

JAY HAWK FLYER

NEWS PUBLICATION OF THE 184th INTELLIGENCE WING



184th IW deploys largest numbers in decades

More than 170 Airmen assigned to the 184th Intelligence Wing deploy in support of global force operations. [page 4](#)

JAYHAWK FLYER

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Cover photo

Airman 1st Class Hunter Thurston, 134th Air Control Squadron, says goodbye to loved ones before departing for a deployment in the Middle East. The squadron invited family and friends to Building 41 for a farewell gathering Nov. 11, 2015, that included pizza, soft drinks, hugs and tears.

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



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

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April RSD: Apr. 2-3

May RSD: May 6-8

June RSD: June 4-5

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

Look for the monthly Drill Down for RSD information at www.184iw.ang.af.mil.

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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: matthew.m.mccoy.mil@mail.mil

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



**Col. Jason Knobbe
Commander,
184th Mission Support Group**

I recently attended a great course put on by the active duty Air Force. While the material was very helpful, interesting, and relevant, I was surprised at the many misconceptions about the guard that the active duty still holds. I heard many incorrect comments concerning the ANG and did my best to provide correct and updated data. There seems to still be a stereotype concerning the ANG that can be difficult to overcome, especially at the senior level. Even after many years of Total Force Integration, the Air National Guard must continue to tell its "guard story." The uniqueness of the ANG is what makes it truly an adaptable and successful organization.

Toward the end of the course I realized one of the reasons why I love the uniqueness of the ANG. One of the guest speakers was currently a drill status Guardsman who had been a Navy Top Gun pilot before transitioning into the ANG. His topic for the course was Domestic Operations. He was the only Guard guest speaker for the course and his unique background was readily apparent. I also came to realize that it is important for each of us to tell our own story.

I am constantly amazed at the diverse backgrounds of the talented individuals that comprise our own wing. That is one of the main things I love about the ANG and especially the 184th. Each of us has a story that contributes to the organization as a whole. When you start talking to others, you quickly realize the truly unique skillsets that exist in the 184th. Some individuals hold doctorate degrees, others have been Blue Angel pilots. There are Air Force Academy grads and former college athletes; individuals who travel from small farms and others who commute from Pennsylvania. The talents we all hold are limitless.

While serving and leading is "not about you," the unique talents and experiences of each of you is what makes the organization special. Collectively, diverse experience offers the broadest perspective in executing the mission effectively and efficiently. That is why, as Chief Muncy used to say, it is so important to tell the guard story, and to tell your story. Perhaps I'll share mine with you one day...

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184th IW deploys largest numbers in decades

By Capt. Matt Lucht, 184th Public Affairs

More than 170 Airmen assigned to the 184th Intelligence Wing deploy in support of global force operations.

“The Air Expeditionary Force deployments are the reason that we wear the uniform,” said Lt. Col. Brock Sissel, commander, 184th Civil Engineer Squadron. “It is a great opportunity for the guys to see how other countries live and operate and it gives them the understanding of how they fight into the Air Force mission.”

That opportunity was one many Airmen from the 134th Air Control Squadron, Civil Engineer Squadron, Logistics Readiness Squadron, Security Forces Squadron, Comptroller Flight and Communication Flight had this fall. This is the largest mobilization that the wing has seen in recent years, with approximately 250 Guardsmen, deployed to several locations bringing the knowledge and training to successfully complete the mission taskings.

“They are responsible for the air picture and they have numerous radars piped in to their facility,” Lt. Col. Richard Young, commander, 134th ACS. “They are basically the command and control of multiple areas of responsibilities. Everything that is happening in the air in the Middle East, our people are probably controlling the air picture.”

“I know that we are sending our best and brightest,” said Maj. Janell Blaufuss, commander, 184th Comptroller Flight. “I am very



Airmen from the 184th Civil Engineer Squadron pose for a group photo with equipment they use at their deployed location in southwest Asia, Feb. 2. Photo courtesy Maj. Jeff Schmitt, 184th Civil Engineer Squadron

proud of all the people that serve in the finance office.”

As with every deployment, Jayhawks are being mixed with their active-duty counterparts and excelling.

“Lt. Col. Alan Docauer, 729th Air Control Squadron, an active-duty commander, is extremely happy with the leadership team over there and the capabilities of all the young airmen,” said Young. “His comment was ‘You can’t tell who’s who on scope, it is pretty seamless. It is invisible on who’s active duty and who is Guard.’”

Home station missions have been a concern for many squadrons with the amount of personnel deployed. As with any challenge, the wing has come together and is helping fill the gaps. Some Airmen have shifted into new offices, gaining new responsibilities, and others are working in previous Air Force Specialty Codes to ensure that the mission doesn’t fail.

“We have had to shift some ad-

ditional duties around to cover and also have had the opportunity to use some manning resources to bring some of our traditional Airmen out to work full time,” said Lt. Col. Jesse Sojka, commander 184th Logistic Readiness Squadron.

“I have about a third of my manning deployed with more drill-status Guardsmen than full-timers,” said Capt. Jeremy Cook, commander, 184th Communication Flight. “When you take four or five full timers away for six months, it is a hit, but I am really impressed with the folks that have stepped up and the level of expertise of the people that are backfilling the positions and how they have handled it.”

Airmen care is a priority for the wing and even with being 60 percent undermanned the comptroller office is keeping up with one of the most important aspects of deployment being paid. But the process can get complicated.

“When folks are deployed overseas, we can’t just push a button

and they get paid,” said Blaufuss. “Anyone who is mobilized or deployed overseas right now is entitled to certain pay and allowances. Those require individual inputs by our office, every single month for every single entitlement that we give them. That produces hundreds, if not thousands, of transactions every month.”

Even though deployments leave gaps in our squadrons, the experience that these Jayhawks will gain and share with their fellow Airmen when they return will make the 184th IW that much more prepared for any future taskings.

“I am extremely proud of them,” said Young. “We pressed hard prior to their deployment with getting

their qualifications and training up to speed and everything that I hear from their commander is that they are performing exceptionally well.”

“This is a great opportunity for the guys that went to practices the skills that they have been honing for the last four years,” said Sissel. “They will see stuff in their career field that they won’t see back home. They will have to improvise, adapt and overcome to complete that task that they are assigned over there. They will be able to get signed off on a lot of their core tasks and hands-on training. I should see them come back full upgraded in their AFSC. It is a great thing this for the squadron and the guys.”



Families and friends wave to a departing bus full of Airmen assigned to the 134th Air Control Squadron who deployed to southwest Asia in support of global operations Nov. 11, 2015. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

134th ACS plays pivotal role in combat arena

By 1st. Lt. Noble Diven, 134th Air Control Squadron

We’ve all seen them in the news: grainy black and white videos of missiles and explosions somewhere in the Middle East or Southwest Asia, the last seconds of a military mission to find the target and neutralize it. What you won’t see are the deployed personnel of the 134th Air Control Squadron who are instrumental in those missions.

Currently, the 134th ACS controllers are mixed with their active-duty counterparts and coalition partners directing real-world missions, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from multiple installations across the world helping build a complete radar picture for the operators encompassing more than 750,000

square miles of airspace.

It takes a lot of skilled people to fulfill such missions. Without the expertise and support of the maintenance section, the radar screens would be dark. Technicians keep generators running and work all hours in all conditions so the lights and radar screens stay on. Data from those radars pass through multiple channels to ensure that the data is accurate and instantaneous. Vocal communications require racks of sophisticated radio and satellite equipment, each requiring their own kind of upkeep by the 134th’s radio and data teams. Throughout the entire process, encryption and security

are essential to make sure only the right people see the necessary information.

The 134th support staff who makes sure those operators and technicians have little else to worry about. Even away from the home office, records still have to be updated, training completed and emergencies handled, all to ensure someone looking at a generator, radio, radar screen or data link, can focus completely on the task at hand.

So, although the grainy news video lasts only a few seconds, it represents the culmination of numerous man hours by the Airmen of the 134th ACS.

Home station support is key to successful deployments

By Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

A strong support system at home allows deployed Airmen to concentrate on their missions while serving at locations worldwide.

Last year produced one of the largest Air National Guard deployments in the past 15 years. Under normal circumstances, deploying Airmen is a lengthy, meticulous task, for both the personnel being activated and the unit members helping them prepare for departure.

Personnel support

Currently, the 184th Intelligence Wing has nearly 175 members deployed to destinations around the globe. Certain troubles arise with any deployment. These involve not just physical logistics of moving personnel and equipment; multiple computer program changes must be made to pay and benefit records and to track personnel readiness.

“The IPR (Installation Personnel Readiness) office [located within the Force Support Squadron] works with the Installation Deployment Officer to establish out-processing and in-processing procedures, and is responsible for out-processing the individuals by ensuring all deploying personnel are readiness eligible in regards to training, medical, legal and equipment,” said Master Sgt. Kenny Everett, noncommissioned officer in charge of Installation Personnel Readiness, 184th FSS.

Updating DEERS (Defense



Master Sgt. Kenny Everett, noncommissioned officer in charge of Installation Personnel Readiness, 184th Force Support Squadron, inputs information concerning unit members who are preparing to deploy to various locations all over the world. He played a crucial role in preparing the 184th Intelligence Wing for its largest deployment in recent history.

Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System) or service member’s group life insurance, passports, dog tags, verifying deployment eligibility and reviewing Records of Emergency Data are some of the services the 184th Force Support Squadron offers.

“For large-scale deployments, we may work with the tasked squadrons to provide mass briefings or other services,” said Everett. “When directed by the IDO, FSS coordinates a personnel deployment function line which will check the eligibility and readiness of large groups of personnel.”

Unit deployment managers also submit requests to the 184th Logis-

tics and Readiness Squadron, who then issue items needed, such as clothing, personal protective equipment, gas masks and weapons to the deploying member.

Recently, the Air Force and ANG faced changes to processes and systems which hindered the ability to acquire all of the clothing and equipment on time.

“We have to request funding from [the Air Combat Command] to purchase deployment items, so getting the requirements from the UDMs early was critical in the overall success of this deployment,” said Master Sgt. Brandon Lambert, Asset Management section chief for the 184th LRS.

“Squadrons with deployed members struggle to cover shortfalls,” said Senior Master Sgt. Richard Knoblock, Vehicle Management superintendent, 184th LRS. “It creates heavier workloads and longer hours for home station support.”

Family support

A critical aspect of deployments is taking care of the family members at home. Each squadron maintains contact with the family members and will help if they need anything.

The 184th IW Airman and Family Readiness Center makes the time easier for deployed members and their families.

“We partner with the chaplains, State Youth Program and a child-care provider to offer monthly deployment support group meetings off base as an opportunity to engage with the families and address any concerns they may have,” said Hilari Delarosa, Airman and Family Readiness program manager, 184th IW.

The Airman and Family Readiness Center has an extensive array of pamphlets and handout resources available for the families on subjects ranging from divorce to bullying to oil changes.

The wing also hosts social events for wing members and their family members.

The 184th IW Annual Spa Day in March was one such hugely successful event. All female wing and family members were invited to attend the afternoon event that offered massages, manicures and prize giveaways.

“Last year, Spa Day had approximately 250 attendees. This year we had almost 400 RSVPs and over 150 kids,” said Delarosa. “The



Service members, friends and family members get pampered at Countryside Christian Church during the annual Spa Day hosted March 5 by the 184th Family Readiness Group. Attendees enjoyed an afternoon of massages, manicures and makeovers at the event that has become very popular over the years. Photo by Airman Alex Brun, 184th Public Affairs

event has grown exponentially, which provides great opportunities for the 184th Family Support organization to recruit new volunteers, offer other events and provide additional support to the family and friends of the wing.”

More events include the “Parent’s Night Out” with free child-care at Countryside Christian Church, the regional Yellow Ribbon event in April and the key volunteer events offered to their respective units.

Another recent event was a steak dinner for friends and family members of deployed personnel, coordinated by Capt. Justin Moody, chaplain, 184th IW.

“Our time together tonight is for all of you,” said Moody. “This is a good community. You’re not alone. We’re in this together. And we are grateful for your sacrifice.”



The 184th Family Support Group teams up Feb. 8 with the All American Beef Battalion and West Ridge Community Church in Wichita to serve dinner to family members and coworkers of deployed Airmen assigned to the 184th Intelligence Wing. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

Drill status Guardsman backfills deployed wingmen

By Airman Alex Brun, 184th Public Affairs

Dedicated part-time Guardsman Nicholas Jones holds down the fort when two full-time coworkers deploy at the same time.

With many Airmen assigned to the 184th Intelligence Wing deployed, traditional Guardsmen have backfilled full-time positions throughout the unit. Staff Sgt. Nicholas Jones, occupational safety officer, 184th Safety Office, backfilled the two full-time occupational safety manager positions while Master Sgt. Chuck Frank, weapons safety manager; and Senior Master Sgt. Chris Knaak, grounds safety manager, were deployed.

“There is a definite need, so I feel like I’m doing something productive that’s needed,” said Jones. “It’s really enjoyable.”

Jones prepared to take on the full-time positions through help and training with Frank and Knaak.

“Leading up to the deployment I was able to come out on annual training orders and sit down with Sergeant Knaak and really go through what the responsibilities are,” said Jones. “I’ve always had really great support from Sergeant Knaak as far as doing my upgrade training and making sure my core tasks were signed off in a timely manner. He’s been great at helping me understand what my responsibilities are and the reason behind it.”

The strong relationship with the



Like many offices in the 184th Intelligence Wing, the 184th Safety Office sits empty until deployed Airmen return. Staff Sgt. Nicolas Jones, a drill status Guardsman, backfilled the office until early March while both full-time members served in overseas locations. Jones was recently hired as a full-time recruiter, leaving the Safety Office vacant once again.

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

22nd Air Refueling Wing’s Safety Office has been very helpful while Jones backfilled in the 184th Safety Office.

“I’ve got some agreements with the 22nd to help manage the weapons piece because I don’t have formal training on weapons safety,” said Jones. “Prior to the deployment, Sergeant Knaak started working this angle knowing that there would be a need for more help from the 22nd office in the weapons safety aspect considering that Sergeant Frank is deploying,” said Jones.

Jones was confident that in a catastrophic event, he could rely

on his active-duty counterparts for support.

“I’ve been acting as a liaison between our office and the active duty,” said Jones. “If in the event something were to occur, I would be the point of contact.”

In stepping up to backfill the positions of his deployed wingman, Jones said he has faced challenges, but being able to be more involved in the unit has been a good experience.

“It’s a change of pace but it’s been rewarding,” said Jones. “I’ve been able to be involved in different levels that I wouldn’t have otherwise been.”

127th Cyber Operations Squadron joins the fight

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

The newest squadron assigned to the 184th Intelligence Wing is one of 68 cyber-defense teams recently created by the Department of Defense.

As the second hand of a watch ticks one tock, the Department of Defense networks have been probed 70 times, all with the hope of stealing information or intruding into our network and systems. The 184th Intelligence Wing is adding another cyberdefense capability to the DoD arsenal with the activation of the 127th Cyber Operations Squadron April 1. The 127th COS will be one of 68 cyber protection teams that the DoD recently created to strengthen the Air Force’s cyberdefense and deterrence posture.

The focus of the 127th COS and the 68 other teams revolves around the DoD’s three primary cyber missions—defend DoD networks, systems and information; defend the U.S. homeland and national interests against cyber-attacks of significant consequence; and provide cyber support to military operational and contingency plans.

Other countries or independent cyber groups threaten disruptive and destructive attacks against the United States’ technological and military advantage. The new squadron will be responsible for identifying and countering these threats to critical mission assets in support of the U.S. Cyber Command’s cyber mission force tasking.



The April 1 activation of the 127th Cyber Operations Squadron adds another cyberdefense capability to the Department of Defense’s arsenal as information systems become the battlegrounds of the future. The 127th COS is one of 68 other teams within the DoD providing network defense against cyber-attacks that pose serious threats to United States’ interests.

Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

The squadron will fall under the new 184th Cyber Operations Group and will add 71 military positions to the wing with; 19 of them being fulltime.

“The biggest challenge that we have had in the activation process has been recruiting new members for the highly skilled positions,” said Maj. David Hewlett, commander, 127th Cyber Operations Squadron.

A challenge that has affected the activation is limited training slots for technical school. This isn’t just a Kansas issue, it is a challenge for all state National Guards standing up cyber units.

Sen. Jerry Moran addressed the concern nationally about a shortage of cyber trainers for the number of Air National Guard cyber units.

“There is a sufficient number of people that want to fill those

slots, but an insufficient number of people who are training those individuals to do so,” said Moran.

“One of the new cyber squadrons at McConnell has 42 vacancies. I don’t think this is because we can’t find the individuals who want to fill those 42 vacancies. It’s because we only have three of those folks who are in a position to receive the training this fiscal year.”

Facility upgrades and modifications add to the difficulties of activating the new squadron. Unit leaders project construction will take approximately 18 months to complete.

Every organization within the wing has worked diligently with the 127th COS to assist in the activation process.

“It has truly been a team effort and we would not be where we are today without everyone’s assistance,” said Hewlett.

Air Guard commanders, chiefs learn to interact with media

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

Leaders within the 184th Intelligence Wing learn how to build relationships with local news media while adhering to operational security guidelines.

Commanders and chief master sergeants assigned to the 184th Intelligence Wing attended a four-hour class designed to familiarize them with expectations and responsibilities while interacting with the media at McConnell Air Force Base, March 22. The class was presented by the Adjutant General's Public Affairs Department, 184th IW Public Affairs and included a two-person panel by local media.

"I've had the opportunity to talk with the media at least five times since the beginning of the year," said Col. David Weishaar, commander, 184th Intelligence Wing. "This kind of training will prove to be valuable in the future."

The morning began with Ben Bauman, director of Public Affairs, the Adjutant General's Department; and Capt. Matt Lucht, chief of Public Affairs, 184th IW, explaining the positive and negative aspects of the media's ability to quickly spread information to a mass audience.

The training clarified the media's needs, emphasizing different needs for different news outlets, and how Guardsmen can fulfill their requests while delivering a positive message.

"A lot of people think of media as radio, television and newspaper, but the social medias can have a huge impact as well," said Lucht.



Jean Hays, left, deputy editor, Wichita Eagle, and Lauren Seabrook, reporter, KWCH, speak with commanders and personnel about the media's role in the military's community outreach during a discussion panel at McConnell Air Force Base March 22. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

"I think that it is great that leadership is taking a proactive approach, because engaging with the media is the best way to spread the word about the great things that we are doing here at the wing."

The class was the result of a concern by Col. Mike Venerdi, commander, 184th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group. Venerdi recognized the operational security problems that could arise by talking about the wing's missions, but also understood the importance of the media's ability to connect the unit with the community.

"Due to the nature of our mission, we can't fully highlight the jobs that we do," said Venerdi. "But this won't stop the community from wondering what goes on out here."

He sought advice from Lucht, and together they developed a plan to educate the wing's leaders.

"I took a leadership course through the Wichita Chamber of

Commerce where they put us in front of a camera and that really showed me the importance of feeling comfortable with media," said Venerdi. "Just knowing the difference between the media outlets, what they need and best practices during interviews will help us [leadership] when we interact with the media."

To complete the training, Jean Hays, deputy editor, Wichita Eagle, and Lauren Seabrook, reporter, KWCH Channel 12, spoke with the audience during a question and answer session. They explained the differences between local, regional and national news networks and their different purposes and behaviors.

Both emphasized the importance of building relationships with local news outlets and said the more they work together, the stronger the relationship will be and that can improve the unit's community relations.

299th NOSS migrates ANG to Air Force's network

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

The Air Force's communications network recently expanded as all Air National Guard computer components were added within the last year.

The 299th Network Operations Security Squadron began migrating users and computers from the Air National Guard Enterprise Network to the Air Force's network in September 2014.

The migration combined the two independent networks into one larger network domain, providing better coordination and security management at the enterprise level. This also positioned the ANG and the AF for the eventual move to the Joint Information Environment.

An enterprise network reduces communication protocols, facilitating system and device interoperability, as well as improved internal and external data management.

The 299th NOSS manages 92 Guard wings at 146 locations; each location required new network servers to be built and configured before any of the users or computers could be migrated.

In October 2015, the final users and workstations in the ANG were migrated. The final application server was migrated in January 2016.

The 299 NOSS anticipates that the old ANG network will be completely decommissioned before April 1. However, some of the services being used can't easily be migrated, which has delayed the



The 299th Network Operations Security Squadron combined 92 Air National Guard communications networks at 146 locations with the Air Force's network and is now one of three network and enterprise defense organizations. Illustration by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

decommissioning process.

"We encountered many complications over the process as any major project would," said Maj. Brian Pacchelli, assistant director of operations, 299th NOSS.

The most notable change was the working environment for the communications flights Guardwide.

"A challenge that we have had is not having the same administrative privileges that we had on the legacy ANG domain," said Tech. Sgt. Matthew Benoit, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 184th Communications Focal Point. "This means that we have to rely on other higher-level organizations to perform functions that we were once able to perform ourselves."

Communications flights lost some of their independence during the migration due to the standardization requirements of the AFNet. As a result, the new processes required for day-to-day jobs caused

the transition to the AFNet to be difficult for most communications flights.

"The AFNet initiative has provided the Air Force with several benefits, including standardization, ensuring that all bases are operating under the same blueprint providing for increased network security and reduced maintenance cost," said Benoit.

The 299th NOSS is one of three units that handle network defense and enterprise services for the entire Air Force. The 561st Network Operations Squadron at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, and the 83rd NOS at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, combine their skills with the 299th to make up the cyber security and control system weapon system.

"The 299th handles almost all tickets and the cyber command and control chain for all of the ANG", said Pacchelli.

284th ASOS trains with Special Operations Forces

By Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

Six Army and Air Force units from five states converge on Smoky Hill Weapons Range as specialized Airmen and Soldiers train together.

Training in the ever-changing Kansas weather provides realistic scenarios for Airmen and Soldiers participating in a combat exercise at Smoky Hill Weapons Range, Kansas. March 2 proved to be one of those days where the elements forced the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron and the 19th Special Forces Group to adjust.

Despite extremely windy conditions, Airmen involved in the training enhanced the operational cohesiveness of the Operational Detachment-Alpha teams and joint terminal attack controllers as they accomplished their mission sets.

A typical ODA contains 12 Special Forces team members who rely on stealth to complete their missions. Each Soldier in an ODA team is trained and cross-trained in different disciplines.

The JTACs are trained to integrate and operate with any military force, from Special Forces to conventional forces and they have the skills to call in close air support and close combat attacks from Air Force, Army and Navy weapons systems.

Their training in March involved day and night operations, with aircraft releasing live and simulated ordnance.

“The exercise focused on close



Staff Sgt. Dean Johnston, joint terminal attack controller, 284th Air Support Operations Squadron, communicates with aircrew personnel while coordinating close air support attacks using Air Force and Army airborne weapons systems at Smoky Hill Weapons Range March 2.

Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

air support integration into all aspects of special operations activities and missions,” said Maj. Jacob Schwartz, commander, 284th ASOS. “The primary focus was to integrate the JTAC into dynamic urban missions, surveillance and reconnaissance missions, and joint air attack teams.”

Planning for the exercise took place over several weeks with active duty, Guard, and Reserve components involved.

“There was coordination of airlift

for jump operations, airspace coordination with Smoky, coordination with the fixed wing aircraft, along with the rotary wing aircraft,” said Schwartz. “All of this had to be synchronized with ground movements to ensure that the all players involved were able to maximize their training.”

Personnel from Army and Air Force squadrons throughout the Midwest, ranging from South Dakota to Louisiana, participated in the exercise. The close working re-



An AH-64 Apache helicopter from the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, approaches targets at Smoky Hill Weapons Range in response to close air support communication by ground troops. The aircrew used the exercise to gain experience in flight and weapons tactics while engaging enemy ground forces.

Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

lationship with Army counterparts assists in ensuring mission success by understanding how each unit operates in a combat environment.

“The 284th ASOS and 19th SFG have developed a solid relationship over the past several years,” said Schwartz. “We consistently train

and operate together to ensure combat effectiveness and cohesiveness across the spectrum of operations.”

The exercise was an overall success. Aircrew personnel improved their close air support communication and execution, while providing deadly and accurate fire missions

The ODA members learned the basics of calling for close air support and operating in an emergency when a JTAC isn’t available, and the JTACs also increased their ability to perform in an unconventional warfare environment.

A few complications arose during the exercise, primarily the wind. Because of this, no jumps were accomplished, due to safety precautions.

Coordination to help the exercise move smoothly with six different units across five different states proved to be difficult, but not impossible.

“Despite these challenges and through hard work and effort by all involved, the planning objectives were met in order to support the exercise,” Schwartz said. “All players involved were able to meet their operational objectives with the exception of the airborne insertion.”



Army AH-64 Apache helicopter and Air Force A-10 Warthog aircraft wreak havoc on ground vehicle targets located at Smoky Hill Weapons Range. As the largest weapons range in the Air National Guard, Smoky Hill offers a variety of target areas that can support aircraft ranging from helicopters to jet fighters and heavy bombers.

Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

**Capt.
Linda Baggett**

Fighting Jayhawk since 2015

Organization:
184th Inspector General Office

Military Job Title:
Director of inspections



Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

Above & Beyond:

- Masters of Education in Exercise Science, Wichita State University, 2011
- Bachelor of Arts in social science, Washington State University, 2008
- Planned 80 outside-the-wire convoys during 2013 Afghanistan deployment for logistics team; attended 50 movements and provided 30 hours as an armed personal security detail
- Taught English to Mongolian army personnel during Afghanistan deployment
- Handpicked to manage 22nd Mission Support Group's Resiliency Stand Down Day in 2012
- Logistics lead in 2012 for Air Mobility Command's enterprise wide initiative to reduce waste called the Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century; coordinated with 22nd Maintenance Group on rapid improvement event for tanker phase maintenance
- Led 22nd Logistics Readiness Squadron's Emergency Operations Center through multiple exercises at McConnell Air Force Base

My story:

I served active duty Air Force for six-and-a-half years as a logistics readiness officer in the capacities of Vehicle Maintenance, Materiel Management, Deployment and Distribution, Quality Assurance, Fuels Management, and finally Mission Support Group executive officer. I was stationed with the 22nd Air Refueling Wing, McConnell Air Force Base for four of those years. From there, I was stationed at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Tucson, Arizona. While at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, I deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, where I served as a logistics advisor to the general staff of logistics, Afghanistan National Army. I worked with a six man team consisting of Canadian army and American contractors, where we drove multiple missions every week, providing advising sessions to the Afghan army. After my tour to Afghanistan, I decided to separate from active duty to move closer to family in Derby, Kansas, and to provide a more stable environment for my loved ones. Because of my passion for the military, I knew I wanted to continue serving, so I joined the 190th Air Refueling Wing as a traditional Guardsman in their Inspector General Office. I commuted there for eight months until an opportunity arose for a full-time position with the 184th Intelligence Wing. Since July 2015, I have worked in the Inspector General Office as the director of inspections in support of the Commander's Inspection Program. I am so grateful to have been given this opportunity and to be a part of the Jayhawk family. I credit my successes to all of the military members I have had the honor of serving with and also from the support and love of my family, especially my husband, Brandon, and my son, Alexander.

Finding a way ahead by looking back

By Capt. Daniel Radford, 184th Historian Office

As the 184th Intelligence Wing prepares to enter a new chapter, looking at its past could give a glimpse into the future.

As we approach the 75th anniversary of the 184 Intelligence Wing, let's take a look at the history of the wing and its transition phases. Although the 184th's story is not as long as that of the Army, Navy, or the Marine Corps, it is rich and varied, shaped by the Airmen who came before us.

We often feel the current changes are the most drastic the unit has faced, but as you review the wing's history, you will see major upheaval and changes in every chapter.

The 127th Observation Squadron was inducted into federal service on Oct. 6, 1941. From 1941 to 1946 the squadron went through five different redesignations, even though the Air Force wasn't created until the National Security Act of 1947.

In 1946, while the unit was still a Kansas National Guard unit recently reverted to state control from the U.S. Army Air Corps, the first reorganization and redesignation in unit history happened. In February 1950, new jet aircraft arrived, the unit reorganized and was redesignated again with new jets in place boasting top-of-the-line technology. Stability at last! But on July 9, 1952, the unit was once again reorganized and redesignated, becoming the 127th Fighter-Bomber Squadron.



In 1950, when the 127th Fighter Squadron replaced the F-51 Mustangs with its first jet airplanes, the F-84 Thunderjets, the Airmen thought a stable mission was in store for them. However, when they deployed to the European Theatre in support of the Korean Conflict, they were ordered to leave the jets in France because of the shortage of F-84s caused by the war. The squadron returned to flying the propeller-driven F-51s in 1952, which they flew for two years until they received jets once again, this time flying the F-80 Shooting Stars. From that point forward, conversions and instability have been engrained into the history of the Fighting Jayhawks. File photo

Similar changes occurred in every single decade of our wings existence right up to today's changes. Jets replaced propeller fighters. Newer, faster aircraft replaced older, slower ones. F-51s came back as the Korean conflict needed our jets. Training new fighter pilots, completing modifications to aircraft, bombers, tankers, ISR, C2...

Despite redesignations and new missions, our wing has always been successful. The key to our success

and our strength is our Kansas Air National Guardsmen -- hardworking, innovative and adaptable. Whatever we do, we do well. We rise to the occasion by leading well, following well and working well as a team.

It has been thus for 75 years and through the next 75 years and beyond we will continue that tradition, pouring our heart and souls into our primary mission: protecting and serving the United States and the people of Kansas.

JAYHAWK FLYER

photo finish ► Fighting Jayhawks in action



Kansas Airmen assigned to the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing hold their state flag during the National Guard Birthday Celebration at an undisclosed location in southwest Asia, Dec. 12, 2015. Approximately 200 Air National Guard members from 22 states and territories attended the celebration commemorating the Guard's 379th year of service. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Frank Miller, 380th Air Expeditionary Wing, Public Affairs



184th Security Forces Airmen gather for a group photo in front of a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle while deployed in support of the 380th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Dec. 14, 2015.

Photo courtesy 380th Air Expeditionary Wing, Public Affairs



Tech. Sgt. Tacarra Brown, 184th Logistics Readiness Squadron, meets Vice President Joe Biden during his visit to Airmen deployed in support of operations in the Middle East.

Photo courtesy Tech. Sgt. Tacarra Brown