

JAYHAWKFLYER

NEWS PUBLICATION OF THE 184th INTELLIGENCE WING



284th ASOS holds Viking Challenge

*ASOS members test their
skills in friendly competition.*

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► Persistence pays off over the years *page 8*

JAYHAWK FLYER

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Cover photo

U.S. Air Force Tech Sgt. Edmund (Rocco) Gutierrez, joint terminal attack controller, 284th ASOS, participates in the annual Viking Challenge. Events included a timed eight-mile ruck, range calculation and weapons assembly with night vision goggles.

Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Justin Jacobs, 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

August RSD: Aug. 5-7

September RSD: Sep. 10-11

October RSD: Oct. 1-2

Deadline for the October edition of the Jayhawk Flyer is September 15.

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.

Jayhawks,

As you read this, our wing will be putting the finishing touches on the Sept. 10 celebration of its 75th anniversary. This event will reunite Jayhawks past, present and with some luck, future. Recognizing wing, squadron and individual accolades that have been collected over our history is important, but perhaps more important is the "why." In my opinion, it stems from one word—Pride.

Pride in our heritage. Accepting and conquering the challenges of several mission changes. Time and again, Jayhawks have embraced new mission sets and quickly ascended to peer recognition as systems experts.

Pride in our Jayhawk family. Jayhawks continue to recruit their immediate family into our "Guard Family." Mothers and fathers encourage their children to look for comfortable, safe and worthwhile environments as they look for employment opportunities. It is not surprising to see the generations of Jayhawks that have served and continue to serve together.

Pride in our fellowship and never letting a fellow Jayhawk or their family endure hardship alone. In my 14 years as a Jayhawk, I have witnessed incredible and heartfelt acts of sacrifice and caring for wingmen in distress or in grief.

Pride in our community. We are fortunate and appreciate the fervent support we receive from the citizens of Wichita and the surrounding communities. I know we will continue to have patriots volunteer to carry on our missions long after we are gone. When out in the community, I am constantly thanked for my service.

Pride in our ability to serve the citizens of Kansas. Over the decades of our existence, Jayhawks have volunteered to answer the call when disaster strikes at home. From floods to tornadoes, Jayhawks jump at the opportunity to serve their fellow Kansans as they cope with the worst of their days. As Guardsmen, this is a duty we do not take lightly and we are always ready, willing and able to respond.

We are indeed privileged to have this incredible opportunity to serve. We are surrounded by the most professionally trained, mission savvy and "just get it done" Airmen in our Air Force and we should be proud!

Cheers,
Nerdi



Col. Michael Venerdi
184th ISRG Commander

134th ACS participates in national exercise “Cascadia Rising”

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

134th ACS helps Washington prepare for earthquake response.

Off the coast of Oregon and Washington sits the Cascadia Subduction Zone that stretches 600 miles from northern California to British Columbia. Scientists have predicted that the CSZ could erupt at any moment and when it does, it will be the nation’s largest calamity ever.

“When the Cascadia Subduction Zone does rupture, it will result in a catastrophe like nothing we have ever seen,” said Maj. Gen. Bret Daugherty, commander, Washington National Guard. “It’s expected to be the worst natural disaster ever in the United States.”

To prepare for such an event, exercise Cascadia Rising simulated an earth-rattling 9.0 magnitude earthquake several miles off the coast, causing thousands of casualties; 30 minutes later a four-story tsunami wipes out entire communities along the northern Pacific coast. More than 8 million people live in the area likely to be affected, which contains the most highly populated areas of the Pacific Northwest, including Seattle and Portland. Aftershocks in the coming days cause bridges to collapse, extreme road damage and buildings leveled, as well as communications lost.

Several agencies over the past few years have developed an exercise called Cascadia Rising to test the response and readiness to a disaster of this magnitude.

The exercise that ran from June



Staff Sgt. Ryan Wolf, radio frequency transmission technician, 134th Air Control Squadron, works on radio equipment with Army personnel during exercise Cascadia Rising in Olympia, Washington, June 8. The exercise tested the capabilities of the Joint Information Site Communication Center.
Photo by Tech. Sgt. Justin Jacobs, 184th Public Affairs

7-10 involved more than 20,000 people from various federal agencies including the U.S. military, state and local emergency responders from the Pacific Northwest, as well as Native American tribes and emergency management officials from British Columbia.

One of the main goals of the exercise was to test how well the different agencies work together following a catastrophic event.

Officials tested the ability to communicate when all internet and phone services were blacked out due to the disaster.

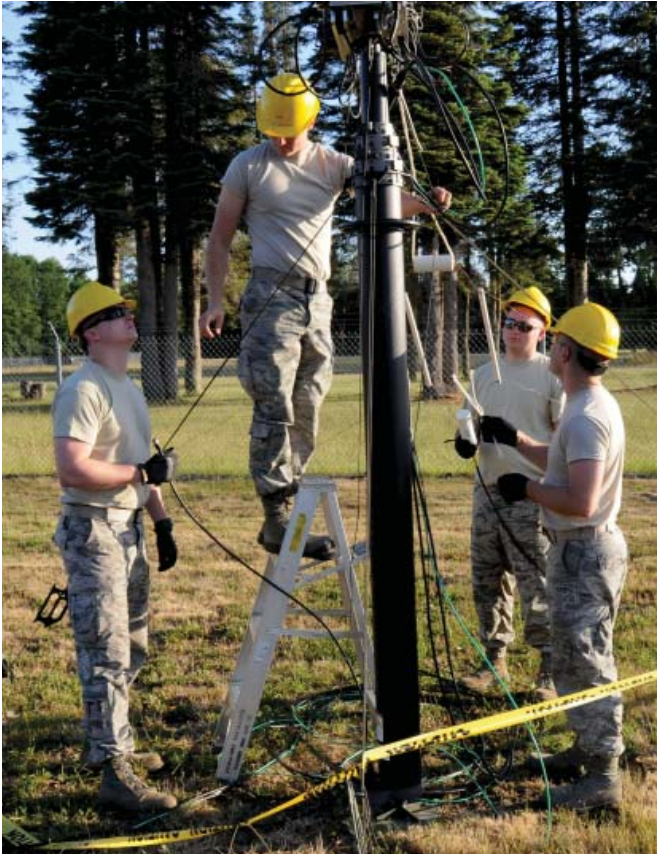
Several National Guard units from across the country, along with the 134th Air Control Squadron from Wichita, Kansas, brought their Joint Incident Site Communications Capability equipment to

Washington to participate in the exercise.

The primary function of the JISCC is to provide expeditionary communications capabilities to the entity it supports. Some of these capabilities include radio communications, phone service, internet service and video teleconferencing.

With any exercise there are always difficulties, and the 134th ACS encountered some during their time in Washington.

“The main difficulty we had here was that we arrived a lot sooner than we normally would,” said Chief Master Sgt. James Helms, cyber systems manager, 134th ACS. “We had to limit the services we provided in the beginning to HF [high frequency] radio and satellite phone capabilities.”



Members of the 134th Air Control Squadron set up communication equipment during exercise Cascadia Rising in Olympia, Washington, June 7. Officials tested the ability to communicate when all the internet and phone services were blacked out due to the disaster.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Justin Jacobs, 184th Public Affairs

The 134th ACS was located at the Washington Department of Transportation Aviation Division in Olympia, Washington.

Throughout the exercise, the capabilities were increased from just radios and satellite phones, to computers, LAN line phones and VTC to enhance their infrastructure, as well as their communications with the outlying areas.

The primary role of the WSDOT Aviation division was to manage more than 100 airports they controlled, as well as the assets that were using them.

The communication that the JIS-

CC provided helped them communicate with emergency operations centers placed throughout the state.

As the exercise continued the radio frequency, technicians had trouble with their HF and ultra-high frequency radio components. Members from the West Virginia Army National Guard lent their expertise with the JISCC system to troubleshoot the issues.

One of the biggest problems that the 134th ACS had with the JISCC was it is an Army system ran by Air Force personnel. With the 134th ACS being one of a few Air Force units

to operate the JISCC, funding is a hindrance, making it difficult to complete equipment and software upgrades and training.

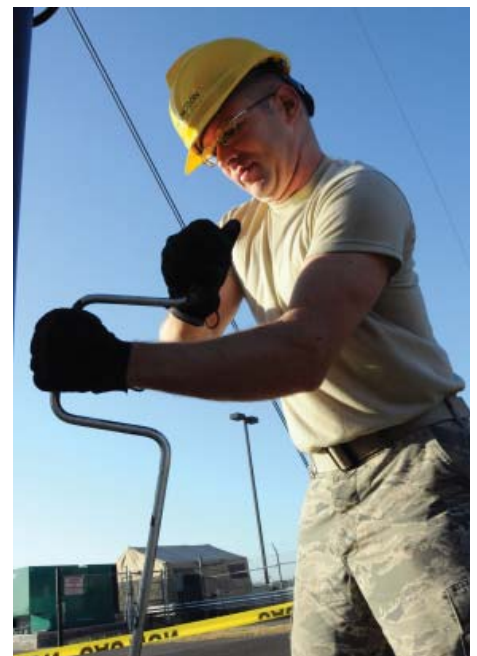
"It's been great to work with the Army guys out of West Virginia to learn more about the radio system and how it operates," said Staff Sgt. Ryan Wolf, radio frequency transmission technician, 134th ACS.

