

JAY HAWK FLYER

NEWS PUBLICATION OF THE 184th INTELLIGENCE WING



Tornado Recovery

Personnel from the 184th Intelligence Wing band together to plan, prepare and react to Kansas' weather. *page 12*

JAYHAWK FLYER

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www.184iw.ang.af.mil

Cover photo

A powerful tornado ripped through the west side of McConnell AFB, Kan. on April 14 at approximately 10:15 p.m. The 184th Intelligence Wing took damage to a number of buildings on the base including a recruiting trailer. Personnel were on hand during the drill weekend to clean up debris left by the storm.

Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy



Photo by Maj. DeAnn Barr, 184th Public Affairs

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I will support and defend...

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

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

UTA information

May UTA: May 5-6

June UTA: June 2-3

July/August UTA: August 3-6

Deadline for the July edition of the Jayhawk Flyer is June 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

Chief's Comments

"Tell Your Story"

My dad was a World War II veteran. He was also a great talker and was never at a loss for words. (Imagine that!) He always had something to say about anything. But as memory serves, one thing he never talked spoke to anyone about was what he did during WWII—except for one time...with me. It was during his later years he drove down to visit Roxie and me for a couple of weeks.

One afternoon Rox and the kids escaped to the zoo, leaving the two of us in the house. He went out to his RV and came back with an old, battered photo album. We sat there for several hours, poring over those pictures, while he talked to me about what he did while deployed to Japan. He showed me pictures of Nagasaki, Tokyo and Hiroshima. He showed me the pictures of the Korean POW camps in Hokkaido and told me how his Company helped in repatriating those POWs back to their country. He told me there was nothing special about his young, drafted soldier's duty. It held no intrigue or suspense. He simply did his duty and for whatever reason, never talked about it again.

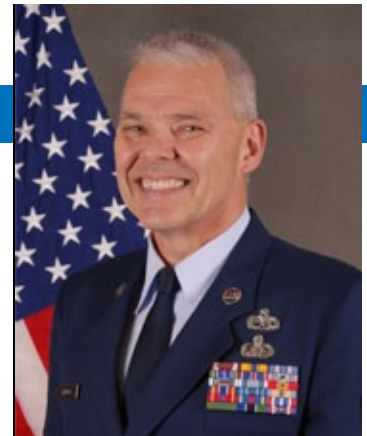
You know, we're a lot like my dad in that respect. During the course of our military careers each of us have experienced events we've mentally filed away to ponder, to laugh at or just wonder about. Those experiences could've been embarrassing, heroic or downright hilarious. Some of those stories need telling. Telling stories is a way to illustrate to others the significance of an event or of a way of life. It's a great tool to make an unforgettable impression and memory.

We serve our country, our state and communities as Guardsmen. Our military duties have created life events worth talking about. But, with life being as it is, we don't often take the time to tell those stories to our civilian friends, family or relatives. We do have job limitations. Some of what we do can't get outside the base. But there are events that are fit for sharing. We need to be able to select times and places to tell those stories and not be shy about showing our communities how we're tied to our service.

We live in high times right now. Public support and approval of our nation's military has rarely been higher. We can wear our uniforms in our towns and streets. Our families and neighbors are proud of what we do and what we represent. It was not always that way. Let's not jeopardize those values and that trust by questionable actions. As our nation works through our economic problems, the Air National Guard needs to continue to play a positive role in our nation's economic solutions, not feed the problems. As Citizen Airmen we can keep our community's support positive. One way to do that is to tell them our stories, serious or funny, whenever we can. Those stories create ties and bonds so our civilian family can better understand what we do and why we do it. It enables them to take ownership of our military services. Does it work? I can tell you that after our visit, I never viewed my father the same way again. Those short stories he shared with me that day changed the way I looked at his life, the purpose behind what he did and the US military. Imagine what we could do for our Air National Guard if our civilian friends and family heard our stories.

See you around.

Chief



**Chief Master Sergeant
Russ Brotsky,
Command Chief, 184 IW**

Constant presence, global impact

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

As the wing has transformed from one mission to another, to another, the 184th Munitions Squadron has remained a stable force despite years of change.



During a quarterly exercise in November, 2011 Master Sgt. Steve Albers, Tech. Sgt. Mark Sloan and Staff Sgt. Angel Wendell strap cargo to a pallet as they prepare weapons for shipment. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

MCCONNELL AFB, Kan. - Where have all of the aircraft maintainers gone? For many Fighting Jayhawks, the simple subject of turning a wrench takes them back to the glory days of the 184th. With the flying days behind them, aircraft maintainers have found their niche in various sections of the wing. Many flight-line personnel traded their wrenches for tools related to intelligence, communications and information processing. There is, however, a solid entity within the wing that carries the tradition of what it once meant to be maintenance. That entity is the

184th Munitions Squadron.

Munitions personnel have been around since the dawn of aircraft armament.

“We’ve been known as AMMO for a long time; that goes way back before my time,” said Master Sgt. Troy Evans, maintenance accountable systems officer.

The 184th Munitions Sq. began its latest journey in 2005 when the secretary of defense recommended a realignment of Lackland AFB, Texas. As a result of the realignment, the Air Force decided to transfer the Standard Air Munitions Package, STAMP, and Standard

Tank, Rack, Adaptor and Pylon Package, STRAPP, functions to McConnell AFB, Kan. This decision was based on a number of key factors. The base is centrally located in the continental United States and just a short drive to McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, which allows expedient reconstitution of munitions and a convenient overflow storage area. The expertise was also already in place, making the transition smooth and relatively inexpensive, since additional training

was minimal.

“I would say over 70 percent of our squadron came from a maintenance background,” said Staff Sgt. Ben Clifton, munitions operations specialist.

With the departure of the KC-135 Stratotankers in 2007, and the hangars beginning to empty out, the Munitions Sq. hired the majority of its personnel. Then in 2009, the squadron became fully operational and they’ve been constantly progressing ever since. In addition to the STRAPP mission, the squadron also acquired a Tank, Rack, Adap-

Squadron facts

Official Name:

184th Munitions Squadron

Abbreviated Name:

184 MUNS

Nickname:

AMMO

Home Station:

McConnell Air Force Base,
Wichita, Kansas

Details:

Officially activated in 2009.

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

The squadron employs 87 full-time and 13 traditional guardsmen

Most jobs in the squadron include:
- Munitions Systems Specialists
- Armament Systems Specialists

Recruiting Contact:

Commercial: 316-759-7424



Tech. Sgts. John Ives and John Holle load missiles onto a pallet as they prepare to transport them during a quarterly exercise.

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

tor and Pylon Package, TRAPP.

“The TRAPP mission is basically Rocky’s baby. He set that up,” said Senior Master Sgt. Tom Skala, munitions systems supervisor, as he spoke about Senior Master Sgt. Curtis “Rocky” Kolb, supervisor of weapons systems.

The STRAPP and TRAPP missions are similar on the surface. They both include items such as launcher units, triple ejection racks, bomb rack units and suspension under wing units.

“Anything that can be jettisoned from an aircraft is what we maintain in STRAPP and TRAPP,” Kolb said.

The difference between the two

areas is TRAPP supports depot level maintenance, containing over 1,700 line items, while STRAPP supports war mobilization missions and contains approximately 240 line items.

“The acquisition of TRAPP strengthened the unit’s viability. It also helped secure funding and justification for maintaining building 50,” Kolb said.

Across the runway sits the other part of AMMO. With 21 facilities, the Regional Munitions Storage Area, RMSA, occupies 60 acres and is capable of housing approximately 700,000 pounds of net explosive weight. The area is home to the STAMP mission.

“Our day-to-day operations are primarily RMSA duties,” said Master Sgt. Evans, “but when we get the 2 a.m. call to execute, that’s when we become STAMP.”

The RMSA is currently responsible for 36 base custody accounts, with over 1,100 line items which

support the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserves, and the active duty Air Force. Most of their inventory consists of precision guided munitions. The mission conducts courtesy storage of munitions from Tulsa, Okla., Topeka, Kan., Lincoln, Neb., and the U.S. Navy. They also support missions pertaining to the 22nd Air Refueling Wing, including Air Expeditionary Force taskings and emergency responses during duty and non-duty hours.

“We’re one of the only Air Guard units, if not the only unit, that supports its local active duty wing,” Evans said.

In addition to their normal activities, the Munitions Sq. conducts a quarterly exercise to prepare for any missions that require the build-up and delivery of ordinance. The exercises mimic “real-world” missions, but only require preparation of 25 percent of their assets.

“We get three orders when a mis-

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Staff Sgt. Troy Langford uses proper strapping techniques while building pallets during a munitions exercise.

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

sion comes up. We get a warning, an alert and an execute order,” Evans said, “We follow the same process during the exercises.”

The missions and exercises are coordinated between the 184th Munitions Sq., the 22nd Air Refueling Wing and the 649th Munitions Sq. at Hill AFB.

When the order to execute is given, the Munitions Sq. is equipped with material and personnel to ship ordinance to any part of the world within 72 hours. The squadron personnel also have the capability to load munitions to any aircraft belonging to the United States. These capabilities increase the pool of candidates available for worldwide deployments.

“We’ve sent people all over the world for years,” said Senior Master Sgt. Skala.

The squadron’s most recent global activities have been

in support of Operations Odyssey Dawn and Unified Protector, in which U.S. and NATO forces provided air support for anti-Gaddafi forces in Libya. Of course, they’ve also played a heavy role in all of the current operations throughout southwest Asia. In addition to combat missions, the Munitions Sq. has lent a helping hand during times of disaster, sending 500 aircraft pallets to Japan following the recent tsunami, shipping small arms ammunition to Security Forces personnel in response to Hurricane Katrina, and contributing volunteers to support relief efforts after a tornado devastated Greensburg, Kan.

Over the years, AMMO has created a strong family atmosphere, which is another tradition carried on from the maintenance days. In many ways, the strong ties are related to the isolated location of the squadron.

“We’re still here on the southeast side of the ramp, even though no one sees us until we have a wing function,” said Master Sgt. Evans, “We’re always heard, but never seen.”

Every year, the squadron has a family weekend at various lakes. They also throw an annual beach party and a Christmas party. In addition, AMMO has adopted a family from the Family Readiness and Support Group for the last two years, raising over \$3,000.

“The people make the mission. It’s a very unique brotherhood and sisterhood where everyone gets along well,” Staff Sgt. Clifton said, “Plus it’s a job where I can still get my hands dirty.”



Munitions pallets that have been loaded up and ready for transport. During an exercise, the Munitions Sq. is only required to prepare 25 percent of their assets. Preparation and shipment varies, however, when supporting combat related missions.

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

Air Guard launches new referral program

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

The Air National Guard needs qualified new recruits. In an effort to increase quality recruitment, they've launched a new program designed to reward the best recruiters... experienced Airmen.

MCCONNELL AFB, Kan. - The Air National Guard has recently unveiled a new program called the Referral Rewards Program. It's designed to reward current and former Air Guardsmen for assisting recruiters in finding qualified people who may be interested in joining the military.

"As a whole, the Air Guard is under strength by about 2,000 people, the goal of this program is to get members of the Guard to bring in quality people they already know," said Master Sgt. Dan Ayres, supervisor, 184th Recruiting Office.

On the surface this seems like a way for unit members to earn free stuff, but the recruiters from the 184th Intelligence Wing understand that Airmen are the best choice when it comes to recruiting new Airmen.

"The best referrals have always come from unit members," Ayres said.

Airmen can help ease a potential recruit's anxieties by introducing them to recruiters, answering questions about training requirements, and explaining how the military has had a positive effect on their own lives. Airmen can also aid the unit's recruiters by connecting them to quality leads, giving the recruiter credibility and trustworthiness in the eyes of someone who may have doubts about joining.

"I can talk to a person all day about the benefits of the Guard, but until I cross that trust threshold I will get nowhere. There's no doubt, the best recruiter is



Tech. Sgt. Jason McAndrews, recruiter for the 184th Intelligence Wing, explains the benefits of the Air National Guard's referral rewards program to Staff Sgt. Chris Schulte. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

a unit member," said Tech. Sgt. Jason McAndrews, Production Recruiter for the 184th.

The 184th has already seen an increase in qualified applicants due to the referral program. Over half of the enlistments in February were generated by unit members enrolled in the program.

"The new ANG Referral Program couldn't be easier," said Maj. Jesse Sojka, wing executive staff officer, 184th Intelligence Wing, "It takes about five minutes to sign up on the website. They send you a folder with business cards and information, and then you simply refer people you know to the recruiters."

Once the person joins, the recruiter enters the referring Airman's code into the system which assigns the enlistment to the Airman. The Airman then logs into the website and selects a gift from the available options. The gifts become higher in value with each successful enlistment assigned to that Airman.

"So far, I've had two personal referrals: one I met at my church and the other is someone I've known for years who wanted to become an officer," Sojka said.

To enroll in the Referral Rewards Program sign up at www.Refer2ANG.com.

Jayhawk Control turns deployment into opportunity

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

Challenges during a recent deployment to Southwest Asia created opportunities for the 134th Air Control Squadron to develop Airmen in unfamiliar areas.

As approximately 80 Airmen from the 184th Intelligence Wing's 134th Air Control Sq. prepared for their deployment to Southwest Asia in June 2011, Lt. Col. Christopher Mills, commander of the 134th Air Control Sq., evaluated his team with some small concerns.

"The tall order was that we had a lot of new people," said Mills. "We literally had people graduate from technical school, check into the unit and go with us on the deployment a week or two later."

Now, a few months after returning from their five month deployment, Mills says he couldn't be happier with the results.

"We did the mission well and we brought everyone home. There isn't much else you can ask for as a commander," said Mills.

"The deployment tempo was actually a benefit for training new Airmen," said Capt. Brett Cleveland, chief of training for the squadron. "Once you get over there, it is probably the most dynamic scenario you could possibly have for training young troops. It is kind of like baptism by fire. They get spun up really quickly and we debrief after every mission, or after every session they have on scope,



Members of the 134th Air Control Squadron stand in front of their radar in a deployed location in Southwest Asia.

Photo provided by 134th Air Control Squadron

so there is a lot of learning going on daily."

This deployment presented a great challenge for the new and seasoned Airman.

"We might have had one or two people out of 33 that went in a position that they were experienced in," said Cleveland.

But for Senior Airman Kyle Rittel, a tech controller from Salina, Kan. this deployment, his first, gave him a better understanding of his overall mission.

"Here at home, you do your job, but you don't understand how you fit into the big picture," said Rittel. "But when you go over there, you are forced to discover what your job is."

Rittel and other new personnel

were a vital part of the success of the mission, as were the experienced noncommissioned officers and senior noncommissioned officers who mentored them.

Senior Master Sgt. David Perez, radar noncommissioned officer in charge, used every opportunity to include his Airman in maintenance troubleshooting.

"We had some unique opportunities for training out there, something that we are not going to have during annual training or times on the weekend," he said. "We tried to get the young guys involved in the decision making part of maintenance because that way, when they go up in rank, they can share their expertise and experience with the people that they will be training."

While deployed, the Airmen of the 134th Air Control Sq. were also able to get some experience in the joint environment also.

This had some stumbling blocks along the way, but nothing that was detrimental to the mission.

“We worked side-by-side with Air Guard, active duty Air Force, Army and Navy components. It took a lot of communication over the first month or so, but before long we had a real smooth running operation,” said Mills.

The 134th worked heavily with the Navy on a daily basis to ensure



Lt. Col. Chris Snyder poses with part of the crew he led on his last combat mission as a mission crew commander for OEF air operations. The coalition crew was made up of United States Air Force active duty, Air Guard, British and Australian personnel. Snyder has been in the 134th Air Control Sq. for 21 years.

Photo provided by 134th Air Control Squadron

that they were providing an accurate air picture for the joint forces air control commander. They also

coordinated with the Army to provide timely Patriot missile defense for the Arabian Gulf.

“We participated in simulation exercises with the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines,” said Cleveland.

During these exercises, the 134th had the opportunity to improve the effectiveness of Coalition Forces in the region by participating in the exercise debrief sessions.

“These were stressful at times

but played a huge part in making the team and mission become more

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Airman receives special assignment

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

When Staff Sgt. Everardo Lopez deployed with the 134th Air Control Sq., Kansas Air National Guard, he was prepared to work with his radio frequency transmissions shop for his primary job. After arriving at his deployed duty station in Southwest Asia, his job responsibilities changed dramatically.

Lopez was selected to be a part of a crew called the Air Defense Liaison team. This team was tasked with providing air picture and intelligence in support of the host nation’s contributions to the Operation Unified Protector mission. Working on a different mission than his unit, Lopez worked in an alternate location, giving him a different perspective of the deployment.

“I struggled at first because I really didn’t understand the purpose of the mission. I was going from place to place and I wasn’t part of my unit. I didn’t

really have the group feeling that I would have had if I had been with my unit. But after a while I started to see the importance of my job and the security that I provided,” said Lopez.

Due to the sensitivity of his mission Lopez wasn’t allowed to share many specifics.

“The mission operation center was considered the Pentagon of the host nation. It was where every single part of their (host nation’s) military was located. This place had generals from their army, navy and air force everywhere. It was kind of a high-end job because I dealt with their generals every single day,” said Lopez. “It was interesting when you were walking through the chow hall and a colonel or a general would know your name because you are a part of the

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effective,” Mills said.

One of the other challenges the squadron faced during their deployment was the harsh environment. After arriving at their duty station, the radar techs found the arid climate was not friendly to electronic equipment.

“There was a lot of heat and a lot of dust, two things that electronics don’t like,” explained Mills. “So to pull that hat trick and keep it running took smart and savvy maintenance.”

This maintenance wasn’t easy, but it wasn’t a job that Senior Master Sgt. David Perez shied away from either.

“The radars that we took over were in good condition, but broke down a lot. I don’t know how many millions of dollars we spent to keep them up in operational condition. In addition to repair we

decided to put them on a specific up-down cycle so that we could facilitate more consistent periodic maintenance. This worked. When we left, I think that the operational rate was almost 100 percent,” said Perez.

Equipment breakdown was something that the 134th was trained for and able to address, but what wasn’t expected was the need to troubleshoot unfamiliar equipment. Staff Sgt. Kyle Armbrister, Aerospace Ground Equipment maintainer, was tasked with fixing a generator model that he hadn’t seen or worked on before.

“It was like a self-taught type of thing and I picked it up pretty quick. Pretty soon, people started asking me about the generator,” said Armbrister. “It made me feel good because I was able to walk away with more knowledge of that

particular model generator and was kind of like the expert for the shop.”

The 134th Air Control Sq. returned home on Nov. 17, 2011, to a crowd of family and friends. While deployed they performed surveillance of 30,000 aircraft and completed a successful mission. Mills was happy with the training and experience gained by his young squadron.

“Make no mistake about it, the success of our deployment was due to the ops and maintenance leadership that we brought to get the mission done. Now that we have returned, I think the older generation has a lot to be hopeful for. The young guys and girls proved they are smart and resourceful. They are indeed capable of more responsibility and eventually taking their place to lead our mission one day,” said Mills.

mission that they hold in such a high esteem.”

Lopez wasn’t quite sure why he was selected for this responsibility, but his commander, Lt. Col. Christopher Mills, knew Lopez was a good fit for this tasking.

“It was the emotional maturity that he brought to the table. We knew that he would do a good job,” said Mills. Part of the mandate of the job was building relations and friendships with our Arab counterparts. Sgt. Lopez absolutely excelled at this and was a true “ambassador in blue.”

During one stressful period, manning became problematic. The ADLT cell had few personnel and when a bout of sickness hit, there were large obstacles to overcome.

“A lot of my team got sick so I was basically running the mission for probably two to three weeks. That was pretty cool because I got to be the operations person for a while and I got to learn what the air defense job was. It was a real good learning curve,” said Lopez.



Staff Sgt. Everardo Lopez, middle, with other members of the Air Defense Liaison Team.

Photo provided by 134th Air Control Squadron

Mills added, “You have a staff sergeant doing the job of a major or lieutenant colonel, helping to advise at the operational level. This just doesn’t happen all the time. He really did a great job.”

Recruiter brings home national award

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

With hard work, dedication and a supportive team, Tech. Sgt. Jason McAndrews was named the Air National Guard Production Recruiter of the Year.

MCCONNELL AFB, Kan. - Tech. Sgt. Jason McAndrews, Production Recruiter for the 184th Intelligence Wing, brought national recognition upon himself and the wing for outstanding performance during fiscal year 2011. He competed against four other regions for the title of Air National Guard Production Recruiter of the Year, and was recognized at an award ceremony held in New Orleans in March 2012. Although his achievement required a decent amount of enlistments, it also demanded a high degree of dedication from McAndrews, and those round him.

At the beginning of fiscal year 2011, an enlistment goal of 36 was set for the year. In order for Sgt. McAndrews to compete for the award, he had to reach at least 125 percent of that goal.

"I ended up bringing in 69 recruits; that's 192 percent of the set goal," McAndrews said.

McAndrews realized that this accomplishment wasn't something he could achieve on his own. He gives credit to members of his squadron who worked long hours despite scheduling difficulties to ensure his applicants were able to be enlisted. They mentored him while he worked with applicants during the enlistment process.

Though McAndrews will admit that the award was quite an honor, it wasn't his number one priority.



Tech. Sgt. Jason McAndrews, recruiter for the 184th Intelligence Wing, was awarded the Air National Guard Production Recruiter of the Year Award at a ceremony held in New Orleans in March 2012. Presenting the award was Brig. Gen. Brian Neal, commander, ANG Readiness Center, Col. Marie Burrus, chief of ANG Recruiting and Retention, and Maj. Stephen Cash, deputy chief of ANG Recruiting and Retention.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Jonathon Alderman, ANG CREATIVE

"My main focus was putting all of my energy into raising the wing's manning," said McAndrews, "I take our manning numbers personally, and as a Production Recruiter, I know the mission doesn't get accomplished without our most valuable resource...our people."

Although he had a great year for enlistments, this wasn't just a numbers game. Categories such as program development, volunteerism, education and physical fitness were also factored into the decision.

To fulfill these requirements, McAndrews worked with Army

National Guard recruiters to develop a more effective and streamlined process to share information about potential recruits. He also volunteered for events such as the Walk to Defeat ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), Wichita Walk Against Gang Violence, as well as spending time assisting his church. McAndrews earned his Community College of the Air Force degree in criminal justice, and to help gain an upper edge on his competition, McAndrews scored a 99.6 percent on the Air Force physical fitness test.

Fighting Jayhawks respond quickly to storm damage

By Maj. DeAnn Barr and Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

Personnel from the 184th Intelligence Wing band together to plan, prepare, and react to Kansas' weather.

MCCONNELL AFB, Kan. - Despite an outbreak of tornadoes across the state on May 14th, the 184th Intelligence Wing located on McConnell AFB, and part of the Kansas Air National Guard, sustained only minor damage to a handful of facilities.

With a plan in place the organizations on base were ready to respond at a moment's notice.

"We pre-coordinated with the 22nd Civil Engineers [the day prior to the storm] to set up damage assessment and repair teams, and we were on stand-by from the crisis action team that the base has set up," said Lt. Col. James Culp, commander, 184th Civil Engineer Squadron.

At approximately 10:15 p.m. an EF-3 tornado touched down near the small town of Haysville, just southwest of McConnell AFB. The tornado created a



Saturday night's tornado knocked down several trees at "The Pines."

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

path of destruction, moving in a northeast direction, and at times it spanned up to a mile wide according to local officials. After hitting the west side of the base, which houses the 184th Intelligence Wing, the twister continued on totaling 15 miles of damage.

The unit's Command Post, along with the Plans and Programs office, worked behind the scenes while running the emergency operations center. They provided the proper warnings of inclement weather, and when the time came, they instructed the personnel on base to seek shelter. The day after the storm, their phones were off the hook as they ensured accountability and helped direct key personnel.

"After I got the call at about 11 p.m., we mobilized out to the base and worked until about 2:30 in the morning," said Culp.

Although the situation did not warrant a unit activation, Guardsmen assisted in the clean-up on base picking up sheet metal torn from the KANG's Civil Engineer building, insulation and tree limbs. A 22-foot



184th Intelligence Wing took damage to a number of buildings on the base, including a recruiting trailer that was blown across the street from its original location. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs



Airmen from around the wing arrived on base on Sunday of April's drill to put forth an impressive clean up effort.

Photo by Maj. DeAnn Barr, 184th Public Affairs

recruiting trailer was also destroyed in the storm, but did not damage the B-1 Bomber on static display that it blew into.

Governor Sam Brownback and Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafenelli, adjutant general of the state of Kansas arrived on base Sunday after completing an aerial tour of the devastated areas.

“I was impressed by the wingwide effort put forth to get our side of McConnell cleared up,” said Col. J.J. Hernandez, commander, 184th Intelligence Wing. “By the time our governor and congressmen arrived at 1400, you could hardly tell we’d been hit.”

Even more impressive was the dedication and professionalism of Fighting Jayhawks who were on duty



The Guard unit's emergency response trailer had to be turned right-side up after a tornado blew it onto its side. Photo by Master Sgt. John Vsetecka, 184th Public Affairs



Staff Sgt. Jarrod Wolf, Master Sgt. Mark Rush, and other members of the 184th Civil Engineer Sq. clean up debris from a destroyed recruiting trailer. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

when the storm blew through. While running 24-hour missions, the 299th Network Operations Security Sq., the 161st Intelligence Sq. and Security Forces personnel assigned to the 127th Command and Control Sq. were forced to momentarily turn away from their assignments and take cover. However, once the storm passed and the go-ahead was given, the Airmen retook their post and continued the mission.

“I don’t need to tell you that we were exceptionally fortunate. The tornado that clipped us could have cost us dearly. Instead, we had zero casualties, and although our material damages may hit the \$500,000 mark, we are 100 percent operational,” Hernandez said.

**Airman 1st Class
Ashlie Koehn**

Fighting Jayhawk since 2009

Organization:

**177th Information Aggressor
Squadron**

Job Title:

**Intelligence Operations Analyst,
177th Intelligence Shop**



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

Above & Beyond:

- Volunteered over 100 hours at the Kansas Humane Society as an intern
- Directs and coordinates volunteers at Kansas Humane Society adoption events
- Volunteers at Bartlett Arboretum
- Assists with Angel Tree
- Volunteers with Kansas University Alternative Breaks Program
- Taking 17 credit hours at Kansas University
- Serves as First Five Squadron Representative
- Joined 184th running group for the 3rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Party & Run in support of Leukemia Lymphoma Society

My story:

I initially joined the Kansas Air National Guard because of my insatiable curiosity. No one in my family had ever joined the military. The more I discovered about the jobs and learning opportunities presented, the greater my desire to join became. Since that first step, the Guard has been blowing my mind. I've learned of things that I never knew existed, gained perspectives I didn't know I missed, and met people who have set standards for me higher than I knew I could reach. Before the Guard, I was content with mediocrity. Incredible supervisors and mentors have made it apparent that there's no room for mediocrity in work or in life.

Although I have no claim to a civilian career yet, it has been interesting to note the contrast that I feel exists between myself and my peers at college. The military has prepared me with the confidence that college courses have not yet placed within the majority of my classmates. More importantly though, the Air Guard has given me a sense of family because wherever I move, wherever I go, I am sure to run into someone from the wing. That is one of the most comforting feelings in the world!

TAG's new program offers direct insight

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

Commissioned officers attend a new forum aimed at directly sharing ideas and concerns

MCCONNELL AFB, Kan. - Few Soldiers and Airmen get the chance to have a face-to-face conversation with the commander of their state's National Guard. Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general of Kansas, wanted to change this through open forum meetings called the "Stars and Bars" and the "Stars and Stripes."

These forums allow Soldiers and Airmen to interact with the adjutant general in a small setting, asking questions or getting information from the source.

"This provides me an opportunity in an unfiltered environment to look at a lot of the key, critical issues in our organization, to ensure that I have a better understanding of the view from each group to make it the best organization that it can be in the future," said Tafanelli.

Tafanelli held forums with the 184th Intelligence Wing on Feb. 4, 2012. During one of the sessions he indicated that the Kansas National Guard was made up of 85 percent traditional Guardsmen. He stressed the importance and advantages of having so many Soldiers and Airmen with such a diverse set of skills and depth of knowledge in many different professions.

Capt. Michael Alldaffer, director of equal opportunity and a career traditional Guardsman with the 184th Intelligence Wing, was happy to hear Tafanelli's thoughts on how the Guard is made up.

"It seemed really important to him to embrace the concept of traditional [Guardsmen] and what all we go through to make those commitments, not for just the weekends, but for deployments, as well."

Alldaffer said attending the "Stars and Bars" gave him some good information.

"When he is right there it is unfiltered and you are hearing it straight from [the adjutant general]," said Alldaffer. "He is a relatively new TAG and to get his face seen and have a sit down with the troops and answer questions ... is fantastic."

Although these were not the first of these forums,



Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general, Kansas National Guard, speaks with officers during a "Stars and Bars" forum on Feb. 4, 2012.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Public Affairs

what made these different was that the Department of Defense had released suggested force restructuring and budget items just the day before. Consequently, Tafanelli spent a good amount of time fielding questions and concerns about how the DoD suggestions were going to affect the Kansas National Guard.

"He was straightforward and told us what was going to happen," said 1st Lt. Andrew Jamerson, an officer with the Medical Group, of Wichita. "If it goes through letters and emails it sounds different, with extra jargon that doesn't catch your eyes."

As a result of the open dialogue, Tafanelli heard a variety of ideas on the needs for company grade officers and left the meeting with a training strategy that he hadn't heard before.

"Maybe there is a niche for the Air National Guard here that can be a primary unit and bring in the active component at the lower level to get some initial training," said Tafanelli. "This is something that I haven't thought of before."

Jamerson said he enjoyed the opportunity that the forum provided.

"I wouldn't approach [Tafanelli] at a meeting or even go to his office to ask questions because I don't think that it would be my place," he said. "So, having this setting opens it up for opportunities for me to ask some questions and share my concerns."

JAYHAWK FLYER

photo finish ► Fighting Jayhawks in action



Master Sgt. Darla Griffin helped local area Girl Scouts make greeting cards for deployed Airmen during the Girl Scout cookie sales kick-off which took place in January 2012.

Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy



The ESGR Patriotic Employer award was presented to David Schletzbaum of Rockwell Collins following his continuous support of Senior Master Sgt. Dave Perez, 134th Air Control Sq. Pictured from left to right: Senior Master Sgt. Dave Perez, Col. J.J. Hernandez, commander, 184th Intelligence Wing, Warren Johnston, ESGR volunteer, Lt. Col. Chris Mills, commander, 134th Air Control Sq., David Schletzbaum, Chief Master Sgt. Russ Brotsky, command chief, 184th Intelligence Wing, and Mark Smith of Rockwell Collins. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy



Tech. Sgt. John Baxter, Master Sgt. Chris Knaak, Staff Sgt. Stacia Chappell and Airman 1st Class Tristan Davis participate in the Walk Against Gang Violence on April 14, 2012.

Photo by Master Sgt. John Vsetecka



Above - On April 16, 2012, Col. J.J. Hernandez, commander, 184th Intelligence Wing, spoke with local news media about a tornado that struck the Air Guard unit's side of McConnell AFB. He informed them of the damages sustained including cost estimates, the quick and effective clean-up efforts, and how the unit planned to recover from the storm.

Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy



Newly promoted Master Sergeants were inducted as senior noncommissioned officers during a wing commander's call on March 4, 2012.

Photo by Master Sgt. John Vsetecka