

# JAY HAWK FLYER

NEWS PUBLICATION OF THE 184th INTELLIGENCE WING

## Not your everyday rodeo

*The Expeditionary Skills  
Rodeo offered a new  
training experience  
while saving time and  
resources. *page 4**

# JAYHAWK FLYER

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

## Cover photo

**Airman 1st Class Khanh Phung, 184th Civil Engineer Squadron, cordons and secures unexploded ordnance as part of the Expeditionary Skills Rodeo on March 8, at McConnell Air Force Base. The ESR offered 15-minute training stations that taught Airmen deployment and expeditionary skills.**

Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs



Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

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# Bird's Eye View

## Letter from the editor

Social media is part of everyday life for many people, including me. It is a fantastic communication tool for people to inform family, friends and business colleagues on all the updates of your life. Like any communication, especially for those in uniform, what is communicated and how it is communicated always needs to be done with caution. Bad guys are out there and they have no



**1st Lt. Matt Lucht**  
**Chief of Public Affairs**

qualms about using information found on social media to hurt anyone that stands in their way.

### UTA information

April UTA: Apr. 11-12

May UTA: May 2-3

June UTA: June 6-7

Deadline for the July edition of the Jayhawk Flyer is June 15.

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

Several weeks ago, ISIS published online a hit list for their supporters to attack. Most, including me, thought those targets tend to be higher level military leaders, politicians, CEOs or someone well-known in the media. However, that list reached out and even targeted Kansas military personnel. It can and will happen to those you know or work with.

Why make it easier to become a target? By posting personal details online, you can become a target for anyone that wants to use that information. For civilian employment, I know several employers that search social media when they get resumes for positions. Last night's beer pong tournament photos probably won't make a good impression for future bosses. For your military career, is it smart to post photos of your family in front of the new house that you just bought with the address visible in the photo?

### Points of contact

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Recruiting Office: 759-7424

Remember the Air Force core value of service before self. By posting pictures, day-to-day updates or location information you are putting yourself, your fellow Airmen and the mission in harm's way because you might want to impress your social media friends. Would you be willing to look in the eyes of a fellow Airman or family member and explain why something bad happened because of something you posted on social media?

If you have questions or concerns regarding social media, please contact the Public Affairs office for advice.

Operational security isn't just during drill and annual training, so please be vigilant and safe when using social media.

### 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)

1st Lt. Matt Lucht  
Chief of Public Affairs

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

## Not your everyday rodeo

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

***The Expeditionary Skills Rodeo offered a new training experience while saving time and resources.***

The 184th Intelligence Wing held a rodeo during drill weekend in March, but it wasn't the kind with cowboy boots and eight-second clocks. It was a one-stop training "rodeo" that helped Airmen gain skills in first aid and chemical/biological protection practices to ensure they are deployment ready.

"It's to get everyone warfighter ready, and this meets all the requirements that we don't do on computer-based training," said Master Sgt. Brian Castillo, 177th Information Aggressor Squadron. "We actually have a hands-on portion where everyone is required to do a little bit on each section."

The new training style is mandated by the National Guard Bureau and the organizers of the rodeo



**During the March unit training assembly, Airmen assigned to the 184th Intelligence Wing attended training designed to give visual and hands-on learning experiences in first aid and chemical/biological protection practices. The training, called the Expeditionary Skills Rodeo, was a four-hour session broken up into 15-minute workstations.**

Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

tried to make the experience as valuable as possible for the participants. The training was conducted at stations in two different buildings. Airmen would spend about 15 minutes at each station, where they watched a short video or PowerPoint, saw a demonstration on the station's subject and then got some hands-on training with the equipment.

"Any training that you can get hands-on is worth more money than having someone sit at their desk clicking through computer-based training," said Command Chief Master Sgt. William Stacey, 184th command chief. "The stations worked

really well and the instructors did a great job."

Airmen saw the immediate benefits.

"The classes are really detailed in the orientation of what we have to do," said Master Sgt. John Bogart, Civil Engineer Squadron. "They are going through the very basics with the slides and then they are doing the hands-on portion with the troops. It is a really good program."

The rodeo met the requirements of eight different training subjects in a four-and-a-half hour time period. The block of time took all morning to complete, but saved each Airman approximately five hours of additional training.

"It is time-consuming, but doing it all in one group instead of doing it



**Airmen gained hands-on experience in life-saving techniques during the ESR.**

Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs



from a shop-by-shop basis is better,” said Bogart, “especially being hands-on, because it really gets everyone involved with the training.”

Volunteers from across the wing pitched in to make this event successful.

“We have instructors from everywhere,” said Castillo. “They are from the 134th Air Control Squadron, Civil Engineer Squadron, the Medical Group, Security Forces Squadron, 161st Intelligence Squadron, the 177th Information Aggressor Squadron – basically, it is a lot of volunteers from across the wing.”

The entire focus of the training rodeo was getting the Airmen of the 184th IW ready to deploy at a moment’s notice. Readiness is a top priority for Stacey and the wing.

“One of my focus points is readiness, and having all of this training done together allows us to be more relevant and mission ready,” said Stacey.



**Security Forces Squadron personnel learn to properly apply tourniquets in accordance with the training and the Airmen’s Manual.**

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

Organizers of the rodeo were extremely happy with how the training went and also heard feedback from participants.

“We have gotten nothing but positive reviews,” said Castillo. “They love the way that it was

compressed, it saved time and still met all the requirements for the hands-on training. Our goal is to provide the best training in the Air National Guard, and to tell you the truth, we are already headed there.”



**Tech. Sgt. Chris Schulte, volunteer instructor, 134th Air Control Squadron, teaches Airmen how to identify, cordon and secure unexploded ordnance during the ESR. The UXO training was one of many stations Airmen learned deployment and expeditionary skills.** Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

## Airmen capture win at Kansas Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition

By Sgt. Zach Sheely, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**Airmen assigned to the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron claim the title of Best Warrior in an intense, three day competition.**

Eight National Guardsmen representing units from across Kansas converged on the Great Plains Joint Training Center near Salina March 19-21 to contend in a grueling competition to determine the Best Warrior in the Kansas Army National Guard.

In an upset, the winners are not even in the Army.

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Austin and Senior Airman Dean Johnston, joint terminal attack controllers, 284th Air Support Squadron, Kansas Air National Guard, claimed the title of Best Warrior in the Soldier (specialist and below) and non-commissioned officer categories, respectively.

“We are the Kansas National Guard, which is made up of Army and Air,” said Command Sgt. Major James J. Moberly, command sergeant major, Kansas Army National Guard – Land Component, of the Airmen winning the traditionally Army-based event.

This was the first time Airmen participated in the Kansas National Guard Best Warrior Competition and Moberly explained that the future model of the event will be a joint-service competition.

“The Airmen this year were my



**Senior Airman Dean Johnston, joint terminal attack controller, 284th Air Support Operation Squadron, stares down his target at the M4/M16 rifle range at the Great Plains Joint Training Center, near Salina, Kansas, during the Best Warrior Competition March 20. Johnston won the Soldier category of the traditionally Army-only event.**

Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

test subjects,” he said. “Next year we will open the competition to the 184th Intelligence Wing and the 190th Air Refueling Wing.”

The competition pushes contenders to their limits, testing their mental fortitude, physical stamina and knowledge in all facets of Soldier skills and Army doctrine. It’s an exercise in resilience under stress.

“There’s a lot for these contenders to be able to know and do,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Mat-ticks, commandant, 235th Regional Training Institute. “It’s a long race. It’s not necessarily about winning each event, it’s how you average.”

Day one of the arduous three-day event was the most physically

demanding.