Through a team effort, the bugs were worked out and the WSDOT Aviation division managed to successfully communicate with the other EOCs in the surrounding area.

"Having the JISCC in our building was great because if we needed anything, from a phone to a computer, we could just go in the next room and they would be there ready to help us," said Lizz Slabough, tactical operations officer, Washington Department of Transportation, Aviation Division.

Whether it was running a phone line to their big conference room or putting up a tent for the pilots to have mission briefs in, the 134th accomplished everything asked of them.

"For this exercise, the JISCC achieved all of the objectives we set out for you guys [134th Air Control Squadron]," said Slabough. "We were really impressed."



Senior Airman Sean Titterington, radio frequency transmission technician, 134th Air Control Squadron, sets up equipment during exercise Cascadia Rising, Olympia, Washington, June 7. The 134th ACS was located at the Washington Department of Transportation Aviation Division.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Justin Jacobs, 184th Public Affairs

284th ASOS holds Viking Challenge

By Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

Annual Viking Challenge allows ASOS members to test their skills and compete against one another.

Camaraderie, hard work and efficiency are words that accurately describe the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron. The morning of June 3, they began their annual Viking Challenge, a series of tasks Airmen accomplish to evaluate their skills as tactical air control party personnel and joint terminal attack controllers at Smoky Hill Weapons Range.

“The Viking Challenge is held every year to test the readiness of our unit, and also give the operators a chance to compete against each other in the application of some basic combat skills,” said Tech. Sgt. Dean Johnston, joint terminal attack controller, 284th ASOS.

While TACPs must be in top physical condition for their mission, they also need a strong mind.

“More emphasis is placed on the individual’s mental toughness and ability to persevere through the most difficult of situations and environments,” said Johnston. “All TACP Airmen must be leaders and possess confidence and competitiveness. Only a select few make it through the long, rigorous selection and training process to earn their black beret. Those that refuse to quit are the ones who succeed.”

The Viking Challenge is one of the ways to assess such qualities



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Brandon Arpan, joint terminal attack controller, 284th Air Support Operations Squadron, participates in a timed eight-mile ruck as part of the annual Viking Challenge. Other events included range calculation and weapons assembly with night vision goggles.

Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

and emphasize the necessity of being prepared at all times. The competitors do not know which categories of events will be tested from year to year.

The events are all timed and include an Army physical training assessment, a ruck march, range calculation, weapons assembly in the dark with night vision goggles, a shooting event, close air support test and basic troubleshooting of equipment.

“Since we deploy with the Army we want all of our members to be

able to pass that Army PT standard,” said Tech. Sgt. Jeff Austin, production recruiter, 284th ASOS. “This is also used to help determine who will receive the chance to attend special Army schools such as Airborne, Air Assault and Pathfinder.”

The ruck march is an unknown distance and time every year. For this year’s challenge, Airmen traversed eight miles over a variety of terrain with a full combat load of approximately 65 pounds. Senior Airman Justin Ramos was the fast-

est with a time of one hour and 43 minutes.

“Being able to carry heavy equipment over a long distance is a big part of being successful as a TACP,” Austin said.

Some events, though less physical, can be just as challenging. One such event is weapons assembly. Quickly putting together a weapon takes some skill. Adding a few unneeded parts to confuse the competitor in a dark room with night vision goggles to assemble various weapons within a certain time frame creates another challenge in itself.

For the shooting event, ASOS members were tested on their marksmanship and the ability to perform under stress using M-4 rifle and M-9 pistol weapons.

The close air support test is used over different aspects of a TACP’s



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Dean Johnston, joint terminal attack controller, 284th ASOS, evaluates Airmen’s performance during the annual Viking Challenge. Events included a timed eight-mile ruck, range calculation and weapons assembly with night vision goggles. Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

job pertaining to CAS tactics, techniques and procedures.

The challenge also includes having competitors determine their location using only a map, compass, and protractor in five minutes after being dropped off by a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter.

In other events, competitors tested their ability to recognize and properly identify various surface-to-air and anti-aircraft artillery weapons systems, deriving accurate targeting data with and without advanced equipment in range calculation and finding five points of varying distances between them without a GPS.

In addition to the regular assessments, there is another test.

