



NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN

Volume 5, Issue 4

April 2012

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NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN

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ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

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Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi.

On the Cover



Staff Sgt. Bradley Walhood, a Minot, N.D., Soldier with the N.D. National Guard's 818th Engineer Company (Sapper), based out of Williston, looks through a night vision lens March 6 during a night-time training exercise at Camp Grafton Training Center, Devils Lake, N.D. He is one of 17 Soldiers who came from across the country to take part in the Combat Engineer Advanced Leaders Course at Camp Grafton. They participated in all-night situational training exercises using paintball guns at the 164th Regional Training Institute. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp)

GUARD POSTS

Dispatches from the N.D. Guard Family

OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!!

On March 2, you may have noticed that there was more "Dr Seuss-ness" in the air as communities nationwide celebrated the National Education Association's Read Across America Day — an annual reading motivation and awareness program adopted on children's author Theodor Seuss Geisel's birthday.

The last book Dr. Seuss published was "Oh, the Places You'll Go!!" It is a popular gift for students graduating from high school and college due to the protagonist's thoughts of places he would like to visit and things he wants to discover. The book focuses on life and its challenges and concludes with an open ending, implying that this is the reader's adventure and that the reader is the main character.

While considering Dr. Seuss' clever ending, let us turn the final page on the month of March and continue writing the next pages in the lives of our military children. Our first page begins in April as we read the proclamation to thank our littlest heroes, the military children. This proclamation sets in motion the "Month of the Military Child."

Since 1986, the Department of Defense has officially recognized the service and sacrifice of military children by dedicating April as the "Month of the Military Child."

Did you know that more than 1.7 million American children younger than 18 have at least one parent serving in the military? It is estimated that the U.S. Army alone has more than 900,000 military children with one or both parents having deployed multiple times. We understand the sacrifice of our service members, but what about the sacrifices made by their children?

As we get older and focus on grown-up things, we tend to forget what it was like growing up: the fun, the struggles and the learning experiences that shape us into the people we are today. As youth coordinators for the state, we have the distinct privilege of working with our military youth — and,

sometimes, it is a workout! Within an hour, we could be reading peacefully to a 1-year-old, discussing a parent's deployment to an excited group of 5-year-olds or doing relay races with 13-year-olds. The gamut runs wide and, with the use of a specific curriculum and just off-the-cuff fun, our job is to support children through their journey.

In the book "Oh, the Places You'll Go!," the protagonist travels through a variety of funky landscapes where he eventually encounters a place called "The Waiting Place." It is described as being a place where everyone is always waiting for something to happen; where time does not pass. Unlike the Waiting Place, our job is not to wait for something to happen. Rather, our job is to empower, educate and enable others to make things happen.

North Dakota has more than 8,300 military-connected children with nearly 40 percent having at least one parent serving in the Air or Army National Guard. During the past few years, the support provided to military children and the N.D. National Guard Child & Youth Program has been overwhelming. North Dakota and the National Guard community is standing up by participating in events supporting military children, volunteering time and providing their own resources. The Child & Youth Program will only continue to expand and grow with this sincere backing.

The next pages of our military children's story needs to be written by you. Be sure to take

N.D. National Guard state youth coordinators Beth Sandeen, far right, and Jessi Clark-Woinarowicz, center, lead military children in a presentation at the conclusion of the Adjutant General's Symposium for Families at the Holiday Inn, Fargo, N.D., March 11. The children attended the N.D. National Guard's Youth Symposium the weekend of March 9-11. Here, they presented what they had learned to their parents. To read more about the event, check out the article on page 6.



JESSI CLARK-WOINAROWICZ & BETH SANDEEN

N.D. National Guard State Youth Coordinators

the time this month to acknowledge military children's feelings, accomplishments, struggles, fears, successes and overwhelming pride that they have for your service by saying, "Thank you." These military children will continue to amaze and show us all "Oh, the Places You'll Go."

For more information about the N.D. National Guard Child & Youth Program and upcoming youth events, visit <http://bit.ly/NDNGYP>.

Sincerely,

Beth A. Sandeen
Jessie Clark-Woinarowicz

Beth Sandeen and Jessi Clark-Woinarowicz, State Youth Coordinators



Sgt. Brett J. Miller

Simply Outstanding

Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year



Chief Master Sgt. Leah Terry has served in the N.D. Air National Guard for 32 years, working in education and training, transportation, administration and, now, as the 119th Force Support Squadron superintendent. She says it's the job she has always wanted. Terry studied interior design at North Dakota State University. She volunteers her time on the Auger Inn Board and for the Salvation Army, YWCA, Harwood American Legion, Christ the King Church and River Keepers, and she serves as a life member of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States.

Airmen's Accomplishments Lauded by Peers During Annual Banquet

By Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson
Joint Force Headquarters

When outstanding Airmen of the N.D. National Guard were honored last month, three rose to the top as the best of the best: a college student and prolific volunteer, the founder of a nonprofit organization and a long-time Happy Hooligan active within the community. They were among the people celebrated as the 2011 Outstanding Airmen of the Year banquet reflected on a year's worth of accomplishments.

Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, highlighted the accomplishments of all 14 Airmen who advanced to the top of their squadrons as Outstanding Airmen of the Year nominees. His

comments wove in portions of the Airmen's Creed as he recognized the determination, values and work ethic of the Happy Hooligans.

"Each nominee deserves our thanks and congratulations. They have all reached tonight by being among the best of the best. Their accomplishments both in and out of the military are extraordinary," he said. "They are all warriors who have answered their nation's call, and they are here today because they believe in serving our communities, state and nation."

When the evening concluded, however, three of those nominees left with heavy glass trophies naming them "Outstanding Airmen": Senior Airman Kimberly Zuroff was named Outstanding Airman of the Year, Staff Sgt. Nathanael Baardson was named Outstanding Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and Chief Master Sgt. Leah Terry was named Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Sprynczynatyk also presented awards to Tech. Sgt. David Permann and Master Sgt. Rollin Swedberg. Permann works in the 119th Maintenance Squadron and was named Unit Career Advisor of the Year, while Swedberg, also with the Maintenance Squadron, was honored as the First Sergeant of the Year.

Photos by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp



Airman of the Year

Senior Airman Kimberly Zuroff, who joined the N.D. Air National Guard in 2009, says the most memorable moment of her service was working as a security forces augmentee. She is pursuing a business administration degree from North Dakota State University while working as a Realtor in Fargo. She volunteers for United Way, Homeless and Hungry, Salvation Army and Churches United for the Homeless, and is actively involved with the Fargo-Moorhead-West Fargo Chamber, FM Young Professionals Network, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, the Junior Enlisted Advisory Council and North Dakota DECA.



Top left, Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, right, presents the N.D. Air National Guard unit Career Advisor of the Year award to Tech. Sgt. David Permann, of the 119th Maintenance Squadron. Bottom left, Sprynczynatyk presents the N.D. Air National Guard First Sergeant of the Year award to Master Sgt. David Permann, of the 119th Maintenance Squadron. Above, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Darrol Schroeder, third from right, presents a donation check to Senior Master Sgt. Duane Kangas, of the 119th Wing, as other members of the N.D. Air National Guard first sergeants council pose for a group photo at the Outstanding Airman of the Year banquet March 3.

Noncommissioned Officer of the Year

Staff Sgt. Nathanael Baardson joined the N.D. Air National Guard in 2004, working as a firefighter with the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron before becoming a journalism apprentice with the 119th Wing Public Affairs Office. He graduated cum laude from North Dakota State University with a bachelor's degree in journalism and film studies. In 2008, he started Bentwing Productions, his own media marketing company, and in 2011 he founded Unseen Ministries, a nonprofit organization that supports mission groups around the world that are working to stop human trafficking, feed the hungry and provide for orphans.

Photos by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp



fr Interact With Us!

View photos from the **Outstanding Airmen of the Year Banquet** at: <http://bit.ly/2011OAYbanquet>
Photos of the **Outstanding Airmen of the Year nominees** also are available at: <http://bit.ly/2011OAYnominees>

View video of the **Outstanding Airmen nominees** at <http://bit.ly/2011AirmenNominees>, **Outstanding NCO nominees** at <http://bit.ly/2011NCONominees>, **Outstanding Senior NCO nominees** at <http://bit.ly/2011SeniorNCONominees> and **2011 Outstanding Airmen of the Year winners** at <http://bit.ly/2011OAYWinners>

ALL ABOUT FAMILY

GUARD FAMILIES, VOLUNTEERS, YOUTH GATHER FOR WEEKEND OF EVENTS

Story by Staff Sgt. Eric W. Jensen
Joint Force Headquarters

Members of the North Dakota Patriot Guard lined the Sterling Conference Hall at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, N.D., to kick off a weekend of events during the Adjutant General's Symposium for Families and N.D. National Guard Youth Symposium March 9-11.

An organization that is dedicated to showing reverence for its state's military members, the Patriot Guard was a fitting group to join a network of Guard Families, volunteers and military youths during the weekend. Part of an extended "National Guard Family," attendees at the events gathered for a weekend's worth of presentations. There, they gained insight into the principles of leadership and built upon an enduring theme of resiliency.

"Our support system of Families, volunteers, employers, retirees and youth are all a part of the N.D. National Guard," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general.

Above, members of the N.D. Air and Army National Guard Color Guard prepare to "post the colors" of the United States flag before the commencement of the Adjutant General's Symposium for Families at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, N.D., March 10. Below, Rob Keller, left, Service Member and Family Support Division director, greets special guest speaker Dennis Walaker, mayor of Fargo. Bottom right, guest speaker Trevor Hendrickson, whose father, Staff Sgt. Kenneth Hendrickson, was killed in Iraq while serving with the 957th Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge) Jan. 24, 2004, addresses attendees at the Symposium March 11.



"You are part of our fiber, our core. This symposium is designed to reflect on our successes and to look forward to the future by equipping ourselves for future missions and challenges."

Service Member and Family Support Division Director Rob Keller said the Symposium for Families' overall theme states that "As leaders, we can all make a difference."

"If we embody the traits of good leadership, we can all make a difference in our own Families, at work, in school and (throughout) our military community," he said. "This weekend gives us a chance to learn the skills to make that difference."

Hal Runkel, of the ScreamFree Institute, led the Symposium for Families' opening presentations with sessions on ScreamFree leadership and ScreamFree parenting. The institute is designed to "increase your influence by increasing your calm." Runkel helps Families



Photos by Sgt. Brett J. Miller



2011 FAMILIES OF THE YEAR

Top left, Sgt. 1st Class Bryce Crosby and his wife, Lisa, and children were named the 2011 N.D. Army National Guard Family of the Year. They are joined by Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general, far left, Col. Mike Aberle, background, and Lt. Col. Tad Schauer, 219th Security Forces Squadron commander, far right. Above, Tech Sgt. Todd Ouradnik and his wife, Cyndi, and children were named the 2011 N.D. Air National Guard Family of the Year. They also are joined by Sprynczynatyk, Aberle and Schauer.

"I'd like to congratulate our award recipients this year," Sprynczynatyk said. "But, more importantly, I'd like to thank you for the support you give to our Soldiers and Airmen. If it were not for that support, we wouldn't be able to carry out our state and federal missions as effectively as we do. We are all part of a larger Guard Family, working and serving together."

Hendrickson discussed his journey from grief to resilience. He also shared photos and memories of his father, and the life lessons he learned from him.

"This is where I've come," Hendrickson said. "I've learned to become grateful and very thankful."

At the N.D. National Guard Youth Symposium, attendees gathered for learning and socializing activities for military kids, including a dance and night of karaoke. Military children also attended presentations from Dee LeMay, a national team-building facilitator, and Dr. Sameer Hinduja, an assistant professor at Florida Atlantic University and co-founder of www.cyberbullying.us.