The day began with an Army Physical Fitness Test – two minutes of push-ups and sit-ups, and a timed two-mile run – and weigh-in, followed directly by land navigation, wherein competitors had to locate five points on a four-square-mile course as fast as possible using only a map, protractor and compass. Then, during a nearly 12-mile ruck march conducted in accordance with Army Air Assault standard, each participant, wearing body armor and Kevlar helmet, carried a 35-pound pack over the rolling terrain of Smoky Hill Weapons Range without being told the distance or time they would be walk-





**Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Austin, joint terminal attack controller, 284th Air Support Operation Squadron, finishes the final leg of a nearly 12-mile ruck march as part of the 2015 Kansas Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition at the Great Plains Joint Training Center near Salina, Kansas, March 19-21. Austin won the noncommissioned officer category of the traditionally Army-only event.**

Photo by Sgt. Mark Nussbaumer, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

ing. Once finished with the ruck march, competitors were given an additional three points to find on the land-navigation course at night – all within roughly 12 hours.

Day two tested marksmanship, starting with zeroing and qualifying with the M4 carbine. Next, a “mystery event” included a live-fire exercise with the M249 squad automatic weapon, M320 grenade launcher and 12-gauge shotgun as competitors moved from range to range on foot. The event wasn’t timed, but only the first four to finish were awarded points. There was also record qualification with the M9 pistol. Then, each competitor conducted a call for fire drill and wrote an essay on the subject of mentorship.

The final day, each participant was given a written exam and judged on their appearance in their service uniform by a board of

sergeants major, who asked them questions on modern Army doctrine.

Throughout the event, competitors were tested on various warrior tasks including assembling and disassembling the M249, calling in a medical evacuation and identifying and treating battle wounds.

“This competition has been years in the making,” said Brig. Gen. Robert E. Windham, commander, Kansas Army National Guard-Land Component. “Every year it gets a little better and a little more challenging.”

At its heart, the Best Warrior Competition is designed to build morale among competitors, their units and the Kansas National Guard as a whole.

“It brings me back to the core of soldiering,” said Matticks. “It’s what the basics of soldiering are all about, and I think that’s what really

motivates these guys.”

Sgt. Michael Meyer, combat engineer, 772nd Engineer Company, was motivated by sheer will. Meyer, a 53-year-old native of Higginsville, Missouri, won his company-level Best Warrior event months prior, and was nearly three times the age of most of his fellow competitors.

“My pride won’t let me stop,” he said. “I can’t quit. I had to talk myself into continuing, but once a quitter, always a quitter, so I just had to keep moving. I may not win, but I won’t be last.”

Ultimately, no competitor quit. Each showed strengths and also learned lessons to take back to their respective units, according to Moberly.

“This also serves as an external evaluation for me on the quality of training within my subordinate units and what shortcomings need



**Senior Airman Dean Johnston, left, and Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Austin, joint terminal attack controllers, 284th Air Support Operation Squadron, plot points on a map of the land navigation course at the Great Plains Joint Training Center near Salina, Kansas, during the Best Warrior Competition March 19. Johnston and Austin won the soldier and noncommissioned officer categories of the traditionally Army-only event**

Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

to be addressed,” said Moberly. “I think this competition is critical to monitoring the readiness of our force and, most importantly, recognizing the top individuals.”

Windham strongly encouraged all who love being a Soldier to compete in future Best Warrior Competitions.

“Everybody who competed is a winner,” he said. “The competitors are the pride of the Kansas National Guard, but at the end, there’s only one number one.”

To the number ones, Johnston and Austin,

Moberly said, “You better come back next year with the intent to win.”

He then strongly challenged his subordinate unit command sergeants major not to let the Air Guard win again next year.

Winners of the competition at the state level will go on to a regional event against winners from neighboring states. Since the official National Guard competition hasn’t opened to Airmen yet, the two runners-up, Sgt. Matthew Cope-land, tank gunner, Company D, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, Emporia, and Spc. Karson Zeltwanger, computer detection systems repairer, 995th Maintenance Company, Concordia, will represent Kansas in the Region V competition at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, in May.