“Each year a secret bonus event is included,” Johnston said. “This year, the competitors were judged on their ability to accurately engage a target with a tomahawk [hatchet],

from a distance of 10 meters.”

The competition is one of the squadron’s most highly-anticipated events of the year. Most of the TACPs participate and all squadron personnel are encouraged to be at the challenge.

“We are always working on core skills as a unit,” Johnston said. “However, preparation for the Viking Challenge is up to the individual competitor and his teammate. Many events are scored as a two-man team.”

The winning team receives their own personalized plaque, and their names are added to another plaque on the ASOS wall.

Winners also have the extra perk of bragging rights...until the next challenge.

“Winners have no problem letting people know they won,” Austin said. “I think a lot of the members enjoy testing themselves.”



An Airman assigned to the 284th ASOS determines his location using only a map, compass and protractor as part of the Viking Challenge.

Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

Persistence pays off over the years

By Col. Jason Knobbe, commander, 184th Mission Support Group

Col. Jason Knobbe tells his Guard story.

As I think about the tenets of leadership I have developed and endeavored to practice over my military career, I ponder the genesis of those beliefs, and specifically why they became important in my life. The best leadership lessons can be found by reflecting on where you came from, how you grew up, and how you handled yourself.

I grew up in Jetmore, Kansas, a small agricultural town in the southwest part of the state (population 879). We moved to Jetmore when I was about 2 years old. My dad accepted a position with Jetmore High School and our family moved to a small farm just west of town. My dad taught math during the day and then, after school, ran a hog farm. Living on a small farm taught me the value of hard work and responsibility. My earliest memories are of sharing the responsibility with my older brother of watering the hogs and bottle-feeding the baby goats.

Once I entered grade school, we moved into town, but kept the hog farm. Every day after school we would head to the farm to care for the hogs. Whether it was the bitter cold of winter or the intense heat of the Kansas summer, my job was to divide the workload with my brother to tend to the animals. It was a fine way to teach a kid about responsibility. In junior high I went out for sports, but weekends were



U.S. Air Force Col. Jason Knobbe, commander, 184th Mission Support Group, shows hogs when he was in grade school in 1980.

Photo courtesy of Col. Jason Knobbe, 184th Mission Support Group

spent helping with the farm. Our choice was sports after school or go to the farm. I chose sports.

We sold the farm my freshman year of high school, but my work days had just begun. After a short spell as a life-guard at the local pool, I decided that I missed the country and was hired on by a local farmer to work cattle and help with wheat and milo harvest. I continued to work for the same farmer until I left for college.

I badly wanted to run off and join the Army, but my dad (who was now on his third master's degree and teaching at the college level) convinced me that education was important. I eventually promised him I would do two years at Dodge City Community College and then make a decision to either join the

Army or pursue a bachelor's degree. By my sophomore year, I had met my future wife, and there was no way I was running off to join the military!

I received a transfer scholarship and continued my education at the University of Kansas. I became engrossed in studying and working, and temporarily put the military on the back burner. My focus was on being a teacher like my father and my father-in-law. My degree was a Bachelor of Science in education, with an emphasis in Japanese language and a minor in social studies (political science and history).

I did a teaching internship with the Department of Defense Dependent Schools in Okinawa, Japan. While there, I realized my military aspirations had not dissipated and

my new found dream was to become a military pilot. I returned to Kansas to pursue a commission in the USAF.

At that time I had my teaching certificate and began substitute teaching and working as a bank teller to make ends meet while I tried to get a commission. I was passed over twice to attend Officer Training School. I was devastated each time, but continued to pursue my goal of a commission and a flying career.

I went back to the University of Kansas part time to take some additional mathematics classes. I thought maybe the next time I put in an OTS package they would see I was pursuing a more technical field, even though I already had a degree.

While I was taking classes part-time at KU, I met the professor of aerospace studies, Col Rick Hunter. He told me to enroll full time at KU, finish my master's degree, and join the Reserve Officer Training Corps of Cadets. Within a few weeks I was off to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas to attend boot camp. After a summer of fun at Lackland AFB, I returned to KU to work on a master's degree and enter the two-year ROTC program. I was motivated!

During my time in ROTC I was given the opportunity to be the Operations Group commander and the vice wing commander of the Corps of Cadets, along with being an intern at the Pentagon. I finished the two year program with a Master of Science degree in teaching and leadership, an Air Force com-

mission, and my private pilot's license. I was set! Or was I?

While I was in ROTC, I knew I would be age critical and possibly not be allowed an opportunity to attend pilot training. At that time, coming out of ROTC, a cadet had to be commissioned by 26 ½ years of age in order to be granted a pilot slot. I would turn 27 just prior to commissioning. I knew this going into the program, but also knew the Air Force was desperately in need of pilots. I was told I could potentially get an age waiver...I was twice denied an age waiver to attend pilot training. At this point in my young career, I had been told "No" four times by the USAF. I would not be an Air Force aviator.

While I was still a cadet, I began researching the National Guard and Reserve units. As a native Kansan, my first priority was to apply to the Kansas Air National Guard or the 931st (Air Force Reserves at McConnell). At that time I only knew of the 190th Air Refueling Wing, and I had heard that the 26 ½ age limit only applied to cadets com-



U.S. Air Force Col. Jason Knobbe, commander, 184th Mission Support Group, was commissioned as a second lieutenant at the University of Kansas in April, 1998.

Photo courtesy of Col. Jason Knobbe, 184th Mission Support Group

ing out of the Air Force Academy and ROTC. Once commissioned, an individual had until 27 ½ to start pilot training, so I initially applied to the Reserves and was offered a position by the 931st to attend pilot training. I was excited! A week later the Reserves called and said they would have to rescind their offer. I was age critical and there was no way they could get me to training. My fifth rejection. Thus, my gradual transition to becoming a member of the Kansas Air National Guard.

I heard about the 184th Bomb Wing, ironically, from the 190th

Air Refueling Wing. Out of the blue one day I called Forbes Field and asked if they were hiring pilots. They said, "We are not, but the 184th is hiring. In fact the 184th has an upcoming pilot board." I remember asking, "What does the Guard fly at McConnell?" The technical sergeant on the other end of the line replied, "B-1 bombers..." I practically hung up on him and immediately called the 184th!

I applied for an opening and was selected...kind of. I was told that the 184th did not have any pilot training slots available before I turned 27 ½, but I was offered a slot as a weapons system officer. I gladly accepted the position!

After five rejections, I was ready to serve my country as a member of a flight crew. I was excited about being a B-1 WSO. I then commissioned out of KU's ROTC program and immediately transferred to the Kansas Air National Guard - a commissioned second lieutenant, and headed to navigator training.

Halfway through navigator training at Pensacola the age restriction was changed to age 30... The 184th made a noble attempt to pull me from navigator training and send me to pilot training, but there were other restrictions. The rules stated a navigator must be winged and serve as a navigator for two years before being allowed to attend pilot training. Applying



U.S. Air Force Col. Jason Knobbe, commander, 184th Mission Support Group, sits at a weapon system station as a B-1 Weapon System Officer in July 2000.

Photo courtesy of Col. Jason Knobbe, 184th Mission Support Group

that rule to my situation would put me over 30 years of age...my sixth rejection.

I loved being a WSO and was devastated when it was announced that the B-1s would be leaving the Kansas Air National Guard. Ironically, I was almost 31 years old, married with two kids and offered an age waiver to retrain. I accepted a training line number to Vance AFB to attend Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training.

In August of 2003, eight and a half years after my initial attempt to be selected for pilot training, I walked across the stage a winged aviator from United States Air Force Pilot Training and a Distinguished Graduate of Class 03-13,

an opportunity only made available to me by the Kansas Air National Guard.

I share my Guard story because work ethic matters. Study habits matter. Resiliency matters. And, the pursuit of excellence and the pursuit of your dreams matter. Never quit. You are never down and you are never out. You're only reformulating your plan and mentally regrouping.

While serving and leading is "not about you," your talents and experiences are what makes the organization so great. Collectively, diverse experience offers the broadest perspective in executing the mission effectively and efficiently. I can't wait to hear your story.

184th ISRG Family Day

By Amn. Alexandria Brun, 184th Public Affairs

184th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group opens their facilities for family and friends to come and see their workplace.

For some military spouses and families, it is hard to form a strong understanding of what their loved ones do on a day-to-day basis. On May 8, the 184th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group held an open house event where families toured their work facility, gained knowledge about the mission and enjoyed a lunch.

For two brothers assigned to the 161st Intelligence Squadron, Airman 1st Class Alexander Mills, geospatial analyst, and Airman 1st Class Jacob Mills, imagery analyst, it was a great opportunity for their mother and father to gain insight into their place of work.

