Hynes at (402) 309-7302 or kevin.hynes@us.army.mil or David Nore at (402) 309-7303 or david.nore@us.army.mil.

### ■Air base support office adjusts hours of operation

Effective Nov. 1, the Force Support Squadron (FSS) located at the Nebraska Air National Guard Base in Lincoln, Neb., will be changing its customer service hours.

Hours of operation will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday. Included in the customer service hours, the Identification Card Issue hours are 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

People with questions regarding their ID card, are asked to contact the customer service line during normal duty hours at (402) 309-1452.



### ■Nebraska Guard thanks O'Neill woman, Omaha business owners for support

The Nebraska National Guard offered its thanks to an O'Neill woman responsible for sending care packages to U.S. military members serving overseas and two Omaha business owners who recently donated \$3,550 to the project.

Col. Kevin Neumann, Nebraska Army National Guard chief of staff, presented plaques of appreciation to Beth Tielke, founder of Nebraska Troop Support, and Greg and Nancy Nolan, owners of several Sam and Louies Pizza Restaurant franchises in Omaha and Lincoln.

Nebraska Troop Support is a grass-roots group of individuals, businesses and organizations who have joined together to send care packages to military members.

## Defense Department official urges protection against identity theft

WASHINGTON (AFPS) – Defense Department officials are urging service members to be aware of identity theft and are providing ways for them to protect themselves, the director of DoD's personal finance office said.

Dave Julian said officials take the problem very seriously. "We equate it to service readiness," he said.

Service members dealing with financial issues, he explained, are less likely to be ready to fully perform their missions. Identity theft can cause financial stress, he added. Young service members who have grown up in the digital world sometimes take a casual approach to divulging information that can be useful to identity thieves, he added.

"Our force is part of the digital generation. Our force lives online," he said. "We see that they are very forthcoming with their personal information."

Additionally, he said, members of the military get a steady paycheck and companies want to show their patriotism by extending credit

to them. But that makes it easier for thieves to use service members' stolen identities and profit quickly.

To help service members protect against identity theft, DoD has joined with the Federal Trade Commission on its "Deter, Detect and Defend" campaign, Julian said. While the campaign is aimed at the general public, a brochure has been developed especially for the military.

One of the key suggestions for deploying service members is activating "an active-duty alert," which requires creditors to obtain specific permission from a service member or an official representative before extending credit. There is no charge for active-duty alerts, he noted, and they last for one year and can be extended.

Active-duty alerts can be activated by calling the toll-free fraud telephone number for one of the three nationwide consumer reporting companies. That company is required to notify the other two companies that a service member

has activated a duty alert.

Another option service members can use to protect themselves is putting a "freeze" on their credit report to restrict access to it. Once a freeze is in place, potential creditors and other third parties will not be able to get access to a credit report unless the freeze is lifted.

Credit-freeze laws vary from state to state. In some states, only identity-theft victims can freeze their credit. The cost of placing, temporarily lifting or removing a credit freeze also varies. Many states make credit freezes free for identity theft victims, but depending upon where they live, others may pay a fee of typically \$10 to each of the three credit-reporting agencies.

Since spouses left at home often handle deployed service members' finances, they should be aware of identity theft and how to protect against it, Julian said, so identity theft usually is covered in pre-deployment briefings that service members and their spouses are encouraged to attend.

Single deployed service members can be at a disadvantage, Julian acknowledged, because they need to watch out for identity theft themselves or have a trusted agent, such as a parent, keep track of their accounts.

But whether single or married, he said, service members who choose to watch their finances while they are deployed need to remember that common-use computers are dangerous things. It's important, he explained, to log off — completely back out — if they are monitoring their personal information on a common-use computer or in an Internet café.

Service members should request a copy of their credit report every year from each credit-reporting agency, Julian said. Since there are three credit-reporting agencies, he suggested requesting a different copy from a separate agency every four months.

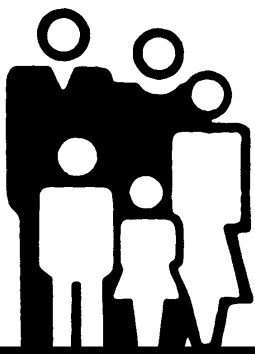
Identity theft affecting deployed service members is an ongoing problem, said Gary McAlum, senior

vice president for enterprise security for USAA, an insurance and financial services company. USAA has worked quickly to lock down the accounts of known victims and of service members whose information had been stolen but whose accounts had yet to be targeted, he said.

Identity thieves sometimes use "social engineering" to obtain information, McAlum said, using an "authoritative-voice" tactic to get someone to offer personal information over the telephone. The thief then uses the same tactic with creditors to get credit. A thief who doesn't have all of the information required by the creditor, he added, often will "sound dumb" to creditors to obtain the information.

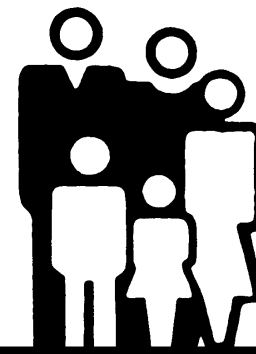
Deploying service members "are obviously not going to be as vigilant as they deploy, get ready to deploy or are coming home from a deployment, so it is important that they use online resources" to make sure everything is in order, said Mike Kelly, USAA spokesman.





# Guard Family NEWS

You Can Use



## Tackling challenges

### Guardsmen, families discuss ways to deal with stresses on organization during Omaha wellness conference

By Maj. Kevin Hynes  
Editor

Military family members and senior Nebraska National Guard organizational leaders came together in Omaha, Neb., Aug. 27-28, to discuss a variety of issues affecting the health of the Nebraska National Guard as part of the annual Family Program Office Wellness Conference and Youth Symposium.

The event, which was held at the downtown Hilton Hotel in Omaha, was designed to provide information to Nebraska Guardsmen and their families about various support programs offered.

Approximately 150 Guardsmen and family members from across the state attended the conference.

According to Brig. Gen. Judd Lyons, adjutant general for Nebraska, events such as the Wellness Conference are critical in helping Guardsmen and their families meet the on-going challenges of an operational force

while also helping maintain the health of the entire organization.

"This is really one team," said Lyons during his opening comments on Aug. 28, adding that it doesn't matter if a person is a uniform-wearing member of the National Guard, a member of an organizational volunteer group or simply a family member. "We have to approach this with a team effort."

Lyons said that Nebraska, like most other states, is facing challenging times as the Nebraska National Guard continues to be called on to serve in both overseas and domestic missions, putting additional stresses on an already tasked force.

"I think that we all recognize that these are going to be challenging times in front of us," he said.

And, in order to successfully meet those challenges, the organization must constantly find ways to ensure that Nebraska National Guardsmen and their families — many of whom serve in organization spread out across a wide state — receive the critical support that they need, he said.

And that's where events like the

annual wellness conference come into play.

"I see this as critical to getting at that tyranny of distance," Lyons said.

This year's Wellness Conference featured a number of different events including break-out sessions during which the attendees learned more about the services provided by the state's Chaplains' Corps, the Yellow Ribbon Program, the Peer-to-Peer Program and the Military Family Life Consultant Program.

The briefings covered a wide array of topic including information on the various stress-relief, financial budgeting, suicide prevention and counseling services available to members of the Nebraska National Guard and their families.

The event also included a youth seminar attended by 35 military kids and two dramatic readings by the Theater of War company.

For more information about this year's Family Program Wellness Conference and Youth Symposium, contact the Nebraska National Guard State Family Program Office at (402) 309-7341/7331.

### First lady endorses vets, spouses for jobs

WASHINGTON (AFPS) — First lady Michelle Obama asked leaders gathered for the annual meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative in New York City to consider veterans and military spouses among their talent pool for working on global projects, Sept. 23.

"This issue may seem too uniquely American in scope for such a global audience here," said Obama, who was introduced by her husband, President Barack Obama. "But right now, the human potential of America's veterans and military families is both vast, and woefully under-utilized, and that's not just an issue for those individuals, or for this country. It also significantly impacts what you and so many others are trying to achieve, not just here in America, but around the world."

