

## Randall L. McHugh

Randall L. McHugh joined the U.S. Army National Guard on Jan. 1, 1980, when he was 17.

He took basic training at Fort Knox, Ky., as an armor crewman on the M60 tank, then was assigned to the 635th Armor Battalion Kansas National Guard upon completion of basic training.

His unit was at Manhattan and in 1986 he was transferred to Delta Company 635th in Junction City as a gunner on the M60 tank. In 1987 he was promoted to tank commander on the M60 tank. A few months later, he was promoted to platoon sergeant, 2nd Platoon Delta Company.

His battalion was the first National Guard Battalion to fire on the new range at Fort Riley in the M60 A3 tank.

In 1990, he transferred to the 891st Combat Engineering Unit in southeast Kansas where he operated heavy equipment and learned demolitions. In 1994 he transferred back to Armor in Lexington, Neb., and shortly after the unit got the M1A1 Abrams tank.

He went on to tank commanders school for the M1 tank, and eventually transferred to his current unit, the 195th Armour Battalion, in McCook, which was transitioned to a Transportation Unit.

The unit has light, medium and heavy trucks capable of hauling anything, including the M1 tank.

He is on the Nebraska National Guard marksmanship team and has competed in rifle, pistol and sniper rifle competition all over the U.S. and in Puerto Rico. He competed in the National Championships three times at Camp Perry, Ohio.

The Nebraska marksmanship team has won national championships in Camp Robinson, Ark., and other awards. He has an "Expert in Competition" medal in rifle and pistol.

After September 11, 2001, he spent almost six months in Nebraska on airport security duty. In November, 2002, he went to Fort Riley to train 35th Infantry Division soldiers for their deployment to Bosnia.

In January he went with the 35th to Hohenfels, Germany, in a support role and transported soldiers and was in charge of over 100 vehicles. Duty ended on March 15 when the last of the 35th Infantry left for Bosnia.

At this time, the 735th Mission Support Battalion Unit out of McCook is assigned to another unit. Many of the soldiers from this unit are training or have already been deployed overseas.

The remaining soldiers in the unit have been assigned to a fire-fighting unit and will undergo training as such.

McHugh a staff sergeant hopes to go to school this year to be promoted to sergeant first class.

He has served in the military for 23 years and has spent a lot of time on active duty.

He and his wife, the former Kristin Richards, have three children, Jordan, Tyler and Conner.

He is undersheriff for Decatur County and they live in Oberlin.



R. McHugh



## TRAINER NATHAN LAMBERT

stops for a second outside the truck. Staff Sergeant Lambert trains others for the United States Air Force Military Police. His story is on Page 6T

## Marie Plotts McCobb

Sgt. Marie (Plotts) McCobb, lives in Colorado Springs with her husband, Scott, and three children Justus, 9; Dallas, 4, and Skylor, 10 months.

A 1992 graduate of Decatur Community High School, she is the daughter of Gene Plotts, rural Oberlin, and Carolyn Hackney, Ludell.

She has been in the U.S. Army Reserves since her high school graduation, with the exception of two years, then she re-enlisted. She was scheduled to be discharged in February, but was called to active duty on Dec. 27, for the second time.

She spent eight months in Germany during the Bosnia conflict when her oldest son was 2 years old. He stayed with his grandmother Carolyn part of that time.

Sgt. McCobb is serving at Camp Commando near Kuwait City with the 172nd Medical Corps. Her company is in the process of setting up equipment.



M. McCobb

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