

JAY HAWK FLYER

NEWS PUBLICATION OF THE 184th INTELLIGENCE WING



Herc Down at Smoky Hill

*Smoky Hill Weapons Range hosts an exercise that brings civilian agencies together to learn how to respond to an accident on a military installation. **page 4***

JAYHAWK FLYER

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Cover photo

Firefighters from local districts spray burning objects littering the fields where a simulated C-130 Hercules crashed at Smoky Hill Weapons Range Sept. 12. Range personnel prepared the crash site with large burn pits which created a high degree of realism during the exercise.

Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs



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

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Bird's Eye View

Commander's Comments

I have 475 words to write what it means to me to have had the privilege and honor to be your wing commander – can't be done.

It seems like it was only yesterday that I was having a conversation with Colonel Hernandez about taking command. I told him one of my main concerns was that I didn't know how long I would be able to do the job. I didn't know how much gas was in my tank. I didn't know how much my tank held, what my burn rate was and I didn't have a fuel gauge.



Col. J.J. Jordan
Wing Commander

UTA information

October UTA: Oct. 3-4

November UTA: Nov. 7-8

December UTA: Dec. 5-6

Deadline for the January edition of the Jayhawk Flyer is December 15.

Look for the monthly Drill Down for UTA information at 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

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

I got it wrong.

What I wasn't factoring in was all of you. I didn't know that you would fuel me. I've received much more from all of you than I have given. We've been through a lot in the last couple of years, and it is no understatement to say that we couldn't have gotten through it without each other. Most impressive is that we didn't merely survive, we excelled.

A lot of you have been very appreciative of my visibility in your squadrons. I have to tell you, my intentions were good, but I realized very soon that it was self-serving. I got much more out of it than you did. Most importantly, what I gained was confidence – confidence that this wing could handle any challenge we would face. One of the best compliments I heard during our recent Capstone inspection was that the IG team always hears from guard units that they are a family, but what was unique with the 184th was that though we certainly are a family, this was the first unit that was also extremely professional.

This wing is professional because we are mission-focused. I've often heard from leaders that their main duty was to take care of their Airmen. If they did that the Airmen would take care of the mission. Not true. Everybody's responsibility is to the mission. Always has been, always will be. We know all too well that we don't get to pick our mission or even how long we will do it. But we do it better than anyone else. Mission accomplishment can only occur with a firm commitment to our greatest core value, service before self.

It has been my greatest honor to have served with you all. I honestly don't think the 184th has ever had finer Airmen than we have now. I look forward to hearing about the outstanding accomplishments this wing will make in the years ahead. Your future is very bright. Thank you for all you've done to help me along the way, and thank you for serving!

Integrity First, Service Before Self, Excellence in All We Do.

Herc Down at Smoky Hill Weapons Range

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

Smoky Hill Weapons Range hosts an exercise that brings civilian agencies together to learn how to respond to an accident on a military installation.

An Air Force C-130 Hercules crashed while performing weed mitigation operations at Smoky Hill Weapons Range, near Salina, Sept. 12. Two crewmembers were killed on impact while another crewmember was critically injured. The crash also resulted in a hazardous material spill of 10,000 pounds of herbicide ejected from the plane.

Fortunately, this was only an exercise.

The scenario was part of a major accident response exercise which allowed Air National Guard and active-duty Air Force personnel to work with civilian first respond-



Volunteer rescue personnel from several Saline County districts conduct a search and recovery mission and extract casualties around an airplane crash site during an exercise at Smoky Hill Weapons Range Sept. 12. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

ers. All parties gained experience in the roles they would play in the event of a real-world accident.

“One thing we learned is that we

actually work really well together,” said Maj. Bobby Campbell, range safety officer, Smoky Hill Weapons Range. “I think everybody learned something.”

The main objectives were to test Smoky Hill Weapons Range incident response procedures, coordinate with local emergency response agencies and build relationships with emergency management departments.

