

JAYHAWKFLYER

NEWS PUBLICATION OF THE 184th INTELLIGENCE WING



SFS, ASOS team up for training

*Two highly-skilled
combat forces practice
against each other
in a realistic training
environment at Smoky
Hill Weapons Range.*

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JAYHAWK FLYER

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Cover photo

Master Sgt. Justin Bahner, squad leader, 184th Security Forces Squadron, walks through tall grass during a three-mile ruck march at Smoky Hill Weapons Range Dec. 6. The march was part of a combat skills exercise coordinated by many organizations within the Kansas Air and Army National Guard.

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



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

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Bird's Eye View

Commander's Comments



Col. David A. Weishaar
Wing Commander

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

UTA information

January UTA: Jan. 9-10

February UTA: Feb. 6-7

March UTA: Mar. 5-6

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

Look for the monthly Drill Down for UTA 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.

I'd like to begin my first article by telling you what a privilege it is to be selected as the commander of the 184th Intelligence Wing—the home of the Fighting Jayhawks! Collectively, we endured significant challenges and changes in 2015, the most significant being the closure of our Munitions Squadron and our Command and Control Squadron.

If you look through the history of the wing, conversion and mission change is a constant theme. We came through this one a little battered and bruised, but wiser. Despite these challenges, we/you continued to perform in true Jayhawk fashion by passing our first Capstone inspection, providing vital warfighting capability to our nation and deploying the largest number of Jayhawks OCONUS in years.

We begin 2016 with another conversion. This one has some positive implications for the wing. We will stand-up a new Cyber Operations Squadron and Cyber Operations Group. This does not replace all of the personnel losses we suffered in 2015, but it starts 2016 on a positive note and adds to the leading-edge missions here at the wing. I am confident that you all will excel in this new mission area. I am confident because I have seen you in action. I know what you are capable of doing and I know the drive and motivation that exists in this wing. I encourage each of you to take advantage of the many opportunities we have to develop your careers, whether it is in the new mission area or in your current career path.

Now for a few of my expectations: I expect every Airman to live by the Air Force Core Values. I expect every Airman to be respectful and disciplined. I expect every Airman to take care of each other through training, feedback, mentorship and empowerment. And I expect every Airman to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic (sound familiar?).

I am thoroughly excited to be part of YOUR team and the direction the wing is going. Finally, be an expert in your particular role and take care of each other!

Weishaar assumes command of the 184th Intelligence Wing

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

Col. Jeffry Jordan relinquishes command to Col. David Weishaar during a change of command ceremony in October.

Throughout military history, the orderly transfer of responsibility and authority from one commander to another has been an important tradition carried out in both war and peace.

Col. Jeffry Jordan passed his command responsibilities of the 184th Intelligence Wing to Col. David Weishaar during a wing change of command ceremony at McConnell Air Force Base Oct. 4, 2015. The presiding official for the ceremony was Brig. Gen. Jay Selanders, commander, Kansas Air National Guard.

Jordan assumed command on June 8, 2013. Since then, the wing



Brig. Gen. Jay Selanders (left), commander, Kansas Air National Guard, passes the 184th Intelligence Wing's flag to Col. David Weishaar during a change of command ceremony Oct. 4, 2015.

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

experienced a whirlwind of challenges which forced Jordan to navigate the wing through the turbulence. He acknowledged, however,

that he was surrounded by reliable and trustworthy colleagues.

"I have to take time out to thank God," said Jordan. "He has put me in the right place at the right time. Most importantly, though, he's always given me the right people at my side, and that's all of you."

Over the last two years, the Fighting Jayhawks have laid Airmen to rest including Matthew Meyer, James Dickenson and Fred Johnson. They also dealt with the divestitures of the 184th Munitions Squadron and the 127th Command and Control Squadron, which affected more than 160 Airmen and their families.

"We've been through a lot in the last couple of years," said Jordan. "I can't help but think of Matt and Jim and Fred; losing MUNS and losing CACS. And yet, you didn't



Col. Jeffry Jordan (middle) relinquishes command of the 184th IW during a change of command ceremony Oct. 4, 2015. During his command, Jordan placed a strong emphasis on the Air Force core values.

Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs



The 184th IW Honor Guard salutes as Chief Master Sgt. Tom Nestor, superintendent, 184th Intelligence Support Squadron, sings the Star Spangled Banner during a change of command ceremony Oct. 4, 2015.

Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

just merely survive all of this, you excelled. And you always have because that's the Jayhawk way."

Jordan left a couple of legacies throughout his tenure as commander. He introduced the three focus areas of leadership development, domestic operations and drill status Guardsmen. Training, exercises and the introduction of the commander's inspection program gave those focus areas achievable and measurable milestones with built-in accountability.

He also encouraged the wing to focus on the Air Force's core values.

"In closing, I'll leave you with the last words being the same as the first words I said to you; integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do."

Prior to assuming command of the 184th IW, Weishaar was the

184th Mission Support Group commander. He brings nearly 12 years of experience in commanding communications and cyber-centric units, and is extremely knowledgeable in manpower issues and requirements.

Weishaar is also the wing's first commander who never served as a non-rated officer. Not only that, he's a prior-enlisted Airman who began as an airman basic and worked his way up to senior master sergeant before becoming a commissioned officer.

Weishaar began his remarks by thanking everyone who helped him throughout his career, including his family, leaders and coworkers.

"Without your support and trust, I would've never been able to go from a new arrival at McConnell Air Force Base as an airman basic to where I am now," said Weishaar.

"I had no stripes when I showed up here and guess what? I still have no stripes."

Weishaar assured the wing that he'd give 100 percent of his effort 100 percent of the time, and expressed his belief in what the wing does. He also charged the Airmen to see where they could take the unit.

"We're all in a position to make a difference. I challenge each and every one of you to have the mindset that you can and will make a difference," said Weishaar.

Weishaar left the Airmen with his formula for success.

"Accept responsibility, fulfill your duties, tell the truth and remain faithful to your words," said Weishaar. "Using that and the Air Force core values as your foundation, there's no other option but for us to be successful."

Three changes of command in one day

By Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

The 184th Intelligence Wing celebrates an unprecedented triple group change of command ceremony during the October drill weekend.

Three groups assigned to the 184th Intelligence Wing received new commanders during a triple change of command ceremony Oct. 3, 2015.

The ceremony began with the 184th Mission Support Group, which consists of four squadrons and one flight providing force support, security, communications, civil engineering, contracting and logistics services.

Col. David Weishaar, commander, 184th MSG, passed the group's command responsibilities to Lt. Col. Jason Knobbe, who was previously the deputy commander of the 184th Regional Support Group.

Weishaar joined the Air Force in 1981 as an active-duty aircraft maintenance specialist and transitioned to the Kansas Air Guard in 1985. Other previous positions include 299th Network Operations Security Squadron commander and the 184th Regional Support Group commander. He also commanded the 127th Command and Control Squadron, as well as the 184th Communications Flight.

"Mission Support did their job in supporting the mission," said Weishaar. "Please continue what you're doing for the wing. Because that's exactly what it is -- mission support."



Col. Jeffrey Jordan (left), commander, 184th Intelligence Wing; Col. David Weishaar (middle) and Lt. Col. Jason Knobbe commence the change of command for the 184th Mission Support Group. Knobbe assumed command of the 184th MSG and the next day Weishaar assumed command of the 184th IW. Jordan retired from the military Dec. 31, 2015.

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

Knobbe assisted in leading the 184th RSG, which was the second largest group in the ANG and consisted of seven unique squadrons, two geographically separated units and more than 640 personnel.

"I'm incredibly excited to be accepting the MSG guideon," Knobbe said. "Thank you for letting me serve the RSG."

Weishaar assumed command of the 184th IW the next day.

Col. Michael Venerdi, commander, 184th RSG, relinquished his command to Lt. Col. Timothy Smith, inspector general of the 184th IW.

Smith said he has big shoes to fill, but is ready for the challenge.

As the new commander of the 184th RSG, Smith plans "to listen, to support and work directly alongside the professional men and women of the RSG."

Smith began as an active-duty air traffic controller. He became a traditional member of the 134th Air Control Squadron, served in the 184th Civil Engineer Squadron and was called to active-duty for two years in response to the 9/11 crisis.

Lastly, Venerdi assumed command of the 184th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group, the position relinquished by Col. Kreg Anderson.

Venerdi has been the commander of several different squadrons,



Col. Jeffrey Jordan, commander, 184th IW, passes the 184th Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance Group flag to Col. Mike Venerdi during a change of command ceremony, Oct. 3, 2015. Col. Kreg Anderson (right) relinquished command of the 184th ISRG and retired from the military Dec. 31, 2015.

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

including the 184th Operations Support Squadron, 184th Intelligence Support Squadron, the 161st Intelligence Squadron and deputy

commander of the 184th MSG.

“I’m extremely excited to go back to working where I first cut my teeth in command,” said Ven-

erdi. “I look forward to stepping into Colonel Anderson’s footsteps and carrying on the pride and tradition of what you Fighting Jayhawks bring to the fight.”

Anderson was commissioned in 1989 and has held a variety of positions in both active duty and the Air Guard, including director of operations of the 161st IS and the 161st IS commander.

“I couldn’t be prouder of the cyber-network, system specialists and contractors that support our mission,” Anderson said. “It’s a beautiful thing when you’re a commander and the only thing you have to worry about is, not whether your crew is going to do the task, but whether they’re being challenged enough.”

Anderson retired from the Air National Guard Dec. 31, 2015.



Lt. Col. Tim Smith speaks to an audience after assuming command of the 184th Regional Support Group, Oct. 3, 2015. The 184th RSG consists of the 134th Air Control Squadron, the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron, the 177th Information Aggressor Squadron, the 299th Network Operations Security Squadron and Detachment 1, Smoky Hill Weapons Range.

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

SFS, ASOS team up for training

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

Two highly-skilled combat forces practice against each other in a realistic training environment at Smoky Hill Weapons Range.

The 184th Security Forces Squadron sharpened their combat skills while battling the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron at Smoky Hill Weapons Range Nov. 5-6, 2015.

The training was a result of an idea shared between two old friends during lunch.

“It was literally decided over a cheeseburger,” joked Master Sgt. Michael Kingsford, noncommissioned officer in charge of training, 184th Security Forces Squadron.

Kingsford was making up a drill day when he met Master Sgt. Peter Massad, 284th Air Support Operations Squadron, for lunch. Massad works full time at Smoky Hill Weapons Range, but was at McConnell Air Force Base for the day.

Kingsford and Massad once worked together in the security shop of the 134th Air Control Squadron. They’ve since moved to other areas within the 184th Intelligence Wing, but maintained close ties despite the movements.

The two friends discussed training obstacles their squadrons faced and realized that their organizations could benefit each other. They both presented the idea to their leaders and gained permission to proceed.

“I like to call it joint-joint training,” said Kingsford. “Not only did



Master Sgt. Michael Kingsford, noncommissioned officer in charge of training, 184th Security Forces Squadron, rides in an UH-64 Black Hawk flown by the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, Kansas National Guard.

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

we have multiple units from within the wing, we also coordinated with the Kansas Army Guard. They provided helicopter support for our nine-line training and we assisted them in getting their flight hours and insertion training.”

“It was kind of a handshake in multiple directions,” said Kingsford.

After a few weeks of coordination, the 184th SFS converged on Smoky Hill Weapons Range for multiple aspects of training. The

morning of Nov. 5 was spent in the classroom learning about land navigation and air support communication techniques.

That afternoon, two UH-64 Black Hawk helicopters from the 1st Battalion 108th Aviation Regiment landed at the range. The aircrew gave safety briefs and explained insertion and extraction procedures. Not long after, the security personnel were airborne.

The flights lasted about 20 minutes. Upon landing, Airmen



A Black Hawk helicopter flown by the 1-108th Aviation Regiment carries the 184th Security Forces Squadron over Smoky Hill Weapons Range during insertion and extraction training Dec. 5, 2015.

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

dismounted the aircraft and immediately assumed defensive positions. Meanwhile, another batch of Airmen boarded the helicopters.

The squadron returned to Smoky Hill the next morning to put their classroom knowledge to the test. Following a few safety briefs, the personnel grabbed their gear, weapons and blank ammunition.

The squadron was divided into two squads led by Master Sgt. Jared Nickel and Tech. Sgt. Edgar Padua. They convoyed to an insertion point with orders to march nearly three miles through extremely rough terrain to their objective, a small village with a history of enemy activity.

The first squad arrived at a pasture and recognized it as a prime location for an ambush. They adjusted course and evaded enemy

contact.

The second squad encountered the same kind of situation but before they could change course, the enemy, played by the 284th ASOS, opened fire and pinned them down. The squad returned fire and quickly implemented tactics to give them the upper hand.

After an MRE lunch break, the

Airmen geared up once again to enter the village. Their objective was to neutralize enemy forces without harming civilians or photojournalists.

“Their performance out in the field during the land navigation was excellent,” said Nickel. “The more time you have training on something, the better you get at it.”



The 184th SFS divides into two squads for a three-mile ruck march during combat skills training at Smoky Hill Weapons Range Dec. 6, 2015. The march began at insertion points on a dirt road and eventually led through extremely rough terrain filled with obstacles and opposing forces. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs



Security Forces Airmen rush through alleyways and fight to secure a village at Smoky Hill Weapons Range. Fierce firefights broke out between the 184th SFS and opposing forces during a combat skills exercise in early December. Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

Fierce firefights broke out and the atmosphere was filled with smoke and gunfire. The squads rushed into buildings and through alleyways while engaging enemy forces.

When the fight was over, Nickel recalled his team's performance in the village.

"We need some more work," he said. "They performed pretty decently, but we need some more work."

That's no insult considering that much of the squadron consists of first-term Airmen. Additionally, high turnover rates and drill weekend commitments have hindered the squadron from gaining the experience necessary to script training scenarios.

Kingsford hopes that exercises like this will boost retention and, in turn, build experience levels.

"I think for retention purposes, the written feedback and the verbal feedback has been outstanding," said Kingsford. "It's given us an idea of where our squadron's at and

where we need to be."

Kingsford stressed that the exercise didn't just happen because of an idea between two friends. He was extremely impressed with the amount of enthusiasm and support they received from personnel from around the wing as well as the

Army National Guard.

"I cannot say enough good things about everybody, from the Army side of the house as well as from the Air side," said Kingsford.

"Everybody reached hands across the aisle and worked together in an outstanding manner."



Senior Airman Sean Ward, 184th SFS, provides cover fire as his squad moves through a village containing enemy forces during combat skills exercise at Smoky Hill Weapons Range Dec. 6, 2015.

Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th Public Affairs

Munitions Squadron ends long-held tradition

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



The 184th Muniton Squadron, 2011. Photo by Master Sgt. John Vsetecka, 184th Public Affairs

Aircraft munitions personnel have been a part of the 184th Intelligence Wing for more than 70 years. On Oct. 1, the wing retired the 184th Munitions Squadron flag and said goodbye to a squadron that was part of the 184th since the beginning.

As a result of a realignment of Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in 2005, the 184th took on the Standard Air Munitions Package, STAMP, and the Standard Tank, Rack, Adapter, and Pylon Package, STRAPP, missions.

The squadron grew to more than 100 members who were ammo troops, known as the bomb builders, or armament troops, known as the bomb loaders.

The squadron's Regional Munitions Storage Area was responsible for 36 accounts that held 1,100 line items supporting the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserves and the active duty Air Force.

Since 2005, the squadron delivered more than 380 tons of munitions to in-theatre combatant commanders during 15 different contingency operations. Additionally, they provided more than 110 pallets totaling 42,000 pounds of munitions to two special assignment airlift missions.

Despite the shutdown, missions still had to be completed and, at the same time, all remaining assets needed to be packed up and shipped to other units.

"The magnitude of the effort to ship out all the STAMP munitions and STRAPP equipment was enormous," said retired Lt. Col. Jeffrey Maddex, former commander of the 184th Munitions Squadron.

Squadron members retired or transferred to different squadrons throughout the wing and units in different states as a result of the divestiture. Of all the munitions troops, only one full-time and two

drill-status Guardsmen were assigned to the 184th Logistic Readiness Squadron.

"To make this transfer happen with no mishaps, while continuing the mission until all assets were divested and getting our folks moving on to new jobs or retirement, is almost unfathomable," said Maddex.

The squadron's accounts were transferred to the active duty and all ordnance was shipped to other bases. More than \$350 million of assets were transferred, with the bulk of it going to the 649th Munitions Squadron, Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

To be successful, the shutdown took a team effort from all squadron members.

"I will always look back with pride on how the guys and gals in MUNS performed with such grace and professionalism under adversity," said Maddex.

184th ISRG hosts intelligence commander's conference

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

Commanders from the entire Air Force intelligence community gather at McConnell Air Force Base for a semi-annual conference.

The 184th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group hosted the 480th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing's semi-annual commander's conference at McConnell Air Force Base, Dec. 7-11.

The conference brought all of the commanders from the Air Force's intelligence community to one location to share ideas for the future.

"This week we pulled together all of the Guard, Reserve and active-duty units that are part of the Air Force distributed common ground weapons system," said Brig. Gen. (select) Timothy Haugh, commander, 480th ISRW. "We wanted to make sure we were 100 percent synchronized both from a mission effectiveness perspective as well as the taking care of airmen perspective."

December's conference was the first one held at an Air National Guard site and gave the 184th Intelligence Wing an opportunity to showcase its Airmen and facilities.

"This is my first time to Kansas and the facilities are incredible," said Haugh. "The Guard is such a significant contributor that everything we do every day. We wanted to make sure that our active-duty team also had an appreciation for all that goes on at one of our Guard



The 184th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group hosted a conference Dec. 7-11, at McConnell Air Force Base. The week ended with a ceremony honoring Master Sgt. Tamera S. Clifford by naming their senior noncommissioned officer of the year award after her. Clifford was a major contributor to the intelligence community but lost her battle with cancer in 2003. Dixie Webber and James Clifford, Tamera's mother and husband, unveiled the award. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

sites."

"Our Airmen of the 184th Intelligence Wing play an important role in world-wide ISR missions," said Col. David Weishaar, commander of the 184th IW. "Every day I see first-hand the capabilities of our professional Airmen and I continue to be amazed at how much talent we have in our wing. The successful collaboration between the Kansas Air National Guard and their active-duty counterparts is absolutely crucial in accomplishing the mission. We are honored to have been chosen to host the 480th ISR Wing's Heritage presentation and appreciate the recognition of the Meritorious Unit Award that we

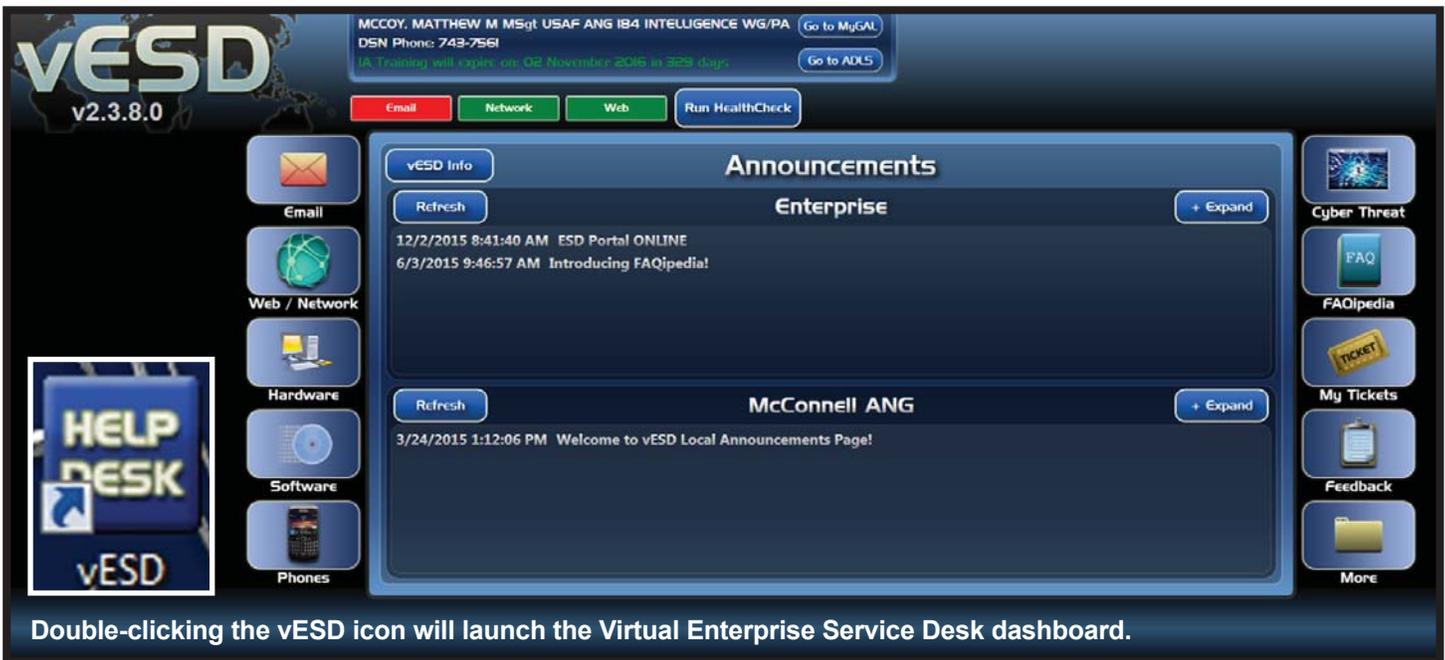
have received."

The week ended with a ceremony held in honor of a fallen warrior. A new senior noncommissioned officer of the year award, named after Master Sgt. Tamera S. Clifford, was unveiled during the ceremony. Clifford's tremendous contributions to the intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance communities were recognized as part of the unveiling; she was also the first recipient of the award.

Clifford passed away in 2003 after a hard-fought battle with cancer. Her mother, Dixie Webber, and husband, James Clifford, unveiled and accepted the award on her behalf.

NOSS, CF launch new help desk procedures

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs



Double-clicking the vESD icon will launch the Virtual Enterprise Service Desk dashboard.

Airmen may have noticed a new icon on their computer monitors recently. The icon is a small blue square containing the words “Help Desk,” and the letters “vESD” underneath. Subtle as it may be, it could save time and irritation during the troubleshooting process.

The 299th Network Operations Security Squadron remotely installed Virtual Enterprise Service Desk on all computers within the 184th Intelligence Wing in October 2015. VESD empowers users to troubleshoot and fix common IT-related issues.

To access the software, users double-click on the icon, which opens the vESD dashboard. From there, users are presented with categories that relate to the problem. When a user clicks on a category, such as “e-mail,” a software wizard guides them through the troubleshooting process.

In addition to troubleshooting, users can run a health check on their computers from the dashboard.

If vESD is unable to fix the problem, users can submit a ticket containing information about the computer and user’s account. That’s when the 184th Communications Flight gets involved.

“If the tool can’t fix their problem, it will automatically put a help ticket in for them,” said Tech. Sgt. Matt Benoit, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 184th Communications Focal Point.

By using vESD, Airmen work directly with a communications expert, saving the time and frustration of working through a middleman. That middleman is currently called a client support administrator, or CSA. Prior to vESD, local procedures required users to endure a troubleshooting process with their

CSA, and if they couldn’t fix the problem, the CSA had to contact the CFP on behalf of the user.

With the launch of vESD, the CSA and CFP helpdesk process is projected to change significantly.

“I just want to emphasize the importance of this program,” said Capt. Jeremy Cook, commander, 184th CF. “The intent behind it is the CFP Helpdesk Program is eventually going to be depleted and replaced with vESD services for client maintenance or any other network related concern.”

As with any new system, the 184th CF expects an adjustment period as more people begin using the tool.

“Of course we’re going to run into some issues and concerns,” said Cook. “It’s up to you to let us know what those concerns are so we can get those worked as fast as possible.”

**Staff Sgt.
Marianela Sargent**

Fighting Jayhawk since 2008

Organization:
299th Network Operations
Security Squadron

Military Job Title:
Information Technology Specialist



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

Above & Beyond:

- 184th Honor Guard member since August 2013; Honor Guard Member of the Year 2015
- Student Flight Instructor since August 2013
- Designated Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training team member
- Squadron point of contact for Out of the Darkness Community Walk
- Raised awareness and funds for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- Completed 52 hours toward Community College of the Air Force degree in Information Systems Technology
- Earned 102 hours toward Bachelor of Science Degree in Information Systems Management

My story:

I first heard about the 184th Intelligence Wing from a member in 2006 while doing IT work for the 22nd Air Refueling Wing, Airman and Family Readiness Center. I told him that I had wanted to join the Air Force when I was younger, but I also wanted to do IT work and there was no guarantee that I would be doing that if I enlisted. He told me that by joining the guard I could serve my country and have a guaranteed job as a traditional Guardsman working in the IT career field. I told him that I was too old. He convinced me that I wasn't. I told him that I was a single mom. He told me that I would only be leaving them for about six months to complete training which would give me skills that would make me better able to support them. I had run out of excuses. In the fall of 2008, at the age of 30, I joined the 127th Command and Control Squadron as a computer systems operator. In October 2010, I was hired into a full-time position with 299th Network Operations Security Squadron as an IT specialist where I help maintain the Air National Guard enterprise network. Working in IT for the military and supporting my family were dreams come true. However, I still felt a strong pull to do more to serve others. In July 2013, a close friend of mine lost his father, Albert Brazill, who served in WW II with the US Army. I watched the Army Honor Guard fold our nation's flag and offer it to my friend. One of Albert's WW II buddies stood beside the coffin and saluted as Taps played. I realized in that moment that I wanted to honor the service and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform. I joined the 184th Honor Guard in August of 2013. In August 2013, I also became a 184th Student Flight instructor, preparing trainees for Basic Military Training. The Honor Guard and Student Flight satisfy the need I have to give back to an organization that has given me so much. I am married to my best friend and greatest supporter, Master Sgt. Tony Sargent. Together we have four children and three dogs.

History book preview - Cyber-strength on the horizon in 2007

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

Dramatic times surrounded the conversion from a flying mission to a cyber-centric mission. The changes resulted in the birth of the many of the wing's current organizations.

As the wing entered the cyber domain in 2007, both military and civilian leaders were excited about the warfighting capabilities that were brought to Kansas. The wing no longer sat by a phone and waited to be called up. Instead, the Fighting Jayhawks were a built-in combat force that directly affected the outcome of battles and operations.

“It all starts and ends with intel,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, adjutant general, Kansas National Guard during a commander’s call Oct. 14, 2007.

The intelligence analysis mission affected every phase of operations, from planning airstrikes to reducing and assessing collateral damage and enhancing force protection.

The wing began to transform in early 2008. As part of the unit’s new structure, the 184th Intelligence Group was created. The new group was made up of three squadrons, which included the 184th Operations Support Squadron, the 184th Intelligence Support Squadron and the 161st Intelligence Squadron.

At the same time of the Intelligence Group’s creation, the 184th Information Operations Group was



This photo appeared on the cover of the newly redesigned Jayhawk Flyer which debuted in January 2008. The words “Cyber-strength on the horizon” were also on the cover and summed up the atmosphere during those times. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

deactivated and the 184th Regional Support Group was created. The units in the RSG were Detachment 1, Smoky Hill Weapons Range; the 299th Network Operations Security Squadron, the 184th Munitions Squadron, the 134th Air Control Squadron and the 177th Information Aggressor Squadron. The group was also projected to bring aboard the 127th Command and Control Squadron and the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron.

The conversion resulted in a noticeable decrease in retention.

Col. Randy Roebuck announced in early 2008 that the unit’s strength hovered around 81 percent.

“We cannot remain at 81 percent and have any hope of being successful beyond 2010,” said Roebuck. “Therefore, the senior staff and I are pledging an all-out effort to get our unit strength above 98 percent by 2010.”

How did the wing recover?

Learn more in the history of the Fighting Jayhawks, 2016 edition. The book is scheduled for release during the wing’s 75th anniversary in October.

JAYHAWK FLYER

photo finish ► Fighting Jayhawks in action



Military members and their families climbed aboard passenger cars decked in garland and lights for the annual Burlington Northern Santa Fe Holiday Express train Dec. 2, 2015.

Approximately 350 passengers enjoyed a 90-minute ride complete with hot cocoa, festive snacks and a chance to visit with Santa Claus.

In attendance were service members from all components of the Army and Air Force, including commanders and staff from McConnell Air Force Base and Topeka. Photos by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy



Hilari DeLaRosa,
184th Family Readiness



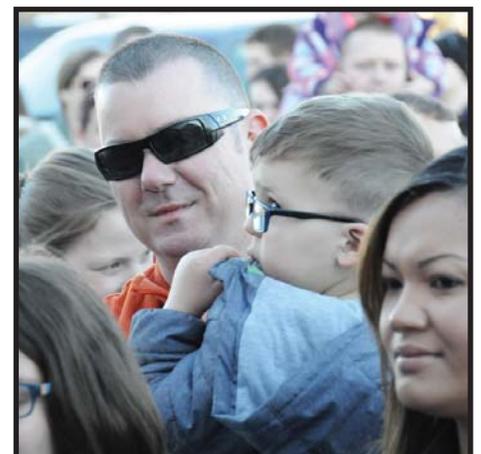
Staff Sgt. Al Daniels, 184th
Logistics Readiness Squadron



Col. David Weishaar, commander,
184th Intelligence Wing



Chief Master Sgt. Thane Stauffer (left),
command chief, 184th IW; and Chief
Master Sgt. Billy Stacey, command
chief, Kansas Air National Guard



Tech. Sgt. Justin Jacobs,
184th Public Affairs