Former President Bill Clinton started the non-profit organization in 2005 as a forum for philanthropists and others to solve global problems.

As first lady, Obama told the audience, she has made it her mission to meet with military families and elevate their issues. "I always come away from these visits not just with a sense of pride and gratitude, but with a sense of awe," she said.

Veterans have highly valuable, marketable skills, yet more than

150,000 recent veterans are struggling to find jobs, Obama said.

Military spouses, too, have strong job skills, Obama said. They use their many skills, she said, to multi-task between raising children, often alone while their military spouses are deployed, and conducting volunteer work, often in leadership roles, while also pursuing careers and education.

The problem, Obama said, is that veterans and military spouses have a hard time translating their skills into civilian needs and civilian employers don't know enough about the work they do.

"America's veterans and military spouses have years of experience and training doing precisely the kind of work that all of you are doing every day across the globe," she said.

Few employees would have the dedication and passion for service as former service members and their spouses, Obama told the audience.

"For these folks, service is the air they breathe. It's the reason they were put on this earth," she said. "Many of them don't just want to serve for a certain number of years, or deployments — they want to make their whole life a tour of duty."

### Lincoln Elks Lodge makes donation to Family Readiness

By Tech. Sgt. Alex Salmon  
Assistant Editor

The Nebraska National Guard's Family Readiness Program received a generous donation from the Lincoln Elks Lodge No. 80, July 21, at the Family Readiness Program's office in the 'Spirit of '76 Armory' in Lincoln, Neb.

Stephen Wirth, the social and community welfare chairman for the Lodge, presented Staff Sgt. Michelle Degarmo Shapland, a family program specialist, with a check for \$1,000 to assist families of Nebraska Guard members.

A recently retired member of the Nebraska National Guard, Wirth said the timing was right for the Elks to lend a hand.

"The Elks are very strong supporters of family program programs," said Wirth. "Now is the perfect time to get with the military and ask them, 'What do they need (and) how can we assist them?'"

According to Degarmo Shapland, the Family Readiness Program relies on donations from private entities to assist Guard families and donations like this are very important.

"It means a lot because the families come to us for help," said Degarmo Shapland. "But if organizations don't come to us, we have no way to help (families) in a lot of situations."

Degarmo Shapland added that any donations can be allocated to specific programs and the Elks asked to donate to the emergency relief fund that aids families in financial crisis.

Wirth said the Elks simply want to take care of those that defend the country.

"We're happy to do this," he said. "We believe in the American flag — in the military."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alex Salmon

**For The Families:** Stephen Wirth, social and community welfare chairman for Lincoln Elks Lodge 80, presents a check for \$1,000 to Staff Sgt. Michelle Degarmo Shapland from the Nebraska National Guard Family Program Office, July 21. The check was donated to assist family members of Nebraska National Guardsmen.

### Hundreds take advantage of commissary's 'off-site sale' in Kearney

By Maj. Kevin Hynes  
Editor

National Guard armories can be busy places at the end of annual training, but even the most experienced Soldiers had to admit that the scene that unfolded at the Armed Forces Reserve Center at Kearney, Aug. 13-14, was more than just a little bit crazy.

From the overloaded armory parking lots, to the line of people stretching down the front sidewalk, to the armory floor that was overloaded with such things as cases of cereal, laundry detergents, dog food and fruit juices, this was definitely a couple of out of the ordinary days.

But that's what happens when a distant Air Force Base commissary brings its benefits to National Guard and Reserve families living in central Nebraska.

According to Kathy Beatty, store director of the F.E. Warren Air Force Base Commissary, this marked the first time that the eastern Wyoming air base commissary held an off-site sale in Kearney. It probably won't be the last, though.

"This is the biggest one that we've had because this is the biggest facility that we've brought it to," said Beatty as she stood on the Kearney drill floor sur-



Photos by Maj. Kevin Hynes

**Long And Winding Trail:** Dozens of Nebraska National Guardsmen, family members and retired military members weave through a long line of merchandise at the Kearney Armed Forces Reserve Center, Aug. 13.



**Helping Out:** Thomas Lowe stocks bottles of Juicy Juice during the Kearney off-site sale. Lowe was working on his community service project.

rounded by a long line of Guard and Reserve families who weaved in and around huge stacks of commissary products.

Beatty said the amount of families that showed up to take advantage of the sale showed her that there was definitely interest in the benefits that military members can receive through the commissary

system.

"They value their benefit and I think it's successful," she said. "I brought five truck loads of product and I'll bet that I only go home with one."

This was actually the sixth commissary off-site sale held in Nebraska, following similar sales in Scottsbluff, North Platte and Columbus. Beatty said the goal of the effort is to bring the benefits of a commissary to Guard and Reserve families who live far from a military base or installation.

"It's a way for the commissary to bring the benefits to the deserving men and women of the Guard and Reserve," she said. "You guys do a lot for us."

The results definitely tell the success of the program. According to statistics provided by Beatty following the sale, a total of 420 customers shopped in Kearney during the two-day sale, purchasing a total of \$131,549.71 of products.



# Garrison Leadership

What is it and why does the Nebraska Army National Guard need it now more than ever?

**W**hat is garrison leadership and do we need it in the Nebraska Army National Guard?

Garrison leadership is the art of knowing the Soldiers. It's having the skill to identify Soldiers at risk and the willingness to engage with the Soldiers and their families.

Garrison leadership on a practical level means that leaders strive to emphasize professional development, discipline and good order, provide social support to Soldiers and families, and work to ensure Soldier and family well-being.

The Nebraska Army National Guard requires garrison leadership because we know that Soldiers and their families are at risk in the Nebraska Army National Guard, whether they have deployed or not, and we have a responsibility to them.

A difference exists between field commands and garrison organizations. Field commands are typically those who deal with combat formations and the demands of preparing units and Soldiers for deployment. They're often focused exclusively on combat skills, technical and tactical training, reset, readiness cycles, meeting Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) requirements, combat life-saving skills, and pre-deployment preparation.

And that's good – we want our Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers to be well-

prepared for deployment into a dangerous setting.

However, if we think about it, maybe we've concentrated on deployment preparation and moved away from garrison leadership. What is often lost in preparing field command units and Soldiers for deployment and meeting all those combat training requirements is the garrison leadership's emphasis on "institutional readiness".

Institutional readiness refers to Soldier and Family wellbeing, unit good order and discipline, completion of professional military education, adherence to regulations concerning physical fitness and military bearing, risk reduction relating to substance abuse and other dangerous activities. It also includes expectations for attendance and work performance.

Face it, Soldiers spend more time in a garrison than in a combat theater setting. So, according to senior military leaders, garrison leadership is equally and possibly more important to Soldiers and their families than is field command leadership, especially when one sees the problems that many Soldiers experience as they transition from theater to garrison.

Findings supported by statistics reveal that military leaders and commanders have

## Another Voice

By Brig. Gen. Roma Amundson  
Assistant Adjutant General-Army

gotten into such a mode of field command that the responsibilities of garrison leadership are forgotten...responsibilities relating to the well-

fare of Soldiers and their families, discipline, training, and mentoring to develop leadership skills.

A recent Senior Review Group identified themes and trends within the Army and concluded that "Soldiers fall through the cracks as they transition."

Falling through the cracks means that leaders fail to identify the needs of Soldiers at vulnerable periods of time and do not address them. Vulnerable periods of time occur at deployment and redeployment, reintegration, reassignment to different units, changes in responsibilities, and separation from family because of professional military education requirements, changes in civilian job, relationship problems, and financial stresses.

"That's impossible," you say. "How can a leader possibly identify vulnerable Soldiers with all these different issues?"

The first principle of garrison leadership is "Leaders, know your Soldiers!" Understand that "knowing your Soldiers" is an important responsibility of garrison leadership. That doesn't mean being "buddy-buddy" with everyone; that's impossible. But it does

mean that the leaders – whether officer or noncommissioned officer, platoon or section leaders – must *take the time* to connect with the Soldiers to learn of their well-being.

That means that leaders need to "be out and about" in their units.

This can be very simple. Maybe it's only for 15 minutes at the end of a drill and before final formation, but leaders need to take the time. Maybe it's meeting people at the door as they arrive for drill and then when they leave, thanking them for attending drill.

Leaders need to get "eyes on eyes," do "walk-about" through the units, engage with Soldiers one-on-one if possible, even if for a short time, show appreciation for their work and attendance at drill, and ask about their families.

Leaders should demonstrate a balanced lifestyle. They should emphasize comprehensive Soldier fitness by having a personal commitment to mental, physical, spiritual, social and family wellness.

How can leaders do this and still get all their other responsibilities completed? They just have to make such practices a priority in their leadership style; that's part of their job – to know their Soldiers and to prevent any from "falling through the cracks."

Remember, the leadership rank you wear puts the responsibility of "knowing your Soldiers and caring for them" squarely on you.

## Person's health depends on maintaining healthy sleeping

**S**leep affects our physical and mental health. It is one of the most restorative processes that occur in our bodies.

Studies have shown that during the hours of sleep our brains do somewhat of a reset. It is during sleep that our brains store memories from short-term to long-term, consolidate new knowledge and processes the events of the previous day.

Once a person begins to have sleep disturbances it can be difficult to restore normal sleep habits, but here are a few easy steps to get started:

- Maintain a regular bedtime and awakening time schedule including weekends. Get up about the same time every day, regardless of what time you fell asleep. It may be tempting to sleep in if you get in late or to take a nap the next day to catch up on sleep. A few late nights in a row followed by several days of napping or other methods of "catching up" can lead to an interrupted sleep cycle that can then cause trouble with normal sleeping hours.

Our bodies respond best to predictability, so if you are able to fight through the initial sleepiness, it is best to get to bed a little earlier than to nap or to sleep longer in the morning.

- Establish a regular, relaxing bedtime routine. This may include a warm shower, reading a relaxing book, turning the lights down, and/or listening to relaxing music. Try to stay away from books that involve a lot of action or difficult content as this may lead to you staying up later.

Each person is different so find what works for you.

- Find the optimum sleep environment. This includes temperature, lighting and comfortable bedding.

- Use your bedroom only for sleep and sex. Keep work materials, computers and TVs in another room.

- Finish eating at least two to three hours prior to your regular bedtime.

- Avoid caffeine within six hours; alcohol and smoking within six hours of bedtime.

The belief that a drink before bed will help sleep is a myth. Alcohol consumption can induce sleep disorders by disrupting the sequence and duration of sleep states and by altering total sleep time as well as the time required to fall asleep.

Studies show that a moderate dose of alcohol consumed as much as six hours before bedtime can increase wakefulness during the second half of sleep, which is often the time that the brain is conducting the most restorative process during sleep hours. By the time this effect occurs, the dose of alcohol consumed earlier has already been eliminated from the body, suggesting a relatively long-lasting change in the body's mechanisms of sleep regulation.

Caffeine can be equally troublesome as it can affect the normal sleep cycle. One might drink caffeine throughout the day to stay alert and awake, but overdoing it can lead to an inability to fall asleep later. Thus one will

## Healthy Coping

By Viola Raschke  
Director of Psychological Health  
Nebraska National Guard

wake up tired again reaching for caffeine to wake up perpetuating the cycle.

Studies have shown it is best to limit caffeine as much as possible throughout the day. If you are sleepy try to fight through. It may improve your sleep later. Again, if you avoid the nap and caffeine you can always go to bed a little earlier to ensure that you get enough sleep to leave you feeling rested the next day. Eventually you may not need the caffeine.

- Exercise regularly; finish a few hours before bedtime. For some, even a few hours before bedtime may be too close. It may be necessary to exercise earlier in the day.

- Avoid naps. This may cause difficulty in falling asleep later.

- Go to bed only when sleepy. Lay in bed only for sleeping, not for work or watching TV. If you are in bed and are not sleepy find a relaxing activity like reading a book related to relaxation or use breathing techniques that will help you relax.

If you find yourself lying in bed thinking, keep a journal by your bed and write down thoughts worries, etc. Set the journal aside and address issues in the morning. This is equally acceptable if you wake up in the middle of the night. Write down your concerns, set them aside and attempt to go back to sleep.

You may need to again practice breathing techniques. Even if you are not sleeping, lying in bed practicing breathing techniques can be restorative and resting itself. Remember, if you do not get a good night's sleep continue with the sleep hygiene steps discussed.

Still get up at your regularly scheduled time, no matter how tired you are. As your body adjusts you will begin to have better sleep. It will help you get to bed earlier and/or help you sleep better later.

Also, everyone needs a different amount of sleep. Depending on your activity level throughout the day and your stress level, you will need more and at times, less sleep.

Go to bed when you are tired and get up in the morning when you wake up. (Even if it's before your alarm).

Again, sleeping or trying to sleep in during the morning can lead to a restless night of sleep the next evening.

Following these steps will enable you to reset your sleep cycle leading to better sleep onset and more restorative sleep hours. If you have ongoing problems with sleep after one week of trying these steps or have problems with nightmares, or disturbing sleep contact a professional. Your doctor or a behavioral health professional can further assess your sleep concerns and help find solutions.

## Government owned vehicle safety: A leader's priority

**M**ission accomplishment and safety are always a delicate balancing act for leaders to manage.

Government owned vehicle (GOV) vehicle safety is a prime example of how a leader's proactive involvement pays huge dividends with both the welfare of their personnel and "getting the job done."

Many aspects of GOV vehicle safety mirror privately owned vehicle (POV) safety policies, but with GOV vehicles being used only for approved government travel, leaders should have an even greater situational awareness and positive influence on their use.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) lists the top six root causes of motor vehicle accidents: distracted drivers, driver fatigue, drunk driving, speeding, aggressive driving and weather.

Distracted driving may take many forms, but drivers are increasingly distracted by the use of cell phones. Cell phone usage, primarily texting or e-mailing while driving, has been the fastest growing category of driver distractions according to the NHTSA.

This leading cause of government vehicle accidents prompted an executive order by President Barack Obama in October 2009 which forbids all federal employees from text messaging while driving a GOV, driving a POV while on official government business, or when using electronic equipment supplied by the government while driving any vehicle.

Leader emphasis on driver safety must be unrelenting. Command emphasis, with consistent follow-through, is the foundation of GOV safety success.

Leaders must know their Soldiers, their training and experience levels, and have situational awareness of the missions requiring GOV use.

Initial counseling and frequent leader checks help ensure drivers meet safety requirements. Safety briefings to units and individuals help to maintain the importance of safety while using GOV's.

Many of the GSA vehicles that are in use by the National Guard are now equipped with GPS systems, which allow leaders to have a digital record of all GSA (General Services Administration) usage.

The software for these systems is also customizable, enabling leaders to receive e-mail notification if drivers are speeding or appear to be using the vehicles for non-

## Safety Talk

By Maj. Richard Jones  
Executive Officer, Nebraska Army  
National Guard Recruiting and  
Retention Command

mission purposes.

While this technology is an incredible asset for leaders, it should never replace the need for them to know their Soldiers and know the situation.

Leaders must set unmistakable standards and enforce driver discipline. Care and upkeep of a GOV are core indicators of GOV discipline. Effective key control and usage documentation are effective leadership tools and should be a part of their internal controls to prevent both unsafe acts and fraudulent use.

Effective discipline will also help negate GOV drivers from projecting a negative image of the National Guard while they travel.

An effective composite risk management system should be used to assist leaders to implement controls and supervise execution.

Dangers such as fatigue and inclement weather may increase risk enough to warrant a leader to provide alternatives such as adding a second driver or providing funds for overnight rest.

Safety training should find time on every unit's training calendar. All individual drivers should complete the online Accident Avoidance Course.

Soldiers returning from combat theater tours may also receive additional driver safety training. Leaders have many safety training courses available, including the Additional Duty Safety Course (ADSC) and the Commander's Safety Course (CSC).

For information on these training courses, and many more additional safety resources, contact the State Safety Office or visit the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center's web site at [www.safety.army.mil](http://www.safety.army.mil).

The single most important way leaders may stress GOV safety in their units is to set the example. Leaders may be some of the more frequent violators of texting or emailing while driving, as well as operating GOV's while fatigued.

Setting the example with GOV safety is not only good for your unit, it may also allow you to arrive home safely as well.

*Leaders must set unmistakable standards and enforce driver discipline. Care and upkeep of a GOV are core indicators of GOV discipline. Effective key control and usage documentation are effective leadership tools and should be a part of their internal controls to prevent both unsafe acts and fraudulent use.*



# Street Talk

“As a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, what are your thoughts as Operation Iraqi Freedom ends and Operation New Dawn begins?”



**Capt. James Otte**  
155th Civil Engineering Squadron

*“We train, train, train. It was time to do our job. (I’m) proud to have gone out and have the opportunity to do it.”*

**Staff Sgt. Jason Willits**  
195th Forward Support Company  
(Airborne)

*“My deployment was from 2004-05. So watching (General) Petraeus bring in the troops and seal off the doors, I thought it was a great way to end things.... we’ll just have to watch and see how Operation New Dawn evolves.”*



**Staff Sgt. Mark Baden**  
155th Security Forces Squadron  
*“We were joint efforts as far as Security Forces. It was great to work with different states and working as one team for one mission. We went in there for installation security, there were no incidents, everyone came back... Mission accomplished.”*

**Capt. Rebecca Mockelman**  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-376th Aviation  
*“How I will remember my service there is that I was supporting other service members who were there doing their jobs and supporting the people of Iraq.”*



**Staff Sgt. Christine Braun**  
402nd Military Police Battalion  
*“I feel that it’s not necessarily over. It’s just going to progress toward the greater change that we’ve helped put forth. Hopefully it continues on that greater path upward.”*

**Capt. Dan Preister**  
92nd Troop Command  
*“I’m glad to see that the mission has turned to that end-state, see some good after nine years of combat and a small contingent being put in place to maintain peace.”*



## Enduring Priorities

# ‘Can’t Never Did Anything’

Shortly after assuming the position as Adjutant General approximately fourteen months ago, I established the “TAG FY10 Priorities.”

■ **We Can** provide the best possible support to our Military Department members, family and employers;

■ **We Can** remain relevant and ready to respond;

■ **We Can** make the Nebraska National Guard the service of choice.

Since that time – and after some reflection – I realized that these priorities are, in fact, not tied to a particular year. I believe, and ask you to consider, that these are really three *enduring* priorities that support our shared vision to be “An organization of excellence postured to deliver capabilities needed by our state and nation.”

One of the most important roles of a leader is communicate his or her vision and priorities at every opportunity possible. Below are some ways to focus on each priority:

■ **We Can** provide the best possible support to our Military Department members, family and employers;

Keep families informed before, during and after deployment (open houses, ESGR bosslifts, Guard for a

## The Adjutant General

Brigadier General

Judd Lyons



training, Suicide Prevention and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) awareness training.

Maintain readiness for state missions (Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)); Chemical, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explo-

Day, town hall meetings, etc.)

Educate families on support programs available before, during and after deployment. (Commanders must be actively involved in partnerships with their unit Family Readiness Groups and the State Family Program Office.)

Balance training with needs of families and employers.

■ **We Can** remain relevant and ready to respond;

Seek relevant missions, force structure and training facilities that support federal and state missions by seeking to:

Gain authority for a Nebraska Army National Guard endstrength ceiling of 3,900 Soldiers;

Sustain or exceed authorized strength in the Nebraska Air National Guard.

Prepare Soldiers and Airmen for the Global War on Terrorism through pre-mobilization/pre-deployment training. Throughout the deployment cycle sustain Yellow Ribbon activities, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)

Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP); Civil Support Team (CST); Quick Reaction Force (QRF); Defense Support to Civilian Authorities (DSCA); and CBRNE Consequence Management Response Force (CCMRF).

Continue progress with the Nebraska National Guard-Afghanistan bi-lateral relationship.

■ **We Can** make the Nebraska National Guard the service of choice.

Deploy our story into the local communities with our main effort focused on schools.

Focus on service over incentives. Quality Boots Initiative.

These are my three enduring priorities and some amplifying thoughts on what they mean for the Nebraska Military Department.

We can work together to meet the challenges ahead, accomplish our missions and support each other, our families and employers.

I am honored to serve as your Adjutant General.

## Summer’s bosslifts offer chance to look at Nebraska Guard from different view

Being a member of the military service means a lot of different things to a lot of different people.

It’s about pride. It’s about hard work. It’s about doing the hard jobs that others won’t or can’t do. It’s about being part of a continuous line of committed citizens, stretching back to before the United States was even an idea, who are dedicated to protecting their families, homes, communities and nation.

It’s about living out the ideals of “service before self.”

Those are all pretty simple concepts, but they’re also concepts that people who wear the uniform understand.

Still, have you ever stopped to look at yourself from the eyes of someone who doesn’t wear the uniform, who doesn’t understand what it’s like to be a member of the military or who doesn’t understand all the work that people are required to do to be members of the profession of arms?

It’s a pretty interesting phenomenon.

This past summer, the Nebraska National Guard conducted numerous efforts to educate National Guard employers and local civic leaders about the training that Guardsmen do when away from home and civilian jobs.

It’s an important effort designed to provide key leaders, most of whom have had little or no exposure to military service, with information about the work that Guard Soldiers and Airmen are doing and the preparations they are making in support of state and national commitments.

Bosslifts such as these aren’t a new concept by any stretch of the imagination.

Still, this past summer marked probably the largest effort the state’s Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) has made in recent memory.

## My Turn

Editor, Prairie Soldier

Kevin J. Hynes



that Soldiers from the 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade and 1-134th Cavalry Squadron (Reconnaissance and Surveillance) had at their disposal to create the best training experience possible.

But they were equally impressed at the types of

equipment the Soldiers were using, the types of training they were conducting and the living conditions they were living in. Most importantly, though, one after another spoke with admiration about the positive and professional attitudes of everyone they met.

The same thing happened again during a visit to the Greenleaf Training Site near Hastings, Neb., where a group of bosses and civic leaders had a chance to spend a day with the Kearney-based 734th Transportation Battalion as it conducted annual training.

Again, the bosses spoke with admiration as they watched and participated in some of the training, as they learned about the various types of simulator equipment that Soldiers have as their disposal, as they sampled the venerable Meals, Ready to Eat, as they met and got to know some of the Soldiers within the Nebraska Army National Guard.

And this admiration wasn’t just aimed at members of the Nebraska Army Guard. Bosses and civic leaders also expressed immense admiration and amazement at the work that members of the Nebraska Air National Guard do, particularly those flying aboard KC-135R Stratotankers that were providing critical air refueling support.

You know, the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard are special organizations made up of even more special and amazing Soldiers and Airmen. They’re doing extraordinary work and making real, concrete contributions to our state and the United States.

Sometimes, though, it takes looking at the organization through the eyes of someone else to really understand that.



## PROMOTIONS

### Army National Guard

#### Lieutenant Colonel

Brent D. Flachsbart  
Peter W. Hunt

#### Major

David K. Cooper

#### Captain

Christian C. Kilpatrick  
Joseph W. Neumann

#### First Lieutenant

Paul D. Langford  
John S. McNally

#### Chief Warrant Officer Four

James B. Schultheiss

#### Chief Warrant Officer Three

Brian L. Anderson  
Gena L. Hegemann

#### Chief Warrant Officer Two

Jeffrey M. Geiger  
Nick J. Gruber  
Jamie L. Hanway  
Gabriel H. Kelly  
Brad C. Lamay  
Waylon J. Petsche

#### Sergeant Major

Scott D. Bates

#### Sergeant First Class

Shawn W. Banzhaf

#### Staff Sergeant

Kyla M. Boersma  
Craig M. Cooper  
Amanda J. Engen  
Shane O. Fernau  
Micah S. Kallio

#### Sergeant

Gabriel C. Conrad  
Amber E. Delancey  
Ryan J. Fischer  
David J. Koenig  
Caleb G. Morehead  
Brandon L. Pracht  
Nicholas J. Ralston  
Brian D. Sloan  
Zachary J. Sperling  
Kyle A. Sperry  
Benjamin G. Trettheway  
Daniel J. Vrtiska

