

# JAYHAWKFLYER

NEWS PUBLICATION OF THE 184th INTELLIGENCE WING



## Kansas Guardsmen support each other amid shutdowns

*When squadron shutdowns became a reality, Airmen took swift actions to minimize losses.* *page 4*

# JAYHAWK FLYER

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[www.184iw.ang.af.mil](http://www.184iw.ang.af.mil)

## Cover photo

Master Sgt. Lisa Bailey and Master Sgt. Ricky Combs, 184th Force Support Squadron, discuss school locations and options for members of squadrons that were recently shut down. Bailey was displaced as a result of the 184th Munitions Squadron divestiture, and now works in the Force Development of office scheduling Airmen for technical training.

Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Maria Ruiz, 184th Public Affairs

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Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy

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# Bird's Eye View

## Command Chief's Comments

The year 2014 is now behind us and it's time to move forward into the new year. Some of the wing's struggles and challenges will follow us into the new year. Now more than ever, we need all of you to focus on the most important job in the ANG. It is the job you are in right now...become the expert and maximize your potential. The wing, state and nation are counting on us to execute our missions effectively.

Col. Jordan's "Wing Focus Areas" should always be one of our primary directions: Leadership Development, Domestic Operations and the drill-status Guardsman. I feel there is one easy way each of us can satisfy these three areas

- individual readiness. It is up to each of us to ensure we are 100 percent mission ready, 100 percent of the time. Focus on your mission qualifications and upgrade training. Ensure you have a clear path to complete all of your training requirements, not only for your primary AFSC, but also in your domestic operations roll. Become a mission expert and challenge yourself every day you are a Jayhawk. In addition, have a game plan to ensure you stay on top of your medical and ancillary training requirements. The key is be proactive, not reactive.

Once you have completed your mission requirements you can turn your focus to leadership development. Get enrolled in professional military education courses and get it done. Don't allow yourself to miss opportunities because all of the required squares are not filled. We had a record number of Community College of the Air Force degrees awarded last year, outstanding work by all Jayhawks. Get enrolled in college as soon as you can to start working on the core classes required to complete a CCAF degree. The CCAF degree will be required for promotion to the rank of senior master sergeant effective October 2015.

Command Chief Hotaling's Four Pillars of Resilience (health, physical, social and spiritual) are key elements to your success. If you are healthy in mind and body, everything else will follow. Take a look at yourself and see where you have room for improvement.

Lastly, success in any organization requires, in my opinion, a clear line of communication. One of the biggest challenges for drill-status Guardsmen is "information flow." Because most of our Airmen are only here one weekend a month, it's a challenge to keep everyone up-to-date. And we are all well aware things are constantly changing. It always seems, for some reason or another, it doesn't matter how many times or how you disseminate information, there are always some folks that don't know what's happening. Communication must be a two-way road to work effectively. Leaders need to communicate information to all Airmen clearly and in a timely manner. Airmen also need to keep communication flowing up to their leaders as well. Open lines of communication will resolve many unnecessary issues and allows your squadron to operate more efficiently.

If everyone follows these guidelines all of the pieces of success will fall



**Chief Master Sgt. William Stacey**  
Wing Command Chief

## UTA information

January UTA: Jan. 10-11

February UTA: Feb. 7-8

March UTA: Mar. 7-8

Deadline for the April edition of the Jayhawk Flyer is March 15.

Look for the monthly Drill Down for UTA information at [www.184iw.ang.af.mil](http://www.184iw.ang.af.mil).

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## Have a story idea?

Unit members are encouraged to contact the Public Affairs office for any upcoming events worthy of news coverage. You may submit your ideas by email to: [184iw.PA.1@ang.af.mil](mailto:184iw.PA.1@ang.af.mil)

You may also call 759-7561 or 759-7038.

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## Kansas Guardsmen support each other amid shutdowns

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

***When squadron shutdowns became a reality, Airmen took swift actions to minimize losses.***

At the heart of any job-related change that occurs in the 184th Intelligence Wing, there's a group of people assigned to the 184th Force Support Squadron who implement those changes as smoothly as possible.

In 2013, the wing was notified of a potentially big change that would affect the lives of approximately 160 unit members. The change included divesting, or shutting down, two large squadrons assigned to the wing, the 184th Munitions Squadron and the 127th Command and Control Squadron.

Munitions personnel have been a part of the wing since its founding in 1941 as the 127th Observation Squadron. The formation of the Munitions Squadron occurred in 2005, when the Secretary of Defense recommended a realignment of Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. As a result of the realignment, the United States Air Force transferred the Standard Air Munitions Package and the Standard Tank, Rack, Adaptor and Pylon Package, locally known as STAMP/STRAPP, to the 184th.

Many of the munitions personnel were aircraft mechanics during the wing's flying days. When the wing converted from a flying unit to a cyber-centric unit dealing primarily in military intelligence, the Munitions Squadron expanded its



**Maj. Rich Moon, commander, 184th FSS, and Master Sgt. Stephen Vogt, Retention Office manager, discuss the personnel who were displaced during the budget cuts that forced the 184th Munitions Squadron and the 127th Command and Control Squadron to shut down. Vogt was in charge of helping the part-time Guardsmen find new positions.**

Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

capabilities, which enabled them to hire the displaced flight line personnel. The squadron became fully operational in 2009, employing more than 100 Airmen.

As a result of the wing's loss of KC-135 Stratotankers in 2007, the Command and Control Squadron was acquired as a follow-on mission along with other squadrons, which formed a very diverse wing. The squadron's formation helped minimize the loss of

manpower due to the wing's conversion.

The Command and Control Squadron provided dependable communications capabilities to national leaders during wartime and peacetime operations, natural disasters and national emergencies. Radio and satellite operators, cyber and network administrators

### **Command Chief's Comments Continued from page 3**

into place for our wing.

I hope you've enjoyed the holidays with your families. We have much to be thankful for. I am looking forward to another year of greatness for the wing and I am also looking forward to getting out to your work areas to see the great work all of you accomplish.

and logistics personnel employed versatile, state of the art equipment, which enabled the squadron to provide services in a full spectrum of situations. The squadron also had its own security forces detachment assigned to protect the unit's assets. Once fully operational, the squadron employed more than 60 Airmen.

The Command and Control Squadron's closure marked the first time in the wing's history that it's been without a squadron holding the 127th numerical designation.

Both squadrons were recognized for excellence and they both affected the outcomes of national and global events. Unfortunately, the two squadrons became victims of national budget activities.

"The divestitures are really the result of reductions in the nation's military budget. It has nothing to do with the quality or performance of our Airmen," said Col. David Weishaar, commander of the 184th Mission Support Group. "Both squadrons continue to receive accolades for their professionalism and the high standards in which they perform their missions. The two squadrons and their respective missions are simply no longer funded."

Considerable discussions among the highest levels of leadership, including wing, state and the National Guard Bureau, took place in an attempt to reverse the decision of shutting down the squadrons.

Despite the incredible efforts made by top leaders, the squadrons were notified in early 2014 that their missions would be drawing to an end.



**Staff Sgt. Randy Hutcherson, assigned to the Weapons Shop of the 184th Munitions Squadron, applies packaging to weapons systems equipment after a thorough inspection. The squadron conducted quarterly inspections to ensure serviceability, proper storage and accountability. Hutcherson, like many of his peers, retired from the military in the wake of the squadron shutdowns.** Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Lee Tafaanelli, adjutant general of the Kansas National Guard, charged the Air National Guard wings and personnel at the Joint Forces Headquarters to ensure the Airmen in the two squadrons were the top priority.

"The 184th FSS immediately went on alert and took aim to ensure there was a contingency plan for each individual affected by the change," said Maj. Rich Moon, commander, 184th FSS.

The actions included developing a force management plan for 158 positions, of which 115 were full-time.

"We had to figure out how we were going to send out notifications and start placing a large amount of people," said Master Sgt. Ricky Combs, human resources designee,

184th FSS.

Combs worked primarily with the full-time members, who consisted of Active Guard/Reservists and Air Reserve technicians affected by the shutdowns. Once the official notifications were received, he implemented processes designed to help the displaced Airmen.

"First off, we had to start freezing our hiring protocols and start enforcing limited openings," said Combs. "There for a while we were only advertising for current, on-board AGRs and technicians."

With no follow-on missions in place to absorb the impact of the shutdowns, leaders throughout the wing took a serious look at how to minimize the negative outcomes.

A hiring freeze limited the scope

*Continued on page 6*





**The Security Flight assigned to the 127th Command and Control Squadron kept a close watch over the buildings, equipment and personnel belonging to the squadron. Many of the Airmen moved to other squadrons within the 184th Intelligence Wing during the divestitures, some accepted position in other wings, and others were eligible to retire.** Photo by Tech. Sgt. Maria Ruiz, 184th Public Affairs

*Continued from page 5*

of people that were able to apply for full-time positions. Only current full-time Guardsmen were allowed to apply for open positions. Drill-Status Guardsmen and applicants from outside of the wing were automatically disqualified until the freeze was lifted.

Combs and other wing leaders also looked at who would be eligible for a military retirement prior to the shut downs.

“We built spreadsheets to find out who was already retirement eligible, who’s going to become retirement eligible and who needed to find a home,” said Combs.

After identifying the members who were eligible to remain in the unit, Combs began looking at the qualifications that were required by the open positions. Each full-time position was tied to an Air Force specialty code that placed certain requirements that the applicants had to meet. Some AFSCs carried

strict rules about color vision and depth perception, while other AFSCs required high test scores on the Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery.

“First, we’ve got to make sure they can fulfill the military requirements to be able to carry that AFSC. Then, we have to work the technician piece through HRO,” said Combs.

Combs worked directly with the Human Resources Office at the Kansas National Guard Headquarters in Topeka. Many questions came up during the shutdown process and Combs knew he could rely on his partners in Topeka for accurate answers.

“I feel like I can call up there and talk directly to the personnel and get a credible answer,” said Combs. “It’s a pretty good working relationship.”

Placing the full-time personnel in new positions was only part of the challenge faced by the FSS. Drill-status Guardsmen are part-time

military members who make up the majority of the wing. More than 60 drill-status Guardsmen were displaced because of the shutdowns and needed to find new positions.

The responsibility of transferring the Airman into new jobs fell on the shoulders of Master Sgt. Stephen Vogt, Retention Office manager, 184th FSS. The Retention Office manager’s main duties consist of managing incentive programs, which include bonuses, the Montgomery GI Bill, and other college benefits. He also works with unit career advisors throughout the wing who relay information about wing-level programs. However, first and foremost, he takes care of the part-time force and helps them throughout their careers.

Vogt’s duties fit perfectly with the role of helping displaced drill-status Guardsmen find new positions in the wing.

“Once this became a reality and we knew the missions were going away, I tried to act as quickly

as possible to get our traditional Guardsmen into new homes,” said Vogt.

The CACS personnel were relatively easy to move since they already carried the certifications to hold positions related to other missions in the wing.

“The Munitions Squadron offered a little bit more dynamics to it,” said Vogt. “They’re losing their AFSC altogether and that requires those members to cross-train.”

Unlike the CACS personnel, the munitions personnel held flight line qualifications that didn’t transfer to other jobs in the wing. Vogt began working with the Airmen to figure out what they needed to meet the qualifications.

Vogt also worked closely with the superintendents assigned to the closing squadrons. He provided spreadsheets showing the positions that were available and asked that the displaced Airmen select their top three choices.

“If it wasn’t their first choice, we got almost everybody into their second choice or a relatable choice,” said Vogt.

Vogt was impressed with the help he received from the chief master sergeants from around the wing. The chiefs formed a group with the goal to find places to put people.

“We had a lot of help from the chiefs,” said Vogt. “I was able to meet with them and Sergeant Combs and we discussed the full-time and traditional members. They opened up their manning documents and found homes for people.”

Although there were some losses

due to separations, retirements and Airmen transferring to organizations outside of the wing, unit members did everything in their power to keep those losses to a minimum. It was evident that Fighting Jayhawks from all over the wing understood the effects to fellow Airmen and their families; the compassion and care displayed during turbulent times showed the true character of the men and women of the 184th IW.

Two chiefs in particular stood out in Vogt’s mind. Chief Master Sgt. Bill Angstadt, superintendent of the 127th CACS, and Chief Master Sgt. Terry Clain, superintendent of the 184th MUNS, did everything they possibly could to make sure their Airmen were taken care of. Despite their imminent retirements due to shutdowns, they stayed in constant communication with Vogt, Combs and the other chiefs until all of their Airmen had somewhere to go, whether in the wing or at another unit.

“They were all about their people, all the way through to the very end,” said Vogt.

“This was a monumental task under the most unfortunate circumstances,” said Moon. “It required people like Master Sergeant Vogt



**Col. J.J. Jordan (left), commander, 184th IW, presents the Department of Defense Meritorious Service Medal to Chief Master Sgt. Bill Angstadt, superintendent, 127th CACS during a wing-wide commanders call on Dec. 7, for the successful accomplishments of his squadron during his supervision.** Photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

and Master Sergeant Combs, with specific skill sets, customer focus and ability communicate at all levels of the ANG to be successful.”

To date, 100 percent of the DSGs and 83 percent of the full-time members from the affected units have a plan to move forward.

“Master Sergeant Vogt and Master Sergeant Combs will be the first to tell you their jobs are not complete until the remaining 17 percent have a plan,” said Moon.



## Stacey appointed as eighth 184th IW command chief

By Staff Sgt. Ryan Smith, 184th Public Affairs

**Chief Master Sergeants Russ Brotsky and William Stacy exchange the top enlisted position in the 184th Intelligence Wing.**

The 184th Intelligence Wing held a change of authority ceremony on Nov. 1. Chief Master Sgt. William Stacy accepted the responsibilities of the wing's command chief, relieving Chief Master Sgt. Russell Brotsky of his duties. Lt. Col. Cody Jacobs, commander, 161st Intelligence Squadron, served as the master of ceremonies.

The command chief master sergeant is the senior enlisted leader in the wing that acts as a liaison between the commanders and the enlisted force by addressing shortfalls or challenges.

Brotsky served as the wing's seventh command chief for three years. During his tenure, he had a strong voice in the wing's direction of pro-



**Chief Master Sgt. William Stacy, middle, salutes Col. J.J. Jordan, commander of the 184th Intelligence Wing, during a change of authority ceremony in which Stacy accepted the duties of the wing's eighth command chief master sergeant on Nov. 1.** Photo by Tech. Sgt. Maria Ruiz, 184th Public Affairs

fessional development and adhering to the Air Force's core values.

"Chief Brotsky was a chief that would do anything for anyone and any Airman," said Col. Jeff Jordan, commander, 184th IW. "When President Eisenhower was asked what he looks for in a leader; he just said one word: selflessness."

Brotsky reiterated the core values that each member of the Air Force should live by and concluded his remarks with a gesture of gratitude.

"Thank you for allowing me to be your com-

mand chief," said Brotsky.

Stacey reassured the unit that the direction, vision and goals wouldn't be altered during his tenure. He was also confident that the command staff would stay the course in addressing the unit's future.

"We have uncertain times and we don't need you to focus on that. That is our job," said Stacey. "Focus on the job you are in today and become the mission experts at every position you are in. The 184th needs it, the state of Kansas needs it, and the nation requires it. If you are not ready, you are irrelevant."

Following the change of authority ceremony, Brotsky celebrated his 37 years of military service with his retirement ceremony.



**After the ceremony, Chief Master Sgt. Russ Brotsky, middle, the wing's seventh command chief, retired from the military after 37 years of service.**

Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs



## Jayhawks give despite setbacks

By 1st Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Public Affairs

***Air National Guardsmen open their hearts and pocket books to raise money for charity during the Combined Federal Campaign season.***

This is the time of year red kettles and bell ringers are collecting spare change from kind-hearted patrons.

Master Sgt. Troy Evans, 184th Munitions Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Heather Bolden, 127th Command and Control Squadron, did their own version of bell ringing and organized this year's Combined Federal Campaign for the 184th Intelligence Wing Sept. 1 - Dec. 6. The wing goal was set at \$60,000.

"You have thousands of charities that your money goes to," said Evans. "It really depends on where you want it to go. I tell everyone, 'Find something in your heart that you know where you want to



**Squadron representatives, who served as the main points of contact for collecting money during Combined Federal Campaign fundraising events, stand by a sign that shows the progress that was made during the donation open-season. The fundraising period began on Sept. 1 and ended on Dec. 6.** Photo courtesy of Master Sgt. Troy Evans

pledge."

Personnel cuts from the wing was a concern for this year's organizers, but they still wanted to try to exceed last year's collections of \$57,000.

"That is a lot of money to give to a cause," said Bolden. "A very selfless act to do and even around the holidays when people want to do for their families and they are giving to help better someone else's lives, it is pretty awesome."

Jayhawks made donations with a one-time donation or yearly deduction from their paychecks. Evans used his skill of organizing food sale events to raise addition funds.

"All in all, we had seven different fundraisers like selling tacos, burgers and a chili feed that made an additional \$7,000," said Evans.

Bolden and Evans both enjoyed pushing towards to goal for a good cause.

"It is phenomenal to be a part of helping out other people, it's very impacting," said Bolden.

"Charity is kind of my thing," said Evans. "I have done a bone marrow drive here and we have collected 500 kits so far on this base. I love charity and I am just going to continue with CFC. Charity is kind of in my blood, I don't know why but it is."

But as the last bell was rung for the campaign, the Jayhawks didn't just reach their goal, they surpassed it by raising well over \$70,000.

"I know that it takes a lot to give money and a lot give to their church or other charities but, to step up above and beyond is one of the greatest things," said Evans.



**Master Sgt. Reico Henley, 184th Comptroller Flight, plays in a Chicago-style softball tournament on Oct. 15. The tournament was part of the efforts to raise money for the Combined Federal Campaign.**

Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

## Kansas Airmen interact with national leadership

*By 1st Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Public Affairs*

***Air National Guard command chief visits units in Topeka and Wichita to share his vision and gather feedback.***

In any military branch, decisions come from the top of the chain of command. In the National Guard, the national decision makers are seldom seen or heard at a local level. Kansas Air National Guard's enlisted force had an opportunity to interact with Chief Master Sgt. James Hotaling, command chief master sergeant of the Air National Guard, Sept. 5-7 and hear current information from the source.

"The Airmen got to see their Air National Guard primary representative firsthand and got to ask him questions," said Chief Master Sgt. Russ Brotsky, command chief of the 184th Intelligence Wing. "It was big."

On his visit to Kansas, Hotaling toured both wings and wanted to hear questions or concerns from the Airmen. "You can ask me anything you want," said Hotaling. "The gloves are off and it can be about the highest level to whatever is happening here, you can ask me those questions."

Airmen were interested in hearing about the new performance review procedures, fitness requirements, professional military education and future of the Guard retirement program. Hotaling answered the questions openly and honestly.

"One of the neat things about Chief Hotaling is that he is very



**Chief Master Sgt. James Hotaling, Air National Guard command chief, speaks to the 184th Intelligence Wing enlisted members during a wing visit at McConnell Air Force Base on Sept. 7.**

*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Maria Ruiz, 184th Public Affairs*

candid on his answers and responses," said Chief Master Sgt. Pat Moore, command chief of the 190th ARW. "You might not hear exactly what you want to hear from him, but he says exactly what the reality is."

"He brought a great message," said Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th IW Public Affairs. "He created a vision using his aim points and talked about how we can use them to build a strong future for ourselves and the Air National Guard. His message was well-received by the Airmen who attended the all call."

The visit also gave Kansas an opportunity to showcase the Family Program Support Services to Marie Hotaling, Chief Hotaling's wife.

"One of the big things for Kansas

that kind of went under the radar was that Marie Hotaling came to talk to our family services, the first state family services to be nationally accredited," said Chief Master Sgt. James Brown, command chief of the Kansas Air National Guard. "So it was a really productive trip not only to have the command chief here, but also his wife."

The visit gave the Airmen of the Kansas Air National Guard a chance to share their concerns and get some valuable information from national leadership.

"It was really good exposure for the Kansas Air National Guard," said Brown. "We try to get the heavy hitter from the National Guard Bureau to visit as much as they can so we remain relevant and on their radar."



## Wing supports local community outreach program

*Photos by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs*

Members of the 184th Intelligence Wing lent helping hands to the Boys and Girls Club in Wichita on Oct. 8. The Boys and Girls Club contacted the wing upon learning that they didn't have enough volunteers to assemble a large shipment of playground equipment. The wing responded with approximately 30 Airmen who were eager to support their community.



**Airman 1st Class Marcus Rhodeman, 184th Security Forces Squadron, measures for correct spacing between boards while building a pergola.**



**Master Sgt. Jimmy Evans, 184th Munitions Squadron, assembles playground equipment built out of pressure treated lumber.**



**Staff Sgt. Brandon Murray, 184th Security Forces Squadron, spreads sand around a sidewalk that he and other volunteers installed using paver stones.**



**Staff Sgt. Diane Hanzlick, 184th Comptroller Flight, builds playground equipment with volunteers from the Wichita community.**



**Tech. Sgt. Tim Shifflet, 184th Munitions Squadron, mixes concrete with the Wichita State University mascot, Woo Shock.**



**184th Intelligence Wing personnel worked with many volunteers from the community to build a playground at the Boys and Girls Club campus in north Wichita.**

## Team Red, White and Blue a great part of resiliency

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

***As the Kansas National Guard concentrates efforts to eliminate suicide and increase resiliency, current and former members offer an active approach.***

While many Americans were enjoying a three-day weekend in October, courtesy of Christopher Columbus, a little-known event was making its way through Kansas. The event was a part of a much larger one called The Old Glory Coast to Coast Relay, in which one American flag was carried by runners from California to Washington D.C.

The relay was organized by a non-profit veteran's organization called Team Red, White and Blue. According to their website, "Team RWB's mission is to enrich the lives of America's veterans by connecting them to their community through physical and social activity."

Current and retired Kansas National Guardsmen participated in the relay, which spanned more than 400 miles from the Colorado to Missouri state lines. Despite windy conditions, Airmen assigned to the 184th Intelligence Wing joined other Team RWB members from Wichita to carry the flag 132 miles from the small towns of Dighton to Holyrood. Chapters from Fort Riley, Fort Leavenworth and Kansas City were also part of the relay.

Team RWB takes an active approach in helping veterans deal with post-traumatic stress and trau-



**Retired Master Sgt. Susan Ballard, Kansas Air National Guard, runs with the American flag on a 132-mile stretch of highway between Dighton and Holyrood, Kansas, on Oct. 12. The trek was part of a much larger event called the Coast to Coast Old Glory Relay in which one flag was carried by runners from California to Washington D.C.**

Photo courtesy Team Red, White and Blue of Wichita

matic brain injuries. In developing their approach, they've conducted studies that revealed the wants and needs of veterans.

According to their research, veterans desire a connection to community, physical activity, camaraderie, opportunities to serve and meaningful relationships. The research also found that the participants fell into one of three groups, which included connection-seekers, family-focused, and driven veterans. Team RWB has developed ways for veterans in each category to fulfil their needs through social activities centered

on physical fitness and sports events. The events are designed to set the stage to build meaningful relationships.

"Suicide is most often the result of deep despair, a total loss of hope," said Blayne Smith, executive director of Team RWB, in a testimony delivered to the United States Senate. "We can proactively address this challenge by ensuring that veterans are connected to a supportive community with programs that provide a sense of purpose, identity, and camaraderie."

Master Sgt. Marla Urban, 184th Sustainment Services Flight, dis-





**Master Sgt. Melinda Kellogg, 184th Medical Group, and Blayne Smith, executive director, Team Red, White and Blue, run with the American flag through a small town in Kansas. Teams of runners from Kansas carried the flag from the Colorado to Missouri state lines in October.**

Photo courtesy Team Red, White and Blue of Wichita

covered Team RWB through her connection with the Veterans of Foreign Wars. She learned that a chapter was forming in Wichita and signed up through the website.

“When I learned more about it, it seemed like a group that I needed to belong to,” said Urban.

While researching the organization, she found that Team RWB was an inviting and accepting community. Fitness, friendship and a sense of belonging drove her to meet some of the members.

“Once I met the members, it was like we connected right away,” said Urban. “After a long day, meeting up with others that may be struggling

even harder than you just seemed to help all of us. If we walk, we talk about things, or we may run to get our stress level down.”

Urban also found that member-

ship was free and didn’t require participants to be veterans.

“My husband joined and has volunteered for a lot of events, so it’s just not a veteran-focused community,” said Urban.

She began spreading the news about the organization to coworkers, veterans and retirees.

“This is a way to keep that ‘belonging’ going once members retire or just decide to get out of the service,” said Urban. “Some feel lost or may not know how to adapt after retiring, so this is one way that we can offer to help that transition.”

Urban currently serves as the Team RWB’s community outreach director in Wichita. Gene McCreight, retired Kansas Army Guardsman, is the chapter captain and Susan Ballard, retired Kansas Air Guardsman, is the athletic director. Together they partner with

running companies to provide support and runners for events. They also organize running events with local charity groups to raise funds.

“Fitness is the goal; how we get members to do the fitness is the key,” said Urban. “We have members that are coping with PTSD, depression, health problems and more, but I see them show up to events and it seems like our team is their medicine.”

To learn more about Team RWB in Wichita, go to <http://teamrwb.org>.



**Team Red, White and Blue gets together twice a week for fitness activities and once a month for social events. The gatherings offer a fun and welcoming environment where veterans can be part of a supporting team.**

Photo courtesy Team Red, White and Blue of Wichita

## **Staff. Sgt. Jeremy Lee**

### **Fighting Jayhawk since 2010**

#### **Organization:**

134th Air Control Squadron  
Materiel Control Shop

#### **Military Job Title:**

Materiel Management Journeyman

#### **Special Duty:**

Honor Guard Training Manager



Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

### **Above & Beyond:**

- Selected as the 2014 184th Intelligence Wing Honor Guard Member of the Year
- Appointed as a training manager for the 184th IW Honor Guard in May 2014
- Attended the United States Air Force Honor Guard Mobile Training Team in March 2014 and named "Top Student" by the team chief and McConnell Air Force Base Honor Guard noncommissioned officer in charge
- Active volunteer in the community – supported Zoobilee in 2011, annually assists the Osborne County Youth Fair, in the process of becoming a volunteer firefighter for Bentley, Kansas Fire Department, participated in Big Truck Night and Veterans Day activities at Intrust Bank Arena, and supported Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in 2013 and 2014 by providing radio communications for race volunteers.
- Supported home station operations by backfilling a full-time slot while the 134th ACS deployed to Al Udeid, Qatar in 2011

### **My story:**

I joined the Kansas Air National Guard in July 2010 as a drill-status Guardsman. After enlisting, I became a member of the 134th ACS in the Materiel Control Shop. I left for basic training and tech school two months after enlisting and returned home in late January 2011. After spending two months working at my civilian job, I backfilled while the 134th was deployed to Qatar for four months. After that was over, I took a job at the El Dorado Correctional Facility as a corrections officer. While I was employed there I started on night shift and would sometimes have to work the night before UTA started, that meant that I would come in at 7 a.m. on Saturday morning after working from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. the night before. That job had its ups and downs but it was an eye opener for sure. I worked there for about two years when a full-time position came open in my shop. I applied, interviewed, and was selected for the position in August 2013 and I couldn't ask for a better job that gives me the opportunity to provide a great life for my family. I joined the 184th IW Honor Guard in December 2012 and have loved every minute of it. I've met a lot of great people in the past couple of years and have had the privilege of working with some of the best people this wing has to offer. I am very grateful to be a part of this wing and my squadron. I wouldn't be where I am without my leaders mentoring me, and my family which includes my fiancé, Reba Phillips; my daughter, Caydence; and my son, Brantley, supporting me the whole way.



## Running for joy and charity

By Tech. Sgt. Justin Jacobs, 184th Public Affairs

**Airman runs marathons and half-marathons in all 50 states to raise money for Jayhawk family member.**

Chief Master Sgt. Sidney Colliatie, superintendent of the 184th Intelligence Support Squadron, over the past few years, has been striving toward a goal that is pretty amazing.

“I wanted to run a marathon or half marathon in all 50 states and in the District of Columbia before I turned 50 years old, and I completed the quest by 46 days,” said Colliatie.

Colliatie traveled all over the United States and was able to run in some very interesting places.

He ran down the Atlantic boardwalk and across the Golden Gate Bridge. He was also able to run around the Indy 500 race track as well as Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby. He even had the opportunity to finish one of his marathons in the Marshall University football stadium.

It was more than just the joy of running for Colliatie. He was running to raise money and which funds research to fight Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, or ALS.

Colliatie ran five half marathons in five states in five days in 2013 to raise money for ALS in support of Paula Hilbert, wife of Colliatie's commander Lt. Col. Brad Hilbert. The Airmen of the 184th Intelligence Group donated money for every mile he ran and more than \$4,000 was raised.

“Chief Master Sergeant Colliatie



**Left to right: Lt. Col. Brad Hilbert, Senior Master Sgt. Lou Locke, Col. Kreg Anderson and Chief Master Sgt. Sid Colliatie at the Hilbert Half Marathon in Hilbert, Wisconsin, September 2012.**

Photo courtesy Chief Master Sgt. Sid Colliatie

has been an excellent chief, mentor and friend,” said Hilbert. “I don’t know that he fully knows how much his efforts over the past two years have meant to my wife and me.”

“We often speak of the Jayhawk family here at the 184th,” said Hilbert. “Chief Colliatie embodies that and my family and I are the direct recipients of his friendship and the dedication he shows to the people around him. He is more than my colleague and chief; he is my family as well. We owe him a large debt of gratitude.”

Airmen from around the wing also joined the effort to raise money through running.

“It was very humbling to run in support of ALS in honor of Paula Hilbert,” said Master Sgt. Darla Griffin, 184th Force Support Squadron, Force Development superinten-

dent. “Things we take for granted every day that people suffering from ALS cannot do, such as breathing on our own, running and being able to eat, is my motivation to run.”

In 2014, Colliatie joined other Airmen of the 184th Intelligence Wing and ran the Air Force marathon/half marathon and together they raised over \$1,000 for ALS.

“Being able to run with countless Airmen in the Air Force and the Marine Corps Marathon was indescribable,” said Colliatie.

In all, Colliatie ran 30 marathons and 65 half marathons, which totaled 1,637.5 miles, the equivalent to running from Wichita, Kansas, to San Jose, California.

“This has been very rewarding, but I am glad the quest is over,” said Colliatie.

# JAYHAWK FLYER

**photo finish ► Fighting Jayhawks in action**



**Airmen of the Year winners for the wing, left to right: Chief Master Sgt. Billy Stacey, command chief, 184th IW; Senior Airman Jeremy Lee, Honor Guard Member of the Year; Master Sgt. Jerry Gardinier, Honor Guard Manager of the Year; Staff Sgt. Lourdes Bravo, Noncommissioned Officer of the Year; Master Sgt. Steve Peyton, Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year; Staff Sgt. Kevin Smith, Airman of the Year; Senior Master Sgt. Lou Locke, First Sergeant of the Year and Col. J.J. Jordan, commander, 184th IW. Photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Penney**



**The Company Grade Officers Council of the 184th Intelligence Wing organized a swipe meet which took place on Nov. 2. The swipe meet was much like a garage sale in which Airmen brought items from home that they no longer needed, and other**

**Airmen took what they could use at no cost. The first 30 minutes of the swipe meet were allocated for junior enlisted Airmen. After that, all Airmen of any pay grade were able to participate in the event. The items that were left over were donated to charities located in the Wichita area. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Maria Ruiz**



**Maj. Rich Moon, elf, and Col. Dave Weishaar, Santa Clause, display their holiday spirit by waving to drivers arriving at work during the early morning hours of Dec. 12. Afterwards, they walked through the buildings of the Air Guard side of McConnell Air Force Base spreading Christmas cheer and passing out candy. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy**



**Recently, seven Smoky Hill members went the extra mile. Actually, they went 100 extra miles. The challenge was to run 100 miles in one month and with much sweat, sore muscles, and determination Tech. Sgt. Mike Kubik, Tech. Sgt. Josh McIntosh; Tech. Sgt. Eric Poe, Tech. Sgt. Chris Vanfosson, Master Sgt. Jeremy Chamberlin, Maj. Bobby Campbell and Mrs. Lacey Huffman accomplished the feat.**

**Photo and caption courtesy of Det 1, Smoky Hill Weapons Range**