



July 2013

The Beacon

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency



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Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Mary Thach

Cover Photo ... Maj. Gen. Judd Lyons, Gov. Dave Heineman and Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac participate in a change of command ceremony at the Nebraska National Guard air base in Lincoln, July 14. Maj. Gen. Judd Lyons, who will leave to become the deputy director of the entire Army National Guard, relinquished command to Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, who became Nebraska's 33rd adjutant general.

Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. James Lieth

Maj. Gen. Bohac Named Adjutant General

(Lincoln, Neb.) , **Gov. Dave Heineman** selected Brig. Gen. Daryl L. Bohac of Waverly, now **Maj. Gen. Daryl L. Bohac** as his choice to take over for **Maj. Gen. Judd Lyons** as Nebraska adjutant general.

Gen. Bohac, 52, was promoted to Major General and received command of the Nebraska National Guard from Maj. Gen. Judd Lyons during a ceremony on July 14. As Nebraska's adjutant general, Gen. Bohac will lead the more than 4,600 Air and Army personnel making up the Nebraska National Guard.

In addition to commanding Nebraska's military forces, Gen. Bohac will serve as a member of the governor's cabinet and director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, working with the state's civilian emergency preparedness and disaster response personnel.

"Gen. Bohac brings a variety of experiences, both as a traditional member and full-time member of the Nebraska National Guard, and with the Army and Air National Guard," said Gov. Heineman. "I've worked with Brig. Gen. Bohac on a variety of issues and I know he will be an outstanding Adjutant General for the Nebraska National Guard and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency."

Gen. Bohac said, "I am humbled by Gov. Heineman's confidence in me and I am excited to have the opportunity to lead the men and women of the Nebraska National Guard and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency."

Bohac has 35 years of military service with 31 years of service in the Nebraska National Guard. He has most recently served as the assistant adjutant General – Air, Nebraska National Guard, and as the deputy adjutant general of the Nebraska National Guard.

Bohac served as the principal advisor to Lyons on complex and sensitive issues in the areas of logistics, command and control, communications, manpower and personnel, strength management and other support functions related to mission operations. He assisted the adjutant general in ensuring Nebraska National Guard units are provided with adequate guidance, manpower, resources and facilities to support both federal and state missions.



Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, the Nebraska National Guard's new adjutant general, addresses a crowd of friends, family and Nebraska National Guard Soldiers and Airmen during a change of command ceremony at the Nebraska National Guard air base in Lincoln on July 14.

Air National Guard photo by 2nd Lt. Alex Salmon

Bohac has served in a number of positions since his military career began in 1978. He first served as an enlisted member of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves' 4th Engineering Maintenance Co. in Omaha and later in the Nebraska Air National Guard's Vehicle Maintenance Branch of the Lincoln-based 155th Resources Management Squadron. He received his commission as a second lieutenant in the Nebraska Air National Guard in 1988, after being named a distinguished graduate of the Air National Guard's Academy of Military Science.

Bohac served 10 years as the traditional, part-time supply operations officer for the 155th Resource Management Squadron in Lincoln.

In 1998, he transferred to the 155th Aircraft Generation Squadron to serve as an aircraft maintenance officer, serving there until September 1998 when he assumed command of the Nebraska Air Guard's 155th Maintenance Squadron. He later served as the commander of the 155th Aircraft Generation Squadron, serving there until November 2003 when

he transferred to the Nebraska National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters to serve as the full-time executive staff support officer.

Bohac later served as the deputy chief of staff for joint operations before being appointed as the Nebraska Air National Guard director of staff in June 2007, a position he served in until becoming the assistant adjutant general in April 2010.

Bohac deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, from December 2008 until May 2009, where he served as the senior air reserve component advisor for Air Force Central Command. He is also a veteran of deployments in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Decisive Endeavor and Deliberate Guard.

Gen. Bohac and his wife, Kristie, reside in Waverly and have two children, Erica and Sam.

Bohac is a graduate of the University of Nebraska, earning his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 1987, his Master of Arts in Psychology in 1994 and his doctorate in Clinical Psychology in 1994.



New Wildland Firefighting Tool Arrives in Valentine

LINCOLN, Neb. – Nebraska has a new tool for fighting wildfires – a single engine air tanker, which arrived in Valentine on July 15.

The equipment, known as a SEAT, and under contract to the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, is available thanks to the Nebraska Legislature’s passage this year of the Wildfire Control Act. That act also enabled creation of SEAT bases at airports in Valentine, Alliance, Chadron and a mobile SEAT base that can be moved to an airport near any forest fire needing airdrops of fire retardant.

The SEAT bases will be managed by the Nebraska Forest Service. The air tanker will complement the existing aerial fire suppression program, which has been successfully used for many years. Aerial applicators will be the first choice for grass and rangeland fires, on which foam retardant is most effective. SEATs are more effective in fighting forest fires, where their loads of heavy, slurry type retardant can penetrate tree canopies and help firefighters get control of flames.

The Legislature passed the Wildfire Control Act to beef up the state’s

approach to wildfires in the wake of massive summer blazes last year that threatened property and strained local budgets. The effort to place more firefighting resources in remote corners of the state comes as forestry officials warn the state is likely to face more massive wildfires in the future.

Dr. Scott Josiah, state forester, has said he expects Nebraska to have larger and more intense “mega-fires,” citing heat, drought and climate change, as well as the spread of the highly flammable eastern red cedar tree.

LOCAL UPDATE

Lynn Marshall Promoted



The Sarpy County Board of Commissioners named **Lynn Marshall** Sarpy County Emergency Management Director effective July 1.

Prior to this announcement, Sarpy County Emergency Management and 911 Communicates were operating as a combined department under one director. Marshall was assistant director with emergency management responsibilities.

The change will allow the two departments to better address the pressures and demands they are facing, according to Mark Wayne, county administrator.

Marshall is currently serving as president of the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management.



New Digs for Region 26 Under Construction

Ground breaking was held for the new Region 26 Emergency Operations and 911 Center at the end of June. The new building will be located just south of the current Region 26 911 Dispatch Center.



Johnson and Pawnee County Storm

Clint Strayhorn, Johnson/Pawnee Emergency Management shared pictures of damage from storms at the end of June. The two pictures with the roof damage are from two different buildings in the fairgrounds in Tecumseh. There were a lot more trees/branches that were down in Sterling, but nothing bad as far as building damage. He also included a picture of the front of the shelf cloud as it came through.



Thayer County Emergency Manager and Family Run Lincoln Marathon

From left, Bill McPherson, his daughters Samantha and Maggie and his wife, Cindy, made the Lincoln Marathon a family outing. All four finished the race this spring.





This is the third in a series of four articles on hazmat response capacities in Nebraska. Watch for an article on hazmat cities in an upcoming newsletter.

The Nebraska Hazardous Materials Association (NHMA) is a non-profit organization that was formed to bring all groups involved in hazardous materials together.

NHMA's primary goal is to provide a forum for education, networking, and cooperation.

"We are constantly striving to provide up-to-date information and training opportunities to all those impacted by hazardous materials," said Tonya Ngotel of NEMA. "While the concept of hazardous materials response may differ from organization to organization, the most important factor is that we understand how we all do our jobs in relation to hazardous materials."

NHMA draws upon the experience and expertise available from the public, industry, emergency response and regulatory agencies involved in



the manufacturing, storage, transportation, disposal and public safety activities associated with hazardous materials.

NHMA is committed to providing opportunities for these groups and individuals to exchange information

and share experiences in an open and amiable form for the benefit of all.

Members come from fire departments, law enforcement, emergency management, health, emergency medical services, government, industry and transportation.

SEAT Training at NEMA

Pat Gould of the Nebraska State Fire Marshal's Office participates in training with Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and State Fire Marshal Staff on Single Engine Air Tanker operating procedures.



Resource Unit Leader training at NEMA in July gave participants information on managing resources during disaster.

An overflow crowd gathered in the NEMA training rooms for two days of communication training. Courses included Communications-Focused Special Event/Pre-event Planning Support. "The turn-out was great," said NEMA's Bob Eastwood. "We had what we called a "Mobile Command Post Fest" where we toured a variety of mobile operations centers from across the state."



From left, course instructors Jason Matthews, Randy Kerr, and Nancy Dzoba, and members of the Northeast All-Hazard Group members LeRoy Janssen, Wayne County Emergency Management Agency, Matt May, Winnebago Area Emergency Management Agency, Nic Kemnitz, Wayne County Emergency Management Agency, Lynn Eifert and Shea Scollard Group, assistants from Dixon County Emergency Management Agency and Tom Perez, Thurston County Emergency Management Agency. Not pictured is Kevin Garvin from the Cedar County Emergency Management Agency.

Medical Reserve Corps Assists with Lincoln Highway Celebration

The Central Nebraska and West Central Medical Reserve Corps (MRCs) assisted with the Lincoln Highway Celebration in Kearney on June 30 and July 1.

The two-day event celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Lincoln Highway which runs from Kimball to Blair, paralleling the Platte River along much of the route.

The event brought an estimated 13,000 people to the parade and celebration at the Kearney Archway museum.

MRC volunteers assisted with first-aid and transporting elderly participants to and from their cars.

This event was a great opportunity for MRC volunteers from the Central and west central units to work together.



Nebraska Citizen Corps Hosts Training for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)



L427: CERT Program Manager Class



L428: CERT Train-the-Trainer Class

Community Emergency Response team volunteer leaders and program managers recently attended train-the-trainer and program managers courses in Lincoln.

CERT members from across the state had the opportunity to attend the class which was taught by Emergency Management Institute certified instructors **Joe Sciandra**, **Tim Bonno** and **Alan Scott**.

The first three days of training were devoted to the train-the-trainer course. Participants learned how to effectively teach the CERT basic training course through classroom lecture and hands-on participation. The final two days of training focused on how new and existing CERT program managers can build and sustain their programs by learning aspects of volunteer management, understanding how to procure resources needed to grow, and promoting their CERT program.

Upon completion of the courses, 18 CERT members were certified in train-the-trainer and 12 members were certified in program manager.



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State Homeland Security Director

Lt. Governor Lavon Heidemann

NEMA Director

Major General Daryl Bohac

Assistant Director

Al Berndt

NEMA is charged by Nebraska statute to reduce the vulnerabilities of the people and communities of Nebraska in terms of injury, loss of life and property damage resulting from natural, technological or man-made disasters and emergencies.

NEMA is responsible for coordinating the state response in any major emergency or disaster including the support of local governments as needed or requested, and coordinating assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal partners.

The Beacon

The Beacon is published monthly and includes emergency management news and activities from across the state. Please forward story ideas or photos for inclusion to:

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Lt. Governor's 2013 Be Prepared Awards

Call for Nominations

The Lt. Governor's BE PREPARED AWARDS celebrate excellence by Nebraskans in making their communities safer through service focused on preparedness, response, recovery, leadership, and assistance related to a disaster, emergency and/or crisis. The BE PREPARED AWARDS are sponsored by the Nebraska Citizen Corps Program and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and build upon the Lt. Governor's role as the Nebraska Director of Homeland Security.

BE PREPARED AWARDS open for nomination are:

LOCAL HERO AWARD: Recognizing an individual or a group that exhibits extraordinary service and leadership in helping fellow residents at an emergency situation, disaster or crisis scene.

EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS: Recognizing a business, non-profit organization, school, hospital or government agency for creating a stronger community through preparedness planning including continuity, mitigation projects or disaster preparation that enhances community readiness and resilience.

EXCELLENCE IN RISK COMMUNICATION: Recognizing an individual and/or a group demonstrating superior efforts in raising awareness of risks and hazards highlighting the need for all Nebraskans to BE PREPARED. In presenting this award, special emphasis is placed upon the creative and innovative use of technology and/or media.

EXCELLENCE IN VOLUNTEER PREPAREDNESS EDUCATION & OUTREACH: Recognizing an individual and/or group that demonstrates commitment and dedication to the safety of the public by volunteering to train, educate, promote or reach out to Nebraskans to help them know how to prepare for emergencies and the importance of being ready.

CITIZEN CORPS PARTNER PROGRAM OF THE YEAR: Recognizing a business, non-profit, school, hospital or government agency for their contributions to their local Citizen Corps Council. The nominee should demonstrate a significant commitment to creating a strong partnership with the local Citizen Corps Council and participate in local community preparedness initiatives.

CITIZEN CORPS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: Recognizing an individual who demonstrates an outstanding commitment to one of the five Citizen Corps Programs (CERT, MRC, Neighborhood Watch, ViPS, FireCorps) and displays the principles of preparedness in their daily life.

CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL OF THE YEAR: Recognizing an outstanding local Citizen Corps Council for their efforts to collaborate with multiple partners (government agencies, public and private organizations, businesses) and promote community preparedness initiatives.

To nominate an individual or organization, go to: https://unl.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_blbep5hcsiMQxPn

Winners will be notified and invited to the Lt. Governor's award ceremony and reception at the State Capitol in September. For a list of the 2012 Be Prepared Award winners, see: http://www.governor.nebraska.gov/news/2012/09/27_be_prepared.html