“What we were trying to accomplish was the relationship-building piece between all the different agencies working together and get to know the guys,” said Campbell. “That way, when they get out to the range, they know what to expect”

As the exercise unfolded, firefighters from local districts



A first responder guides a Salina-based Lifeteam helicopter onto a make-shift landing zone close to a C-130 crash site during a major accident response exercise hosted at Smoky Hill Weapons Range. The helicopter landed long enough to load a crash survivor, then transported him to a local medical facility. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs



Saline County Emergency Management officials notified local fire and rescue districts that an Air Force plane crashed at Smoky Hill Weapons Range at approximately 8 a.m. Sept. 12. Several districts arrived on scene shortly after the call and found simulated plane parts scattered around the crash site. The flames were quickly extinguished. Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

sprayed burning objects that simulated airplane parts scattered across the range. The Saline County Sheriff's Office, joined by

firefighters, conducted a search and recovery mission. Once they found the survivor, firefighters stabilized the critically injured

Airman and transported him to a landing zone where a medical helicopter was waiting. A team from Salina also arrived to clean up the hazardous chemical spill.

"There was a lot of realism that was added to [the exercise] thanks to the guys at Smoky who lit the fires and got all of the positions set up," said Hannah Stambaugh, director, Saline County Emergency Management.

The civilian agencies also learned how they would operate on a federal installation.

"Before this exercise, there were a lot of questions as far as 'Once we get on range, who's in charge?' Or 'What can I do and what can't I do?'" said Stambaugh. "I think we really squashed that today."



Rescue personnel, including Saline County Sheriff officers and local firefighters, transport a wounded Airman to a medical helicopter during an exercise called "Herc Down," hosted by Detachment 1, Smoky Hill Weapons Range, Sept. 12.

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

184th CES renovates Kansas Army National Guard armory

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

Air Guardsmen renovate an armory for their Army National Guard brethren during a two-week deployment for training assignment in Ottawa.

Thirty Airmen from the 184th Civil Engineer Squadron were sent to Ottawa, Kansas, to renovate the Kansas Army National Guard armory as a Deployment for Training May 30 – June 13.

The two-week operation included upgrading the gym, patio, outside drainage system, some of the HVAC and lighting, kitchen, and mezzanine.

The CES dispatched Airmen from Operations Management; Engineering; Heating; Ventilation; Air Conditioning and Refrigeration; Electrical Power Production; Electrical Systems; Pavements and Construction Equipment; and Structures.

Two heavy equipment operators from the Kansas Army National Guard, 242nd Engineer Company, Coffeyville, worked hand-in-hand with the 184th CES Airmen to accomplish the project.

“This is the first time I’ve really worked with the Air Force,” said Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Andrew Scott, 242nd Engineer Company. “It is different but you become cohesive and they (184th CES) were a good group of Airmen to work with.”

Not only did the 242nd company bring manpower, they also brought equipment; a five-yard



Tech. Sgt. Billy Smith, supervisor, Pavements and Construction Equipment section of the 184th Civil Engineer Squadron, scrapes and forms cement for a storm drain, during a deployment for training at the Kansas Army National Guard, 250th Forward Support Company, Ottawa armory, June 11. The two-week operation entailed renovations to the armory’s outdoor patio, kitchen, gym, mezzanine and outside drainage area.

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

loader and a grader. Airmen and Soldiers were able to train on the equipment.

Approximately 40 to 60 Soldiers drill at the Ottawa armory of the 250th Forward Support Company.

“The armory was not looking so good before the renovations,” said, Staff Sgt. Ian Saxton, supply sergeant, 250th Forward Support Company. “Since we are a Forward Support Company, we feed a lot



The 184th Civil Engineer Squadron upgraded the armory that houses the 250th Forward Support Company, Ottawa, during a Deployment For Training May 30 - June 13. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Maria Ruiz, 184th Public Affairs

of people and needed the space to improve serving time and food quality. Additionally, the Soldiers' morale will go up since there will be better food and more space to

work out in the gym."

During the project, the working Airmen and Soldiers were surprised by a visit from Maj. Gen. Lee Tafarielli, Kansas adjutant general.

"I'm very excited about the work that is being done in our facilities," said Tafarielli. "This provides a great opportunity to bring our engineers from the Army and Air National Guard and train together. It is a great success to be able to do that during our annual training period."

The project was funded by the Department of Public Works under the Adjutant General of Kansas through a contract for about

\$67,500 for materials. Alongside these funds, the Air Force was able to provide the labor, vehicles and fuel.

Maj. Jeffrey Schmitt, 184th CES, logistics officer, said, "We estimated that a contract of this size would cost \$300,000. We were able to use our Air National Guard forces to complete the troop-labor project since the 184th CES had annual training days to use for DFT. It benefits both sides."