#### Specialist

Georgia G. Allen

Savannah R. Allen  
Daniel G. Anderson  
Jared L. Baker  
Spencer K. Bartlett  
Chip N. Bartos  
Jesse L. Beaudette  
Michael J. Block  
Ezekiel H. Bowen  
Justin N. Budd  
Morgan B. Collins  
Colton J. Courter  
Aaron D. DeBartolo  
Benjamin D. Erickson  
Caroline E. Gies  
Nathan R. Graber  
Debra E. Hansel  
Brock T.L. Hemphill  
Alex J. Herstedt  
Jonathon M. Higby  
Devi A.M. Hill  
Jesse M. Jarosz  
Andrew S. Jedlicka  
Jadin B. Keller  
Eric A. Kosmicki  
Sebastian T. Kramer  
Hannah L. Leak  
Benjamin W. Lyons  
Brady K. Marksmeier  
Brody J. Mayberry  
Elizabeth I. Nielsen  
Maxwell Q. Nyce  
Katie M. O'Brien  
Joseph E. Prichard  
Richard J. Pryce  
Nicholas J. Schwanke  
Lemuel R. Sheard III  
Shane M.V. Shockey  
Coby R. Smith  
Jared A. Strong  
Andrew J. Uhlenkamp  
Brandon J. Wright

#### Private First Class

Travis J. Bischoff  
Tiffany B. Brown  
Kodi J. Classen  
Amanda M. Deeds  
Wayne M. Durham Jr.

#### Private Two

Eric A. Kosmicki  
Sebastian T. Kramer  
Hannah L. Leak  
Benjamin W. Lyons  
Brady K. Marksmeier  
Brody J. Mayberry  
Elizabeth I. Nielsen  
Maxwell Q. Nyce  
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Brandon J. Wright

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Lemuel R. Sheard III  
Shane M.V. Shockey  
Coby R. Smith  
Jared A. Strong  
Andrew J. Uhlenkamp  
Brandon J. Wright

#### Major

Harley R. Barmore  
Jeffrey S. Towne

#### Technical Sergeant

Kenneth G. Brown  
Kasey L. Korth

#### Staff Sergeant

Donovan A. Garcia  
Lisa Gomez  
Melissa M. Kammin

#### Senior Airman

Eva Dean

Miles R.L. Garrard  
Dustin D. Hamilton  
Robert C. Hayduk  
William D. Henske  
Blake E. Hoch  
Tyler J. Holton  
Patrick J. Kelly  
Amber L. Kloss  
Amanda C. Loomis  
Isvi S. Machuca  
Christopher M. Marshall  
Ryan M. Mueller  
Nicholas L. Munger  
Sheri A. Pence  
Kaleb L. Puffer  
Michael D. Rager Jr.  
Javier Saldana  
Travis P. Schenck  
Tyler J. Shreve  
Chase B. Sund  
Christopher M. Telecky

#### Private Two

Gage A. Brummer  
Robin Y. Bruscato  
Dillon E. Lupton  
Clayton K. Shaw

#### Private

Eric A. Kosmicki  
Sebastian T. Kramer  
Hannah L. Leak  
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Brody J. Mayberry  
Elizabeth I. Nielsen  
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Kasey L. Korth

#### Staff Sergeant

Donovan A. Garcia  
Lisa Gomez  
Melissa M. Kammin

#### Senior Airman

Eva Dean

## AWARDS

### Army National Guard

#### Bronze Star

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Blake S. Bivona  
1st Sgt. Robert C. West  
Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery A. Holbrook

#### Meritorious Service Medal

Col. Daniel C. Danaher  
Col. Bryan L. Saucerman  
Lt. Col. Matthew E. Kelly  
Maj. John P. Calabro  
Maj. Rickey E. Smith  
Capt. Marc D. Anderson  
Command Sgt. Maj. Robert C. Keck  
Command Sgt. Maj. Philip G. Perrone  
1st Sgt. Kevin D. Petersen  
1st Sgt. Scot M. Schneider  
1st Sgt. Brian E. Zucchelli  
Master Sgt. Jeremy J. Preister  
Sgt. 1st Class Marvin R. Campbell  
Sgt. 1st Class Ronald A. Davey  
Sgt. 1st Class John D. Flint  
Sgt. 1st Class Martin R. Misener  
Staff Sgt. Andrew T. Stratton

#### Army Commendation Medal

Lt. Col. Eric J. Teegerstrom  
Maj. James L. Williams III  
Command Sgt. Maj. John J. Payer  
Sgt. 1st Class Byron J. Davis  
Sgt. 1st Class James L. Gross  
Sgt. 1st Class Matt A. Talbert  
Staff Sgt. Chadd R. Ohlman  
Staff Sgt. Nathan J. Reicks  
Staff Sgt. Dustin E. Schlote  
Staff Sgt. Tonya S. Schwanke  
Staff Sgt. Andrew M. Siemek  
Staff Sgt. Matthew D. Simms  
Staff Sgt. Seth M. Wiesen  
Staff Sgt. Brandon S. Yetter  
Sgt. Jeremy M. Brill  
Sgt. Jason W. Delancey  
Sgt. Tyler B. Hayes  
Sgt. Daniel W. Pierce  
Sgt. Michael T. Rimpley  
Sgt. Denier Y. Rivera  
Sgt. Jared M. Schack  
Sgt. Jared J. Schmoker

#### Army Achievement Medal

Capt. Christopher J. Pelchat  
Sgt. 1st Class John D. Bates  
Sgt. 1st Class Jared J. Logan  
Sgt. 1st Class Roberto R. Vega  
Staff Sgt. Lillie D. Chambers  
Staff Sgt. Karl E. Girard  
Staff Sgt. Sam D. Lanka  
Staff Sgt. Douglas L. Ringer  
Staff Sgt. Everett L. Watkins  
Sgt. Michael J. Bradley  
Sgt. John A. Hensch  
Sgt. Jess A. Myers  
Sgt. Cory J. Doty  
Sgt. Benjamin G. Helmink  
Sgt. Alexander F. King  
Sgt. Brian J. Kirby  
Sgt. Jamason D. Shed  
Sgt. Brian D. Sloan  
Sgt. Chelsea R. Steinhauser  
Sgt. Scott E. Upchurch  
Cpl. Jessica A. Villwok  
Pfc. Benjamin J. Dally  
Pfc. Jesse D. Jarosz  
Pfc. Jeremiah J. Johnson  
Pfc. Kayla R. Johnson  
Pvt. Austin M. Harlow

#### Air National Guard

Master Sgt. Donald C. Birkentall

Sgt. Steven T. Sieck  
Sgt. Cody M. Splattstoesser  
Sgt. James A. Teel  
Sgt. Todd B. Walton  
Sgt. Brian P. Wemhoff  
Sgt. Jody M. Worm  
Sgt. Jeremiah J. Zwiener  
Spc. Amber L. Ammon  
Spc. Michael A. Frakes  
Spc. Miguel J. Gonzales  
Spc. Dustin P. Helmuth  
Spc. Rianna L. Person  
Spc. Brandon M. Reichert  
Spc. Christopher L. Reichert  
Spc. Allen R. Root  
Spc. Ellen M. Ross  
Spc. Julio A. Salgado  
Spc. Nicholas E. Schmit  
Spc. Norrissa N. Shuck  
Spc. Timothy A. Smallcomb  
Spc. David J. Supanckick  
Spc. Daniel J. Tenorio  
Spc. Daniel J. Thompson  
Spc. Levi S. Urbom  
Spc. Seth A. Weyeneth  
Spc. Derek R. Winkler  
Spc. Lathan R. Woollen  
Pfc. Derrick E. Thye  
Pfc. Alec M. Zackery

#### Army Achievement Medal

Capt. Christopher J. Pelchat  
Sgt. 1st Class John D. Bates  
Sgt. 1st Class Jared J. Logan  
Sgt. 1st Class Roberto R. Vega  
Staff Sgt. Lillie D. Chambers  
Staff Sgt. Karl E. Girard  
Staff Sgt. Sam D. Lanka  
Staff Sgt. Douglas L. Ringer  
Staff Sgt. Everett L. Watkins  
Sgt. Michael J. Bradley  
Sgt. John A. Hensch  
Sgt. Jess A. Myers  
Sgt. Cory J. Doty  
Sgt. Benjamin G. Helmink  
Sgt. Alexander F. King  
Sgt. Brian J. Kirby  
Sgt. Jamason D. Shed  
Sgt. Brian D. Sloan  
Sgt. Chelsea R. Steinhauser  
Sgt. Scott E. Upchurch  
Cpl. Jessica A. Villwok  
Pfc. Benjamin J. Dally  
Pfc. Jesse D. Jarosz  
Pfc. Jeremiah J. Johnson  
Pfc. Kayla R. Johnson  
Pvt. Austin M. Harlow

Pvt. Gabriel A. Meister  
Pvt. Jessica F. Phillips  
Pvt. Dustin D. Hamilton

#### Military Outstanding

Volunteer Service Medal  
Sgt. 1st Class Shawn M. Burton

#### Nebraska National Guard

Legion of Merit  
Sgt. Maj. Michael K. Stoltenberg  
Master Sgt. Robert W. Harpst

#### Nebraska National Guard

Meritorious Service Medal  
Master Sgt. Clark D. Bednar

#### Nebraska National Guard

Commendation Medal  
Sgt. Nathanael J. Rutter

#### Nebraska National Guard

Individual Achievement Medal  
Capt. Thad D. Nelson  
CDT Brandon M. Meyer  
Staff Sgt. Brian W. Anderson  
Sgt. Octavio Baeza  
Sgt. Timothy A. Cusatis  
Sgt. Terrence M. Dow  
Sgt. Thomas S. Harding  
Sgt. Shane D. Harsh  
Sgt. Leslie F. Lautenschlager  
Spc. Ashley N. Baeza  
Spc. Michael R. Britton  
Spc. Chip M. Hartman  
Spc. Robert J. Jones  
Spc. Nathan R. McMullin  
Spc. Ryan A. Yarnell

#### Air National Guard

Air Medal  
Lt. Col. Alessandra A. Bruzzano  
Maj. Benjamin M. West

#### Aerial Achievement Medal

Maj. Andrew J. Malousek

#### Air Force Commendation Medal

Capt. Matthew N. Vancleave  
Master Sgt. James M. Restau  
Tech. Sgt. Corrian J. Bartels

#### Air Force Achievement Medal

Tech. Sgt. Sharon A. Okra-Goll  
Senior Airman Miles A. Bliss  
Senior Airman Kyle J. Eddy

## RETIREMENTS

### Army National Guard

Maj. John P. Calabro  
Maj. Charles W. Underhill  
Capt. Marc D. Anderson  
1st Sgt. Cory W. Barker  
1st Sgt. Kevin D. Petersen  
1st Sgt. Scot M. Schneider

Master Sgt. Clark D. Bednar  
Master Sgt. Robert W. Harpst  
Sgt. 1st Class Patrick H. Closson  
Sgt. 1st Class Bradley T. Lechner  
Sgt. 1st Class William J. Vansetten II  
Staff Sgt. Michael D. Cerny

Staff Sgt. Howard D. Roth  
Sgt. John A. Hensch  
Spc. Jason L. Grof

#### Air National Guard

Master Sgt. Donald C. Birkentall

# Shorttakes

## Army Guard units, sergeants honored for supply excellence

By Tech. Sgt. Alex Salmon

Assistant Editor

Very little can halt a mission faster than lack of necessary equipment or equipment that doesn't function properly.

Supply sergeants in the Nebraska National Guard are often noticed only when something goes wrong. But on Sept. 11 three units and their supply sergeants were recognized for their outstanding efforts when the calendar-year 2011 state and regional Col. Don Hatten Awards for Supply Excellence were announced.

According to Col. Mark Stockstell, Nebraska's director of Logistics, supply sergeants rarely get the recognition they deserve for the role they play in the readiness of a unit.

"It's all about readiness," said Stockstell. "Everybody thinks about training and readiness, but this is logistics readiness. That's about taking care of your people, that's about taking care of your property and property accountability and making sure your Soldiers have what they need to be successful."

According to Sgt. Maj. Boyd Navratil, supply and logistics senior noncommissioned officer, the supply excellence award program is a three-tiered competition – state, regional and national.

Battalions nominate one unit to send to their brigade-level commands for consideration. The brigade then evaluates battalion nominations to determine the brigade winner. Next, the state logistics office evaluates brigade nominations to determine the state winner in each category.

State winners are then submitted to the Region V competition board consisting of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana. Regional winners are then evaluated via on-site visits from National Guard



110th Multifunctional Medical Battalion



Detachment 2, 165th Quartermaster Company



209th Regiment (Regional Training Institute)

Bureau and compete at the national level against the other six regional winners in their respective category.

National competition results will be announced in April 2011.

The three Nebraska units recognized were the Lincoln-based 110th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, the Seward-based Detachment 2, 165th Quartermaster Company, and the Camp Ashland-based 209th Regiment (Regional Training Institute.) All three units not only won the state level competition, they were also chosen as regional winners.

The 110th MMB competed in the parent organizational, Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) level. Sgt. 1st Class Pam Whisenhunt, supply plans and operations NCO for the 110th, said they didn't do anything special to prepare for the competition other than continuing to do the right thing every day.

"Really, if you are doing what you're supposed to be doing everyday there's not a lot of preparation," said Whisenhunt. "It's just making sure that you're doing your tasks the right way, to standard, to regulation... doing your job and doing it right."

While happy to see her supply sergeants receive the recognition they deserve, Whisenhunt said their eyes are firmly on competing at the national level.

"We still have a national level to

compete in, so there's still a lot of stuff that we need to straighten up and make sure is looking good," said Whisenhunt. "To be recognized I think that's a great thing for our organization...giving the supply sergeants the recognition that they deserve because they do really work hard."

"It really says a lot about the supply sergeants in our battalion that they were willing to put in the extra time and to put the extra effort in to doing things the right way," she added.

Honored alongside Whisenhunt were Staff Sgt. Owen Kramer, supply sergeant, and Sgt. Timothy Beckmann, a property book NCO.

Det. 2, 165th QM Co. was recognized at the user level of the MTOE category. The award is extra special for the 165th considering they were stood up only two years ago.

"I thought it's brand new to the state, so why not make us shine and why not try to be the best that we can be," said Staff Sgt. Lillie Chambers, detachment supply sergeant.

"I really wanted to throw our hat in the ring just for our unit to be recognized as a good unit, as a brand new unit – hey, we're on the map, we're here, we're ready to go."

Chambers said she was honored by the award and was thankful for the help she received from her team.

"It means everything to me as a supply sergeant to be honored with this award just because I think that's what every supply sergeant should strive for... excellence and outstanding quality in their field," she said. "I'm just honored that they nominated me and we've made it this far and my team helped me out as much as they have."

Honored alongside Chambers were Spc. Andrea Edington and retired Sgt. Brandon Crook.

The 209th RTI was recognized at the user level of the Table of Distribution and Allowance category. The supply excellence award is nothing new to the RTI.

"For the RTI as a whole, what it means is that continued success," said Master Sgt. Colin Jones, RTI Headquarters Element NCO-in-charge.

"The guys worked really, really hard at what they do to not only meet standards, but exceed standards within the logistics field."

Honored alongside Jones were Sgt. 1st Class Byron Davis, Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Burton and Sgt. Jeremy Rinehart, all supply sergeants.

Jones said without their continued excellence an award like this wouldn't be possible.

"For the guys who are definitely true supply sergeants, this is a huge honor because it's continuing winning ways...it's something that

the guys take a lot of pride in," said Jones. "Without their knowledge, their will to succeed and just being very down-to-earth NCOs something like this would have never happened."

Stockstell said recognizing the logisticians that do the work on a daily basis is the least he and the command team can do.

"There's nothing more rewarding to me than to be able to acknowledge excellence and see their faces for that recognition of a job well done," said Stockstell. "I really think one of the most important things that I can do is to get out there and recognize our young people for what they do. We ask so much of them today...it's really a very small task for me to go say thank-you."

Navratil said Nebraska has very good record of supply excellence, not only in the state, but in the regional and national level competitions. Nebraska state winners have a more than 94 percent winning percentage at the regional level, and of those regional level winners, approximately 62 percent became winners or runner-ups at the national level.

"For a small state it tells me that we may be small, but we're mighty – we can stack our stuff against anybody else in the other 53 states and territories and we consistently show that we're on top of our game," said Navratil.



# Top Guns: Nebraska Guard's top marksmen descend on Hastings for annual shooting exercise

By Capt. Andrew J. Nelson  
Staff Writer

Weapons qualification is like the physical fitness test in that it measures an essential quality to Soldiering. It is unlike the PT test in that most non-deployed Soldiers do not practice for it between qualifications.

This is not true for the 100-plus Soldiers who participated in the 2010 Marksmanship Sustainment Exercise, a.k.a. the annual "Tag Shoot."

The exercise, in which participants competed against each other individually and in teams, took place Aug. 13-15 at the Greenleaf Training Site. Its purpose is to give motivated shooters a chance to enhance their marksmanship skills.

"Individual weapons qualification is just that: It's qualification," said Lt. Col. Matt Parsley, match coordinator. "This is an opportunity to enhance those skills in various scenarios they normally wouldn't have an opportunity to do."

The exercise goes like this: Day 1 is Friday, where shooters qualify with both the M-16 rifle and the M-9 pistol, regardless of which weapon they are normally assigned.

Day 2, Saturday, is individual competition, where participants shoot a variety of rifle and pistol scenarios. These involve walking and running during the events and shooting at paper targets, making them a bit more realistic than traditional weapons qualification.

Day 3, Sunday, is team competition. Like on Day 2, shooters are tested in a variety of trying circumstances, but as four-member teams. They have to work together, allocate ammunition and mass fires.

The scores are calculated in a statistics database to determine the winners.

The event is not just a way to determine the best shooters in the state, it is also designed to be educational to make everyone who

participates better. The only prerequisite is to be an actively-serving Soldier or Airman in the Nebraska National Guard.

In fact when teams are assigned, two of the four members must be novices, so those new shooters can learn from their more experienced brethren.

"We glean like crazy from those guys because they have a lot more experience," said Staff Sgt. Dennis Hartman of the 1st Battalion 209th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), who was competing in his second Marksmanship Sustainment Exercise.

The competitors shoot paper targets. Unlike on traditional qualification ranges, paper targets allow them to see where they are hitting. A pop-up target will register a hit no matter where the bullet strikes.

"Whether it's lethal or not, you don't know," said Sgt. 1st Class Steve Swisher, who was working the pistol range on Aug. 14. "Out here, it gives that shooter the feedback. He can go down there and see, with the bullet holes, where he's hitting the target."

The paper targets also had another benefit, Hartman said.

"There's no excuses. People often make excuses on the (qualification) range. Well, paper don't lie."

On the pistol range, shooters were awarded points on where they hit the target. To get the maximum, they had to hit a spot about 2 inches by 3 inches on the target, center of mass, right where an enemies' heart would be.

Needless to say, the entire exercise is geared towards precision.

The standings are used to find good and promising shooters, give them extra training and the opportunity to shoot competitively on the regional and national level.

"By doing that, they become better able to train the people in their units," said Staff Sgt. Shawn Young, assistant state marksmanship coordinator. "We need a way to increase marksmanship within

See MARKSMANSHIP on 20.



Photo by Spc. Koan Nissen

**Steady Aim:** A Nebraska Army National Guard Soldier fires a round from a 9 millimeter pistol during the 2010 Marksmanship Sustainment Exercise, Aug. 12, at the Greenleaf Training Site near Hastings, Neb. This year's three-day marksmanship event attracted more than 100 Nebraska Army National Guard shooters, who participated in a variety of shooting events designed to be both a competition and a training event.



Photo by Pfc. Justin Zdan

**All Smiles:** A Nebraska Army National Guard Soldier smiles before attempting to shoot a match with his M-16 rifle.

## New shooters sharpen their skills at competition

By Pfc. Justin Zdan  
Staff Writer

With steady nerves and a quick gaze down the sights, the range of speed and accuracy varied with different skill levels at this year's Adjutant General's Marksmanship Sustainment Exercise (TAG shoot).

Among the first-time participants was Staff Sgt. Rob L. Halmes, a transportation primary instructor with Camp Ashland's 209th Regiment (Regional Training Institute). A 20-year Guardsman, Halmes, like many of the Soldiers present, volunteered for the competition.

"Anytime you have a friendly competition it pushes you further," said Halmes.

Halmes added that being around younger Soldiers and seeing everyone wanting to improve their skills is motivating.

"People are here because they

See NEW MARKSMEN on 20.

## Annual marksmanship exercise gives experienced shooters chance to pass on critical knowledge

By Sgt. Koan Nissen  
Staff Writer

Practicality and competition came head-to-head during the 2010 Marksmanship Sustainment Exercise at the Greenleaf Training Site in August.

The competition, commonly known as the "TAG Shoot" hosted a variety of Soldiers with a variety of experience levels.

The shoot doesn't just offer an

opportunity for individuals to compete for a sense of pride or a chance at advancement to bigger competition; it offers a chance for experienced pro-class shooters to share expertise with the younger and more inexperienced.

"I have been in more than 200 competitions over the years," said Sgt. 1st Class Brian Blankenship, readiness sergeant with the 1-376th Aviation Battalion in Grand Island, Neb. "These competitions are a

great opportunity for Soldiers to come together and share experiences."

Blankenship, 42, has served in the Nebraska National Guard for approximately 24 years and has plenty of advice for the younger and more novice shooters serving in today's Army.

"In combat there is a lot of shooting on the move," said Blankenship. "That's what this is geared toward."

This competition provides multi-

ple elements of combat-style shooting, he said. Running, kneeling, and windage adjustments are all part of real-world marksmanship.

"I keep nothing to myself," said Blankenship. "I share everything I know."

However, the multiple-day contest did more than offer a venue for competition; it offered Soldiers a rare opportunity to shoot. A chance some couldn't pass up.

See OLD SHOOTERS on 20.

## Brigade Soldiers participate in Iraq race

By 1st Lt. Nathan Lavy  
224th Sustainment Brigade

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq - Hundreds of service members, including Soldiers from the recently arrived 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, gathered for a 10-kilometer race on the early morning of Sept. 11 on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq's, Main Street in the spirit of competition to honor the memory of those lost during the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

"We gather today to honor the lives of those killed in the attack nine years ago," said Brig. Gen. Randal Dragon, deputy commanding general for the 1st Infantry Division and senior mission commander on COB Adder, in an opening speech prior to the start of the race.

"This is our way to honor them. Take a moment to reflect on your service and everything you've done in the service of our nation."

Sgt. Gregory Jackson, a psychological operations non-commissioned officer with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, won the race in just under 40 minutes.

"When I learned of a half marathon that I am going to run when I go on R&R soon, I adjusted my training for it. The 9/11 10-K acted not only as a great training run, but also as a great way to remember those fallen on that tragic day nine years ago," Jackson said.

To Jackson, winning the race was special.

"I am a sponsored runner back home and I run in quite a few races every year; however, to race on 9/11 is an event where I dig a little deeper and push a little harder,"

Jackson said.

"I know I, nor anyone else, can run fast enough or push hard enough to erase the events of that day, but at least once a year we can show in our own way the motivation and determination that has grown from the rubble of the World Trade Center."

The 67th BFSB provided both quantity and quality athletes with several runners going home with medals. Maj. Jeff Kilgore placed third in the 39-45 age group, 1st Lt. Christina Rios placed third in the 26-31 age group, and Sgt. Lisa Weyers also placed third in the 17-25 age division.

Service members and residents of COB Adder had the opportunity to race again in the Long Beach Half Marathon scheduled for Oct. 17 and hosted by the Soldiers of the 224th Sustainment Brigade from Long Beach, Calif.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class mark Newsom

**Almost Done:** Sgt. Lisa Weyers and Staff Sgt. Christopher Niles make a last dash to the finish line during a Sept. 11 10-kilometer race at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. Weyers finished third in the 17-25 age group.



## Jack O'Lantern Jog

■ New October race, walk designed to promote physical fitness at base

By Tech. Sgt. Alex Salmon  
Assistant Editor

On a chilly October morning before the sun offered the day's first light and warmth, members of the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard prepared for a brisk morning workout.

The workout was slightly different however, for mixed in with the crowd of approximately 150 participants were some pretty interesting characters: Buzz Lightyear, Super Mario, the Flash and a hillbilly.

The runners and characters were taking part in the first Jack o' Lantern Jog at the Nebraska National Guard Air Base, Oct. 2.

Participants were encouraged to wear costumes to add to the fun of the unofficial event that, according to organizers, was an effort to promote fitness by adding a fun twist and playing on the theme of October and Halloween.

"This year with the change in the fitness regulation, the (chain of command) all the way from headquarters Air Force down is wanting us to strive to improve fitness across the Air Force...the goal was to promote something that was fitness-minded," said Tech. Sgt. Michael Roth, 155th Logistics Readiness Squadron procedures and analysis sergeant-in-charge who helped organize the event.

More than 100 runners kicked off the morning at 6:30 a.m. with a 5-kilometer run. Another 50 participated in a one-mile walk that kicked off 10 minutes later.

Following the run the athletes gathered for a breakfast consisting of healthy food choices and a brief awards ceremony.

Staff Sgt. Paul Wood, a distribution supervisor in the base petroleum, oil and lubricants shop, took the top overall spot in the 5-K run with his time of 19:22. He said the run was a good way to continue preparing for an upcoming marathon.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alex Salmon

**Heavy Costumes:** Members of the 155th Air Refueling Wing's Explosive Ordnance Disposal team participate in the mile-long walk portion of the Jack o' Lantern Jog held at the Nebraska National Guard Air Base Oct. 2, in their full ordnance disposal suits. The suits weigh approximately 80 pounds.

"I was real happy with my performance," said Wood. "It's always a good feeling. You just run your best and see where you finish up."

Taking the top spot in the female division was Tech. Sgt. Sarah Bredthauer, who is in production control in the Civil Engineering Squadron, with her 5-K time of 20:14.

"I'm a very competitive person, so (winning) was my goal, of course," said Bredthauer. "I love to compete and it felt good. It's what I wanted...I love the competition, I love to run, so they go hand-in-hand."

Although she didn't win the overall prize, Bredthauer said she was happy. "I was very pleased with my time," she said. "I think that's my fastest 5-K time."

With a successful unit compliance inspection recently behind them and Honors Day festivities taking place shortly after the race, organizers thought the Jack o' Lantern Jog was well-timed.

"It was just one of those perfect days...I think it went well," said Roth. "This also went hand-in-hand with the whole Honors Day... We had a lot of work that we did for that (UCI) and I think this was a relief valve for a lot of people to just get out and do something fun."



Photo by Master Sgt. Vern Moore

**To Infinity And Beyond:** Staff Sgt. Nic Bethune, a crew chief with the 155th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, gives his best Buzz Lightyear pose while participating in the first Jack o' Lantern Jog held at the Nebraska National Guard Air Base, Oct. 2.

Participants and organizers alike were happy about the effort to promote fitness in a fun environment and said it means a lot to the Nebraska National Guard to continue putting on events like this.

"Look at all the people that showed up," said Bredthauer. "Its esprit-de-corps and it promotes fitness as well, so they go well together and I think a lot of people are excited to come here and run together. Some people had a good time with it and dressed up in costumes, so I think it's a great thing."

And although organizers wanted everyone

who participated to have fun, the true focus of the event was fitness and drawing attention to the importance it plays in accomplishing our mission.

"Fitness is the key to our success in all that we do," said Roth. "I think that goes hand-in-hand with probably what the wing would say...the only way you do your mission is be fit to fight - be ready to go."

"If we're not physically fit and ready to do our job and fight the fight, then we're failing our mission, we're failing the people of the United States."

## NEW MARKSMEN continued from page 19.

want to be," said Halmes. "It's motivating because some of the units send their best Soldiers."

The event provided an opportunity for individuals from other units to share their marksmanship suggestions and an opportunity to try different weapon systems.

"Usually only officers shoot the M-9 (pistol)," said Halmes. "But out here you have 50-60 people giving you pointers. For me, it's 100 percent improvement since I've only fired it one other time."

Halmes has never been in a competition like this, but he hopes to come back and improve. It's easy to forget the fundamentals, he added, and events like these are great for sharpening marksmanship skills.

Other Soldiers, like Spc. Daniel Anderson, a chemical operations specialist with Grand Island's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-376th Aviation, agreed. During the competition, Soldiers armed with M-16 rifles were required to run from berm to berm with limited time to fire at the known distance range.

"It's good practice," said Anderson. "I don't have a lot of experience running and shooting."

He said he was particularly impressed with the realism that exercise coordinators built in the event. A Soldier wouldn't be sitting still in a combat situation, said Anderson.

One difference, however, is the importance of both speed and accuracy, said Sgt. Moises Montavalo, a volunteer from Lincoln's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, who helped support the event.

"There's some damn good shooters," said Montavalo. "Especially considering they're going off the iron sights of the M-16."

There were some inexperienced shooters too, said Montavalo. But it is easy to tell the ones who traveled to Hastings to win the competition, he added.

One of the novices was Pfc. Chad L. Nowak, with the 41st Rear Operations Center in Omaha. He said he traveled to the Greenleaf Train-

## MARKSMANSHIP continued from page 19.

the state and I think giving these people (trigger time) helps the units."

Only Army personnel participated this year, due to the fact that the Nebraska Air Guard was involved in preparing for its major unit compliance inspection. Normally about 200 participate, but the high operations tempo for the Army Guard meant approximately 103 were at Greenleaf this time.

Those who could make it, though, were glad to be there.

Said Sgt. Nick Noel of the 1074th Transportation Company: "Going three straight days of shooting, you don't get to do that very often."



Photo by Spc. Koan Nissen

**Where To Begin?** A Nebraska Army National Guard Soldier prepares to fire a shot at his target during the 2010 Marksmanship Sustainment Exercise, Aug. 12, at the Greenleaf Training Site.

## 2010 Marksmanship Sustainment Exercise

### Final Results

**Novice/Open Individual Pistol Champion** - Lt. Col. Todd Stevens, 41st Rear Operations Center

**Novice/Open Individual Rifle Champion** - Pvt. Luke Kelley, 267th Ordnance Company (Maintenance)

**Gary Anderson Trophy:** Sgt. Nathanael Rutter, 209th Regiment (Regional Training Institute)

**State CSM Match winner:** Lt. Col. Todd Stevens, 41st Rear Operations Center



### Top Team:

Team D, 267th Ordnance Company: Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jamie Hanway, Chief Warrant Officer Mark Roland, Pvt. Luke Kelley and Staff Sgt. Jason Meyer

ing Site with a simple goal in mind. "I have to brush up on my basic rifle marksmanship," said Nowak.

"Lack of experience makes it tough, but we don't have much else opportunity to shoot. Participating

in events like these makes me want to get out on the ranges more with my unit."

## OLD SHOOTERS continued from page 19.

"Sometimes it's hard to get extra trigger time," said Sgt. Nathaniel Rutter, a motor transport operator assigned to the Camp Ashland-based 209th Regiment (Regional Training Institute.) "Minimal training is not enough."

Rutter, a pro-class shooter, not only said the competition gives Soldiers a rare opportunity to fire their weapons beyond the Army's mandatory annual qualification, he said the exercise also provides Soldiers with an opportunity to network and share knowledge with one another.

It's something the Soldiers would normally have to seek out

on their own if not for TAG Shoot.

For example, some Soldiers may not realize the effects of bullet-drop after 300 meters. Here, the competitor gets a chance to experience the capabilities of the weapon and ammunition commonly used in a live-fire setting.

But it's not just about getting together to compete in a friendly environment, said Rutter.

The Soldier standing to his left or right may end up being the one who's there with him in a hostile situation, he said. The knowledge he shares with someone here may end up being the knowledge that ultimately saves lives in combat.