LeMay engaged the youths in physical and intellectual challenges, promoting effective communication, conflict resolution and tactics and tools for leadership skills. Hinduja led the youths in a discussion about social media and users' responsibilities within those forums.

The event ended with a presentation at the Symposium for Families. Youth Symposium attendees presented what they had learned during the weekend to their parents. ■

Military children attending the N.D. National Guard Youth Symposium give a special, choreographed presentation for attendees at the Adjutant General's Symposium for Families at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, N.D., March 11.



fr INTERACT WITH US! YouTube

More photos from this event can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/TSFamilies>. You also can see video of Trevor Hendrickson's speech at <http://bit.ly/THSpeech>.



Photos by Sgt. Brett J. Miller

Flight of a Straight Arrow



Miller's Career Marked by Accomplishments, Leadership Ability

By Sgt. 1st Class Billie Jo Lorus
Joint Force Headquarters

Right, Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Miller greets Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Jack Cripe, of Dickinson, N.D., at the Bismarck Airport July 28, 2010. Cripe was one of the last Soldiers returning home from a yearlong deployment to Kosovo where he served as the command sergeant major for the Multi-National Battle Group East, Kosovo Force (KFOR) 12, which was part of a NATO peacekeeping mission. Below, Miller, known for his laughter, sits at the wheel of his Humvee in Iraq May 17, 2004.

Bill Prokopyk



Courtesy Photo

To attain the leadership role of the top enlisted Soldier in the entire N.D. National Guard is a feat surmounted by few. For those who reach the level of state command sergeant major, it is the epitome of success in an enlisted Soldier's career.

Ask both the outgoing and newly appointed state command sergeants major. Each of them never saw themselves serving in the top enlisted position in the state when they began their military careers. Their goals were only to outrank certain family members, and looking back, they never thought they'd scale the heights they did.

As Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Miller stepped down from his post during a Change of Responsibility ceremony at Raymond J. Bohn Armory March 11, Command Sgt. Maj. Harley J. Schwind Jr. became the eighth state command sergeant major. He would join Col. (P) David Anderson, land component commander, in leading the 3,400 Soldiers of the N.D. Army National Guard.

Miller has served in the position since 2009. "Command Sgt. Maj. Miller is known for his laughter, personality and the ability to relate to Soldiers on an individual level. He will be missed and remembered for

the skills he brought to this position," Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, said during the ceremony. "Now, Command Sgt. Major Schwind is in a key position to continue to mentor and train our Soldiers as we support our state and federal missions."

Schwind addressed the Soldiers and family members in attendance. "I am honored to replace Command Sgt. Maj. Miller and continue the great work that he has done for our Soldiers," he said. "Thank you for having the confidence in me to put me in this leadership position. I thank all of you for your selfless service. I may be the new state command sergeant major, but the way I look at it, this position belongs to you, the Soldiers of this great organization."

Anderson also spoke about what it means to be a good noncommissioned officer.

"It's about leadership, perseverance through adversity, uniform code and instilling morale in our troops. He's the one looking out for you," he said.

Through his enlisted career, Miller has demonstrated what it means to be a great Soldier. In 1991, he was named NCO of the Year (now known as the Best Warrior Competition) for the state. As a sergeant major, he was known for those things that all Soldiers expect in a leader, with a few added bonuses.

"He will be remembered for three things: his great sense of humor, laughter and his passion for taking care of Soldiers," Anderson said.

As a sergeant major, Miller was not just a "get off the sergeant major's



Courtesy Photo

Left, Miller leads Soldiers in the field at the Camp Grafton Training Center, Devils Lake, N.D., April 26, 2002. Opposite page, incoming State Command Sgt. Maj. Harley J. Schwind Jr., right, accepts a saber from Miller at Raymond J. Bohn Armory March 11. The saber represents the "change or transfer of responsibility from one command sergeant major to the next." Both Schwind and Miller are Iraq War Veterans with more than 30 years of service each.

grass!" kind of leader, though he was known to make uniform corrections from time to time. He was the kind of leader Soldiers knew they could go to when they needed help or just an ear to hear their concerns, many say.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Miller has had a huge influence on my career as a mentor. I've taken a lot of the way I handle things from advice he has given me and the way I see him handle situations with Soldiers. He's been influential to me and many others, and one of the most fair and common sense guys I've ever known," said 1st Sgt. Russ Garrett, Pre-Mobilization Training Assistance Element noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "Sometimes there's a book answer and sometimes there's a



Chief Warrant Officer Kiel Skager

common sense answer, and he always looked at the fair way and was guided by his heart and doing the right thing for the individual when dealing with Soldiers."

Miller thanked his family during the ceremony, and then turned to the Soldiers.

"I salute you because every day you do one of the toughest jobs in America," he said. "You defend our freedoms, our way of life. There is nothing I have been prouder to do than serve by your side."

A native of Oakes, N.D., Miller enlisted in the N.D. Army National Guard in 1979, serving in key leadership positions with the 141st and 142nd Engineer Combat Battalions. From January 2003 until May 2004, Miller deployed to Iraq, serving as the first sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Service Company, 142nd Engineer Combat Battalion. In 2004, he was appointed as the commandant of the Devils Lake-based 164th Regional Training Institute, a position he held until he was appointed as state command sergeant major in 2009.

Miller will continue to reside in Bismarck and is married to the former Linda Drangsholt, of Antler, N.D., and has two sons. His plans for retirement include a little fishing and a bit of relaxation while staying tied to the Guard through retiree programs.

"The hardest part for me will be not being around people that I have built camaraderie with throughout the years I've served in the organization," he said. "There is not a day goes by that I don't reflect back on what my military career has given me. I've gotten to see and do things most people never will experience. I am grateful for those opportunities."

Miller credits others for his successful career, reflecting his sergeant major leadership philosophy and dichotomy back on the people who surround him.

"There is nothing that I have accomplished on my own. My military mentors, my Soldiers and my Family have grown me into the leader I am and the person I always will be. My advice to other Soldiers out there is to listen to your mentors, be there for your Family and remember to always take care of your battle buddy," he said.

Schwind also is an Iraq War veteran and an experienced Guardsman with more than 30 years of service. He is a native of LaMoure, N.D., and enlisted in 1981 as a combat engineer. His first assignment was

with Company D, 141st Engineer Combat Battalion (Corps Wheeled). Schwind and Miller served together in this unit for nearly a decade and have been friends throughout their Guard careers. Their leadership styles and ways of conducting business are well known to each other.

"We have been mentors to each other our entire careers, and we do have similar leadership styles. If you're not learning something new every day and trying to better yourself as a leader, you're wrong. There is no cookie cutter leadership process, but I know every single person counts in this organization," Miller said. "I know that Command Sgt. Maj. Schwind is the right person to lead this great group of Soldiers into the future."

From 2001-04, Schwind was assigned as the operations sergeant for the Engineer Brigade, 34th Infantry Division. In 2004, he assumed duties as the command sergeant major for the 164th Engineer Battalion. He served overseas with the unit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2007-08.

"I am humbled to be able to step into the lead enlisted position and use the experience I have attained to continue to move this organization forward," Schwind said. "We have an outstanding group of Soldiers that I am confident will build upon the strengths we have as an organization to continue our standard of excellence." ■

Miller speaks with a local television reporter after his retirement and change of responsibility ceremony on March 11, 2012 at the Raymond J. Bohn Armory in Bismarck.



Chief Warrant Officer Kiel Skager



Master Sgt. Jeffrey Lien, N.D. Air National Guard 119th Maintenance Squadron, talks to African military members during a tour of an aircraft that belongs to the Ghanaian Air Force that's similar to the C-27 Spartan. Lien and Chief Master Sgt. Michael Holm were in Ghana last month participating in the African Partnership Flight, a multilateral engagement that allows interaction among African militaries to improve interoperability and cooperation between forces. Lien and Holm are sharing information with Africans from the maintenance career field.



Photos by Sgt. Brett J. Miller



Sgt. DeAnn Fylling, left, and Sgt. Christopher Hanson, both of the 188th Army Band, were featured guest performers and conductors with the bands and choirs at Garrison High School March 20 as part of an education outreach program. The Garrison High School bands and choirs are directed by Jessy Klimpel, a long-time friend and colleague of both Hanson and Fylling.

GUARDIAN

Snapshots



Above, Soldiers from the 164th Engineer Battalion use the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000 at the Camp Grafton Training Center, Devils Lake, N.D., as part of their annual weapons qualification Feb. 11.



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Left, Patricia Carlson, center, who owns and operates Patricia Carlson Freelance, interviews Lt. Col. Bryan "Doc" Delage, left, 119th Wing Medical Group commander, March 21 based upon a training scenario he was given the day before. Master Sgt. Eric Johnson, 119th Wing Public Affairs, recorded the interview to add to the realism, as well as to play back to the group for critique during the training at the N.D. Air National Guard base in Fargo. About 20 N.D. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen took part in the training, which began with tips and techniques for doing on-camera interviews before participants were given the chance to practice. Carlson previously worked as a television reporter in Fargo, and participants expressed appreciation in her volunteering her time and expertise to help the Guard practice telling its story. For information on upcoming media training, contact the N.D. National Guard Public Affairs Office at 701-333-2007.



Sgt. Ann Knudson

Brenda Bergsrud, N.D. Women Veterans coordinator with the N.D. Veterans Affairs office, explains the purpose of the Women Veterans Summit to Miss North Dakota Ariana Walker. The summit was sponsored by the Dakota Sisterhood of Women Veterans March 24 at the Bismarck, N.D., AMVETS club. Walker performed the national anthem during the event.



Spc. Cassandra Simonson

Sgt. 1st Class David Webber, an instructor with the 164th Regional Training Institute (RTI), offers instruction on the operation of different table saws to a group of Boy Scouts from Bismarck and Grand Forks before allowing them to attempt the cutting themselves. The Scouts traveled to Camp Grafton Training Center, Devils Lake, N.D., March 9-11 to receive merit badge training from the Soldiers at the RTI.

Holding the Line

Guard Marksmen Continue Tradition of Excellence

Story and Photos by Spc. Cassandra Simonton
116th Public Affairs Detachment

Four Soldiers and one coach with the N.D. National Guard's 817th Engineer Company competed against the best marksmen in the entire U.S. Army at the U.S. Army Small Arms Championship at Fort Benning, Ga. The competition ran March 4-10. More than 500 Soldiers from the active-duty Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard participated in the competition.

Each team was comprised of a coach and four competitors, two of which must be newcomers. The North Dakota team's coach was Sgt. 1st Class Gary Varberg, a decorated marksman, who has competed in more than 100 marksmanship competitions during 30 years of competing. He did not participate in the matches in order to allow others the opportunity to compete.

North Dakota's team also includes returners Sgt. Robert Mahoney and Spc. Evan Messer, both of Fargo, N.D. Two newcomers completed the team, Staff Sgt. Adam Gehlhar of West Fargo, N.D., and Spc. Levi Harrington of Jamestown, N.D.

The North Dakota Soldiers came in second overall in the rifle Excellence in Competition (EIC) portion of the match March 5. In addition to contributing to their overall team score, EIC allows Soldiers to earn individual points toward the Distinguished Rifleman Badge and Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge by finishing as one of the top three shooters in a match event. Thirty points



From left to right, Spc. Evan Messer, of Fargo; Spc. Levi Harrington, of Jamestown; Sgt. Robert Mahoney, of Fargo; Staff Sgt. Adam Gehlhar, of West Fargo, and team coach Sgt. 1st Class Gary Varberg, center, of Cooperstown, N.D., represented the N.D. Army National Guard at this year's U.S. Army Small Arms Championship at Fort Benning, Ga.

are required in each type of competition, rifle and pistol, to receive each respective badge. These "leg points" are accumulated throughout a Soldier's career until the badges are earned.

"This is the first time in all my years shooting we have had three out of four team members receive 'leg points' in the same match," Varberg said. "It usually takes a great shooter three years to be competitive for each of these distinguished marksman badges."

It took Varberg three years to earn the Rifleman Badge and nearly 10 years to earn sufficient points to qualify for the Pistol Badge.

The team placed 7th overall with 57 teams competing. Mahoney had the best individual showing for the team and placed 14th out of 335 shooters for the overall small-arms competition. For a look at where our individual members placed, go to <http://bit.ly/MMWinners>.

Bottom left, Gehlhar, left, and Harrington fire and make adjustments to their weapons in preparation for the U.S. Army Small Arms Championship March 3. Below, Soldiers compete in a 1.5-mile run on the opening day of the competition March 4. Each Soldier is required to complete the run before heading to the range to fire ten rounds at 400-, 300-, 200- and 100-yard target ranges. The competitors were given 25 minutes to conduct the run and could earn up to 100 points for their team depending on their run time.



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

N.D. National Guard Confidential Sexual Assault Response Coordinator Helpline:

701-425-4821

By Chief Warrant Officer Shelly Sizer
& Mrs Heather Mattson
N.D. National Guard
Sexual Assault Response Coordinators

"I am a veteran. I served in the Armed Forces and was sexually assaulted. Telling my story is a challenge, which I could have never imagined doing. Most of my life has been in a blocked-out state of mind about what happened to me while serving our country when I was only 17. I've received treatment that has given me new life after being in a terrible state of mind for so many years. Shame kept me from freeing my mind. There are many types of wounds that can occur while serving in the military."

Albeit sobering, the above statement from a victim of military sexual assault is a real story. As we embark upon the eighth

annual Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, we continue to underscore the theme: "Hurts one. Affects all." This theme focuses on the combined effects of a sexual assault: one victim's life may be impacted forever, and all are impacted by a unit's mission readiness, which may be adversely affected.

N.D. Adjutant General Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk's No. 1 priority is taking care of Soldiers, Airmen and their Families. In an effort to accomplish this, he has committed to having every Guardsman trained in the prevention of sexual assault, and to ensure that victims are treated with dignity, fairness and respect. The N.D. National Guard has a policy that states that those who commit sexual assaults will be held accountable, and that such crimes will not be tolerated.

In a continued effort to rid our force of sexual assault, several initiatives are occurring: Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) and Bystander Intervention Training (BIT) are being presented within the N.D. National Guard with a goal of 100 percent of our organization being trained no later than October 2012. Thirty SHARP specialists and 40 victim advocates have received formal training. Community partnerships and alliances continue to be formed and monthly meetings take place for the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Committee and the Adjutant General Command Climate groups.

Finally, in conjunction with Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and with a goal to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence, we cordially invite you to attend



Chief Warrant Officer
Shelly Sizer



Mrs. Heather Mattson

a special presentation given by Detective Mark Gaddis, of the Bismarck Police Department. Gaddis will address the prevalence and effect of sexual assaults in our community, the process for investigating and prosecuting cases, myths versus facts of sexual assault, difficulties victims face and the civilian and military connection to sexual assaults. The presentation is 10:30-11:30 a.m. April 11 at the Raymond J. Bohn Armory theater.

For more information about this presentation or Sexual Assault Awareness Month, contact Chief Warrant Officer Shelly Sizer at 701-333-2359 or Mrs. Heather Mattson at 701-333-2264.

Ask!
... if friends
need help

Act!
... when
they do

Intervene!
... when you
see trouble

Additional Resources:

Department of Defense SAFE Helpline:
877-995-5247 or www.safehelpline.org

Right, Staff Sgt. Kevin A. Moore points out exercise locations on a map. He is one of several Soldiers who came from across the country for the Combat Engineer Advanced Leaders Course. Far right, Sgt. 1st Class Paul Deegan explains placement and use of a simulated explosive device prior to a night-time training scenario at Camp Grafton Training Center.



Story by
Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson
Joint Force Headquarters
Photos by
Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp
119th Wing

Although the sun set hours ago on the cool winter duty day for most Guardsmen, empty coffee cups await fresh brew and Monster energy drink cans litter wood tables in a Camp Grafton operations center. It's going to be a long day yet. A group of 17 Combat Engineer Advanced Leader Course students "got to sleep in" until 6 a.m. That wake-up call came nearly a dozen hours ago, though, and they still have another 15 or so hours to go.

Their instructors are in it for the long haul with them as they head into a series of situational training exercises that serve as the capstone for their training at the 164th Regional Training Institute in Devils Lake, N.D.

Sgt. 1st Class Nathan Reierson and Sgt. 1st Class Paul Deegan, course instructors, reported at 5 p.m. for the night shift on March 6. Just a few days prior, they were heading in at 4:30 a.m. for physical training with their students. Now, it will be well past that time hack before their duty day wraps up.

Besides 16 years of teaching experience at the RTI between them, the instructors bring a host of other skills to their classrooms. Reierson has deployed twice — once to Iraq with the 957th Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge) and once to Kosovo for Kosovo Force 12. Deegan has a year in Iraq under his rigger's belt — having served with Battery F of the 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery Battalion — and badges across his chest; he's qualified in Airborne and Air Assault. He was recently



named Instructor of the Quarter for the RTI, too.

1700 — The evening begins as students report to the operations center fresh from chow and ready to start planning their first after-dark mission.

"We go right off of the TLP (troop learning procedures) checklist as far as them getting a mission, issuing a warning order and so forth," Deegan says of how the night will progress.

1805 — As the students break for rehearsals, Reierson and Deegan head upstairs to brief two fellow instructors serving as oppositional forces on what will take place during the first mission, which involves the students setting up two traffic control points to screen for terrorist activity in the area.

"On the second one, stop short and shoot 'em," Reierson tells Staff Sgt. William Dion and Staff Sgt. Joshua Haugen, who teach an entry-level bridge crewmember course and enjoy moonlighting as the enemy.

1858 — Two minutes prior to their issued "no earlier than" mission start time, the students convoy to a simulated gate, climb out of the Humvees and fire test shots with their paintball weapons. It's how things would be done "in country," a phrase Reierson and Deegan will use repeatedly

Staff Sgt. Shane Amidon, of the Company C, 116th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, right, and Staff Sgt. Kevin A. Moore, move into position with their paintball weapons during the exercise.

through the night as they issue and evaluate missions that they want to reflect the real-world as much as possible.

1907 — Three minutes after rolling through a simulated IED hit, the students stretch out concertina wire and place orange road cones and glow sticks as they assemble their first TCP on Fire Break Road at Camp Grafton. For the next 39 minutes, they role-play there, searching a truck and its occupant and confiscating a weapon. Deegan moves throughout the TCP area, evaluating the exercise and answering questions.

2028 — Students have been on guard at the second TCP site for 34 minutes when the night is lit by a flare and a seven-minute firefight ensues.

2100 — Leadership from the first night mission begins an after-action review, discussing what happened, what went well and where they needed improvement.

"Got hit by an IED, driver's side, rear door. Felt like it was (expletive) real," says Staff Sgt. James Huggins, a student from South Carolina, not mincing words as he recapped the realism of the training.

Reierson quizzes the team as he and Deegan make notes on the evaluation forms. What procedures were in place for rear security? Was that briefed? If that had been Pvt. Snuffy in the back and not a noncommissioned officer, would things have gone the same? The students think, examine, respond and discuss.

2135 — As the AAR wraps up, the new set of leadership to be tested gets their mission brief. They'll need to clear an objective. They brief the mission back to Reierson to ensure it's understood, give their warning order to the class, and then start to plan how to accomplish the mission. In the meantime, leaders from the first group receive immediate feedback as the instructors evaluate them while asking what the students, too, thought of their performance.

2224 — Deegan grins as a student walks in with a list of requested supplies for the next mission. He had anticipated what they would do and just crafted a simulated water impulse charge with a couple of old IV bags, an artillery simulator and a modern demolitions initiator.

2240 — With a somber look on his face, Sgt. Michael Archer, of Idaho, declares the coffeepot is empty.

2337 — "They're talking through a lot of stuff, but I don't see a lot of walk-throughs," Reierson says to Deegan as they observe the students from a second-floor window. From experience, he knows rehearsing clearing a building will be imperative to mission success. Nonetheless, he lets the group continue planning as they see fit.

"Personally, I learn a lot more from a failure than a success," he says.

0006 — A vehicle-borne IED detonates as the group moves into the military operations in urban terrain training site at Camp. Loud music plays from a simulated mosque and a bright light casts deep shadows through the area as the group attempts to clear a building of potential insurgents. The instructors observe, occasionally shaking their heads and exchanging knowing looks. They had called it.

0100 — Back at Camp, the AAR begins.

"What was your level of comfort with the plan, Sgt. Abrams?" Reierson asks, hoping the students see their mistakes.

"We probably should've found some rooms and practiced some room clearing," Staff Sgt. Anthony Smith, of South



Carolina, chimes in.

Bingo.

"You always need to prepare, whether it's your first mission or your 100th mission," Reierson tells the group.

0135 — Round 3 of leaders for the night-time exercises accepts their mission — a squad-sized landing zone reconnaissance.

0315 — Warning order, planning, mission brief and rehearsals done, the squad moves out. They take small-arms fire but return unharmed to brief their findings.

0409 — The last AAR of the night missions begins, after which leaders are evaluated and the squad hits the barracks for a few hours of sleep.

0700 — After a couple of hours resting in his truck in the parking lot while the students sleep in the barracks, Deegan passes the torch to a fresh instructor when he returns for the morning missions. It's been 14 hours since Deegan and Reierson began their shift and they grab a nap.

In the meantime, the students wrap up their exercises and prepare to graduate. They're satisfied with the training, citing things they know now that they didn't before.

"The instructors here know what they're doing," Huggins says. ■



Top, Staff Sgt. Anthony Smith, of South Carolina, prepares for exercise conflict with his paintball weapon. Above, Staff Sgt. Gilbert Stamps, of the 442nd Engineer Company, Texas, left, raises his arms as he and other Soldiers rehearse exercise plans for a training scenario.

164th Regional Training Institute

Midnight Toil: RTI Instructors Lead All-Night Training

fr Interact With Us! YouTube

See more photos from this training exercise at <http://bit.ly/STXphotos>.

Video also is available at <http://bit.ly/STXvideo>

Sharing the Story

Guard Journalists Awarded for Stellar Communication Efforts



N.D. National Guard members working full-time in the Public Information Office and part-time in the field to tell the story of their fellow Soldiers and Airmen recently received a slew of awards from three media-related contests. Two of those competitions pitted them against their active-duty counterparts from around the world.

“Whether photo, video or feature news stories, our public affairs team continues to excel and produce high quality media products,” said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general. “The recent repeat national recognition in U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force and National Guard Bureau media competitions is definite proof of the quality of their products. I am proud of their efforts in telling the N.D. National Guard story.”

Keith L. Ware Competition

The top entries in commands across the entire U.S. Army compete against one another in this contest.

- Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson, 1st place in Story Series

U.S. Air Force Media Competition

The top entries in commands across the entire U.S. Air Force compete against one another in this contest.

- N.D. National Guard Public Affairs Office, 1st place, Initiatives in New Media

National Guard Bureau Media Contest

In order to qualify for the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force levels of competition, all N.D. National Guard entries needed to place in the National Guard Bureau Media Contest, which boasted more than 800 entries from across the United States.

- N.D. National Guard Public Affairs Office, 2nd place in Magazine-Format Publications, North Dakota Guardian, edited by Staff Sgt. Eric W. Jensen
- N.D. National Guard Public Affairs Office, 1st place in Air Guard Initiatives in New Media

Above, Master Sgt. Eric Johnson, of the 119th Wing, captures Guardsmen setting up flood protection April 9, 2011, during N.D. National Guard flood operations. Left, Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson, deputy public information officer for the N.D. National Guard, interviews Obert Tenold April 9, 2011, after he was evacuated from his rural Harwood, N.D., home, which was surrounded by floodwaters. The story Wieser Willson wrote following the rescue, “All Hands on Deck,” earned second place in the News Article category of the 2011 National Guard Bureau Media Contest.



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp



Courtesy Photo



Spc. Cassandra Simonton

- Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp: 2nd place in Photojournalism; 2nd place in Sports Photograph; 3rd place in News Photograph; 3rd place in Feature Photograph; 3rd place in Illustrative Photograph
- Master Sgt. Eric Johnson: 1st place in Television Feature Report
- Staff Sgt. Eric W. Jensen: 1st place in Photojournalism
- Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson: 1st place in Story Series; 2nd place in News Article
- Staff Sgt. Laura Bearfield: 1st place in Contribution by a Stringer (Writing)
- Staff Sgt. Nathanael Baardson: 2nd place in Video Field Production

View all of the winners and the winning entries online at <http://bit.ly/NDNGMediaWinners>.



Spc. Cassandra Simonton

Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, of Fargo, N.D., documents myriad activities through the lens of his camera, including flooding in Fargo on March 19, 2010. Lipp's efforts recently won a number of awards in the 2011 National Guard Bureau Media Contest. Top left, Staff Sgt. Laura Bearfield poses for a photo with children in Haiti April 19, 2011, during a mission there with her unit, the 191st Military Police Company. Bearfield's documentation of the mission, titled “Broadening Horizons,” placed first in the Contribution by a Stringer (Writing) in the 2011 National Guard Bureau Media Contest. Top right, Staff Sgt. Eric William Jensen, editor of the North Dakota Guardian magazine, documents flooding in Minot on April 15, 2011. Jensen leads the production of the monthly magazine for N.D. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, their Families and retirees.

Interact With Us!



Recently ranked the best social media presence in the entire U.S. Air Force, the N.D. National Guard features a slew of engaging, entertaining and informative products you won't want to miss.

YouTube

www.youtube.com/NDNationalGuard

About 370 videos and counting highlight the activities, training and success of N.D. Guardsmen and Families. You're sure to find someone you know featured and be entertained along the way. Nearly 350,000 video views can't be wrong.

Flickr

www.flickr.com/photos/NDGuard

A vast array of photos on the N.D. National Guard Flickr site is garnering literally millions of views. From historical images of deployments and missions to almost-daily updates of activities across the Guard, you'll see Soldiers, Airmen, Families and more.

Facebook

www.facebook.com/NDNationalGuard

This is where the action is at for the N.D. National Guard! Find out what news stories are running about N.D. Guardsmen. Read the latest news from the Public Affairs Office. Find out where the latest military discounts and military-friendly events are taking place. Get links to great new photos and videos. Interact with others with similar interests.

Twitter

www.twitter.com/NDNationalGuard

Get live feeds from Guard events you're unable to attend, quick news updates and more via text or online through the Guard's Twitter feed.

Google+

<http://gplus.to/NDNationalGuard>

If you're one of the millions of new users on Google+, you'll find the N.D. National Guard there, too, with stories and news updates on what interests you most.

Biathlon Team Sees Repeat Success During National Championships

For the second year in a row, the N.D. National Guard Biathlon Team placed third nationally. The team, comprised of Soldiers and Airmen from the state, competed against the best military teams in the nation in Vermont last month at the Chief of the National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships.

For the first time in N.D. National Guard history, three biathletes will be competing on the All-Guard Biathlon Team, a national-level team comprised of the best biathlon competitors across the entire Army and Air National Guard. Qualifying for the team, which often competes internationally, were Capt. Eric Nordgren, Tech. Sgt. Danelle Card and Pfc. Conrad Roberts, who soon left for Ljubljana, Slovenia, to compete with the team.

Card and 1st Lt. Robbie Meland, both first-year biathletes, placed third overall in each division and were ranked the top "Novice" biathletes in the competition. Nordgren brought home the team's best individual finish in the men's sprint race, placing fifth.

In the patrol race, the N.D. National Guard came out on top through the combined efforts of Nordgren, Roberts, Meland and Master Sgt. Kent Pulst. Their almost flawless marksmanship, a consistent trait for the North Dakota biathletes, again helped push them to the top.

Other N.D. biathletes who competed in the championships were Lt. Col. Dave Skalicky, Lt. Col. Jon Wutzke, Spc. Brandon Pulst and Spc. Jordan Becker.

Dokken Receives Purple Heart

After nearly nine years, a N.D. Army National Guard Soldier received a Purple Heart medal for wounds he sustained in Iraq in 2003. The honor was presented at a ceremony at the 164th Regional Training Institute at the Camp Grafton Training Center, Devils Lake, N.D., March 17.

Staff Sgt. Heith Dokken was honored in front of a crowd of friends and Family during the event. The Forest River, N.D., -native, resides in Devils Lake and works full-time at the Regional Training Institute as the medical operations noncom-



Courtesy Photo

Members of the 2011-12 N.D. National Guard Biathlon Team pose for a photo in Vermont March 2012 during the Chief of the National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships. Pictured (back row, from left) are Spc. Alex Droske, Spc. Brandon Pulst, Spc. Jordan Becker, Lt. Col. Jon Wutzke, Capt. Eric Norgren, Pfc. Conrad Roberts, (front row, from left) Lt. Col. David Skalicky, Sgt. 1st Class Kent Pulst, 1st Lt. Robbie Meland and Tech. Sgt. Danelle Card.

missioned officer.

Dokken served as a medic during Operation Iraqi Freedom with the Bismarck-based 957th Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge) from 2003-04. He was wounded July 1, 2003, near Ar Ramadi, while providing security by boat patrol on the Euphrates River. The day that Dokken took shrapnel from a mortar attack, another 957th Soldier also was wounded. Despite the numerous mortars hitting along the shoreline by his patrol, Dokken,

as one of the company's medics, treated the Soldier's wounds. The day marked the first occasion in which N.D. National Guard Soldiers were attacked during operations in the Global War on Terrorism.

Three Soldiers from the unit were killed in action during the deployment: Staff Sgt. Kenneth Hendrickson, Sgt. Keith Smette and Spc. Jon Fettig.

"We will always remember those Soldiers and their Families who have made the ultimate (Continued on page 19)



Staff Sgt. Eric W. Jensen

Staff Sgt. Heith Dokken, center, is joined by Gov. Jack Dalrymple and Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, at a Purple Heart medal presentation ceremony at the 164th Regional Training Institute at the Camp Grafton Training Center, Devils Lake, N.D., March 17.

Chaplain's Corner: Easter and the Friendship of God

By Chaplain (Maj.) James Cheney
119th Wing

"The disciple, who arrived first at the tomb, entered, saw and believed." — John 20:8

He washed my feet with water, drying them with a towel though I would spit in his face and scowl. He would place his body and blood on the tongue of my mouth. I would shout and curse at him. He soothed my sicknesses of body and soul. He was so kind while I plaited and pushed sharp thorn branches into his head and mind. I screamed with the others for his crucifixion, though he told me I had been forgiven.

Grudgingly, I let him drink vinegar for wine. He filled my cup overflowing with joy sublime. I slammed nails through the nerves in his wrists and he asked me to trust in his goodness, feeling their imprints. I watched his blood spill and drip to the ground. He knelt to lift me up from the blood stains I found. I betrayed him for a handful of silver coins. He changed my soul to gold with power. I had denied him before others, out of human respect and flattery. He claimed me as his own in reverence and fraternity. I cast dice for his tunic. He wouldn't let me



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Chaplain (Maj.) Maj. James Cheney, 119th Wing chaplain, gives an invocation during the presentation ceremony for the 119th Wing fourteenth U.S. Air Force Outstanding Unit Award Aug. 6 at the N.D. Air National Guard, Fargo, N.D. Cheney serves as the pastor at the North Dakota State University Newman Center, Fargo, N.D., and also is a licensed pilot.

gamble away life by my stubborn loathing.

I braced myself against the slab of his tomb, well-guarded. The stone, rolling back effortlessly, with the life he promised. I presumed this life was everything, yet he still wanted me as a friend.

May this Easter season bring for us all a grace of friendship with God to make us whole. ■

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(... continued from page 18) sacrifice," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general. "Today, we honor a Soldier who represents the essence of selfless service — a core Army value. Staff Sgt. Dokken embodies the strength and perseverance of our Soldiers and Airmen. When called upon, they continually meet the challenges placed in front of them through serving their communities, state and nation."

During his military career, Dokken estimates he's been to 54 countries during his 21 years of military service with the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Navy Reserve and the N.D. National Guard. This includes volunteering for deployments to Iraq in 2003 and again in 2006 to Afghanistan with the 1-188th Air Defense Artillery Security Forces (SECFOR).

The Purple Heart has a lengthy history and is the world's oldest military medal in continuous use. The original medal was initiated as the Badge of Military Merit by Gen. George Washington during the Revolutionary War in 1782. The Purple Heart, as we know it today, began in 1932

and has undergone changes and award criteria since Washington's time. It is awarded to any member of the U.S. Armed Forces who was wounded, killed or died from wounds from military action.

Aviation Unit Receives Alert for Possible Mobilization

A N.D. Army National Guard unit has received an alert notification for possible mobilization. The Bismarck-based Detachment 42 (Det. 42), Operational Airlift Support (OSA), has received a mobilization order for an upcoming mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and will deploy to Afghanistan in early 2013. This is the unit's third mobilization, which served in Afghanistan from Sept. 2004 until March 2005 and Djibouti, April 2009 to Feb. 2010.

Eight Soldiers will mobilize with Det. 42. This small but highly specialized aviation unit consists of one C-12 Huron aircraft. Their mission is to provide fixed wing aircraft of cargo and transport of

personnel in their area of operations.

The Soldiers were notified of their alert status by their leadership March 22.

The unit is led by Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mitchell Torgeson of Bismarck, N.D. Almost all of the Soldiers scheduled for this mission have deployed in the past.

Army Guardsmen Can Join the 'Long Gray Line'

Army National Guard Soldiers may apply and compete for admission to the United State Military Academy in West Point. A few pre-requisites include: be an unmarried U.S. citizen with no legal obligations to support dependents, a high school graduate and no older than 23-years-old on July 1 of the year entering West Point.

For more information, call Maj. Brian Wire, of the United State Military Academy, at 845-938-5730 or e-mail Brian.Wire@usma.edu or call Bill Prokopyk, N.D. National Guard, at 701-333-2129 or e-mail william.prokopyk@us.army.mil.



375 YEARS

1636 * 2011



Courtesy Photo

Soldiers from Company G, 1st North Dakota Volunteer Infantry Regiment, stand outside their living quarters in Malate, Philippines, during the first overseas wartime deployment for the National Guard in U.S. history in 1898. The North Dakota Regiment was comprised of 635 Soldiers who mobilized to the island to support a U.S. Army force of 10,000 Soldiers fighting the Spanish-American War. While Spain surrendered quickly after the onset of the war, the Soldiers faced new combatants in Filipino insurgents fighting for their independence, which also is known as the Philippine Insurrection. Seven Soldiers from the 1st North Dakota Regiment were awarded the Medal of Honor during the first year of the 10-year conflict. For more information about the history of the N.D. National Guard, go to <http://bit.ly/NDNGhistory>.