"This provides a cost-affordable way to make many of needed improvements to our facilities," said Tafarielli. "I could see how the Airmen and Soldiers were really excited and engaged about what they were doing."

"I learned a lot about the other CES units and how each Airman plays an important role in the project," said Airman 1st Class Carl Hayter-Sirls, 184th CES. "I also had a great experience interacting with the local Army unit. It's a team effort."



Lt. Col. Johnnie Adam, 184th Civil Engineer Squadron, project Officer in Charge, cuts a bridging piece for an outdoor patio overhang assisted by Staff Sgt. Luke Groom, 184th CES, Structures, during a deployment for training at the Kansas Army National Guard armory in Ottawa, June 9.

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

Time marches on at the 284th ASOS

By 1st Lt. Matt Lucht and Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

As a busy and productive summer comes to an end and a new season begins, the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron experiences changes as well.

First change of command

The first change of command ceremony for the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron was held Sept. 12 at Smoky Hill Weapons Range.

Lt. Col. Gary Nash passed his command to Maj. Jacob Schwartz in front of an audience of family, coworkers and top leaders from the 184th Intelligence Wing.

Nash was once a pilot assigned to the 184th, but when the flying mission ended, Nash was appointed as the commander of the wing's newest ground-combat unit.



Left to right: Col. Mike Venerdi, commander, 184th Regional Support Group; Chief Master Sgt. Matt Foote, superintendent, 284th Air Support Operations Squadron; Lt. Col. Gary Nash, out-going commander, 284th ASOS; and Maj. Jacob Schwartz, in-coming commander, 284th ASOS, stand at attention during a change of command ceremony held at Smoky Hill Weapons Range Sept. 12. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

As the squadron's first commander, Nash was part of the activation process in 2009, and oversaw the development through its formative years. With only a few years of experience leading joint terminal attack controllers and tactical air control parties, Nash led his team through their first ground-combat deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2012.

Schwartz expressed gratitude and enthusiasm for his new responsibilities. During his remarks, he talked about

the challenges he faced to join the squadron, and said commanding an ASOS has been a long-time goal throughout his career.

Dillon's supports local military

In appreciation for military members, the Dillon's Super Store in Salina donated 1,000 packages of Twizzlers candy July 15 to Detachment 1, 184th IW; 284th ASOS; and the Great Plains Joint Training Center, all located at Smoky Hill Weapons Range.

The donations were collected as part of a corporation wide contest in which each store sells as many Twizzlers as they can in a two-month period, which are then donated to a worthy cause. The donations were given to Salina law



Col. Mike Venerdi, commander, 184th RSG, hands the 284th ASOS's guidon to Maj. Jacob Schwartz, symbolizing the transfer of command responsibilities for a military organization.

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



Military members left to right: Command Sgt. Maj. Greg Kober, Great Plains Joint Training Center; Lt. Col. Gary Nash, commander, 284th ASOS; Sgt. 1st Class Timmy Morris, GPJTC; Master Sgt. George McNabb, 284th ASOS; and Tech. Sgt. James Andres, 284th ASOS. The Dillon's Super Store donated 1,000 packages of Twizzlers candy July 15 to local military units, including the Great Plains Joint Training Center and the 284th ASOS.

Photo courtesy of Dillon's Super Store, Salina

enforcement and fire departments in 2014.

Airman gains valuable training overseas

When most Airmen get on a plane headed for additional training, the flight time might only be a few hours, depending on where you fly in the United States. For Senior Airman Clayton Jones, 284th Air Support Operations Squadron, a seven-hour flight was taking him where most don't go for training, Norway.

"I have been waiting on a slot to go to the American Tactical Air Combat Party qualification course for some time and wasn't able to make the first available one that came up," said Jones. "They called me and said 'Hey, there is the Norwegian qualification course. Do you want to try this one?' and I said, 'Yes, absolutely.'"

Jones spent June 2015 on his first steps in learning the initial skills to become a fully qualified TACP. His determination to become a member of the 284th ASOS carried

through with him as he continued his training.

"They described it as being a very hard course and they would have a bit more physical portion because, for Norway, they do more hiking in the mountains," said Jones. "The reason why I became a TACP is to find the hardest job and see if I can make it. It made sense to use that reason for the qualification course spot, too."

The terrain and temperature gave Jones a different experience while training, but one he took in stride.

"The average temperature was about 50-60s for highs and, being June, it was supposed to be a nice time of year," said Jones. "But it actually was the rainiest they have had in a long time. It rained or drizzled about the first two to three weeks that I was there. It made it very interesting being on the hill all morning in the rain."

Language differences can hinder training in any environment, especially in a situation where communication is key to a successful mission. Jones' training was

successful with the help of some classmates and instructors.

"All the instructors spoke very good English and I experienced almost zero language barrier," said Jones. "There were a few times that they would ask me what a certain word meant if they hadn't heard it before, but other than that it wasn't a problem at all."

While in training, Jones was one of a few students selected to see what life is like on the other end of the radio.

"A few students got to go up with a pilot for a familiarization ride," said Jones. "We saw exactly what he sees, got to hear the other side of the radio, got to hear a target talk on from the air and do all the target tracking from a pilot's perspective."

Jones returned to Norway in August to finish up his second phase of his eight-week TACP qualification course. The course gives him the fundamentals of his job, but to be a fully qualified TACP, he is still required to be evaluated by his unit.

Wing scores “Effective” in first UEI

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

Airmen assigned to the 184th Intelligence Wing experience a new style of inspection and earn an “Effective” rating for their first Unit Effectiveness Inspection.

The 184th Intelligence Wing experienced its first Unit Effectiveness Inspection, or UEI, during a Capstone event July 17-20.

The inspection resulted in an overall “Effective” rating for the wing’s first inspection cycle.

“I’m very pleased with how we performed during the inspection,” said Col. J.J. Jordan, commander, 184th Intelligence Wing. “The feedback that I got all week long was outstanding. It will only get better with time.”

The new inspection program allowed the wing to inspect its own internal programs while the visiting inspectors were on scene to critique the wing’s inspection system. Virtual inspections were also introduced, which involved off-site inspectors viewing records through computer software.

“The UEI Capstone was just a marker along the way as the wing continues to build its inspection program,” said Maj. Deborah Balentine, director of inspections, 184th Inspector General’s Office.

According to the final inspection report, “The inspection team evaluated the unit’s discipline, effectiveness, efficiency and compliance using standards set forth in Air Force Instruction 90-201 and



Staff Sgt. Joseph Krovlik, 184th Logistics Readiness Squadron, materiel management, demonstrates shelf-life documents to Master Sgt. Toni Holt, Air Combat Command Inspector General member, during a Unit Effectiveness Inspection, July 18, McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas. The UEI ensures mission readiness and compliance of the wing’s Air Force Inspection System process. The inspection team, which validates how the Commander’s Inspection Program is implemented, helped address Airmen concerns and instructs teams on self-evaluations techniques.

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

applicable major command guidance.”

The on-site inspection team consisted of 42 inspectors from the Air Combat Command, Air Force Inspection Agency and the Air Force Space Command.

Inspection cycles are normally four-year periods, but the recent cycle was considerably less since the Air Force just implemented the revised inspection system in June 2013.

With only a couple of years to

prepare, the wing’s leaders immediately created the IG Office which then formed the wing inspection team comprised of subject matter experts who carried out internal inspections on other offices within the unit.

“The more telling sign of our wing’s success up to now has been the way wing leadership and members have readily embraced the demands of this new inspection system,” said Balentine. “That has been outstanding!”

Top senior enlisted advisor visits McConnell Air Force Base

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

Sgt. Maj. Bryan Battaglia visits both sides of McConnell Air Force Base on his first stop of many while touring military installations throughout the Midwest.

United States Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Bryan Battaglia, senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited the 184th Intelligence Wing at McConnell Air Force Base July 31.

Battaglia had multiple reasons for the visit.

“One is, obviously, to see the troops and their families, first and foremost,” said Battaglia. “It provides me an opportunity not just to transmit the things that are happening at the Department of Defense level, but it’s also an opportunity to receive what ‘Team McConnell’ is doing for our department.”

Battaglia interacted with military members, promoted feedback and learn about the installation’s partnerships with the local community. He also observed the strong relationships between the active Air Force, Reserve and Guard components collocated on the base.

“Let me tell you something, it didn’t take long for me to see that, between McConnell and Wichita, the partnerships are in very good shape,” said Battaglia.

The visit gave the 184th IW opportunities to showcase their capabilities and high achievements while communicating questions



Sgt. Maj. Bryan Battaglia, senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visits with Tech. Sgt. Jason Massingale, 177th Information Aggressor Squadron, about the unique capabilities the squadron brings to the fight. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

and concerns with Airmen and senior leaders.

In addition to communicating through senior leaders, Battaglia encouraged personnel to give the DoD a chance to address their concerns before “pushing the panic button.”

“While I respect the chain of command, in today’s age all it takes is e-mail or social media,” said Battaglia. “I answer social media requests quite frequently.”

The visit was the first stop in

a tour of military installations throughout the Midwest.

“This has been on our planning calendar for quite some time and McConnell was certainly a stop for when we hit the Midwest,” said Battaglia.

On behalf of all of the senior leaders who visited that day, Battaglia expressed tremendous gratitude for the commitment and sacrifice that occurs on a daily basis, not only by the service members, but by the families as well.

Engineers build relations with construction projects

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

The 184th Civil Engineer Squadron joins their counterparts from Kansas and Armenia in a joint humanitarian mission.

As Kansas National Guard engineers loaded the plane Aug. 1, they were wearing different uniforms, but all had the same mission ahead of them. Approximately 40 Guardsmen from the 891st Engineer Battalion and Airmen from the 190th Air Refueling Wing and 184th Intelligence Wing spent 15 days on three separate projects updating bathrooms, hospital facilities and common living areas in the Republic of Armenia.

“I think that it has been a great opportunity for me, but also for the Airmen and the Soldiers to experience,” said Senior Master Sgt. Homer King, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Armenian project. “It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for them and, from what I have heard, they would come back in a heartbeat. They are all asking ‘When can we come back again?’”

The project teams were divided among three locations: the elderly institute in Yerevan, a hospital in Ashtarak and the emergency operations center for the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations. Each site had different scopes of work that the engineers had to adjust to.

“We did a lot of tile work,” said Capt. Andrew Steuterman, officer in charge of the Armenian project.



Staff Sgt. Cody Howard, structures technician, 184th Civil Engineer Squadron, installs tile flooring at Ashtarak Hospital during an Army/Air Force Humanitarian and Civil Assistance mission in the Republic of Armenia, Aug. 1-15. Soldiers from the 891st Engineer Battalion and Airmen from the 190th Air Refueling Wing and 184th Intelligence Wing, spent 15 days on three separate projects updating bathroom, hospital facilities and common living areas. Photo by 1st Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Public Affairs

“They do a lot of block and mortar repair, so that is a little different than we are use to in the United States, with drywall and such, but we were able to adapt and overcome.”

The transformation at each facility was extremely noticeable by the Soldiers and Airmen, but the Armenians who work and live in the areas knew that it meant more than just appearance. The upgrades for the hospital in Ashtarak with 266 employees sees 20,000 people and helped 319 new parents with births just last year, meant a better medical experience for the community.

“A couple of nurses have come in here and seen what we are do-

ing to it [the facility],” said Spc. James Fernandez, heavy equipment operator, 242nd Eng. Co. “They were almost in tears. They were so grateful to see what we are doing to their floors. It is really nice to see that kind of happiness in people.”

With just two weeks and lots of work to be done, the Soldiers and Airmen worked with one goal—complete the project.

“They enjoy working and I see it in everyone of them,” said 1st Lt. Justin Briggs, officer in charge at the elderly institute. “They are here working hard and even working late, if need be. Last night, we worked a little late, but the morale is high today. We give them the op-



Staff Sgt. Luke Groom prepared material for Davit Tonoyan, Armenian's deputy ministry of defense, as he places a tile on the wall in the bathroom at the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations workproject. Tonoyan visited with Kansas National Guard Soldiers and Airmen while they renovated three separate worksites.

Photo by 1st Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Public Affairs

portunity, we get the material here, give them a little bit of guidance and they are on it.”

“With the Army and the Air mixing together - it was a 60/40 mix - it has been a great opportunity,” said King. “I think that there has been a lot more learning than just the hands-on training side-by-side.”