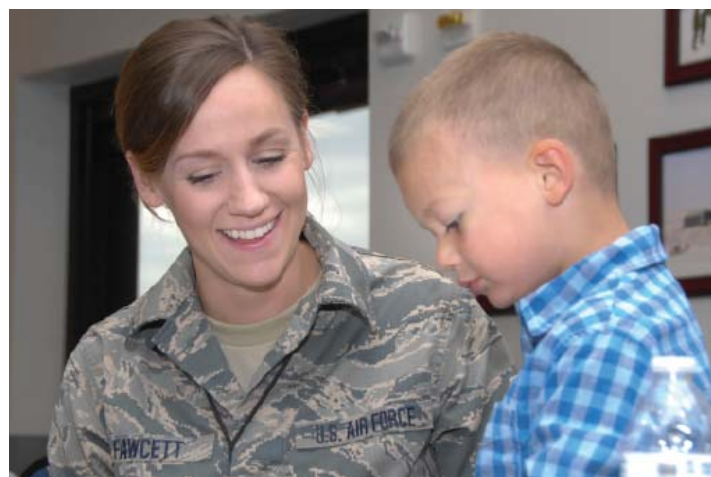
"It was nice for them to see



The 184th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group holds an open house event May 8. The event provided families with an opportunity to tour their work facility, gain knowledge about the mission and enjoy a lunch.
Photo by Airman Alexandria Brun, 184th Public Affairs

something tangible," said Alexander. "It lifts the question of where we actually go to do our job."

ISRG families gained a brief understanding of what their Air-



Staff Sgt. Lindsay Fawcett, imagery analyst with the Operations Support Squadron, and her son, Parker, have breakfast before a tour of the operations floor during the 184th ISRG's open house event May 8.

Photo by Airman Alexandria Brun, 184th Public Affairs

men do, a visual of where they spend their work day and got a glimpse of what they experience daily.

"Now they will have an image in their head of where we are when we leave for work," said Jacob.

Their father, retired Lt. Col. Chris Mills,

184th Medical Group, said he had a general idea of what to expect, but the facilities exceeded his expectations.

"I kind of anticipated what it would look like, but I'm very impressed," said Chris. "It was very clean, organized and just a good working environment."

Mary Mills, mother of Alexander and Jacob, said she always wondered if the building was like something from the movies, or surrounded in barbed wire. She said that being able to make a connection to where her sons work was most important to her during the tour.

"Just to connect the dots for us family members is important and it adds value," said Mary. "This is the reality of where they work."

Pokémon Go leads to security concern

By Airman Alexandria Brun, 184th Public Affairs

Pokémon Go locations on base raise safety and security concerns.

July 6 was a highly anticipated day for Pokémon enthusiasts across the country with the release of the game Pokémon Go. The new game uses a Smartphone GPS and camera to allow players to catch Pokémon in the surrounding area.

Although the game is loved by many, it is causing severe concern to military base security and cybersecurity professionals.

“As a kid, I was a super-fan. I had all of the Pokémon videos, cards, plush toys and a backpack,” said Airman 1st Class Orlando Saenz, services specialist, 184th Force Support Squadron. “There have been Pokémon games and play systems throughout the years, but now that technology has advanced, it has been very cool to feel like you are living the game in Pokémon Go.”

The purpose of Pokémon Go is to get gamers off the couch and out in the community through an interactive game.

“It is a good way to get out and explore your area because certain landmarks around you are part of the game,” said Saenz. “You can pull up your phone and see a Squirrel on your desk or Pikachu in your living room. It’s special because it is incorporated into everyday life.”

The widespread success of Pokémon Go has led to safety and security concerns for military



Airman 1st Class Orlando Saenz, services specialist, 184th Force Support Squadron, searches for a Pokémon in the airpark at McConnell Air Force Base July 27. The new game uses GPS and camera to allow players to catch Pokémon in the surrounding area.

Photo by Airman Alexandria Brun, 184th Public Affairs

installations, including McConnell Air Force Base.

“There have been a lot of incidents because some people are taking it too extreme,” said Saenz. “It’s definitely something that I would not pursue around base.”

“We know that there are known locations on the installation,” said Senior Master Sgt. Stacie Smith, superintendent, 184th Security Forces Squadron. “It’s been reported that there have been groups of people gathering on multiple locations at McConnell to catch Pokémon.”

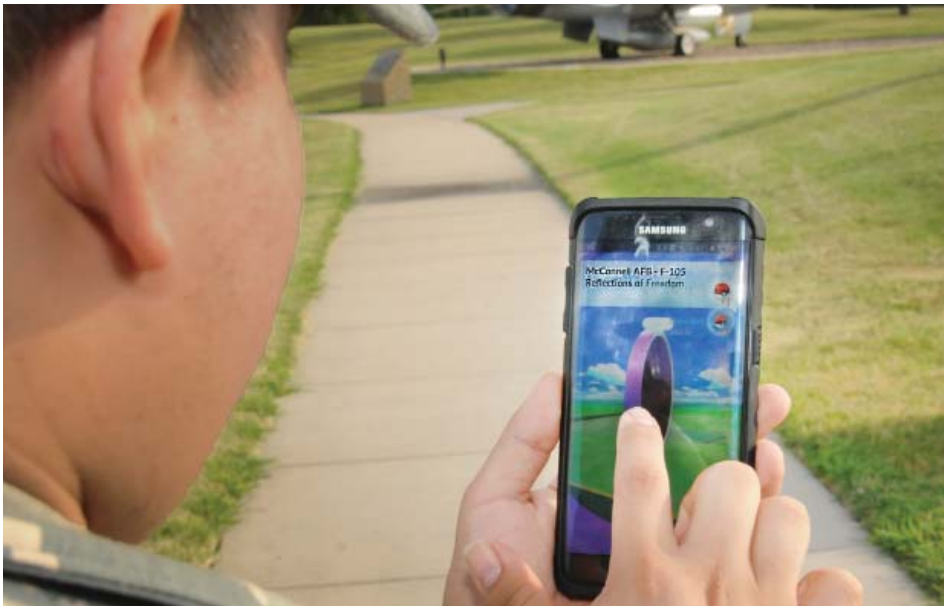
Potential for trespassing due to Pokémon hunting is a safety concern for McConnell Air Force Base

and action has been taken to address the issue.

“The procedures are already in place to control access to the installation as well as restricted areas on base,” said Smith. “If somebody breaks those rules, they could face trespassing charges and if they are a military member going into areas that they are not authorized to be in, or do not have the commanders approval, they could face disciplinary action.”

Along with trespassing, another area of concern is an increase in distracted driving.

“Electronic devices are prohibited while driving on the installation, so they would face the same con-



Airman 1st Class Orlando Saenz, services specialist, 184th Force Support Squadron, finds a Pokéstop in the airpark at McConnell Air Force Base July 27. The purpose of Pokémon Go is to get gamers off the couch and out in the community through an interactive game.

Photo by Airman Alexandria Brun, 184th Public Affairs

sequences as if they were texting and driving or using a phone while operating a vehicle,” said Smith.

In addition to safety concerns,

cybersecurity and privacy issues are arising.

“It’s reported that the privacy statement that you have to agree

to, to download Pokémon Go, is 20 pages, and few will actually read it,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Scott Sackrider, cybersecurity officer, Joint Forces Headquarters, Kansas National Guard.

Behind the scenes, Pokémon Go, is gaining access to the private information of its users.

“When it was originally coded, if you were on an iPhone, the game allowed access to all of your Google Drive documents, your email, it could send an email as you, it could access photos that you store in Google Photos and more,” said Sackrider.

Sackrider stated that what can be used for good can also be used for evil, so he emphasizes using caution if you play it.

“Pokémon Go has captured the attention of everyone,” said Sackrider. “We are just waiting to see where to go from here.”



Airman 1st Class Orlando Saenz, services specialist, 184th Force Support Squadron, spots a Pokémon in the airpark at McConnell Air Force Base July 27. The success of Pokémon Go has led to safety and security concerns for military installations, including McConnell Air Force Base.

Photo by Airman Alexandria Brun, 184th Public Affairs

**Tech. Sgt.
Walter Clayton**

Fighting Jayhawk since 2011

Organization:
184th Security Forces Squadron

Military Job Title:
Unit Training Manager

Above & Beyond:

- CCAF's in Criminal Justice and Aviation Safety & Resource Management
- Current pursuant of BA of Criminology at Southwestern University
- Current commander of Derby Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #7253 and vice commander of Derby American Legion Post #408
- Chosen as a sub-committee Veteran Service Organization representative for MyVA program for Region 5

My story:

I'm from North Carolina (Go Heels!) and I joined the Air Force on Nov. 25, 1998, with a guaranteed Air Force Specialty Code in Security Forces. My first duty station after technical training was at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina. There, I started my career quickly, as I started pre-deployment training in 1999-2000 at Silver Flag Alpha, Indian Springs, Nevada. I went on a 30-day tour in Saudi Arabia. Shortly after I returned, 26 other Airmen and I received initial three-month detachment assignments to the 822nd SFS, Moody AFB, Georgia, in 2001. I deployed to Al Jabber Air Base, Kuwait, conducting joint Department of Defense courier missions between Camp Doha and undisclosed locations with the area of responsibility. Sept 11, 2001, happened, and we were stuck, so we went back to support SF flight operations until we were released to return back home. After that tour, I was home for six months at Seymour Johnson AFB, and in April 2002 returned to Moody AFB for three months to train for an upcoming deployment. I was sent to Bagram AB, Afghanistan, to provide initial security as then it was a bare base being attacked and overrun by Taliban/Al Qaeda forces. It was nothing more than an airstrip and a few Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer personnel setting it up. After two weeks or so I forward deployed to Manas AB, Kyrgyzstan, and finished out the rest of my tour. A couple of deployments followed until I cross-trained in 2004 to airfield operations. I went into airfield management and later became certified in airspace and terminal operations within the air traffic flight. I had two permanent changes of station to South Korea and deployed twice, once to Iraq and once to Kuwait. I left active duty and joined the Kansas Air National Guard in November 2011, where I joined the 184th SFS. From there I became a drill-status guardsman and learned a new perspective of military life until being hired on as the unit training manager. My wife, Leslie, and I have three children—13, 8 and 7 years old—and call Derby, Kansas, home. Our entire family is very involved in assisting veterans in the community by providing services and contacts to assist them with their individual needs, no matter how small or large they may be.



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

Interoperability: A joint effort

By Sgt. Zach Sheely, Kansas Adjutant General's Department

Soldiers conduct air assault exercise at Smoky Hill Weapons Range with special operations forces Soldiers.

Active-duty aviation Soldiers working with special operations forces personnel on a National Guard weapons range.

Just another day at Smoky Hill Air National Guard Weapons Range near Salina, Kansas.

Soldiers with the 3rd Helicopter Assault Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, partnered with a special operations forces unit and the Kansas National Guard to conduct a combat aviation exercise during the first week of May 2016.

The 3-1 CAB sent approximately 200 Soldiers and eight helicopters including Black Hawks, Chinooks and Apaches to the exercise. The Soldiers used the facilities of the Kansas Regional Training Center for logistical needs, and Salina Airport to stage the helicopters, in addition to Smoky Hill.

According to Lt. Col. Jennifer Reynolds, 3-1 CAB Task Force commander, Salina and Smoky Hill offer the perfect training venue for this realistic training scenario.

"The facilities in Salina are outstanding," said Reynolds. "I really couldn't ask for a better partnership than we've had with our National Guard brethren here."

The Soldiers used the massive land space and mock urban villages of Smoky Hill to conduct air



Active-duty Soldiers of the 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, conduct an air assault exercise May 4 at the Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range, Salina, Kansas, with special operations forces Soldiers. Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Kansas Adjutant General's Department

assault, aerial maneuvering and gunnery missions as part of the exercise.

A Kansas National Guard facility operated by the 184th Intelligence Wing, Kansas Air National Guard, Smoky Hill is no stranger to frequent active-duty customers.

"The time to figure out how to work together isn't downrange, it's here," said Maj. Todd Kavouras, operations officer, Smoky Hill. "Hopefully we can provide a realistic training atmosphere for them to come together and figure out their tactics, techniques and procedures."

Reynolds said that Smoky Hill is well tailored for her units' needs for many reasons.

"One, being that it's so big," said Reynolds. "Two, the Air Force trains here. If we go anywhere, it's not just the Army, we train and go

to combat together. Using Smoky Hill is just enhancing what we have at Fort Riley and I absolutely hope (the partnership) continues."

Spc. Daulton Wallace, UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter maintainer, 3-1 CAB, said the unfamiliar territory accentuated the realism.

"Being away from our normal training area gives you more realistic training," said Wallace. "The ranges (at Smoky Hill) are good for we need to do. Their tower is perfect for us and there's plenty of space there to maneuver."

The Soldiers were tested day and night to prepare them for what they might face on a deployment.

"We start hitting them with different scenarios without the regulation and they realize they can handle it, it just builds their competence and their confidence at the same time," said Reynolds.

JAYHAWK FLYER

photo finish ► Fighting Jayhawks in action



Captain Daniel Radford, 184th Intelligence Wing, volunteers at the 2016 Special Olympics Summer Games, held at Cessna Stadium, Wichita, Kansas, June 4-5. The wing has supported the event for many years.

Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs



Airmen with the 184th Force Support Squadron services unload and take inventory of new equipment at McConnell AFB, Kansas, May 23-27. Unloading and taking inventory was part of services annual training.

Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs



Dr. Sebastian Gorka, Distinguished Chair of Military Theory, Marine Corps University, visits the 184th Intelligence Wing, June 13. Gorka presented sessions on information warfare and the evolution of terror.

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



Airmen Alexandria Brun, photo-journalist, 184th Public Affairs, was among the women to talk to 5th grade girls in the STARBASE program about their jobs and skills at McConnell AFB, Kansas, June 22.

Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs