

JAY HAWK FLYER

NEWS PUBLICATION OF THE 184th INTELLIGENCE WING

284th's First Deployment

The 284th Air Support Operations Squadron spins up in preparation for its first combat deployment in its short, two year history

JAYHAWK FLYER

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www.184iw.ang.af.mil

Cover photo

Members of the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron prepare equipment to be loaded on a C-17 at Salina Regional Airport on Nov. 19, 2011. The Mississippi Air National Guard offered a C-17 from the 183rd Airlift Squadron to pick up and deliver the Airmen and their equipment to Fort Irwin, Calif.

Photo by Maj. DeAnn Barr



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I will support and defend...

...the Constitution of the United States...

...against all enemies, foreign and domestic...

UTA information

January UTA: Jan. 7-8

February UTA: Feb. 3-4

March UTA: March 3-4

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

Look for the monthly Drill Down 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.

Bird's Eye View

Commander's Comments

2012 Jayhawk Wing Goals?

The Power Point-astute among you may have noticed 184th Intelligence Wing briefing slides (up-to-date slides, that is) have not sported Wing goals for well over a year. You won't find them on this Flyer, and I've never mentioned them. One might reasonably conclude that I consider them irrelevant. Not so.

I've not stated Wing Goals mainly because I'd like us to focus on our mission objectives rather than our mission processes. The 184th is rather uniquely characterized by our "Many Missions." But, as I have said to many of you individually and collectively, we really only have one mission, and every Jayhawk shares it.

Every one of you, the current 1,314 Jayhawks, has raised your right hand and taken an oath which, in fact, contains our core mission statement: "Support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic." This Wing, like the Air Force at large, has many methods and processes to achieve this mission. However, it's essential that we keep in mind that what we usually call "missions" (Global Strike, Air Dominance, Intelligence, Network Operations) are really methods to achieve our core mission. Every task we have, every role we play funnels into the core mission objective of protecting our Nation and, as Guardsman, our State.

Whether your role (your process) is to bring down steel and fire from the sky, secure our perimeter with an M4 and an attitude, build combat situational awareness from Predator imagery, guard our computers and networks from hostile activity (and occasional operator error), cut training orders or make ID cards, you all own the outcome of our mission objectives: protecting and defending this Nation. Jayhawks, we were a winning team in 2011. Let's kick off a winning 2012 season by keeping in mind that every one of us shapes the execution and impact of our [core mission](#).

Ya' know, I might even add this "goal" to a Power Point slide someday.

J.J.



**Colonel J.J. Hernandez,
Commander, 184 IW**

284th prepares for first combat role

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

The 284th Air Support Operations Squadron planned, developed and is prepared to execute its first combat deployment from the ground up.



Members of the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron loaded on a C-17 at Salina Regional Airport Nov. 19, 2011. The Mississippi Air National Guard offered a C-17 from the 183rd Airlift Squadron to pick up and deliver the Airmen and their equipment to Fort Irwin, Calif.

Photo by Maj DeAnn Barr, Public Affairs

SALINA, Kan. - Over the course of three days in November, the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron loaded six cargo planes with heavy equipment and headed toward the West Coast. The aircraft took off from Salina Regional Airport and were bound for the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., where the 284th linked up with the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Ohio National Guard. The training they received there completed their final preparations for the brigade's deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Although it only took three days to

load and leave, the squadron spent much more time preparing for their first combat mission since their activation in 2009.

"People think we just go out and drop bombs," said Staff Sgt. Cameron Carlson, a tactical air control party. "I don't think they realize everything it takes to get to that point."

The 284th ASOS is a tenant unit of the 184th Intelligence Wing when stationed in Kansas during peacetime operations. As the 184th IW has evolved, it's picked up various missions with many different roles. The 284th punctuates the diverse operations of the wing, being one

squadron facts

Official Name:

284th Air Support Operations Squadron

Abbreviated Name:

284th ASOS

Nickname:

Vikings

Home Station:

Smoky Hill Weapons Range, Salina, Kan.

Details:

Officially activated in 2009.

Belongs to the 184th Regional Support Group, which falls under the 184th Intelligence Wing.

The squadron employs 16 full-time and 26 traditional Guardsmen, with room to grow.

Most jobs in the squadron include:

- Tactical Air Control Party (TACP)
- Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC)
- Radio Operator, Maintainer and Driver (ROMAD)

Local Recruiter:

Master Sgt. Bernie Boston
Commercial: (785) 826-3748
Office: (316) 759-8600

of many squadrons within it with unique capabilities.

The 284th began putting their team together for this deployment in June 2010. The mission and location of the deployment changed four times before being finalized, making planning for training, personnel and equipment requirements extremely difficult.



Members of the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron prepared for responding to dangerous attacks against them while conducting convoy patrols at Smoky Hill Weapons Range near Salina, Kan. The training was part of predeployment spin-up exercises during November 2011, as they prepared for deployment to Afghanistan.

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

“One of the biggest challenges to overcome was keeping the guys motivated,” explained Senior Master Sgt. Matt Foote, the squadron’s superintendent. “When the mission changes like that, it’s easy to get frustrated and lose focus.”

The unit is so young that the manning and training hasn’t caught up with the requirements, as it takes four years to fully train a joint terminal attack controller. This forced the squadron to pull resources from five other units across the United States.

Once the team was built and the mission was set, training kicked off in late September. Most of the training was conduct-

ed in Kansas.

“That’s what makes the 284th unique,” explained Lt. Col. Michael Arnold, director of operations for the 284th ASOS. “Our training facilities are located on Smoky Hill. Most ASOSs go to Army locations

for training.”

Not only does the local training keep troops with their families longer, it reduces extensive traveling costs.

“We did all kinds of stuff with a lot of help from outside agencies and we did it all right here in Salina,” said Lt. Col. Gary Nash, commander of the 284th ASOS.

During their training at Smoky Hill Weapons Range, part of the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, the unit members experienced a variety of learning opportunities. They conducted Combat Life Saver training, weapons



Tech. Sgt. Carl Denuna, 165th ASOS, Georgia, responds to small arms fire during convoy patrol training at Smoky Hill Weapons Range.

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

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qualifications, helicopter insertion and extraction, improvised explosive device defeat lane training and vehicle rollover training.

The squadron trained with many weapons systems on different types of terrain and learned various tactics while incorporating close air support missions.

“Everything we’ve done for the past two months is to fulfill the requirements from our deployed parent unit,” Arnold said.

Throughout their training, the unit received support from expert equipment operators representing various organizations, including Rockwell Collins, the Kansas National Guard

Premobilization Training Assistance and Evaluation team, as well as other support organizations. With the experts on hand, the team was able to ask questions and work out any difficulties before heading down range.

“If I can’t be with them in Afghanistan, I can sure be with them while they’re training,” said Laura Thiel, president of MediPAK Energy Systems, a North Carolina developer of light-weight batteries used to run battlefield equipment.

Once the training at Smoky Hill came to an end in October, the 284th spent a few more weeks at Camp Shelby, Miss., conducting

battle drills. Upon completion of those drills, the squadron was set to move to the final phase of their training at Fort Irwin before heading overseas.

On Nov. 19, 2011, members of the squadron began loading a C-17 from the 183rd Airlift Squadron, Mississippi Air National Guard with humvees and trailers.

Col. J.J. Hernandez, commander of the 184th IW, was on location to show his support for the squadron. Members of the 184th Logistics Readiness Squadron and the 134th Air Control Squadron were also on hand to help the 284th carry out joint inspections of vehicles and

ASOS trains with CROWS at GPJTC Home Station

By Maj. DeAnn Barr, Public Affairs

SALINA, Kan. - For Staff Sgt. Cameron Carlson, training on the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle and firing his weapon mounted on the Common Remotely Operated Weapon System (CROWS) that sits on top, is all in a day’s work as he prepares for a deployment to Afghanistan with the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron. The advantage though, is tonight after work he, along with the other members of his squadron, can return to their families.

At a time when family members can begin to count down the days remaining before their military member deploys, the ordinary night after work is not taken for granted.

“It is a really big deal to be able to accomplish this kind of training at home station rather than have to

go to one of the Army’s predeployment centers. It keeps our guys on home station with their families for as long as possible prior to the 10 months in Afghanistan,” said Lt. Col. Michael Arnold, 284th ASOS Director of Operations.

Because of the diverse array of facilities, squadron leaders were able to develop a comprehensive training schedule that encompasses all the unique requirements of a unit entering a war zone, but condensed that training from about 90 days deployed somewhere in the United States to 35 days on home station.

“Every trainer here is part of the Great Plains Joint Training Center umbrella and we are all invested in each other,” Arnold said. Joining the 284th in their deployment are members from six other ASOS

units from the Air National Guard. They are also participating in this nearly one-stop predeployment training.

“When we train on home station we can alternate back to our primary mission of Close Air Support for a week, and then return again to predeployment mode,” said Arnold. “It’s a win-win concept from people to dollars.”

By utilizing the Kansas Regional Training Institute, located at the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, the unit completed their Combat Life Saver training. The local Premobilization Training Assistance and Evaluation team, also housed in Salina, took over many training functions as did the Army Training Command who came in from the active duty Army Post from Leavenworth, Kan., in Octo-



Guardsmen from the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron prepare equipment to be loaded on a C-17 at Salina Regional Airport on Nov. 19, 2011. Senior Airman Nick Leis and Tech. Sgt. Justin Stevens secure equipment prior to loading it on the plane.

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

equipment.

“It may seem like another working weekend, another nagging task,” Hernandez said, “until you see the humvees being loaded on a C-17. That’s what it’s all about. There are thousands of variables that go into a deployment like this and that is where the rest of the wing comes in.”

As a former B-1 bomber crew member, Hernandez has gone through many training exercises throughout his career.

“I’ve been to Red Flag, Silver Flag, and other training, but they were nothing like the war fighting exercises these Airmen are about to receive at the NTC.”

“This was a tremendous undertaking,” he continued, “this training saga, now in its final phase, graduates into combat and that’s something few in the Kansas Air National Guard have done before.” **JF**



MRAP with mounted CROWS at Smoky Hill Weapons Range Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

ber.

“There are two types of vehicles we will fall in on down range, and being qualified in them is a pre-deployment training requirement,” said Arnold. “To be able to secure the TRACOM mobile training team to come to us at no cost to our unit or state, as well as train Guardsmen from six other states is incredible.”

Training on the CROWS emulates what troops will experience in-theatre and allows the Airman

to mount a variety small arms and heavy weapons on the MRAP. It is gyro-stabilized with an integrated laser range finder and windage calibrator, electro-optical and infrared cameras for day and night ops. It allows the gunner to stay safe inside the MRAP and will allow a moderately trained gunner to achieve a 96 percent first-shot kill ratio on man-sized targets over 1,000 meters away. This, even on a day when the winds were 30 mph

gusting to 36 mph on the wide-open prairie.

“The CROWS is the greatest thing since sliced bread, a mad scientist inspired tail kicker,” said Arnold.

After a morning of training on the MRAP with the CROWS, troops were dismissed to complete weapons training, weapons cleaning and other classroom work and still make it home to another evening with their families. **JF**

Fighting Jayhawks awarded Bronze Star

By 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Public Affairs

Members of the 184th Intelligence Wing were honored for their exceptional contributions during their recent deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

MCCONNELL AFB, Kan. - Three members of the 184th Intelligence Wing, Kansas Air National Guard, were recently honored for their achievements while serving in Afghanistan. The ceremony took place Dec. 3, 2011 in Hangar 41, crowded with family members, friends and co-workers.

Master Sgt. Clint Bradfield, first sergeant of the 184th Medical Group, was recognized for being awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his service with the second Kansas Agribusiness Development Team from January 2010 to January 2011. While deployed, he supported 75 ADT missions and two combat missions. He was also attached to the 101st Airborne Division for security support as a combat medic during his deployment.

"I was very humbled to receive this medal. My job as a medic is to take care of injured personnel, and I didn't feel like I did anything extraordinary other than what I was trained to do," said Bradfield.

Two members of the 184th Civil Engineer Squadron were also awarded the Bronze Star for extraordinary service during their



Master Sgt. Clint Bradfield, 184th Med. Group, was presented the Bronze Star while serving in Afghanistan in 2011, but was recognized in front of his peers during December's ceremony.

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

deployment. Lt. Col. James Culp, commander of the 184th Civil Engineer Squadron, and Master Sgt. Homer King were presented the award by Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general.

"The Bronze Star isn't handed out often, and when we have an opportunity to present the Bronze Star for service and achievement above and beyond, it is truly a special event," said Tafanelli. "I would like to congratulate each of the recipients today for all their hard work, effort and sacrifice upon earning the Bronze Star award."

Culp and King were deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from March to August 2011. Under Culp's command, the

squadron completed projects that were essential to the operations in their area.

"I was really thankful that I went," said Culp. "My team wanted to go and was able to make a huge impact on the mission."

While in Afghanistan, the Civil Engineer Squadron completed 166 projects totaling \$76 million. The squadron also accomplished nine Master Plans; installed 182 tents, averaging one tent per day; supported 18 forward operating bases; completed 130 offsite missions; and supported five operations.

Col. John Hernandez, commander of the 184th Intelligence Wing, complimented the Airmen for their achievements.

“When you look at the contributions of you and all of your civil engineering team, improving the capability to operate unmanned air systems is a direct contribution of the war effort. That’s a direct contribution of actions engaged and enemy threats neutralized.”

“Some of your work reduced the response time of close air support call by 45 minutes,” Hernandez continued. “That is a 45-minute reduction of time for air support to help our ground troops under fire. No one has ever shot at me, but I think that I can speak for our Soldiers in this room that a reduction of even five minutes would be a God-send, so well done.”

The 45-minute reduction was due to the 15 Airmen of the Civil Engineer Squadron making history. They were able to complete a \$17 million, 454,000 square feet heliport which allowed a faster response time for aerial support. The completed heliport is the largest in Air Force civil engineer history. This was a challenging project, but one that King will remember his



Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general, and Col. John Hernandez, Commander of the 184th Intelligence Wing, present the Bronze Star Medal to Master Sgt. Homer King (second from the left), and Lt. Col. James Culp (right), for their outstanding achievements while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2011.

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

entire life.

“It was rewarding to be part of history,” King said. “It was a project that was much needed. At points, we would stop working to allow it to be used. Once they would take off, we would continue the work.”

The Bronze Star Medal was established in 1944 for any person

who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard of the United States, after Dec. 6, 1941, distinguishes, or has distinguished, himself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service not involving participation in aerial flight. **JF**

Family members, friends, and co-workers attended the Bronze Star award ceremony in Hanger 41 on Dec. 3, 2011.

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



**Senior Master Sgt.
Lurina Lovegrove**

Fighting Jayhawk since 2003

Organization:

**184th Operations Support
Squadron**

Job Title:

**Superintendent,
Intelligence Operations**



Above & Beyond:

- Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year 2012 for the Wing
- Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter (January - March 2011)
- Community College of the Air Force Associates Degree in Intelligence Operations
- Currently working toward Bachelor's Degree in Security Management at Southwestern
- Volunteers as a mentor for Griffenstein Alternative Elementary school
- Volunteers at the Kansas Humane Society
- Volunteers for various Wing events, parties, etc.
- Member of the 184th Intelligence Wing Leadership Development Council
- Participant in the Wing's Mission Driven Mentoring program
- Active member of the Wounded Warrior program
- Member of Enlisted Association of the Air National Guard, United States

My story:

The reason I joined the Kansas Air National Guard was because I missed the military after I separated from the active duty Army. What keeps me in and going are the Airmen. I love to see Airmen grow and reach their goals. Some of the personnel that I have the pleasure of supervising have gone on to do some great things in their lives. I am so proud to be a part of them reaching their goals from Airmen getting awesome jobs in the civilian world to becoming commissioned officers within our own wing. I know this may sound cheesy, but it's true. That is why I love coming to work every day! Plus, I get to support the War Fighter. I love going home at night knowing that we, at DGS-KS, make a difference in the war fighter's life! I am very grateful each day I get to do this and have the support from my family, husband, Master Sgt. Jim Lovegrove, Kansas Air National Guard; son, Senior Airman Chris Williams, U.S. Air Force, and son, Pvt. Eli Williams, U.S. Marine Corp. Yep! Military family, keeping up the tradition!

Engineering and Installation team maps out communications

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

The 219th Engineering and Installation Squadron spent two months tracing, labeling, and mapping hundreds of miles of communications cables on base

MCCONNELL AFB, Kan. - The 184th Intelligence Wing recently hosted a team of Airmen from the 219th Engineering and Installation Squadron. The team travelled from Tulsa, Okla., on a mission to update the tracking system which documents all of the communications cables running between buildings.

Senior Master Sgt. Michael Pope served as the team chief for this assignment.

“They go down into the manhole, get the measurements, mark the cables and add them to the document,” said Pope.

This may sound simple, but throw in miles of old cable, climb into approximately 85 extremely confined manholes filled with water and mud, trace hundreds of cables and do it all in one of the hottest summers in the history of Kansas and you’ve got quite an undertaking.

From the outside, a manhole looks like a way to climb into a sewer system. Most of the manholes are extremely confined spaces. They serve as a hub where communications cables



Left: Staff Sgt. John Pollard tracks and marks cable locations with orange spray paint, indicating where communications lines are buried.



Staff Sgt. Renee Dennison, 219th EIS, uses the CVC interactive mapping system to document GPS points of all manholes and communications cables on base.

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

tie together as they’re dispersed in various directions. The cable splices can seem rather chaotic inside the holes, increasing the importance of a well-documented tracking system.

“They mark copper, fiber and coaxial cables; anything to do with communications,” said Pope. “They’re tracing the routes with tags, spray paint and GPS instruments.”

Once the information is gathered from the field, it’s brought in to Staff Sgt. Renée Dennison.

“They go out and find it, bring it to me and I put it into the system,” Dennison explained.

The system Dennison uses is called the CVC, or the CIPS Visualization Component.

“It’s an interactive map of GPS points of all of the manholes and cables on the base,” said Dennison.

Once the map was complete, the cables and manholes were documented within three feet of their physical location. The map can be used to aid communications personnel during cabling and troubleshooting assignments. It can also be used by construction crews to help avoid costly cable cuts. **JF**

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

JAYHAWK FLYER

photo finish ► Fighting Jayhawks in action



Above Left: In preparation of the unit's 70th anniversary celebration, Chief Master Sgt. John Davis, retired Brig. Gen. Ed McIlhenny, and Master Sgt. Rich Longberg helped the photo lab put names to faces as they labelled pictures from the past. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy



Left: Past and present members of the 184th Intelligence Wing gathered at the Wichita Aviation Museum to celebrate their unit's 70th year anniversary on Nov. 4, 2011. Maj. Warner White looked at old pictures and visited with friends throughout the evening.

Photo by Master Sgt. John Vsetecka



Above: Tech. Sgt. Bill Cox, 134th Air Control Squadron, submitted his civilian supervisor, Marion Foster, Spirit Aerosystems, for the Patriot Award presented by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve committee. Pictured: Tech. Sgt. Bill Cox, Marion Foster, and Karl Koenig, an ESGR volunteer.

Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy



Above: Col. Mike Tokarz visits with retired Maj. George Boyd, a former Tuskegee Airman, after a speech Boyd gave at an officers' "all call" on Dec. 4, 2011. Photo by 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht



Left: Members of the 134th Air Control Squadron returned home to McConnell Air Force Base, Kan. after a four month deployment to Southwest Asia. Capt. Brett Cleveland was greeted by his wife, Tiffany, son, Hayden (with flag), and his oldest son, Christian, on Nov. 18, 2011.

Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy



Above: Tech. Sgt. Chris van Fosson, Tech. Sgt. George McNabb, and Staff Sgt. James Stevens dressed as opposing force insurgents during convoy attack and response training at Smoky Hill Weapons Range on Oct. 29, 2011.

Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy