

# STATE OF KANSAS

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## **1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION, 235<sup>TH</sup> REGIMENT RECEIVES NEW COMMANDER**

Lt. Col. Trent A. Miller will turn over command of the 1st Battalion, 235th Regiment to Lt. Col. D. Matt Keane during a change of command ceremony Sunday, May 20, at the Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina. The ceremony will begin at 11:30 a.m. in building 365 Auditorium, 2929 Scanlan Ave.

The 1st Battalion, 235th Regiment conducts the Officer Candidate School and Warrant Officer Candidate School for 13 states.

"I am genuinely honored to have been entrusted with the command of this battalion and its unique mission," said Keane. "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."

"It has been my distinct honor to have served as commander of the 1st Battalion, 235th Regiment," said Miller. "I'm truly impressed with the professionalism of our cadre and our candidate's dedication in becoming leaders in future KSARNG formations."

The Kansas Military Academy Officer Candidate School Program was initially chartered by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to commence in September 1956 at the Topeka Armory on 12 weekends during the year. It was the ninth Army National Guard OCS Program to be established in the United States. In 1967, the entire school was transferred to Nickell Barracks Training Center, Kansas Army National Guard, located on the old Schilling Air Force Base in Salina, Kansas.

The rigid disciplinary and academic standards of the Kansas Military Academy gave the school a national reputation as an outstanding example of the effectiveness of the State Officer Candidate School Program. Awards include the "Doughboy Award" for highest academic average from 1976-1980 and have continued with the 2009 and 2011 ratings of "Learning Institution of Excellence;" the highest an OCS Program can achieve.

Kansas is now one of the 54 state/territory companies of the Army National Guard Officer Candidate School Program and is one of eight Battalion headquarters. The Kansas OCS Company has successfully graduated over 1,650 Officer Candidates in its 61 year existence. The Kansas OCS Battalion is comprised of state companies from Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

In November 2005, the Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina, Kansas, became one of seven states to conduct the pilot Army National Guard Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS), which began in February 2006. Since then, the program has grown to 25 states and territories. 101 Soldiers have attended WOCS since its inception in Kansas and have gone on to be appointed as Warrant Officers.

In January 2009 Kansas was chosen along with three other 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. It recently scored 100% on its U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) accreditation.

### **Lt. Col. D. Matt Keane**

Lt. Col. Matt Keane is the incoming commander of 1st Battalion (OCS/WOCS), 235th Regiment, Salina, Kansas. Keane graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point with the Bicentennial Class of 2002. He commissioned as an Air Defense Artillery officer and was an Honor Graduate of the ADA Officer Basic Course at Fort Bliss, Texas. After completing Ranger School, Keane reported to Battery B, 1-62 Air Defense Artillery Battalion, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii in 2003. He served as an avenger/stinger platoon leader, deploying to Kirkuk, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. Keane spent eight months leading convoys and patrols before leaving his platoon to serve as the 2nd Brigade Combat Team Iraqi Security Forces officer for the remainder of the extended deployment. In 2005 he was assigned as the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade's air defense airspace management officer.

In July 2006, Keane deployed to Tikrit, Iraq with the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, supporting OIF 06-08. He served as the brigade training, plans, and force protection officer. Keane took command of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 25th CAB in May 2007 and redeployed the company from Iraq to Wheeler Army Airfield in October of 2007. Upon leaving command in 2008, Keane attended the ADA Captain's Career Course, and received the course's top two honors for leadership and tactics, while also completing his master's degree in leadership studies at the University of Texas at El Paso. Keane then became the assistant professor of Military Science and Leadership at Purdue University, in Indiana.

He left active duty in 2010 to attend the University of Kansas, School of Law, and transferred directly into the Kansas Army National Guard. Following an assignment with the JAG, Keane took command of the 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment and led the MPAD for nearly four years. While in command, he obtained his Juris Doctor with Order of the Coif, attended Intermediate Level Education, and completed the Defense Information School Public Affairs Officer Course. Keane then served as the KSARNG Public Affairs Officer for nearly two years, before his assignment as the 635<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Group Rear Operations Officer.

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.

In his civilian life, Keane is a products liability attorney at the Kansas City law firm of Shook, Hardy & Bacon. Keane is licensed to practice in Kansas, Missouri and Florida.

**Lt. Col. Trent A. Miller**

Lt. Col. Trent Miller is the outgoing commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (OCS/WOCS), 235<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Salina, Kansas. Miller currently serves as the Deputy G1, military personnel officer, Joint Forces Headquarters Land Component, KSARNG. His previous assignments include operations officer, 635<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Group; plans officer, 635<sup>th</sup> RSG; executive officer, Recruiting and Retention Battalion; assistant professor of Military Science, University of Kansas Army ROTC; operations officer, 1-6 Agribusiness Development Team; commander, Company C., 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 635<sup>th</sup> Armor Regiment; platoon leader, Company C., 1st Battalion 635<sup>th</sup> Armor Regiment. Miller has also served in various full-time manning positions with the KSARNG as the officer strength manager, and as a battalion and brigade training officer.

Miller commissioned in 2002 as a direct appointment from the rank of sergeant first class. His military education includes the Armor Officer Basic Course, the Maneuver Captains Career Course and Combined Arms Exercise at Fort Knox, Kentucky, Command and General Staff Officer Courses (ILE Common Core and the Advance Operations Course).

Miller's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with silver oak leaf cluster, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with bronze service star, Kosovo Campaign Medal with one service star, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one service star, Global War of Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 20-year device, Mobilization Device (2<sup>nd</sup> Award), Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (3<sup>rd</sup> Award), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon (2<sup>nd</sup> Award), and NATO Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> Award), Combat Action Badge and Master Recruiter Badge.

Miller received his bachelor's degree from Pittsburg State University.