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CAREER & WORKPLACE

KC lawyer's second job is training officers for Kansas Army National Guard

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Most days you can find Matt Keane working on product liability cases as an attorney with Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP. But outside of the law firm, he's got an extremely important second job.

Keane is a lieutenant colonel in the Kansas Army National Guard and on May 20 was appointed as commander of the 1st Battalion, 235th Regiment in Salina. This regiment is responsible for running the Officer Candidate School and Warrant Officer Candidate School.

"I am genuinely honored to have been entrusted with the command of this battalion and its unique mission," Keane said in a release. "I can't think of a better assignment than being responsible for the teaching, coaching and mentoring of the Kansas Army National Guard's next generation of officers and warrant officers."

The Kansas Military Academy Officer Candidate School Program has graduated more than 1,650 soldiers since it opened in 1956. It operates at the Nickell Barracks Training Center on the old Schilling Air Force Base in Salina. Keane also will oversee the Army National Guard Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS), which has graduated 101 soldiers since starting operations in 2006.

In January 2009, Kansas was chosen to be among four states to establish one of the Total Army School System (TASS) WOCS battalions. The Kansas WOCS Battalion is comprised of state companies from California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Hawaii and Washington.

After graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West



Matt Keane is an attorney in Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP's global product liability practice and a lieutenant colonel in the Kansas Army National Guard.

Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP

Point, Keane volunteered for Airborne Ranger training. In 2003-04, he led convoy security patrols in Northern Iraq and moved on to training the Iraqi army and police. He did a second tour in 2006-07, this time in North Central Iraq as commander for a headquarters company of a Black Hawk helicopter unit. His second tour included the Iraq War troop surge in 2007, in which President George W. Bush vastly increased the number of troops to provide more stability to the country.

Keane's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal with two campaign stars, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, the Combat Action Badge, the Ranger Tab, the Army Parachutist Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.