## Smoky Hill earns first annual range award

Smoky Hill Weapons Range, located southwest of Salina, received the first Air National Guard Range Award in early 2015. The 34,000 acre range is operated and maintained by Detachment 1, 184th Intelligence Wing, which employs 24 full-time Air National Guardsmen and six state employees. Smoky Hill was rated number one among 14 ANG, air-to-ground gunnery ranges in the United States. The Range Award Board is comprised of members of the Directorate of Air, Space and Information Operations staff and a member of the Exercise Branch.



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



## Air Guardsmen support wounded warrior

By Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

**Salina Air Guardsmen gave back to a wounded veteran by remodelling and cleaning his home in November 2014.**

Recently, members of Detachment 1, Smoky Hill Weapons Range and the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron, took part in remodeling and cleaning a house in Salina, for a wounded warrior.

Lacey Huffman, who works at Smoky Hill, received information for the project at the end of October and on Veteran's Day spearheaded the unit's involvement by sending an email requesting volunteers.

"Veterans hold a special place in my heart," Huffman said. "I am a life-long resident of Salina and come from a family with a long military history."

Huffman's friend, a local heating, ventilation and air conditioning distributor, said the contractor had been having a hard time trying to find subcontractors.

After meeting with the contractor, Huffman started contacting people she knew, which resulted in a chain of volunteers reaching out to others to help complete the project. More than 130 volunteers from the community showed up on Nov. 17, 2014, the deadline for the contractor to complete the project.

"The local community in Salina has always been incredibly supportive of Smoky Hill and the military in general," said Lt. Col. Russell Allen, commander of Det



**Left to right - Chief Master Sgt. Matt Foote, superintendent, 284th Air Support Operations Squadron; Lacey Huffman, state employee at Smoky Hill Weapons Range and Chief Master Sgt. James Weldy, superintendent, Detachment 1, rounded up volunteers to help remodel a house belonging to a wounded warrior in Salina. Huffman was the main point of contact for Smoky Hill personnel. Through her efforts, a 130-person team completed the project on Nov. 17, 2014.** Photo courtesy Lacey Huffman

1, SHWR. "We really couldn't ask for a better community to be a part of."

During the project, personnel completed a variety of tasks such as tree trimming, landscape installation, removal of carpet and tile, painting, general housekeeping and

cleaning of the plumbing system.

The house was presented to the wounded warrior on Feb. 6.

"I feel veterans, past and present, are owed a debt of gratitude for their service, so this is my way of giving back to them," said Huffman.

## Air Control Squadron hones joint skills during exercise

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

***The 134th Air Control Squadron practice joint and coalition warfighting skills at McConnell Air Force Base.***

Most coaches adopt a “practice how you play” philosophy when building a team. The goal is to develop a strong, unified force during practice, so there’s no question of how the team will perform during the game. That’s exactly what the 134th Air Control Squadron did in December 2014 during a two-week joint exercise at McConnell Air Force Base called Operation Brimstone.

The exercise brought U.S. and coalition forces together in a scenario aimed at deterring and countering the actions of a simulated enemy. The primary goal of the mission was to work with the U.S. Navy’s USS Theodore Roosevelt Strike Group as they prepare for a combat tour.

“The Navy has a whole series of exercises that they do throughout a 14-month period to build up for this strike group prior to their deployment cycle,” said Capt. Naomi Hume, operations officer, 134th ACS.

This particular exercise, referred to as a fleet synthetic training - group commander, was designed to train a strike group to rapidly establish air, maritime and ground superiority while maintaining the strength of coalition ground and air forces.

The ships were located close to the East Coast during the exercise.

“They’re actually playing from



**Senior Master Sgt. Tom Gattis (right), 134th Air Control Squadron, works with other Airmen to establish effective communication between U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force combatants, as well as coalition personnel, during Operation Brimstone at McConnell Air Force Base in December 2014.** Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

different ships,” said Hume. “Each ship has a simulator on it and everybody’s connected through a big virtual simulator called the Distributed Mission Operations Center, which is at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico.”

The 134th ACS served as the command and reporting center, which maintained constant communication with U.S. military forces, including airborne platforms from the Air Force, air defense artillery components from the Army and maritime air control crews from the Marine Corps. Allied forces from the United Kingdom and Germany also participated.

“It was a very real exercise for us

because it’s exactly how we operate when we’re overseas. We saw real scenarios that we would see when we’re deployed,” said Hume.

In addition to prepping the Navy for their deployment, the 134th ACS took advantage of a rare opportunity to train directly with Air Defense Artillery Fire Control Officers, Army officers who are in charge of firing PATRIOT missiles. They sit with senior directors and work with mission crew commanders to properly identify, and acquire the authority to engage a threat.

“Our surveillance section identifies all the aircraft and it’s our job to determine who the friendlies are and who the enemies are,” said





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

Hume. “We put the ADAFCOs with the command and reporting center. The ADAFCOs don’t fire unless our mission crew commander says it’s clear to engage that target.”

The checks were put in place to avoid accidentally engaging friend-

ly forces.

Managing battlefield airspace is a specialty of the 134th ACS. The operations section normally carries out the bulk of the mission once all of the equipment is assembled. However, setting up and keeping

the equipment running properly falls on the shoulders of the maintenance section.

During this mission, the data shop provided the core services required to operate the command and operating center.

“Our data shop got a lot of really good training since this kind of exercise isn’t something that we’ve ever done at home,” said Hume.

Most of the first week of the exercise was dedicated to setting up the communications piece at McConnell. The Air Force’s Combat Communications Squadron and members from the 133rd Test Squadron, Iowa ANG, helped assemble and maintain critical IT equipment.

“We were having a lot of issues with the equipment during the first week, but everything that popped up, they were able to troubleshoot it,” said Hume. “We definitely couldn’t have done our jobs without those guys.”



**Soldiers, Marines and Airmen monitor battlefield airspace and control air traffic. Operation Brimstone offered a very realistic training environment which sharpened combat skills and prepared personnel to overcome communication challenges.** Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

## Wigal promoted to first female colonel, group commander in 184th

By Tech. Sgt. Maria Ruiz, 184th Public Affairs

***Vonda Wigal becomes first female in the 184th's history to earn the rank of colonel and achieve the title of group commander.***

Lt. Col. Vonda Wigal, 184th Medical Group commander, was promoted to colonel Feb. 7 at the 184th Intelligence Wing.

Wigal assumed command of the 184th MG on May 4, 2014. She is the first female colonel and group commander in the history of the 184th IW.

Col. Jeff Jordan, 184th IW commander, said, "The point about diversity is that all the young Airmen in the wing that aspire to be a group or unit commander can believe they are capable of achieving that status."

"I never dreamt I would get to this point and it's a challenge I do not take lightly," Wigal said during her promotion.

The Medical Group provides combat ready medics to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and combatant commanders, in addition to the professional medics available to the Defense Information Systems Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Homeland Defense and the state of Kansas, while supporting the 184th IW's goal of combat readiness. The group consists of four units: aerospace medicine, dental, health services and medical operations.

Wigal, a native of Hoisington,



**David Wigal pins new rank insignia on Col. Vonda Wigal during her promotion ceremony on Feb. 7. Their sons, Sam and Blake, were also part of the pinning ceremony.** Photo by Tech. Sgt. Maria Ruiz, 184th Public Affairs

Kansas, graduated from St. Mary of the Plains College, Dodge City, Kansas, in 1988 with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. She commissioned in the U.S. Air Force on May 13, 1988. In 1989, she attended Military Indoctrination for Medical Service Officers at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, and served a five-month nurse internship at Keesler Air Force Base.

Wigal entered Individual Readiness Reserve status in February 1992 and worked as a contract registered nurse, returning to Kansas in 1997.

She joined the Kansas Air National Guard, 184th Medical Squadron, in 1999 as a clinical nurse. In 2010, she assumed command of the 184th Medical Group's Medical Operations Division and in 2011 she took over responsibilities as chief nurse.

She is currently employed as an advanced practice registered nurse with Walgreen Company's health-care clinics and has served on the board of the Association of Air National Guard Nurses.

"Many colonels have welcomed and guided me into this new rank



## Fighting Jayhawks appointed to top-level positions

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

Some of the most recent changes throughout the wing include notable assignments and promotions.

### Chaplain (Col.) Terry Williams

Terry Williams, long-time chaplain for the 184th Intelligence Wing and 190th Air Refueling Wing, was promoted to the rank of colonel on Feb. 8. Williams will serve as the Air National Guard assistant to the Air Combat Command chaplain.



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

### Lt. Col. James Culp

Lt. Col. James Culp, former commander of the 184th Civil Engineer Squadron, transferred to Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, and accepted the position of director of installations and mission support for the Air Combat Command. The position carries the rank of colonel.



Photo by Master Sgt. John Vsetecka, 184th Public Affairs

### Col. Cody Jacobs

Col. Cody Jacobs, former commander of the 161st Intelligence Squadron, was promoted on March 31, and departed the next day to Virginia to serve as the chief of the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Forces Division at the National Guard Bureau.



Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

***“I never dreamt I would get to this point and it’s a challenge I do not take lightly.”- Col. Vonda Wigal, commander, 184th Medical Group***

and I hope I have shined some light into the medical side of the job,” said Wigal. “This job has its challenges but I’ve enjoyed it. This would not be possible without the continued guidance and leadership of others and my family’s support.”

**Right - Col. Vonda Wigal, husband David and sons, Sam and Blake, were presented the St. Francis Community Services Kinship Family of the Year Award, Wichita Region. The event was held Sept. 6, 2014, at the Foster Parent Appreciation Event at the Kansas State Fair. They have provided foster care to Blake since June 2012 and have since adopted him.**

Photo courtesy of Col. Vonda Wigal



**Staff. Sgt. Abby Smith**

**Fighting Jayhawk since 2008**

**Organization:**

Wing Staff, Headquarters

**Military Job Title:**

Commander's Support Staff

**Special Activity:**

Honor Guard member since 2010



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Justin Jacobs, 184th Public Affairs

**Above & Beyond:**

- Coached for Special Olympics beginning in 2014
- Volunteered for the Veterans Administration hospital beginning in 2014
- Earned a Bachelors of Arts in Speech Language and Hearing from the University of Kansas
- Research Experience Program certificate for 85 hours of clinical research
- Conducted a presentation to over 30 faculty members and students involved in the University of Kansas Speech Language and Hearing program
- Deployed to Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan in 2012; named Warrior of the Week
- Honor Guard Member of the Year 2011
- Airman of the Quarter, April - June 2011

**My story:**

I joined the Kansas Air National Guard in 2008 with the Force Sustainment Flight of the Force Support Squadron. While attending the University of Kansas, I joined the Collegiate Veterans Association which welcomed veterans and military members attending KU and ensured a smooth transition into their college life. As the membership chair coordinator, I increased membership by holding campus and community events to promote the awareness of veterans on campus. As a member of the Air Guard with a new passion to help veteran students, I gained an interest in helping military members. In 2011, I volunteered for a deployment to Manas Air Base in Kyrgyzstan. I continued my course work at the University of Kansas after returning from the deployment. I worked in the Speech Language and Hearing Clinic as a student clinician and worked as an undergraduate student doing research on a child with apraxia of speech. I graduated with my Bachelors of Arts degree in speech language and hearing in 2013 during the fall semester. Recently, I changed career fields in the Air Guard and work as a commander's support staff for Headquarters. The Airmen of the 184th Intelligence Wing have surrounded me with support and great leadership to continue my military and civilian career. One day, I would like to graduate with my masters in speech pathology and work as a speech pathologist at the Veterans Administration.



## Lone bugler for 184th Intelligence Wing

By Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

***Staff Sgt. Chase Muninger, the Honor Guard's only bugler, puts his heart and soul into the music he plays for the unit he loves.***

Being a member of the 184th Intelligence Wing Honor Guard is great responsibility. Being the only bugler for the honor guard is even more of a privilege.

Staff Sgt. Chase Muninger, financial management technician with the 184th Comptroller Flight, has been an honor guard member since October 2011 and is the only bugler for the wing.

Muninger said, "To be the only bugler, I feel the heat of responsibility in a way different way. I feel sorrow when performing and have played for a friend's funeral who passed who was part of the wing."

Playing the bugle for the honor guard is a way for Muninger to share his passion of the bugle with members of the wing. In high school, Muninger was part of the band and jazz band. His senior year, Muninger received the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award, a trumpet ability award. He also plays the guitar and piano.

Muninger played the bugle for three funerals this past year and said it was an honor to play at funerals for the wing member and member's family.

Staff Sgt. Maria Sargent, an information technology specialist with the 299th Network Operation Support Squadron and fellow honor guard member said, "With-



**Staff Sgt. Chase Muninger, customer service, 184th Comptroller Flight, serves as the only bugler for the 184th Intelligence Wing's Honor Guard.**

Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney

out Senior Airman Muninger we would have been forced to use an electronic bugle for those funerals. It means so much more to everyone when Senior Airman Muninger plays the bugle, especially because he plays from his heart."

Even in unfavorable conditions, Muninger plays the bugle without hesitation.

"Senior Airman Muninger played the bugle in the cold when our fingers and toes were freezing and he was worried that his lips were too cold to be able to play well," Sargent said. "However, the eerie and lovely sound of the bugle as it played those final notes on that

freezing day touched and warmed the hearts of every person there."

The respect that Muninger puts in every time he plays is a testament to how much his fellow wing members and their families mean to him.

"Although I am the only live bugler, I'm surrounded by a team of people that I know," said Muninger. "They are phenomenal to work with and we have a high level of camaraderie. With that, I feel their support. They are very talented and have shown me everything I know as far as routine and steps. Without my teammates there is no team and I am honored to play bugle beside them."

# JAYHAWK FLYER

**photo finish ►** Fighting Jayhawks in action



**Maj. Keith Hickman, 184th Wing Staff, serves as the president of the mess at the wing's Dining Out banquet held at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita on Jan. 10. Approximately 550 people attended.**  
Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney

**Above: Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy, former command chief master sergeant to the director of the Air National Guard, delivered a stirring speech about what it means to be a Guardsman in today's Air Force at the 184th Intelligence Wing's Dining Out banquet held on Jan. 10 at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita. Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney**



**Left to right - Master Sgt. Dennis Willis, inspector, Wing Inspection Team; Senior Master Sgt. Kevin James, inspector general, Air Combat Command and Chief Master Sgt. Carolyn Crabb, superintendent, 184th Force Support Squadron, discuss directives and checklists during a spotcheck inspection held on Feb. 8. at McConnell Air Force Base. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy**



**The Equal Opportunity office welcomes 1st Lt. David Schonberg (right) as the new chief, replacing Maj. Sherry Barnes (not pictured), during the March unit training assembly. Master Sgt. Deonna Jacobs (left), also in the EO office, serves as the Wing Staff's interim first sergeant until the unit selects a permanent replacement.**  
Photo by Tech. Sgt. Maria Ruiz