“We are all Soldiers here, we are working together great,” said Briggs. “There hasn’t been a lot of cliques. You might think that the Air Force would be hanging out with Air Force and Army would be hanging out with Army. It’s not the way that it is.”

“It is really nice getting to work with some of the Army guys,” said Airman 1st Class Bryce Schroeder, structures technician, 184th Civil Engineer Squadron. “They brought

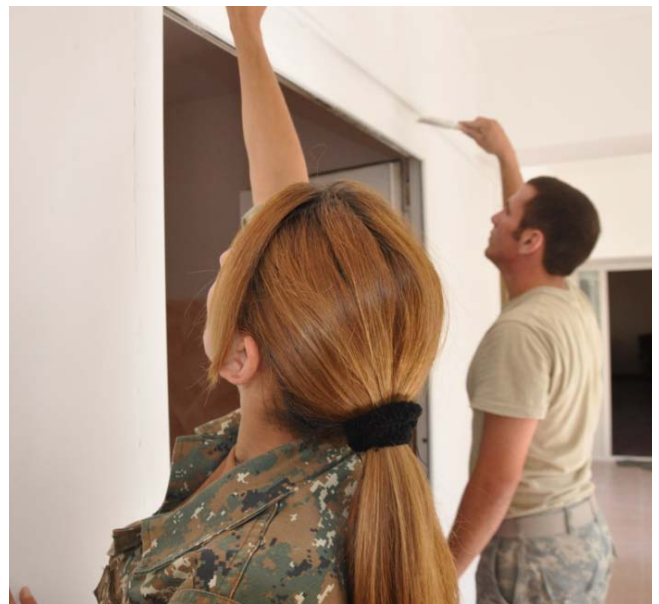
a lot to the table and a lot of them are very capable in their job and we are getting a lot done. A couple of them are teaching me new stuff every day. It is really nice to stretch that boundary and get to work with another branch. It is nice to take a step back and look at what we have accomplished even in this short amount of time already.”

Leadership hoped that spending two weeks upgrading facilities in the Republic of Armenia will be

an experience that the engineers can share with others.

“I think that it is going to be a trip that they are going to be talking about for the next two years,” said King. “I also think that it is going to be one that they are going to be telling their grandkids about. They are going to say, ‘I remember when I went to Armenia many years ago.’”

“I feel like coming over here, so new in my career, has been a huge benefit to me,” said Schroeder. “I have seen a lot of stuff that we don’t have back home, the way that things are set up and built. I have learned a couple new ways of doing things that I already knew how to do. I have just broadened my horizons so much being able to come here.”



Kansas Army National Guard Spc. Bradley Thomas and Armenian counterpart finished painting door trim at the Yerevan Elderly Institute Aug. 12. Guardsmen from Kansas and Armenia worked side-by-side to complete the renovation project that started Aug. 3.

Photo by 1st Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Public Affairs

**Senior Master Sgt.
Shane Knoblock**

Fighting Jayhawk since 2004

Organization:

**184th Logistics Readiness
Squadron**

Military Job Title:

**Superintendent,
184th Vehicle Maintenance**



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

Above & Beyond:

- Associates Degree, Business Administration in Logistics Management
- Associates Degree, Maintenance Production Management
- Bachelor of Science - Security Management
- Scored 100 percent on Annual Air Force fitness assessment five consecutive years
- Superior Performer Award during Unit Compliance Inspection May 2011
- Superior Team Performer Award for Logistics Compliance Inspection April 2012
- Mission Support Group Superior Performer Award for Unit Effectiveness Inspection July 2015
- 184th MSG Inspector General Evaluation Management System representative
- 184th MSG Self-Assessment Program Manager
- Wing Inspection Team member

My story:

After graduating high school in 1996, I joined the Air Force and was assigned to the 22nd Supply Squadron, McConnell Air Force Base, supporting the KC-135 refueling mission. After 9/11, I had the opportunity to help defend this great nation in support of Operations Iraq Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

In 2003, I was informed I was “hot” on the list to be force cross-trained to one of two special duty assignments, Basic Military Training Instructor or Air Force Recruiter. I started pursuing the options of becoming a member of the 184th Air Refueling Wing in early 2004 and by June I was a member. I was immediately placed back on Title 10 status and returned to the 22nd for eight months to back-fill for deployed active-duty members. During that time, I applied for every full-time position available and was selected for an Active Guard Reserve position in 2005 with the 184th LRS. I was assigned as the noncommissioned officer in charge of after-hours supporting the KC-135 and the B-1 engine shop. In 2006, I was assigned to LRS Stock Control and in 2007 I cross-trained to Vehicle Maintenance as a Vehicle Management and Analysis specialist. From 2011 to the present, I have served as the Vehicle Maintenance superintendent.

I attribute my success in the military to always leading by example every day and by doing my best to earn the respect of those that work for me, alongside me and above me. Thanks to each and every one of you for making my career a successful one, with a special thanks to the three most important people in my life, my wife Olivia and our two awesome boys, Alex and Clayton.

Honor Guard honors WWII brothers with flag fold

By Senior Airman Victor Caputo, 22nd Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Honor Guard teams from McConnell Air Force Base perform simultaneous flag folding ceremonies for two brothers who lost their lives in World War II.

An honor guard team from the 184th Intelligence Wing and 22nd Air Refueling Wing honored the memory of two Kansans who died in World War II during a flag folding ceremony Aug. 10 in Wichita, Kansas.

The memorial flags for brothers Staff Sgt. Dale Francis and Pfc. Paul Edward Kingsley, who died in 1943 and 1944 respectively, were ceremoniously folded in the manner of a military funeral before being presented to Verna Welsh, their younger sister and last surviving sibling.

"I'm grateful to the Air Force for doing this," said Welsh. "I've had these flags for years, and I told my daughter, 'You know, I should get these folded.'"

Welsh's daughter was able to reach out to a retired member of the 184th IW, who brought it to the attention of the honor guard. The 184th IW Honor Guard jumped at the chance to honor the fallen brothers.

Master Sgt. Jayme Gabbard, 184th IW Honor Guard superintendent, immediately began planning a ceremony for the flag foldings, coordinating with the 22nd ARW Honor Guard to help fill all of the necessary positions.

"It gives me peace of mind to



At Countryside Christian Church in Wichita, Master Sgt. Jayme Gabbard, superintendent, 184th Honor Guard, and Senior Airman Daniel Reid, 22nd ARW Honor Guard, fold a 48-star flag during a flag folding ceremony in honor of Staff Sgt. Dale Kingsley and Pfc. Paul Kingsley, two brothers who died in World War II. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

know that anytime something like this comes up, I can call Tech. Sgt. (Terrance) Williams, (22nd ARW Honor Guard NCO in charge,) and have his team step up and help us out," said Gabbard.

The significance of this ceremony was not lost on the Airmen involved. Both flags contained only 48 stars, as Alaska and Hawaii were not admitted into the Union until 1959.

"It was an honor to be able to hold a piece of history in your hands and give it its due diligence," said Gabbard.

The 19-man team consisted of active duty and Air National Guard Airmen ranging in rank from airman first class to captain, and they dutifully honored the fallen brothers with the ceremonial flag fold and the playing of taps.

"All that Verna, their sister, asked was to have their flags re-folded, and she had no idea we would honor her brothers with this ceremony," said Williams. "It was a great experience for us to be a part of and it was great seeing some of the younger Airmen take in the history of our military."

JAYHAWK FLYER

photo finish ► Fighting Jayhawks in action



Members of the 184th Intelligence Wing compete in a tug-of-war contest July 20 during the Super Sports Event at The Pines located on the Air National Guard side of McConnell Air Force Base. The event was a way for the Airmen to wind down from the inspection that occurred during the same weekend. A volleyball tournament was also held at the Jayhawk Roost as part of the event.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Justin Jacobs



Maj. Rich Moon, commander, 184th Force Support Squadron, expresses pride in his Airmen and gives words of encouragement during his last commander's call as the squadron's commander July 17.

Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy



Lt. Col. Tim Smith observes a search and recovery exercise at Smoky Hill Weapons Range, Sept. 12. Formerly the inspector general for the 184th IW, Smith assumes his new role as the 184th Regional Support Group commander in October.

Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy



Front row, left to right: Lt. Col. Joe Dessenberger, Maj. Deb Balentine and Senior Master Sgt. Stacie Smith were given coins by all of the commanders within the 184th IW for their work in building an Inspector General Office, creating the commander's inspection program and guiding the wing during inspection preparations.

Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy