

JAYHAWK FLYER

NEWS PUBLICATION OF THE 184th INTELLIGENCE WING



184th Intelligence Wing builds bonds in Armenia

*184th MDG travels to Armenia
for humanitarian mission
alongside British soldiers
page 8*

JAYHAWK FLYER

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www.184iw.ang.af.mil

Cover photo

Capt. Andrew Jamerson, laboratory officer in charge, 184th Medical Group, takes blood samples as part of an outreach mission, Hrazdan, Armenia, Aug. 8. The purpose of the two-week mission was to train U.S. and British forces in their medical specialty fields.

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



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

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Bird's Eye View

Commander's Comments

- Air Force Core Values
- Respect and discipline
- Take care of each other
- Support and defend

RSD information

November RSD: Nov. 5-6

December RSD: Dec. 3-4

January RSD: Jan. 7-8

Look for the monthly Drill Down for RSD 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: matthew.m.mccoy.mil@mail.mil

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



Col. Vonda Wigal
184th MDG Commander

The 184th Medical Group participated in a humanitarian outreach civic action trip to Armenia in August. Thirty-six members participated in the medical training trip, lodging in hospital rooms and working side-by-side with Armenian medical professionals. The total force team consisted of various medical specialties from the 184th, and we were privileged to have three British Army 6th Battalion combat medics join us for the trip. This was a unique trip for the medical group as the organization typically conducts its annual training at established U.S. military treatment facilities. However, this also wasn't a typical humanitarian treatment mission, as we did not treat patients en masse as we did in 2004's Tacna, Peru, trip. The goal this year was for the medical group to become integrated with Armenian medical professionals, for medical training and cultural exchange, so that the long term benefits could continue once we departed.

One of our challenges on the trip came with the cultural and language barriers. The interpreters were integral in helping us with these barriers so that the knowledge exchange could happen with patient care and teaching. It was very evident of how adaptable the Armenians are to their work environment, as there was a panic call one day for flashlights so that they could complete a Caesarean section when they lost power in the hospital. This was one of many challenges that they faced on a daily basis and that the Armenian staff easily overcame. Their resiliency and determination was evident during these times.

Several of the highlights for the trip were visiting the orphanage and children's rehabilitation centers in each town, and teaching the children about simple hygiene. Seeing the looks on their faces and the fun exchange between the children and adults proved to be a culture building experience.

This State Partnership Program trip was a learning experience for all team members, including the phenomenal working relationship that developed with the three British members. As with many Air National Guard experiences, this was a trip that solidified the many varied opportunities that a guardsman can have. It is these kinds of experiences that makes me proud to be an Air National Guardsman!

Jayhawks celebrate 75 years of service

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

184th Intelligence Wing holds celebration in Hangar 41 to commemorate 75 years of history.

Friends, coworkers, family members and veterans congregated in Hangar 41 at McConnell Air Force Base Sept. 10 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the 184th Intelligence Wing. Hugs, handshakes, laughter and stories of the “good ol’ days” from current and former members of the wing filled the atmosphere of the building that served as the unit’s main hangar since 1954.

“That’s really what this was all about—bringing these guys back together,” said Col. David Weishaar, commander, 184th IW. “You hear it all the time that the Guard’s a family...they’re acting like they’re at a family reunion.”

The celebration opened with a formal presentation given by current commanders. As part of the presentation, the wing invited Retired Navy Capt. Thomas Flanary, son of Lt. Paul N. Flanary, the unit’s first commander, to speak to the audience.

“We knew that in looking back at 75 years, it was critically important that we had the right audience,” said Maj. Deb Balentine, director of staff, 184th Wing Staff. “The intent is to honor the past and make it clear to everyone that we continue to hold the same standards [of excellence].”



Senior Master Sgt. Joel Unger and his father, John Unger, a former unit member, look through wing photos from the past 75 years during the 75th Anniversary celebration Sept. 10. Hundreds of photos and memorabilia were on display. Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

After the formal ceremonies, visitors were invited to look through old photos and memorabilia that were on display. Many attendees picked up their copy of the recently published history book, “Fighting Jayhawks: Seventy-Five Years of the Air National Guard in Wichita.” A 23-minute documentary that covered the unit’s history entertained guests as well. A time capsule from 1990 was opened and a commemorative bench, which will go in the Reflections of Freedom Airpark, was unveiled.

“We also have the young troops in our audience and they need to

see where we came from, and pass the torch on to them, so at 100 years they can have a celebration like this and say some of the same things about this wing,” said Balentine, who was a member of the celebration planning committee.

The committee, which was organized by Senior Master Sgt. Pauly Arnold, chief, Information Protection office, began planning the celebration in late 2015.

“I would rank this as a huge success,” said Balentine. “Anytime you get all the seats filled and you have such an engaged crowd; to see everyone zeroed in on what we had



The 127th Observation Squadron stands in formation at the Wichita Municipal Airport for mobilization procedures Oct. 6, 1941. Though their home station was in Wichita, the squadron trained in many places throughout the United States and didn't return home until after World War II. File Photo



Lt. Col. Russ Axtell, left, and Master Sgt. Bill Angstadt exchange the newly unveiled flag of the 184th Bomb Group during a formal ceremony in Hangar 50 July 1, 1994. File Photo



Supersonic North American F-100 Super Sabre fighters, assigned to the 127th Tactical Fighter Squadron in April 1961, serve as tools of the trade for Citizen-Airmen who volunteered to serve their state and country. The F-100s replaced the F-86L Sabres. File Photo

on the screen, they were listening, they were playing along with us as we went. The turnout alone, to me, was a huge success.”

“I think it was great,” said Weishaar. “The work that was put into this and then the crowd that came out was just simply amazing. It brings back great memories.”

The History of the Wing

The story of the Fighting Jayhawks began well with the outbreak of war in Europe and the Pacific in the late 1930s. The War Department authorized strength increases in the Army in 1940, which included new units in the

National Guard. Wichita was selected as the location for a National Guard aviation squadron that specialized in observation. The 127th Observation Squadron was federally recognized Aug. 4, 1941, and placed under the command of Lt. Paul N. Flanary, a Wichita native and a pilot instructor at the local Civil Aviation Authority training center.

Prior to departing for federal service, the unit's insignia was chosen and the Jayhawk Squadron took flight. According to Flanary, “The Jayhawk represents the State of Kansas since this state is known as the Jayhawk State.

The bird perched atop the clouds indicates aviation and being in the air, which applies to this squadron. Also, the presence of helmet and goggles adds to this impression. The observation angle is indicated by the binoculars hung around his neck.”

The Jayhawk Squadron served in the Pacific Theatre during World War II and was deactivated after the declaration of Allied victory in 1945.

The unit was reactivated in September 1946 as the 127th Fighter Squadron and has since flown many different aircraft, including fighters, bombers and aerial refuel-

ers. The unit was activated during the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts, and has deployed members around the world in support of recent operations.

The unit was upgraded to a group in 1962 and renamed the 184th Fighter Group. In 1994, shortly after converting to a heavy bomber mission flying B-1Bs, the unit once again upgraded to a wing and was renamed the 184th Bomb Wing.

The unit has served as the 184th Intelligence Wing since 2007, and provides a wide range of cyber-centric mission capabilities. The wing also boasts of tactical ground operators and support functions, which inspired the unit's slogan, "Many Missions... One Team. The Fighting Jayhawks."



An illustration created by the 184th Public Affairs office symbolizes the flying history of the 184th, as well as the unit's continuous service and support to the local area. The sunrise represents the unit's bright future and the jayhawk in the sky symbolizes the Fighting Jayhawks' faithful watch over the nation, state and community.

Building 49 Auditorium renamed Flanary Hall

By Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

Auditorium dedicated to wing's first commander, Lt. Col. Paul N. Flanary

Building 49 auditorium was renamed Flanary Hall Sept. 10. The hall was dedicated to Lt. Col. Paul N. Flanary, first commander of the 127th Observation Squadron, the forerunner of the 184th Intelligence Wing. Flanary's son, Thomas Flanary, was present and unveiled a framed memorial that now hangs in the auditorium.

Flanary also gave the new award, the 184th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group Paul N. Flanary Award for Innovation, presented by Wichita State University Center for Entrepreneurship, to its first recipient, Tech. Sgt. Jacob Smith. Smith was assigned the task of standing up a partnership between the 184th ISRG and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

Maj. Don McClure, director of operations, 161st Intelligence Squadron, said, "The award is designed to recognize the individuals who display a spirit of adaptation and innovation to complete the mission."



Thomas Flanary, son of the first commander of the 127th Observation Squadron, the forerunner of the 184th Intelligence Wing, and Col. Michael Venerdi, commander, 184th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group, hang a framed memorial in the building 49 auditorium, now named Flanary Hall.

Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

Secretary of the Air Force visits McConnell

By Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

Secretary James tours of McConnell and speaks to Airmen about their missions.

After much anticipation, The Guard, Reserve and active-duty components of McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas, welcomed Deborah Lee James, Secretary of the Air Force, Washington, D.C., July 29.

James is responsible for the affairs of the Department of the Air Force, including organizing, training, equipping and providing for the welfare of its more than 660,000 active-duty, Guard, Reserve Airmen and their families. During her visit, James held a meet and greet, had lunch with Airmen at the Roost Dining Facility, spoke at an assembly and attended a speed-mentoring session.

When James arrived at the 22nd Air Refueling Wing's headquarters building, representatives from the 184th Intelligence Wing, 931st Air



Deborah Lee James, secretary of the Air Force, speaks at a press conference held for local media stations at McConnell July 29.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Alexandria Brun, 184th Public Affairs



Deborah Lee James, secretary of the Air Force, greets Major General Lee Tafanelli, left, The Adjutant General, Kansas National Guard and 184th Intelligence Wing leadership personnel at McConnell Air Force Base July 29. During her visit, James held a meet and greet, had lunch with Airmen at the Roost Dining Facility, spoke at an assembly and attended a speed-mentoring session.

Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs

Refueling Wing and 22nd ARW each spoke about their unit's specific missions, giving the secretary an idea of what each organization does and some of the struggles they face.

This discussion also addressed recruitment and retention concerns due to the loss of enlistment and re-enlistment bonuses.

James visited multiple units across McConnell, including the 184th's Intelligence Complex and the construction projects for the KC-46 Pegasus.

"There's growth opportunities here, and I think there's a certain excitement associated with that," James said.

At a press conference with local media stations, James recognized McConnell as a "key location" for the Air Force.

"Having seen the community leaders and having talked to the Airmen, it's very clear to me that we are wanted and we are well appreciated here at McConnell, and that means a lot," James said.

James emphasized the importance of two key missions on base, and the worldwide impact of each Air Force component.

"It's an important part of global reach. McConnell is the largest tanker base in the world," James said. "The second way it helps is because McConnell is important for global vigilance. Part of the team here is focused on cyber issues, as well as intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and the analysis of the intelligence that comes from our systems. McConnell is hitting the ball out of the park over and over again."

184th Medical Group builds bonds in Armenia

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

184th MDG travels to Armenia for humanitarian mission alongside British Army Soldiers.

Thirty-five members of the 184th Intelligence Wing, primarily from the 184th Medical Group, supported a humanitarian civic outreach mission in Armenia in August. The purpose of the two-week mission was to train U.S. and British forces in their medical specialty fields.

Airmen were divided between two government hospitals, Hrazdan Medical Center, Hrazdan, and Gavar Medical Center, Gavar. Three soldiers from the 6th Battalion, British Regular Army were embedded into the 184th MDG component in Gavar. The Airmen and Soldiers worked in many sections of the hospital.

Cpl. Andrew Fuller, combat medical technician class 1, 6th Battalion, British Regular Army, said, “This is the first time partnering with the Kansas Air National Guard and it’s been an absolute pleasure. We are happy to be here and be part of this experience.”

The mission was the first time in the past 10 years that a medical unit has visited Armenia. The project was accomplished in part by the National Guard State Partnership Program.

The SPP has been building relationships between U.S. military members and 76 developing countries for more than 20 years. The program matches National Guard



Airman 1st Class Cora Bloom, aerospace medical technician, 184th Medical Group, gives a stroke assessment class in Hrazdan, Armenia Aug. 9. Bloom taught emergency room nurses and staff members at the Hrazdan Day Care Center for Children with Disabilities.

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

with armed forces or equivalent organizations of a partner country in a mutually beneficial relationship. Kansas has been partnered with Armenia since 2002.

Dr. Nune Grigoryan, optometrist and chief doctor, Hrazdan Medical Center, worked alongside Lt. Col. Darin Nitschke, optometrist, 184th MDG.

“The first thing that I learned from Dr. Nitschke was to smile. It was just not a job, it was a pleasure to work with him,” said Grigoryan. “Though [the Armenian hospital staff] works with different instruments than in America, I learned

a lot from him and I hope that we continue to share our experiences.”

Classes taught by the 184th MDG for the Armenian medical staff members included cardiopulmonary resuscitation, advanced cardiac life support, basic life support, infection control procedures, and stroke therapy and assessment.

“I taught a National Institutes of Health scale that determines what body part and how severe a stroke has affected a patient,” said Airman 1st Class Cora Bloom, aerospace medical technician, 184th MDG. “Using this scale will give the emergency room nurses a quantita-

tive value to their stroke assessment. They can do all of it in an organized manner and the same way for every patient.”

Bloom was the stroke assessment class instructor and gave the class to Hrazdan emergency room nurses and staff members at the Hrazdan Day Care Center for Children with Disabilities.

The American and British personnel also reached out to the Gavar Orphanage, which housed approximately 63 children. The children were given toothpaste, toothbrushes, instructions on body hygiene and toys. The Airmen and British personnel visited the orphanage when off-duty to play games and interact with the children.

“Smiles can reach a million people,” said Staff Sgt. Ryan Ghaffari, flight operational medical technician, 184th MDG. “It was a great time interacting with the children and teaching body hygiene.”



Staff Sgt. Ryan Ghaffari, flight operational medical technician, 184th Medical Group, checks a patient's eyes in Gavar, Armenia, Aug. 9. Ghaffari was one of 35 members from the 184th Intelligence Wing who supported the humanitarian civic outreach mission.

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



Lt. Col. Darin Nitschke, optometrist, 184th Medical Group, receives patients for vision testing, Hrazdan, Armenia, Aug. 9. Three Hundred prescription eye glasses were donated to the hospital from the Lion's Club International, Texas. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Maria Ruiz, 184th Public Affairs

Additional donations to the community included clothes from the 184th MDG members, 1,000 toothbrushes from King's Storehouse Food Bank, Texas, and 300 prescription eyeglasses from the Lion's Club International, Texas.

The generous hospitality of the Armenians was expressed in a variety of ways, such as inviting the U.S. and British personnel to join in their coffee breaks.

The Total Force components at the Gavar hospital received a visit from Richard Mills, U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, and Judith Farnworth, British Ambassador.

“This program not only gives the hospitals the help of some talented medical experts to provide continued quality care, it also serves as a valuable training and experience for our U.S. and U.K. medical staff,” said Mills. “The U.S. volunteers are gaining experience with conditions and ailments that may not be common in the U.S., and working with Armenian doctors and nurses, they gain a better understanding of working across cultures, a valuable skill for a unit that is ready to deploy worldwide on short notice.”

Smoky Hill Weapons Range hosts open house

By Airman 1st Class. Alexandria Brun, 184th Public Affairs

Aerial and gunnery demonstrations wow the crowd.

On Aug. 6 the Smoky Hill Weapons Range hosted an open house in Salina. The event included aerial gunnery demonstrations and public displays. The event marked the first open house at Smoky Hill since 2011.

In recent years, units that ordinarily support the open house were often deployed or otherwise tasked, making it challenging to schedule and plan such events.

“Getting aircraft here and giving up a drill weekend is a lot to ask of a reserve component unit,” said Lt. Col. Todd Kavouras, commander, Detachment 1, 184th Intelligence Wing, SHWR. “Even though they were getting training accomplished on Saturday, there are other uses for those flight hours that are more productive and applicable sometimes.”

The event was supported by flying units around the nation. Aerial displays included an A-10 Thunderbolts, F-16 fighter jets, a B-1 bomber and a B-52 bomber.

Tactical Air Control Parties assigned to the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron demonstrated a mission in which ground forces coordinated close air support. Using various communication techniques, the TACPs directed aircraft in their attacks on multiple ground targets.

A collaboration of personnel put in additional time to ensure that the



A Fairchild Republic A-10 Thunderbolt II flies over the spectators at the Smoky Hill Open House, Salina, Kansas, Aug. 6. The A-10 “Warthog” was designed for close air support of ground troops.

Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

event went smoothly.

“The toughest part is coordinating all the flying units to participate,” said Master Sgt. Chase Liphart. “Without them, all the previous preparation wouldn’t mean much.”

Preparing for such an event was no small task. The range naturally poses safety hazards that had to be addressed before opening to the public.

“There was a lot of coordination and on-site work to prepare for the open house,” said Liphart. “Range personnel all chipped in to run equipment such as road graders,

tractors and mowers to ensure the grounds were properly prepared for cars and pedestrians.”

The 184th IW, located approximately 70 miles away in Wichita, played a key role in the preparation and execution of the event.

“Things such as food, water, tents, toilets, souvenirs, paramedics and law enforcement all had to be coordinated with local vendors,” said Liphart. “Things such as communication equipment, volunteers, static displays, medics, recruiting and security forces were all coordinated within the 184th.”

The 134th Air Control Squadron

also played a role in this effort.

“We provided 40 personnel from the 134th,” said Senior Master Sgt. Keith Woodrome, support systems supervisor, 134th ACS. “The 134th provided parking and general support, as well as shelter, tables, chairs, generator and HVAC support for the VIP tent.”

The open house provided a great opportunity for Airmen assigned to the 134th ACS to receive training and gain experience.

“The volunteers learned how to setup a double Alaskan shelter, how to load and unload a 5-ton truck and what it is like to setup an ACS site,” said Woodrome.

The open house served to foster the relationship between the range and the local community, and generated local support of the training missions that take place at Smoky Hill.

“Some of the inconveniences of having a range for a neighbor warrants a solid outreach program,” said Kavouras. “The surrounding



Joint Terminal Attack Controllers emerge from tall grass after demonstrating the skills they’ve learned through training in Salina, Kansas Aug. 6. The demonstration was part of the Smoky Hill Open House.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Alexandria Brun, 184th Public Affairs

community puts up with additional noise, traffic congestion due to military convoys, and lack of access to a large swath of Saline

County.”

With 2,018 people in attendance, Smoky Hill was able to highlight their mission and interact with the local community.

“Without any connection at all to the military mission and subsequent buy-in, those individuals most adversely affected could raise quite a ruckus about that mission continuing,” said Kavouras. “However, when those same folks are invited to see what’s going on out here at the range and can relate to what our uniformed service members are doing in the current conflicts going on around the world, they’re much more apt to forgive and even support.”



Members of the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron pose for attendees to take pictures during the Smoky Hill Open House, Salina, Kansas Aug. 6. The ASOS members performed demonstrations of their skills and training.

Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

Bring-a-Friend event invites potential recruits

By Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

184th Intelligence Wing invites members to bring friends to recruiting event.

On September 11, Airmen from every squadron of the 184th Intelligence Wing gathered for the wing's first recruiting event. The members were asked to bring anyone they knew that might have an interest in joining the mission.

"Our recruiters have a busy schedule of events that they attend and the Airmen are always encouraged to join them in those efforts, but this is the first collaboration of effort from all levels—leadership, units, Airmen and recruiters," said Chief Master Sgt. Brad Caughron, operations superintendent, 161st Intelligence Squadron.

Planning and preparing started off with a brainstorming session to determine what to include.

"From the get-go we knew that we wanted to get any interested applicants in direct contact with our missions and our Airmen so that they could see firsthand what we have to offer."

The ideas incorporated into the event were unit displays, opening the scope to prequalification of eligible high school students and stories from Airmen. To wrap it up, a tour of the airpark was offered, followed by a retreat ceremony in remembrance of 9/11.

Fifty-seven guests attended the event and 15 of them sat down to talk one-on-one with a recruiter and go through the pre-qualifica-



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Adam Hilbert, tactical air control party specialist, 284th Air Support Operations Squadron, informs a potential recruit about the 284th ASOS mission Sept. 11.

Photo by Airman Alexandria Brun, 184th Public Affairs

tion process.

"We also had quite a few parents that attended to hear the information, so we will be the topic of some Monday morning conversations as parents share their experience with other parents and co-workers," said Caughron. "This will serve as an intangible benefit that could pay dividends down the road."

While the event was beneficial to potential recruits and their family members, it also had a positive effect on wing members.

"Chief Master Sergeant Akin commented that the event actually helped bring the Medical Group team together, and allowed them to take a step back and talk about their mission, and rebuild that sense of

pride in what they do," said Caughron.

Although another such event is not currently on the calendar, it seems likely to become a recurring activity.

"I think once a year or once every two years at a minimum," said Col. Joe Jabara, vice wing commander, 184th IW. "We need to scrub the results carefully about six months from now to see the real effectiveness."

"The turnout that we achieved was due to the wing answering the commander's charge for everyone to be a recruiter," said Caughron. "They combed through their friends, neighbors and relatives to find guests that have what it takes to be a Jayhawk."

STARBASE Wichita

By Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

STARBASE has been an at-risk youth program at McConnell Air Force Base since 1993.

STARBASE is a Department of Defense sponsored program that first originated in Michigan in 1991. In 1993, the program came to Kansas, which now has five STARBASE locations—Wichita, Topeka, Kansas City, Salina and Manhattan. Now, there are at least 58 sites in 31 states, including Puerto Rico.

The curriculum is designed to focus on at-risk youth, fourth through sixth grade, and expose them to hands-on activities in science, technology, engineering and math based on the physics of flight.

Mary Jo Brewer, deputy director and program instructor, STARBASE Wichita, said, “It is a field trip where the kids come to classrooms at McConnell Air Force Base and do ‘hands on, minds on’ STEM projects. The students come for five days and get 25 hours of STEM activities in the class-

room.”

STARBASE students learn about Newton’s laws of motion, the periodic table, matter and other science facts through a variety of activities, including riding a hovercraft, solving a “crime scene” using chromatography, and constructing Alka-Seltzer rockets. They also take military tour to see how STEM is used in the workplace and interact with military personnel from all branches on bases nationwide.

Tours at McConnell may include seeing a KC-135, flight/boom simulators, control tower simulator, the 184th Intelligence Wing,

the base fire department, military working dogs, the Medical Group and explosive ordnance disposal technicians.

Community outreach is also a part of the STARBASE program.

“Last year, we had a booth at the Society of Women Engineers event at Century II,” said Brewer. We did STEM nights at several schools including Wineteer, Buckner, Colvin, and L’Ouveture. We have presented at USD 259 Splash and Dash (field trip opportunities), judged at regional and state science fairs, and hosted an open house for the Air National Guard.”



Mary Jo Brewer, deputy director and program instructor, STARBASE Wichita, explains one of the learning sections to Tech. Sgt. Jacqueline Morgan-Lopez at a STARBASE open house event Feb. 22. Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

Kansas National Guard conducts civil disturbance training

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

Airmen and Soldiers converge at the Armed Forces Reserve Center, Topeka, to gain experience in joint riot control operations.

Adrenaline was high on both sides of the line of people that faced one another on a hot September day at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Topeka. Hands trembled and knees with the rush that overtook their bodies.

On one side, rioters yelled obscenities, proclaiming their right to protest. On the other, a military force made up of Army and Air National Guardsmen in battle gear, armed with shields and batons, moved in unison to the cadence, “One...two...three...get back! One...two...three...get back!”

As the afternoon progressed,



A protestor shouts obscenities at Kansas National Guard members in a riot control formation during civil disturbance training at the Armed Forces Reserve Center, Topeka, Sept. 18. During the training, the Guardsmen learned minimal force techniques to apply the appropriate response to different levels of aggression. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

the rioters became more and more violent, crowding the line, punching and kicking the shields, as they



An arrest team carries a protestor back behind the front line during civil disturbance training at the Armed Forces Reserve Center, Topeka, Sept. 18. Arrest teams are strategically placed behind the line and wait for opportunities to “snatch” rioters from the field.

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

attempted to rush through to create chaos and confusion.

The Guardsmen responded with techniques they learned at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Topeka Sept. 17-

18.

The brawl was the capstone to a weekend of civil disturbance training that brought together the 184th Security Forces Squadron, the 190th Security Forces Squadron and the 35th Military Police Company.

“The joint training allows us to be ready and prepared if we were to be called to some sort of civil disturbance situation,” said Army First Sgt. Michael Barber, 35th MP Company, Kansas Army National Guard.

The weekend included individual skills training on Saturday that covered pressure point control tactics, and hand-to-hand and baton techniques used to subdue opponents.

The training on Sunday began with team instruction. The Guards-



1. Army Staff Sgt. Glenn Carter, black shirt, disturbance training instructor, 35th Military Police Company, plays the role of a rioter during civil disturbance Sept. 18.

2. National Guardsmen use techniques and tactics they learned during the civil disturbance training to thwart his violent advances at the Armed Forces Reserve Center, Topeka, Sept. 18.

3. Staff Sgt. Samuel Obeng, 184th Security Forces, maintains the strength and integrity of his section of the front line. Non-commissioned officers, such as Obeng, were placed directly behind the line to keep it straight and ensure proper spacing. They also relayed commands to move the line appropriately.

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

men intermixed to learn how to operate arrest teams and march the line forward as one intimidating and effective force.

“We’re working on movements; how we want to move during a riot, whether you’re in the front line or you’re part of a snatch team,” said Army Staff Sgt. Glenn Carter, disturbance training instructor, 35th Military Police Company.

The Soldiers and Airmen were tested Sunday afternoon against the class instructors and other Guardsmen who played parts as rioters.

They thundered in unison, “One...two...three...get back!”

When skirmishers got too close, the Guardsmen used their batons to create space. Noncommissioned officers and team commanders stayed directly behind the line shouting commands to maintain the force’s

integrity and strength.

Seven-man arrest teams were strategically positioned behind the line waiting for opportunities to rush through and “snatch” protesters. They pulled the rioters back behind the line, wrestled them to the ground and handcuffed them.

“The purpose of what we call a snatch team is to go out ahead of the line and remove those leaders to help quell the situation,” said Carter, who is also an officer with the Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department.

“When you go to most demonstrations there’s usually those people who are in charge of the demonstration itself,” said Barber. “If you can pinpoint those and get them out of the area, it helps to mitigate all of the rest of the field and it starts to push them out of the area.”

The riot was conducted in segments with 15-minute water breaks and instruction in between. With every round, the protesters became more and more unruly. However, each round also resulted in significant improvements in the military force’s confidence and ability.

By the end of Sunday afternoon, three separate law enforcing units evolved into one unified force that successfully thwarted the advances of a violent and disruptive mob.

“When you come out here and actually see what it looks like, and see the flaws that can come with it, you correct those before you have to go into a field environment,” said Staff Sgt. Dean Keith, 184th Security Forces Squadron, and officer with the Wichita Police Department. “If or when we get called up, we’re going to be ready for it.”

**Tech. Sgt.
Jacob Smith**

Fighting Jayhawk since 2011

Organization:
184th Operations Support Squadron

Military Job Title:
Weapons and Tactics
Noncommissioned Officer in Charge



Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

Above & Beyond:

- Two CCAF Associate's Degrees in Intelligence Studies and Weather Technology
- Delivered monthly tailored training on threat systems and tactics to AFSC-diverse ISR Group
- Headed development of DGS-KS NGA Support Cell; instructed 33 analysts and led team through 2,138 hours of exploitation; adapted exploitation processes to locally available information systems.
- Instructed partner nation joint service course on intelligence tactics, techniques, and procedures
- 25th AF Maj. Gen. Larson Bronze Medalist; three-time local high scorer for AFSC-specific test
- Organized annual Veterans Day event at Mulvane Grade School; speakers from 184 IW teach and inspire the next generation while fostering good relations with the community

My story:

I was born in Parsons, Kansas and moved to Wichita while in grade school in 1997. During high school, I was fortunate enough to meet the young woman who would later become my wife and create a permanent anchor for me in Kansas. I joined the Air Force in Nov. 2005 as a Korean linguist and attended the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. I married Janice in 2006, then in 2007, retrained as a weather forecaster at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. My first (and only) active duty assignment began at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, in 2008 as a forecaster and then regional forecast supervisor. While Hawaii is an amazing place to visit, my wife and I missed our families, straight roads and the simple lifestyle available to us in Kansas. At the same time, I could not see myself being happy with a “normal” civilian job outside the military. Conveniently, someone I worked with happened to know of a certain intelligence wing at McConnell, and I soon found myself planning to return to Wichita to enlist in the Air National Guard as a geospatial intelligence analyst in 2011. After tech school in 2012, I was lucky enough to be placed on various forms of orders for three years before becoming Active Guard Reserve in 2015. Over the last five years, the mentors and senior leadership I have worked for have been willing to take a chance on entrusting me with responsibilities of which I certainly don't feel worthy; these are the kind of people who get excited about enabling others and seeing them succeed. Their motivation has left its mark, and now my best career moments come when I get a chance to instruct and (hopefully) inspire passion in others. We seek to leave behind the best possible unit for future Jayhawks. In the worlds of intelligence and cyber, it's exciting to see where future tech and tasking lead us. Being a member of the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group enables me to have this weird job and be a part of important events happening around the world, then still go home and see my family every night and tuck my kids into bed. That is a privilege for which I am extremely grateful.

Force Support Squadron hosts school supply giveaway

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

FSG gathers donated school items to distribute to wing members with children in elementary through high school.

The Family Support Group offered free school supplies to Airmen assigned to the 184th Intelligence Wing at McConnell Air Force Base. The supplies, donated by local organizations, were available to staff sergeants and below whose children attend elementary school through high school.

The FSG has obtained donated supplies for many consecutive years and public support grows with each school year.

“It’s the community coming together to provide supplies for the men and women protecting the country,” said Valerie Venerdi, president, Family Support Group. “They’re always looking for ways



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Mayra Santos, command post specialist, 184th Intelligence Wing, volunteers to gather donated school supplies Aug. 6. Donated items included notebooks, pencils, pens, backpacks and many other items. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

to give back and this is a perfect way they can give a little bit and feel like they’re being patriotic.”

Local churches reached out to

their members, who donated items such as paper, pencils, backpacks and other school essentials. Businesses were also willing to help in any way they could.

“Some businesses give cash donations and there are churches that hold drives for us,” said Venerdi. “They have no connection to the unit at all. They just want to provide for the military.”

Venerdi informed the community about the supply drive through phone calls and letters. She personally visited some organizations, which seemed to generate the most enthusiasm.

“We find that the more we go out in the community, more people want to help,” said Venerdi. “It’s overwhelming support.”



The Family Support Group offered free school supplies to Airmen assigned to the 184th Intelligence Wing Aug. 6.

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

Practice prevention and protect yourself from depression

By Jerry Kennedy, director of psychological health, 184th Intelligence Wing

October is Depression Awareness month and focuses on depression prevention and tips to protect yourself.

October is Depression Awareness month. Have you ever had one of those down days? A day or two when everything seems to go wrong, people are not very nice and life seems lousy. For most of us, these days are rare and we are able to shake it off and return to our normal level of optimism and functioning.

It is normal to have “blue” days due to a significant life event such as the death of someone close, the loss of an important relationship, or a difficult life transition. For some people, however, the bad days linger and their symptoms impair their ability to follow through with normal functioning at home, school or work. Those are times it is important to reach out and ask for help.

Depression can result in multiple physical problems and even suicide.

Depression is one of the most treatable diseases in mental health. Some ways to practice prevention and protect yourself from depression include:

- Watch out for negative thinking.

Balance the negative thoughts with positive facts about your life.

- Become more grateful. Gratitude is more than an attitude; it can be an action word. When you show others you are grateful by doing kind things or saying you appreciate them, you will feel better about yourself and see things from a different perspective.

- Become a satisfier not a maximizer. People who are “maximizers” focus on the need for perfection in everyone and everything, leaving them depressed much longer than people who are “satisfiers” – those who have a sense that people and things are “good enough.”

- Explain your life in a more optimistic and hopeful style – the glass is half full. People who have resiliency against depression tend to explain bad events as temporary, changeable and local. Those with a tendency toward depression explain bad events as permanent, unchangeable and global.

If you recognize that symptoms are getting worse and the things you are doing are not helping, ask yourself what the cost will be if you don't make changes and seek help. As with any other disease or illness, the earlier you intervene, the better and practice prevention.

JAYHAWK FLYER

photo finish ► Fighting Jayhawks in action



Members of the 184th Intelligence Wing honor guard perform a retreat ceremony Sept. 11. The ceremony was the final event from the Bring-a-Friend day and was in remembrance of the events of 9/11.

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



The 184th Intelligence Wing presents an \$18,000 check Aug. 6 to the American Cancer Society

Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs



Senior Master Sgt. Janet Probst and Tech. Sgt. Chris Guild, 184th Force Support Squadron, serve an early morning breakfast to Airmen assigned to the 184th Security Forces Squadron at Forbes Field, Topeka, prior to civil disturbance training Sept. 18.

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



Airmen assigned to the 134th Air Control Squadron set up a tent and communications systems in support of the Smoky Hill aerial gunnery demonstration, Aug. 5. The 134th ACS used the opportunity to gain experience in site construction as part of on-the-job training.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Alexandria Brun, 184th Public Affairs