

The COYOTE LOG

November 2009

Volume 51, Number 11



Inside This Issue:

WWI Kansas Guardsman Honored

Coyotes Shine at Fitness Competition

GI Bill; Retirement Changes

**Air Force Outstanding Unit 
2009 Distinguished Flying Unit**

Private motor vehicle safety is a top priority

By Mr. Michael B. Donley
Secretary of the Air Force

We are losing far too many Airmen to Private Motor Vehicle (PMV) mishaps. Last fiscal year, 47 Airmen were killed in motor vehicles, with 20 of those fatalities occurring on motorcycles. This is nearly eight times the total number of Airmen killed in aviation mishaps, including combat operations, during the same time period. Our goal from this year forward is ZERO Airmen lost in preventable PMV mishaps.

All Air Force Airmen should operate motor vehicles in a responsible manner. This includes the wearing of seatbelts, obeying posted speed limits, and avoiding distractions while driving. AFI 91-207, The Air Force Traffic Safety Program, clearly outlines safety requirements for operators and passengers of PMVs. Every Airman must understand the AFI requirements apply both on- and off-duty.

In addition to following the rules of the road, all Airmen must also un-

derstand that failure to take personal responsibility will result in their being held accountable for their actions. Commanders will ensure personnel are aware of AFI requirements and enforce compliance. Violations by military personnel are punishable under the UCMJ and may also be considered misconduct during line of duty determinations.

We cannot tolerate reckless operation of motor vehicles by Air Force personnel. Reckless operation may jeopardize the benefits members/beneficiaries receive following a mishap. Supervisors will ensure military and civilian personnel understand the implications of poor decisions and the im-

portance of compliance. Your full participation and support is imperative as we move forward to reduce injuries, save lives, and preserve our most important asset—our Airmen.



Michael B. Donley
Michael B. Donley
Secretary of the Air Force



Outstanding Performers Airman First Class Joshua

Kohn was named honor graduate of his Basic Military Training class on July 3, 2009.

190 ARW Officer Vacancy **Health Services Administrator**

Officer Package consists of:

- Resume
- College transcripts
- 3 letters of character reference
- Record rip (if currently in military)
- DD 214 or NGB 22 (prior service)
- AFOQT scores
- Current fitness report
- One page essay answering:
 - 1) "Why do I desire to become an Medical Service Corps (MSC) Officer?"
 - 2) "What do I have to offer the AF/ANG Medical Service?"

Faxed packages will be accepted.
Fax Number: (785) 861-4491
Please contact Lt. Col. Stevens at (785) 861-4569 or timothy.stevens.1@ang.af.mil if you have questions.

The **190th Medical Group** has a traditional officer vacancy for a *Health Services Administrator, AFSC 41A3*. For entry into this specialty, one of the following is required:

- Graduate degree in health care administration, hospital administration, public administration, business administration, business management, information systems management, finance, accounting, statistics, marketing, economics, or other business-related equivalent.

- Undergraduate degree with a major in accounting, business administration, business management, computer science, information systems, economics, finance, health care administration, marketing, public administration, clinical or health systems engineering, operations research, or other business-related equivalent.

If you are interested, submit your package to 190th MDG/SGA, Lt. Col. Tim Stevens by close of business on Dec. 6, 2009.

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On the cover:

Sarah Vanstory runs to greet her mom, Master Sgt. Tracy Vanstory, upon her return from the Wing's AEF deployment to the CENTCOM AOR.

(photo by Staff Sgt. Emily Alley)
(photo illustration by SrA Jake Meyer)

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WWI Kansas Guardsmen honored in France

By Sharon Watson

Kansas Adjutant General's Department

Members of the 190th Air Refueling Wing and other Kansas National Guardsmen joined the community of Remicourt, France, Wednesday, Oct. 7, for a ceremony honoring Lt. Erwin Bleckley, a former



1st Lt. Marci Solander and Master Sgt. Bill Gilliland prepare to present wreaths for placement at Lt. Erwin Bleckley's grave. (photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Traynor)

Kansas Guardsman, who died Oct. 6, 1918, in a heroic effort to rescue the American 77th Division, "Lost Battalion" during World War I.

"We're proud to have had Lieutenant Bleckley serve in the Kansas National Guard," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas adjutant general. "This important ceremony honored the memory of a great American and very deserving Kansan for the greatest sacrifice anyone can ever make."

Bleckley, one of the 50th Aero Squadron heroes, joined the Kansas National Guard's 130th Field Artillery Regiment in 1917, volunteering for forward observation duty with the Army Air Service.

On Wednesday, Oct. 7, the city of Remicourt hosted the 91st anniversary ceremony to honor Bleckley and his pilot, Harold Goettler, of Illinois, who flew a fatal mission that may have provided key

information, perhaps a map, to troops that would later help them locate the battalion that was surrounded by German troops.

Bleckley received a Medal of Honor for his heroic efforts and was inducted into the Kansas National Guard's Hall of Fame in 1997. Jacobs recommended Bleckley for the Guard's Hall of Fame recognition.

Bleckley's niece, Nancy Erwin and her husband of Shreveport, La., and Goettler's niece, Joan Starr, of Connecticut, along with her two sons, attended the wreath laying, site visits and the ceremony in Remicourt.

"It's been very gratifying to think that I could represent my grandmother," said Erwin, who says her family didn't talk much about her uncle and while she knew what had happened to him, as a child she couldn't comprehend what good it did.

Continued on page 5

A historic moment, a historic memory

Commentary by Master Sgt. Bill Gilliland

190th Wing Historian

To stand at Lt. Erwin Beckley's grave, the white cross with gold lettering to signify the Medal of Honor, was an honor and a thrill. Just being there, in the middle of a field of 14,000 plus similar crosses, whether or not they had the gold lettering, left me with a feeling of awe and wonder.

These men, most of whom no one now remembers, made the sacrifice and commitment to a cause that is a part of my life and my soul, and now they lay here, brothers in arms, men who I cannot begin to thank.

When you stand in such a historic place, you cannot help but be moved by the wonder, the sense of history, the feeling that there are things that we must preserve, to help show that we are who we are because of others who have gone before us and laid the framework for all those who follow.

Later, as we stood near a small monument that the people of Binarville had erected in honor of the fallen heroes of that day, the thrill returned. A French bugler in American dough-boy uniform played "Taps," American and French. We were in formation and presented arms during the playing. The goose bumps returned, and again I felt the wonder of it all.

Just before this we had stood at the site of the "Lost Battalion" and looked down into the ravine where so many of our countrymen had lost their lives and fought for liberty. A thrill like no other.

A little later, standing near the place where Lt. Bleckley crashed, we again felt some connection to the long ago events.

The next morning we were at the site of the aerodrome where Lt. Goettler and Lt. Bleckley took off for their missions and watched a biplane similar to the one they were flying that day. It was a moment of sheer pleasure listening to the old plane as it climbed and dived and wheeled around the sky, its piston engine purring and roaring, answering the will of the pilot.

And at last, the ceremony at Remicourt, France, a small French village near the old airfield, where it was evident by their homage that the French people have not forgotten the Americans who had sacrificed so much in order to assure their liberty.

In some small way, our presence at these events had shown them that we, too, had not forgotten. We left behind a copy of the National Guard print "No Greater Courage," a depiction of the crash of Lt. Goettler and Lt. Bleckley. It was signed by each of us who had the honor to be part of these events, and to become, in a small way, a part of their history, too, just as they are part of ours.

I have no doubt that a visitor to this small French village in some future year will see that print hanging proudly on the wall of their town hall. And if he should turn it over, he will find the signatures of 12 American National Guardsmen left as an addition to the already tremendous history of the area.

New GI Bill, new opportunities

By Tech. Sgt. Angela Brees

190th Public Affairs

The new Post-9/11 GI Bill may be just what you need to earn your degree.

If you served at least 90 aggregate days of Title 10 active duty since Sept. 11, 2001, you may be eligible for the benefit. And, individuals honorably discharged for a service-connected disability who served 30 continuous days may also establish eligibility.

“We have roughly 200 – 300 members that can benefit from this,” said Master Sgt. Scott Moser, 190th Reten-

tion Office manager. “Keep in mind that it’s cumulative time; it doesn’t have to be done in one chunk. For example, each time a pilot goes on alert – that’s one day Title 10. It begins to add up pretty quickly.”

The actual amount you may receive is determined by your active duty time. For example, the percentage level ranges from receiving 40 percent of the basic benefit for those between 90 days and six months, to 90 percent for those who served between 30 and 36 months. The maximum dollar amount is determined

in the same zip code as the school.

Also included in the bill is the Yellow Ribbon Program. The Yellow Ribbon provision allows institutions to enter into an agreement with the Department of Veteran’s Affairs to fund tuition costs above the highest in-state undergraduate tuition rate. VA will match each additional dollar that an institution contributes toward an eligible student’s tuition costs, up to 50 percent of the difference between the tuition and fees covered by the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the total cost of tuition and fees. Only individuals entitled to the maximum benefit rate (based on service requirements) may receive this funding.

Members may also transfer up to 36 months of benefits to a spouse or a child. To qualify, you must have served in the armed forces on or after Aug. 1, 2009, completed six years of service and agree to serve up to four more. However, retirement and special exceptions may be exempt. Please contact the Retention Office for additional information.

To learn more about the program, contact Master Sgt. Moser or visit www.gibill.va.gov.

Service Requirements (after 9/10/01 an individual must serve an aggregate of)	Payment Tiers Percentage
At least 36 months	100
At least 30 continuous days on active duty (Must be discharged due to service-connected disability)	100
At least 30 months, but less than 36 months	90
At least 24 months, but less than 30 months	80
*At least 18 months, but less than 24 months	70
*At least 12 months, but less than 18 months	60
*At least 6 months, but less than 12 months	50
*At least 90 days, but less than 06 months	40

*Excludes time in Basic Military Training and/or Skill Training including Coast Guard

Retiring early has extra responsibility

By Staff Sgt. Emily F. Alley

190th Public Affairs

You’ve kept all your old orders, right?

It could earn you retirement ten years sooner!

For every ninety days, within a single fiscal year, of title 10 orders, your retirement date may be advanced by a matching three months. Orders do not need to be consecutive, as long as the total amount of time served on title 10 is within the same fiscal year. Retirement credit is retroactive through January 28, 2008 - the date Congress passed the legislation.

Since the legislation is so new, it hasn’t affected soon-to-be retirees, like Master Sgt. Bill Gilliland. He plans to retire in November. He does offer advice to younger Airmen who are planning for retirement: save copies of your orders!

A glance around Gilliland’s office will attest to his record keeping ability. Couched between boxes of photos and stacks of records, Gilliland has served for several years as the wing

historian. He has answered calls from other retirees, seeking copies of various documents, including old orders.

“One guy called me who’d been a chief master sergeant!” exclaimed Gilliland, with a laugh. “He should have known better!”

Members who have not kept copies of all their orders do have an opportunity to get copies through the Base Knowledge Operations Manager, Master Sgt. Suzette Baumgardner. Her office keeps copies of orders for 56 years.

“We’re the only ones who have original copies,” she specifies. “But it’s not an easy process to get them. Keep everything.”

Although 50-year-old retirees will have the benefit of early pay, they will not have health benefits until age 60. Chief Master Sgt. Ivan Perez interprets many such subtleties of the new legislation. He said that, over time, the rules will become clearer.

190th places first in TAG competition

By Staff Sgt. Emily F. Alley
190th Public Affairs

Can you run two miles in 12 minutes, 33 seconds? Airman 1st Class Morgan Frehe can.

That is the ideal run time for Army males and a goal for anyone who plans to compete in The Adjutant General's Competition. This year, the second time the 190th participated, the bar was set by a team of four - Staff Sgt. Craig Jackson, and Airmen 1st Class Morgan Frehe, Cody Burns and Zachary Kinsey - who took first place.

Last year, Senior Aiman Celestina Johnson, who coordinates the 190th's participation in the competition, was shocked that the 190th placed at all, although almost every 190th participant placed in their age category.

Airman 1st Class Matt Dillon had the best overall score, and a team from the unit came in third. She's proud that the unit now has the top-ranked team, especially since the competition is based on the Army's fitness test.

"My husband is in the Army," said Johnson. "He told me, 'They aren't going to let you win again!' They were very gracious but we will definitely work harder next year."

Jackson, who now serves in Weather Flight, used to be an Army scout. He felt an extra twinge of irony when a team from his old career field took third place.

Infantry soldiers, based out of Salina, were the majority of the competition. Frehe, currently in Student Flight, was paired against an Army team for pushups and sit-ups.

"The Army really cheered us on," she recalled. "They yelled things like 'You can't rest until you do a hundred' because they knew I could do it."

In fact, Frehe also scored higher than her boyfriend, fellow Emporia student and cross country teammate Airman 1st Class Cody Burns. His parents, who are in the Army, proudly cheered on the team wearing Air Force sweaters. Frehe was the second best performer in the competition, finishing her run just 10 seconds slower than an Army captain.

The four-person Weather Flight team earned the 190th's name on a gleaming trophy that stands taller than both Frehe and Johnson. After a brief appearance in Topeka for commander's call in December, that trophy will go back to Salina; however, a smaller crystal trophy will eventually sit in a display case at the 190th.

"We wanted to bring that trophy back to the commander," added Burns, who works in Emergency Management in the 190th.

TAG PT competition isn't winnable unless you train all year long, says Johnson. She welcomes anyone who would like to join the team for the next competition - one year from now. By that time, Frehe



Lt. Col. William Hefner of the 190th Medical Group strides toward the finish during the 2009 TAG competition.

(Photo by Sgt. Johnathan Hopkins)

expects to be in Mississippi, attending Weather Flight school. She plans to leave for basic training in January.

"My goal is to be the top physical performer," announced Frehe. "That and, you know, honor grad."

Although some unit members may be gone, Jackson considers it an opportunity for others to become involved, "We have a lot of people on this base who are in phenomenal shape."

To prepare for the competition, he made certain adjustments. For example, Jackson worked out more frequently, stopped smoking, and quit eating ranch dressing. He claims the dressing is worse than smoking.

"It's incentive to do your best," Johnson said. "Max out your score."

Guardsmen honored in France (cont.)

"Suddenly, at some point in my young years, I realized, I pulled it together: I wouldn't be here today, my family wouldn't be here today, if there weren't young men who were willing to do this, to give their lives in defense of liberty," Erwin noted.

During the ceremony, a plaque was dedicated to the city of Remicourt and will be displayed permanently outside of the mayor's office to recognize the heroics of Bleckley and Goettler and others who served with them.

"It's critical we remember those who served and ensure they are recognized in the history books for their heroic actions," said Jacobs. "Without the research and documentation of Oct. 6, 1918, we wouldn't know how critical Lieutenant Bleckley and Lieutenant Goettler were in saving so many of the lives of their comrades."

Jacobs has lobbied for Bleckley to be recognized for many years and has spent hours researching the events to ensure he was properly honored.

Master Sgt. Bill Gilliland, historian at the 190th Air Refueling Wing, has been interested in Bleckley's story for many years and didn't imagine he would ever to go to France to see the historic sites.

"It was really exciting to be able to be in the same places and be able to sort of walk in his footsteps in a way," said Gilliland. "When you have that sort of connection, it's just a thrill. That's really the only way to describe it."

Jerry Hester, organizer of this event, is urging many to plan and participate in a 100th anniversary celebration honoring the Aerodrome aviators in 2018 in France.

—Portrait of an Airman

Airman First Class Joshua Epperly



Organization: 190th Force Sustainment Squadron

Job Title: Customer Service Representative

Main Responsibilities: Issuing ID cards and processing awards, decorations, retirements and promotions.

Civilian Career: Cashier at Taco Bell and employee of Victory Tabernacle Church in Topeka.

Education: 2009 graduate of Highland Park High School in Topeka.

Military Experience: Five months in the 190th Air Refueling Wing.

Hobbies & Activities: Football, church, making videos and spending time with friends and family.

Goals & Ambitions: I hope to some day become a Chief Master Sergeant and continue working at my church.

Most Memorable 190th Moment: I was amazed at how quickly I was able to go to basic training and tech school.

It's not easy to develop leadership skills

By Senior Master Sgt. Chuck Gruver
190th Human Resource Advisor

What distinguishes great leaders? Exceptional leaders capture passion. They lead from the heart, smart and focused on the future, and with a commitment to being their very best.

What matters most is what one makes of the experiences along the path of learning to become a leader. It is often the traumatic and unplanned crucible of events that challenge one's identity as a leader. Today's successful leader must learn how to practice while they perform, and overcome the striving, strains and struggles that can become barriers to your effectiveness as a leader.

Many consider leadership to be no more than staying ahead of the pack, but that is a far cry from what

leadership is. Leadership is developing others to become as good as or better than you are. Now more than ever, your success as a leader isn't just about being great in one area of your life. You've got to be a great person, performing well in all domains of your life - your work, home and community. That's a tall order.

You perform well as a leader not by trading off one area for another but by finding mutual value among all. A leader is one who can:

- **Be real:** Act with authenticity by clarifying what's important
- **Be whole:** Act with integrity by respecting the whole person
- **Be innovative:** Act with creativity by experimenting to find new solutions

True leadership is not something

you grasp, but something you become. As leaders in the Air National Guard, we must find

clear purpose in what we do, feel more connected to the people who matter most, align ourselves with the core values that are the bedrock of the ANG, and generate sustainable change. Within each of us lies the potential to be an effective leader. We must uncover what "leadership-power" is inside each one of us.

Finding your natural leadership potential is not an easy quest, but you must turn it into a powerful reality!



For more information on the Air National Guard's Diversity Program contact Senior Master Sgt. Chuck Gruver, Wing Human Resource Advisor.

For Your Information

Enlisted Promotions

TSgt
David Costales, JFHQ



MSgt
James M. Kuntzsch, 127 WF



December UTA Schedule:

Wing Commander's Call, Saturday, 5 December at 0800 in Hangar 662

Wing Holiday Party, Saturday, 5 December at 1300 in Hangar 662

Dining Facility Schedule

The following list is the Dining Facility meal schedule for units assigned to the 190th Air Refueling Wing and Joint Forces Headquarters:

1100-LRS, JFHQ, SFS, CES, WEA FLT, MDG

1130-MXG, MXS, OG, 117 ARS, FSS

1200-HQ, AMXS, MSG

From the Shirt

PME stands for Professional Military Education - as in ALS, NCOA and SNCOA. Enlisted PME attempts to broaden enlisted members' perspectives and increase their knowledge of military studies, communicative skills, leadership, QAF principles and concepts, supervision, and prepare them to assume more responsibility.

Please take advantage of the opportunity if given the chance to take one of these courses in residence.

What helps to better understand PME is looking at it as **Prepare ME** - **Prepare ME** to development my career and **Prepare ME** to take on additional responsibility!

Prepare ME, not Promote ME!



Retirements

Lt Col Thomas L. Ballou, 117th ARS
Retirement Date: 30 Sep 09

SMSgt Jeanne L. Bunting, ARW
Retirement Date: 01 Nov 09

MSgt William R. Gilliland, ARW
Retirement Date: 29 Oct 09

TSgt Randall A. Shull, MXS
Retirement Date: 24 Sep 09

190th Chapel Services

Protestant: The Base Chapel is located on the 3rd floor of Hangar 662.

Latter Day Saints:
1100 - 1130 Sun

Catholic:
1345 - 1415 Sun



Please feel free to contact the base chaplain, Capt. Jorge Arvelo, on his cell at (785)806-1254.

Officer Professional Development will be held on Saturday, November 7, from 0800 - 1200 in the Wing Auditorium. All 190th ARW officers are expected to attend.

117th ARS to hold pilot board



The 117th Air Refueling Squadron will be accepting pilot applicant packages for a **Pilot Selection Board** to be held in February 2010.

Application package required contents and a current copy of *Road to Wings 2009* are available on the 117th ARS Portal Page.

Contact Captain Brian Correll, 117th ARS (brian.correll@ang.af.mil) or (785) 861-4670 for more information.

Applicant packages should be sent to: Lt. Col. Jarrod Frantz, 117th ARS, 5920 SE Coyote Dr, Topeka, KS 66619. The deadline for submitting packages is **8 January 2010**.

Appointments/Enlistments

A1C Ryan A. Moore, MXS
Enlistment Date: 1 Oct 09

Security Forces Benefit Society Fundraiser

For a suggested donation of \$2 per ticket, or \$10 for 15 tickets, you could win a certificate from OMB Guns in Olathe, Kansas.

The certificate is good for one DSArms M4 Carbine, magazine, hard case and sling. The gun retails from the manufacturer for more than \$1,000. Must be 18 to participate.

OMB Guns will comply with all state and federal regulations regarding the sale of weapons.

To make a donation or for more details, contact Brett Higginbotham at (785) 861-4221.

Winner will be announced at the 190th ARW Holiday Party, Saturday, Dec. 5.

Have News to Share?

Unit members are encouraged to submit ideas or stories to the Public Affairs office. Please contact us at (785) 861-4197 or via email at 190arw.pa@ang.af.mil.

Coyote Cafe November 21A Menu



7 & 8 November Boxed meals

(Meals are \$4.25 for paying members - please try to have exact change. Meals will be available in the uke tunnel of Hangar 662 near the BX entrance.)

Hotel of the Month

Singles - Capitol Plaza

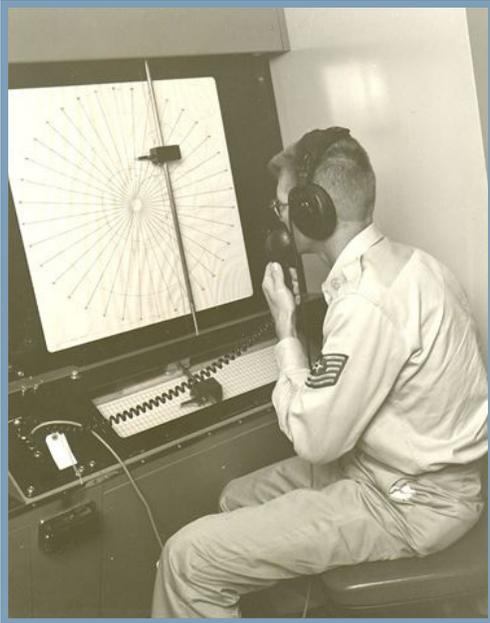
Singles Pay - Ramada Inn

Doubles - Holidome

Friday night - Hyatt Place

All reservation requests must be submitted to FSS by 1000 on Saturday of the UTA.

Coyote Heritage



Tech. Sgt. Scott Mobley works the recording device as part of simulator training for 117th aircrew members in 1959. The unit had only been flying the B-57 Canberras for about a year, and simulator training was essential as part of the transition for the aircrew.

In 1959, there were only three B-57 simulators in existence, with one located with the 117th in Hutchinson. When the 190th transitioned to the KC-135 in April 1978, there were only two remaining units flying the Canberra.

The 190th was loaned a KC-135 simulator after the conversion to the tanker, which was delivered and housed out of a railcar that was parked on base. 190th pilots now mainly travel to McConnell AFB in Wichita for simulator training.



***Editor's note:** MSgt Bill Gilliland, Wing Historian and author of the Coyote Heritage column, is retiring in November. Bill invites everyone to join him for his retirement ceremony on Nov. 7, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. in the Wing Auditorium.



Please record your story and send it to the historian's office at: 190th Historian, 5920 SE Coyote Dr., Topeka, KS 66619-5370.



The Coyote Log
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**Moving? Don't forget to update your address:
Military Members: visit vMPF to update your address
Retirees & Civilians: email coyotelog@kstopc.af.mil
Please allow 2-3 months for updates to reflect on your log;**

To The Coyote Family of:

