



NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN

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Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi.

On the Cover



815th Engineer Company (Horizontal) Soldier Spc. Richard Olson, foreground, digs a hole for a support post June 4 as Spc. Jason Jenkins and Sgt. Brent Hevelka work in the background on the site of a new walking bridge across the Sheyenne River in Fort Ransom, N.D. Members of the North Dakota National Guard's 815th Engineer Company are constructing a walking bridge over the river as part of an Innovative Readiness Training project. The Soldiers are the second group to devote two weeks to the site. See story on Pages 6-7. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing Public Affairs.

GUARD POSTS

Dispatches from the N.D. Guard Family



LT. COL.
ALAN R. HULL

119th Wing Safety Officer

TEXTING WHILE DRIVING (TWD): THE NEW DWI

Texting While Driving, or TWD, I might as well give it an acronym now, because it's here! It's coming on faster than driving while under the influence, or DWI. That is a sad statement to make. Texting while driving is becoming more of a killer than driving while intoxicated.

Statistics have shown that your reaction rates slow by 2-3 seconds when driving while impaired. Now, new statistics are showing that texting while driving are slowing reaction rates by 3-5 seconds. Face it: If you are texting while driving intoxicated, you might as well have just signed up for your next accident, because your chances have just doubled.

I can almost imagine what you're thinking now. I guess it's safer to drink and drive then text while driving. No! The point is that you are even more likely to get into an accident and not only hurt or kill yourself, but you are greatly increasing the chances of injuring an innocent bystander.

The rules and guidance we implement on the base — we hope you carry with you off base — texting while driving is not allowed. The example you set for yourself will be mimicked by your family members. By setting the example now, you pave the way forward for good habit patterns for your family to adopt. Needless to say, texting while driving is also prohibited statewide.

What text, in the name of your life, is so important that it cannot wait until you pull over or get to your destination to read or send it? None! However, you are betting your life and the lives of others that it is.

If you and your texts were really that important, you'd have a chauffeur driving you around so you could send and receive texts from the backseat of your limo. Are you really that important?

Have you been trained to multitask? Multitasking is the ability to "successfully complete" several tasks at one time. An example would be fighter pilots (and no, I am not a fighter pilot). They are trained for

a specific "multitasking" purpose, to defeat the enemy. The enemy is not that innocent bystander or motorist traveling in an opposite direction. Don't make the mistake of "friendly fire" with your vehicle when failing to successfully multitask.

I should know, I've been there before. I was multitasking once, or should I say attempting to multitask, one day on my motorcycle many years ago. I know what it's like to "attempt" multitasking, yet FAIL miserably at it. It's not worth it, nor is the life you take.

One day, my pet heard my motorcycle coming down the road and was excited to come out and meet me. As I turned onto my driveway, a bug flew into my left eye. My helmet was on, but my visor was up at the time. My right hand went up to my left eye to clear the bug out while decelerating. My pet came from my now blind side, my left, and ran in front of my motorcycle. I did not see my pet until I ran him over, felt the bump, and then stopped.

Having the burning sensation from the bug still in my eye, unable to still see clearly, I caught a glimpse of my pet. He was now to the right of my motorcycle slightly behind me, lying on his side, wheezing out of the lungs that I had just crushed. Talk about a sick, helpless feeling. My pet lay crushed by the front wheel of

my motorcycle, after my failed attempt at multitasking. Needless to say, my pet died. After 30 years, I still remember the event.

So will you, if one day you unsuccessfully attempt to multitask a text and run over something even more important than your beloved pet. Good luck trying to explain that one away before the judge, the parents, the family, the remaining brothers and sisters, the aunts, uncles and cousins you left a permanent hole in — let alone the images that will come back and haunt you for the rest of your life! Good luck with that one, and the text that was so important that you couldn't wait to write and send or receive and read!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan R. Hull".

Lt. Col. Alan R. Hull

Learn more about the rules of driving & texting in North Dakota www.dot.nd.gov/divisions/safety/docs/legislative-update.pdf



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Alan Hull, 119th Wing safety officer, center, discusses response efforts with Senior Master Sgt. Belinda Reep, left, and Senior Master Sgt. James Goodyear during a recent exercise at the N. D. Air National Guard, Fargo, N.D.

Christmas in June

Pre-Holiday Deployment Ends with Celebration for Happy Hooligans

By Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson
Joint Force Headquarters

Happy Hooligan Families celebrated Christmas in June when their loved ones returned from a six-month deployment to Southwest Asia last month. More than 50 Airmen with the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron deployed before the holidays last year, and a number of families decided to postpone their celebrations until they were all together again.

"It's great to be here to be able to welcome home a group of fine young men and women and thank them for all of their hard work during the past six months," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, who greeted the first group that arrived at Hector International Airport. "It's also a good opportunity to thank their families for their service and sacrifice through the holidays and the winter months while their Airmen served our great country."

While many arrived in Fargo by air June 14, Flag Day, the

remaining 17 had flight problems and completed their long trip home by bus from Minneapolis around 12:30 a.m. June 15.

"We knew we were finally going home (after the flight delay) when the gate agent in Minneapolis said over the intercom, 'Everyone going to Fargo, line up at Gate C26 to board the bus,'" said Staff Sgt. Jacob Backer.

By the time the last Airmen arrived home, they had been traveling for 63 hours, including an overnight stay in Baltimore.

In a mere six months, the Airmen racked up a long list of accomplishments that contributed to security and sustainment of the base. The Guardsmen maintained 633 facilities, 89 generators and 74 light carts. They also repaired eight miles of perimeter berm, installed four shower trailers, renovated a dining facility and eight other buildings, serviced 1,400 HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) units, rebuilt the main base entry to improve security, completed a \$1.6 million electrical distribution/substation project and completed another 20 construction projects valued at \$4 million. The Guardsmen also worked on airfield sustainment, repairing 28 airfield spalls and 8,000 feet of joints as well as repairing and maintaining 450 airfield lights. The group maintained two Mobile Aircraft Arresting Systems for safety.

"I think the mission in the last six months has been great. Our guys did a lot of hard work," said Lt. Col. Jon Wahlgren, who commanded the group during the deployment alongside Chief Master Sgt. Scott Terry, the senior enlisted leader. "We were involved in the teardown of the largest bed-down program in the AOR (area of responsibility) with the drawdown in Iraq (and) numerous construction



Staff Sgt. Anthony Rezac, of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron, is greeted by his tearful sister upon his return to Fargo June 14.

Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Teresa Terry, 119th Logistics Readiness Squadron



Master Sgt. David Wosick, of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron, left, gets some help with his luggage from his son as he is greeted by his family upon his return from southwest Asia to Fargo, N.D. June 14.

Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing Public Affairs

projects and works across the base, making improvements for not only several missions but also for everything at the location.”

He said the Airmen “received kudos” for their work from everyone on the base of all ranks.

It’s rare for the Air Guardsmen to deploy in such a large group as with this deployment, rather than a few at a time. With this return, about 20 N.D. Air National Guard members remain deployed overseas in Southwest Asia, Afghanistan, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. ■

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View photos of the Airmen’s return at <http://bit.ly/119CESreturn>.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing Public Affairs

Above, Master Sgt. Tyler Underdahl, of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron, gets a big hug from his daughter June 14 upon his return to Hector International Airport, Fargo, N.D. as he walks through a row of Patriot Guard members holding flags.

Left, Lt. Col. Jon Wahlgren, the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, right, is greeted by Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, the N.D. adjutant general, as Lt. Gov. Drew Wrigley looks on, upon Wahlgren’s return to Hector International Airport, Fargo, N.D.

Below, Tech. Sgt. Dennis Olsen, of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron, speaks to the civilian media about his deployment as he is greeted by his wife and children June 14 at Hector International Airport in Fargo.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing Public Affairs



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing Public Affairs

Left, Col. Rick Gibney, the 119th Wing commander, far right, greets 119th Civil Engineer Squadron Airmen as they arrive at the N.D. Air National Guard in Fargo, N.D. at 12:30 am June 15, after 63 hours of travel time from southwest Asia to get home. The bus was needed for the final leg from Minneapolis, Minn. because of commercial air weather diversions. Airmen seen here from left to right are, Staff Sgt. Jacob Backer, Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Roerick, and Staff Sgt. Travis Besette.



Photo by Darcie Besette



Bridging Training & Service

Engineers Restore Footbridge Access in Fort Ransom

Story by Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson
Joint Force Headquarters

For the past two years, visitors to this tiny southeastern town have asked about the walking bridge they've heard so much about.

"And we tell them, 'Well, it's over there, but you can't go on it because it's too dangerous.' Now that will be rectified," said James Thernes, mayor of Fort Ransom, N.D.

Since 1975, the bridge had been the focal point of the community, he said, as well as an important access for residents on

the town's south end. A tree lodged in an ice jam that slammed against the bridge in 2010 changed all of that. A \$10,000 FEMA grant looked like it would help, but it wasn't enough to replace the bridge, which was twisted and mangled.

Soon after becoming mayor two years ago, Thernes began looking for other options. He started by walking into the Lisbon armory since the unit's members had constructed the original bridge as training and community service more than three decades ago. Soon, he learned about Innovative Readiness Training projects — a program that provides Guardsmen with training while giving nonprofits and governmental agencies much-needed help.

"That's what the IRT concept is all about: It allows (Guardsmen) to get some incredible, quality training and to provide outstanding service to communities. This is a unique process that we get to do here in the National Guard as opposed to our active-duty counterparts; they don't have the ability to be able to do these types of projects," said Lt. Col. David Skalicky, Innovative Readiness Training manager for the N.D. National Guard.

In Fort Ransom, Guardsmen from the 815th Engineer Company (Horizontal) Detachment 2 out of Lisbon started work on the IRT project in May by disassembling the old bridge, erecting metal support beams on each side of the river, and then putting up bracing and decking boards. The main unit



Spc. Richard Olson, of the 815th Engineer Company, levels a post June 4 that will be used to support a new walking bridge across the Sheyenne River in Fort Ransom, N.D.

Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing Public Affairs

of the 815th, out of Edgeley, N.D., took over the mission at the beginning of June for a second two-week stint of annual training. The crew leveled the bridge deck, constructed handrails, put in a handicap-accessible ramp on the bridge's north side and, on the south end, built a platform large enough for a wheelchair to turn around. The new bridge also sits three feet higher than the former bridge, further distancing the bottom from any potential flood hazards below.

While a mere 77 people populate Fort Ransom, the nearby state park and annual events — from Sodbuster Days to the Sheyenne Valley Arts and Crafts Association Fall Festival — draw thousands more to the community.

Thernes, who has checked in daily on the project, was thrilled with how it was progressing.

“The Guard has been excellent to work with,” he said in early June as he stood on the north end of the bridge, observing the work. “They’ve done a dynamite job. I’m happy as a kid in a candy shop, to be honest with you.”

The road to bridge fruition wasn’t a short one. Thernes needed to file an extensive application packet through the N.D. National Guard that included a wealth of permits clearing the project, from historical preservation to wildlife management to the water board. In the meantime, a Guard committee reviewed his project scope, plans and funding availability, as well as whether the necessary skill sets and training time were available within the Guard. They also checked with the contractor’s association to ensure the project did not take away from what a contractor could do locally. Once those boxes were checked, the project plan moved up the chain for approval at the Department of Defense level, a process that can take three to six months.

Once the lengthy procedure was complete, both sides were anxious to move forward.

“Every one of the Soldiers will tell you this is the type of training they absolutely love to do,” Skalicky said. “It serves the community. It’s actually flood-repair oriented, but for them it’s incredible skill training — and, it’s fun!”

Capt. Collin Kappenman, the 815th Engineer Company commander, sees IRTs as more than training and community service.

“What’s very nice about it is we’re able to see, from a command level — in a small, squad-sized element — how they’re able to work together,” he said. “... It’s really given us a great assessment tool to see how they are ... in an unfamiliar environment to be able to accomplish a mission this complex.”

While N.D. National Guard engineers aren’t strangers to construction, most have never built a structure over a moving body of water. Kappenman and others examined numerous risk assessments and mitigation factors to ensure the safest working environment for the Guardsmen, including a safety line in the water, designated life guard, life preservers on site and harnesses secured to safety ropes, in addition to the hardhats and safety glasses common in construction work.

Both Thernes and the Guardsmen said the finished project is a thing of pride.

“This is something the guys are going to be able to bring their families to ... they like projects like this,” Anderson said.

Kappenman agreed.

“This is really showing where their heart comes into play and wanting to do this for the community and do it right and do it



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing Public Affairs

Above, 815th Engineer Company Soldier Sgt. Jason McKenney tightens a bolt into place for a walking bridge handrail support June 4 above the Sheyenne River in Fort Ransom.

Below, Fort Ransom, N.D., Mayor James Thernes thanks Capt. Collin Kappenman, 815th Engineer Company commander, for the work being done by N.D. National Guard Soldiers as they construct a new walking bridge across the Sheyenne River in Fort Ransom.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing Public Affairs

safe for future generations,” he said. “... This will end up being a landmark for Fort Ransom.”

North Dakota Guardsmen have completed about 20 IRT projects since 2005, although severe flooding in recent years put a halt to many projects. ■



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View more photos of the engineers in action at <http://bit.ly/FortRansomPhotos>.

Watch video and interviews from the bridge site at <http://bit.ly/NiV2Zn>

Fishing Frenzy

Military Youth Learn, Fish at Lake Sakakawea Camp

Story and Photos by Sgt. Sara Marchus,
116th Public Affairs Detachment

Military youth spent 3 fun-filled days learning the ins and outs of fishing. The N.D. Game and Fish Department partnered up with the N.D. National Guard Child and Youth Program to provide a fishing experience that was both instructive and filled with fun. The Military Youth Fish Camp took place from June 6-8 at the Camp of the Cross, just outside of Garrison, N.D., on Lake Sakakawea.

Each day was filled with new activities and learning opportunities. Game Warden Tim Larson introduced boating and fishing safety rules and regulations as well as water safety and a lifejacket demonstration. The children excitedly participated, raising their hands to ask and answer questions. The participants main concerns focused on the allowable limit of fish they could catch. The kids had big plans of emptying Lake Sakakawea.

N.D. Game and Fish representatives and volunteers offered lessons in fish identification, fish



Brittany Fish, right, shows Hannah Miller the different parts of a Catfish during the 2012 Military Youth Fish Camp at Lake Sakakawea.



Manasseh Pauling shows off his 9 pound, 6 ounce Northern Pike, the biggest catch at the 2012 Military Youth Fish Camp on Lake Sakakawea.

dissection, baiting hooks, casting, filleting fish and of course, catching fish. Jeff Long, N.D. Game and Fish Department aquatic education coordinator said, "Our goal is to create anglers and give them a lifelong appreciation for the fishing heritage." Their focus is to teach the kids to be responsible, resourceful, and knowledgeable all while being ethical and safe.

The camp hosted 18 eager youth, who partnered with squad leaders, Game and Fish employees and several Lure 'Em For Life volunteers. The program consists of approximately 100 volunteers and focuses on fishing education. The volunteers bring their personal equipment; rods, reels, tackle, and even their own boats to provide the campers with all they need to have a successful fishing experience. Lynn Kieper, Lure 'Em For Life 2012 Camp Director said, "We want to teach them when they are young so they learn lifelong skills. This year was great; everything went really well."

Dee Lamay, a team building facilitator from West Kingston, R.I., was also present and had daily exercises for the youth. Lamay previously worked with N.D. military youth at the 2012 TAG Symposium and had such a great time, she was pleased to return. Her intent is to teach people to push themselves and to learn about themselves. On the last day she said that, "Of all the camps I've ever done, this was my favorite. The kids were so fun, kind and smart and they were so willing to help each other."

On the final day of camp, everyone was treated to a fish fry. All 18 kids had successfully caught a fish! There was more than enough for the evening meal and all kids were instructed to catch and release anything more caught that afternoon. Beth Sandeen, the Lead Child and Youth Program Coordinator, said, "The kids loved it. They learned so much without even knowing it and they had an opportunity to meet other military youth." Since this event was such a success, Sandeen has already begun the planning process for next year's event, so stay tuned to get your kids involved. ■



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photos located at: www.flickr.com/photos/ndguard/sets/72157630044563655/



Chris Padilla, a N.D. Department of Transportation construction service manager and event volunteer, right, operates the "the convincer," which is designed to demonstrate what a collision feels like at a relatively slow 5 miles-per-hour. Even the slow speed impact is able to demonstrate the need for a seatbelt for the inexperienced drivers.

Driving Force

Guard, DOT Stress Vehicle Safety to Youths

The N.D. Department of Transportation (NDDOT), in partnership with the North Dakota National Guard, Cass County Sheriff's Department and Luther Family Ford of Fargo, held a "Driving Skills for Life" event at the North Dakota Armed Forces Reserve Center, Fargo, N.D., June 9 for approximately 65 drivers between the ages of 14 and 18.

The event was created to help young drivers be better prepared for real-world driving. N.D. National Guard members volunteered to support the informational booths and interactive stations. Activities for participants included, ride and drive exercises to target distracted and impaired driving, traffic safety activity stations with interactive learning experiences, and a photo opportunity with the "Seat Belt Convincer."

Photos by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing Public Affairs



Tech. Sgt. Tina Sly, a 119th Wing recruiter, visits with young drivers about opportunities in the North Dakota Air National Guard.



Master Sgt. Samantha Judge, of the 119th Operations Group, center, prepares drivers to receive text messages on their phones while they drive in a controlled environment to demonstrate the dangers of distracted driving.



Sgt. Todd Otto, of the 816th Engineer Company, who is also an insurance agent, operates a device that obstructs go-cart operation to simulate impaired driving conditions for young drivers.

GUARDIAN

Snapshots

Photo by Sgt. Brett Miller, 116th Public Affairs Detachment



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Johnson leads the families of the fallen Soldiers at the Global War on Terrorism Memorial outside of Fraine Barracks. The families participated in a candlelight vigil to honor their loved ones to close out the activities for the Sacrifice for Freedom event in Bismarck, N.D., May 23.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Bradly Schneider, 119th Wing Public Affairs

United States Senator John Hoeven, from North Dakota, speaks to members and local media about the need for the C-27J Spartan mission at the North Dakota Air National Guard, Fargo, N.D. June 9, during a visit by United States Senator John McCain, from Arizona, second from right. Gov. Jack Dalrymple, right and Congressman Rick Berg, left, are also present.

Photo by Sgt. Brett Miller, 116th Public Affairs Detachment



Alona Gottschalk, a family friend of Jane Yanney, takes a moment to remember Pfc. Jonathan Yanney who was killed in action in Afghanistan on August 18, 2009. Gottschalk participated in a candlelight vigil to honor their loved ones for the Sacrifice for Freedom event in Bismarck, N.D. on May 23, 2012.

Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, adjutant general for the N.D. National Guard, sits with members of the North Dakota Legislature during the 2012 legislative day at Camp Grafton Training Center near Devils Lake, N.D. on June 20, 2012. Seated beside the general are N.D. State Representatives Karen Karls (District 35), Ralph Metcalf (District 24) and Alon Wieland (District 13). Below are N.D. State Senator Margaret Sittle (District 35) and N.D. State Representative Lonny B. Winrich (District 18). Seated in the first row are N.D. State Senators Donald Schaible (District 31) and Dave Oehlke (District 15).



Photo by Sgt. Tyler Sletten, 116th Public Affairs Detachment, N.D. National Guard



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dave Dodds, 141 Maneuver Enhancement Battalion

Above, Spc. Michael D. Hons, Grand Forks, a member of the 191st Military Police Company, holds the Flag high as he passes an image of Sgt. Nathan "Nate" Goodiron, a North Dakota National Guard Soldier who was killed on Thanksgiving Day 2006 in Afghanistan. Hons is followed by 191st MP Spc. Mitchell R. Eidsvold, Moorhead, Minn., who offers a salute to Goodiron's image. Hons and Eidsvold were among marchers, runners and walkers who participated in a 12K Fall Soldiers event that took place June 23 on Camp Grafton, N.D.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steve Uhrhaver, M.D. National Guard

Above, State Command Sgt Maj. Harley Schwind salutes as the flags are raised to full staff during the 2012 Memorial Day Ceremony at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery on May 28. About 1,500 people attended the annual event.



Photo by Sgt Ann Knudson, N.D. National Guard Joint Force Headquarters

Adeline Reis looks at her son's name honored among the plaques depicting 24 names at the Memorial to the Fallen in the Global War on Terrorism in Bismarck, N.D., prior to marching to the N.D. Veterans Cemetery. Over 100 participants marched in the 2012 Memorial Road March on June 10 in remembrance of all service members killed in action in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). The march also honors all of the military members currently serving and Veterans. The nine-mile march began at the Memorial to the Fallen in the Global War on Terrorism and ended at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery.

Right, Col. Kent Olson, the 119th Wing vice-commander, right, congratulates Staff Sgt. Brittany Schulz, of the 119th Operations Support Squadron, as she is presented her Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) associates degree for information management. Twenty-two Happy Hooligans qualified for their CCAF degree during the June 3 unit training assembly, and 14 were present to accept them in person. The degree program is sponsored by the N.D. Air National Guard base training and education office with assistance from the first sergeants.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing Public Affairs

TAPS

It's All About the Connection

Story and Photos By Staff Sgt. Billie Jo Lorius
116th Public Affairs Detachment

The national Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) took place May 25-28 in Washington, D.C., over Memorial Day. This year, North Dakota sent 23 family members to the annual event, while four other family members with North Dakota ties from the Washington, D.C., area joined the group at the event. The total number of North Dakota attendees has reached 171 since first sending people in 2005.

Besides bringing family members, North Dakota is the only state that also brings a support staff that includes a chaplain, 3 social workers and 3 staff that help direct and coordinate the TAPS process. Many times, those attending TAPS from other states will reach out to North Dakota staff to help with emotional issues or a helping hand when feeling alone.

Lt. Col. Davina French, who has attended several TAPS events, said the support staff is an essential element to ensure the families are being taken care of and someone is always there for them. "It's something that North Dakota has become known for at TAPS. The support and caring leadership not only from the military, but also the community, shows that the state of North Dakota will always be grateful for the sacrifices our military families have endured."



During TAPS, an annual event called Rolling Thunder in which thousands of Veterans ride their motorcycles to the Vietnam Memorial. It's a display of patriotism and comradeship. Since 2002, Staff Sergeant Tim Chambers in full dress uniform has stood at attention in the middle of the street holding a continuous salute for every biker in the procession, which lasts more than four hours. He decided in 2002 that he wanted to show his respect, so he spontaneously stepped into the road to salute to the riders, which has now become an annual event. Chambers said, "It's about the pain. A lot of these heroic guys still hurt and if I can relieve their pain for just one brief moment, then I've done my job."

Nationally, TAPS has worked with more than 35,000 surviving family members, casualty assistance officers, chaplains, and others supporting bereaved military families. TAPS has helped more than 22,000 people since 9/11.

Funds donated to the North Dakota Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivor funds are used specifically to fund survivor families that have a North Dakota relationship. Funds donated to the national TAPS organization are used nationally.

French said that TAPS is all about connection. "I'm a connector. My role, my heart, my story is with these people. It validates my existence as a Soldier that people do continue on. There is no other place where emotions can be expressed, the good and the bad, without shame."

Three Soldiers were killed in 2003 during her deployment to Iraq as the commander of the 957th Engineer Company (Multi-role Bridge). Participating in TAPS with the families of the fallen is part of her grieving process. "I think it's part of who I am. Sometimes it helps ease the guilt. It's hard to explain, but I couldn't help the Soldiers that died, but I can do something to help the families."

Donna Ray, of Fargo, attended TAPS this year along with her husband, daughter and son and grandson. Her son, Sgt. Adam Ray was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2010 as he was serving in the Global War on Terror fight. TAPS focuses on helping people grieve, but letting them grieve in their own way in order to see beyond the loss, remember the sacrifice and celebrate a life. "I get

Left, Capt. Janet Masseth, N.D. National Guard, is serving as a mentor during the TAPS "Good Grief Camp" that is structured for peer mentoring of children who are military survivors. TAPS is a national event that unites military families from across the country to participate in events tailored to help survivors grieving the loss of a loved one who died while serving our country.

to see my kids doing things with others that are going through similar situations. Together we are grieving and connecting with other families,” said Ray.

“Here I feel like I’m not the only one; and there is comfort in that. It breaks my heart to see the little kids here without their moms or dads – I see how real it is.

“We are an open family and we talk about Adam, but there’s something different here. When we come to TAPS, it allows us to feel, to open up about the grief and talk about how much we hurt. Not only are we connecting with others, we are connecting as a family.”

Many families who attend TAPS are beyond patriotic and hold the military near and dear to their hearts and their lives. “Being in the military is the most honorable profession anyone can choose. My heart trembles with pride when I see someone in uniform,” said Ray, echoing a sentiment seen throughout the events within TAPS.

To help heal, many family members do things to honor the memories of their loved ones. Ray has begun a program called “Say the Names Out Loud,” with a goal to have all the names of the fallen written down on banners so that people never forget the sacrifices that were made.

This year’s TAPS events included grieving seminars, networking, a speech about loss from Vice President Joe Biden, Memorial Day ceremonies at Arlington Ceremony that included a speech by President Barack Obama.



Trevor and Amber Hendrickson, son and daughter-in-law of Staff Sgt. Kenneth Hendrickson who died in 2004 in Iraq, share a moment on May 25, 2012. The event was part of the annual TAPS event, which coincides with Memorial day observation. TAPS is a national event that unites military Families from across the country to participate in events tailored to help survivors grieving the loss of a loved one who died while serving our country.

Right, Hailee McCormick, daughter of Cpl. Curtis Mehrer, who was killed in action June 6, 2006 in Iraq, was selected to place the national TAPS wreath made of hand prints from all the children going through the TAPS Good Grief Camp to help children through the loss of their loved ones. Hailee placed the wreath at the “Tomb of the Unknowns” at Arlington Cemetery during the Memorial Day remembrance ceremony that included a speech by President Barack Obama.



Above, Chris Mitchem, of Fargo, nephew to Adam Ray, U.S. Army, speaks with a Marine after the Marine Corps Evening Parade on May 25, 2012. TAPS is a national event that unites military Families from across the country to participate in events tailored to help survivors grieving the loss of a loved one who died while serving our country.

During the Memorial Day ceremony, Hailee McCormick, daughter of Cpl. Curtis Mehrer, who was killed in action June 6, 2006, in Iraq, was selected to place the national TAPS wreath made of hand prints from all the children going through the TAPS Good Grief Camp to help children through the loss of their loved ones. Hailee placed the wreath at the “Tomb of the Unknowns” at Arlington Cemetery during the Memorial Day remembrance ceremony.

Bernadette Ternes, a social worker who has been to several national TAPS events, said, “For me, I appreciate the families allowing me to share their in their journey and to celebrate the life of their loved ones. In being able to do that, it’s a healing experience. If I can help contribute to that healing in any way – that fulfills not only my job, but who I am as a person.”

There is a gaping hole when a loved one dies. Where families once held love ones, they are now left empty. TAPS helps fill that emotional hole with life – through camaraderie, understanding, love and support from others who are going through similar life situations. It’s so the memories that once were, can now live again. ■



Learning the Drill

Recruits show friends what wearing the uniform entails

Story and Photos by Sgt. Tyler Sletten,
116th Public Affairs Detachment

More than 125 recruits with the North Dakota Army National Guard's Recruit Training Battalion participated in the annual consolidated "Bring a Buddy to Drill" June 8-10 at Camp Grafton Training Center near Devils Lake, N.D. The North Dakota Guard maintains recruit training companies, in Bismarck, Fargo and Devils Lake.

The purpose of recruit training companies, or RTCs, is to give recruits who haven't left for basic combat training a chance to train on the skills they will learn while at basis training. By giving the recruits the opportunity to train in a realistic environment it eliminates some of the initial shock of basic training helping them to better focus on the mission at hand - becoming Soldiers.

The focus of the annual consolidated drill is bringing together all three RTCs in combined training while utilizing the many features and training opportunities available at Camp Grafton. The consolidated drill also strongly encourages recruits to bring a friend to drill. Isaac Nics, 17, of Ashley, N.D. said, "It was a great experience and definitely gave me a better understanding of what the Guard is like."

This year, a record 61 guests accompanied the recruits to Camp Grafton to participate in the training.

The trainees and guests arrived at Camp Grafton on Friday after being bused in from Fargo and Bismarck. The training day began Saturday with a Army wake-up call at 3:50 a.m.

Immediately after morning formation, the troops and guests were marched to an open area for morning stretching and warm-ups before taking an "APFT" or the Army Physical Fitness Training test. Most attendees that morning participated in the 1-1-1, or one minute of push-ups, one minute of sit-ups and a timed one-mile run. However, those participating in Best Warrior Competition were graded on the standard Army PT test of two minutes of push-ups, two minutes of sit-ups and a timed two-mile run.

After freshening up, Soldiers and guests were rotated through several stations throughout Camp Grafton. Some started at the simulated shooting range in which participants wield M16 and M4 rifles retrofitted with pneumatic systems to simulate recoil. The rifles have lasers attached to project trajectory against a large screen.

Others began their day on the paintball course. Soldiers and guests were briefed on combat and communication tactics before heading into the woodline to face an unknown enemy force. The focus of the exercise, besides fun, was to demonstrate the need for proper and clear communication on the battlefield.

After a classic Army lunch of MREs, or Meals Ready to Eat, groups were moved to other areas including the glass house. The glass house is a building with clear walls so spectators can



Pfc. Trisha Morrell, Mandan, N.D., takes her first step off the rappel tower during the 2012 "Bring a Buddy to Drill" weekend at Camp Grafton Training Center, N.D.

monitor their movements and tactics. It was there that the guests and troops learned proper team movement and room clearing techniques complete with "rubber duckies," realistic rubber M16 rifle mockups.

Finally, all attended the rappel tower. The tower platform stands at 34 feet and is perhaps the most frightening, or thrilling, for both recruits and guests. Troops ascend the tower via internal ladder before emerging in the prairie wind amid the open topped platform. Prior to this movement, guests and Soldiers were instructed on how to tie their own "Swiss Seat," a harness made of rope, tied around the waist and legs of the body. (It should be noted that Swiss Seats are not designed so much for comfort as it is for safety.) Back up on the tower the recruits are roped into their home-made harnesses and lower themselves off the wall before bounding safely down to wall to their awaiting friends.

Sgt. 1st Class Marvin Beck summed up the event by saying, "It gave the recruits an idea of what basic training environment is like and the guests an opportunity to check out a Guard drill before joining. It was a very successful weekend from the feedback that I received from the recruits and guests."



Recruits and guests take fighting positions during the paintball course at the 2012 "Bring a Buddy to Drill" weekend at Camp Grafton, N.D. Recruits were able to familiarize themselves with battle techniques used by National Guardsmen.

Right, Rappel Master Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Manning demonstrates an advanced head-first rappel technique used to give a Soldier a lower profile to a structure in order to enter a building from above undetected by the enemy during annual training at Camp Grafton, N.D. June 6, as Staff Sgt. James Jefferson assists from above.

Below, Spc. Ryan Greicar, of the 3662nd Component Repair Company, enters a building in the military operations in urban terrain (MOUT) training, during annual training at Camp Grafton, N.D., June 6. The training teaches Soldiers to clear buildings and maneuver around obstacles. The Soldiers in the 3662nd Component Repair Company also conducted roll over trainer, convoy simulation, land navigation, black out and night vision driver training, convoy operations and rappel tower techniques during the June 1-16 annual training period.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steve Urlacher, 3662nd Component Repair Company



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steve Urlacher, 3662nd Component Repair Company

Hooah Opportunities

Units Increase Training as Summer Begins

Below and right, members of the 957th Engineer Company (Multi-role Bridge) Company conduct bridging training on the Missouri River at Kimball Bottoms near Bismarck, North Dakota, June 2. The training consists of Soldiers deploying boats and bridge bays into the river to form bridges in the water.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brett Miller, 116th Public Affairs Detachment



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brett Miller, 116th Public Affairs Detachment

Respectful Retirement

Guard Members Hold Ceremony to Retire Old Flags

By Capt. Penny Ripperger
119th Wing

While most people are still doing last-minute preparations the day before the 4th of July, Senior Master Sgt. Susie Schroeder is already in the midst of celebration, honoring a steadfast tradition that has taken place for about a decade with her family and friends.

“We call it our annual 3rd of July Celebration. It started about

ten years ago. We had all these tattered flags in the garage at the lake, and family and friends had some too. No one knew what to do with them, so I told them to bring them down and we would have a flag retirement ceremony,” said Schroeder.

And as Susie says, “The rest is history!”

The gathering takes place at her family’s lake home on Pelican Lake in Minnesota and it has varied in size through the years.

“It depends on the day of the week July 3rd falls on and the weather. Some years only about 20 people showed up, other years I think there were almost 70 people,” said Schroeder.

Everyone who attends is encouraged to wear patriotic colors. From feather boas to flashing red, white and blue cowboy hats, people come to celebrate in their own patriotic way.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing Public Affairs

Title 4, U.S. Code Chapter 1 -- The Flag, Sec. 8. Respect for flag

-STATUTE-

No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America; the flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, State flags, and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor.

(a) The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.

(b) The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.

(c) The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.

(d) The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. It should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free. Bunting of blue, white, and red, always arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle, and the red below, should be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping the front of the platform, and for decoration in general.

(e) The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.

(f) The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.

(g) The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.

(h) The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.

(i) The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.

(j) No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.

(k) The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.



Courtesy Photo

Long-time 119th Wing honor guard participant Senior Master Sgt. Susan Schroeder, right, works with Sherry Farwell at folding a tattered old flag for retirement prior to a flag ceremony July 3, 2009, at Pelican Lake, Minn.

Schroeder explained how the celebration typically begins with playing patriotic music, 'God Bless the USA,' is one of the staples of this tradition.

"Each year our program has grown. My sister Lori comes up with some great ideas and outlines the program each year. Last year, the kids said the Pledge of Allegiance, my niece sang and all the Air Guard members recited the Air Force Creed," said Schroeder.

They have also started dedicating the flag retirement portion of the ceremony to people who have passed.

"This year it will be dedicated to our dear friend Dick, who was able to attend for the first time last year, and to my mother who passed away in May," said Schroeder.

"Every year my mom always made sure she bought tons of red, white and blue trinkets for the kids to wear; from flashing pins, to flashing earrings, the brighter the better! She will be missed, she was such a supporter of this celebration," Schroeder added.

The flags are retired one at a time in the fire pit, with patriotic music playing to emphasize the significance of the act. The individuals who specifically take part in the actual retirement of the flags also changes each year.

"It started with military members, then the kids took a turn, last year it was the spouses or family members who had the opportunity to retire the flags. We want everyone to have a chance to participate," she said.

Although changes are made to the program and the participating members may vary from year to year, Schroeder said that some things do remain the same: the fact that there is never a dry eye during the ceremony and this event has produced a patriotic bond between everyone who attends.

"At our first ceremony, I taught my nieces, Skyler and Shelby (daughters of Ret. Lt. Col. Diane Moderow), and Taylor and Garret, children of Senior Master Sgt. Mike Rix, all who were around the ages of 9 and 7 years old, how to fold and retire the flags. Now both Skyler and Taylor serve in the N.D. Air National Guard, and Shelby and Garrett are planning on enlisting," she said.

Following an emotional, yet inspirational ceremony, the next phase of the celebration begins in true 'Independence Day' fashion.

"BANG! Off goes all the fireworks," laughed Schroeder.

The family spares no expense, typically spending about \$1,200 on fireworks each year. Schroeder explained that everyone - family, friends and friends of friends depend on them to put on a good show.

Its meaning continues to last in the hearts of everyone who takes part, young and old. Looking at the next generation, she knows the significance of this patriotic holiday will hold true with her own daughter, Gracie, who is 7 years old.

"It means a lot to me not only to honor our country, but to also instill the importance of this holiday with our next generation. I am proud to be part of this ceremony and I hope that someday Gracie will continue this with her children," she said. ■



Left, Long-time 119th Wing honor guard participant Senior Master Sgt. Susan Schroeder, far end, teaches children how to properly fold a flag for retirement prior to a flag ceremony July 3, 2008, at Pelican Lake, Minn.

Courtesy Photo

Happy Hooligans to Train During 4-Day Exercise

The 119th Wing will take part in a four-day unit training assembly exercise Aug. 9-12 at the Fargo Air base. The training will start with regular duty training and end with exercise refit and clean-up, but the middle two days will feature a variety of Phase II exercises.

Airmen will participate in simulated ground and air attacks, both with and without biological or chemical agent exposure. The FPCON (Force Protection Conditions) will fluctuate from Alpha to Delta levels during the course of the training. Guardsmen also will practice self-aid and buddy care.

Thursday, Aug. 9 will be an exercise preparation day.

The exercise will kick off on Friday, Aug. 10 through Saturday, Aug. 11, and Sunday, Aug. 12 will be clean-up day.

Unit members should arrive with a good attitude and be ready for various scenarios testing their units ability to survive and operate under attack.

The scenarios may require various levels of mission oriented protective posture (MOPP) levels.

Personnel are reminded to keep the 'Airman's Manual' handy.

Watch the next issue of the Guardian for photos from the exercise.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing Public Affairs

From left to right 119th Medical Group personnel Senior Airman Samantha Manning and Airman 1st Class Alison Hest take vital signs, of simulated exercise attack victim Capt. Penny Ripperger May 14, 2011, during an operational readiness exercise (ORE) at the N.D. Air National Guard, Fargo, N.D. The Fargo ANG base will be taking part in a phase 2 ORE involving the ability to survive and operate (ATSO) scenarios during the August 9-12 unit training assembly.

188th Army Band Prepares for Summer Concert Series

The N.D. Army National Guard's 188th Army Band will perform in a series of concerts around the state during its two-week annual training, which begins later this month. The concerts celebrate the band's 125th anniversary and will incorporate a piece commissioned specifically for the band.

The concerts include:

- 7 p.m. July 30 at Elmwood Park in West Fargo in conjunction with a West Fargo Park District ice cream social
- 1 p.m. Aug. 4 at the Town Square Farmers Market, on Third Street and Demers Avenue in Grand Forks, for Military Appreciation Day
- 7 p.m. Aug. 5 at Scandinavian Heritage Park, 1020 S. Broadway in Minot, as part of the Council of the Arts' Arts in the Park series
- 7 p.m. Aug. 6 at Virgil Syverson Harmon Park Performance Center on Main Avenue and 11th Street West in Williston
- noon Aug. 7 the Ceremonial Band will play at the Adjutant General's Courtyard at Fraine Barracks in Bismarck
- noon Aug. 7 the Jazz Combo will play in support of the 7th annual Farmers Market, State Capitol, Bismarck
- 7 p.m. Aug. 7 the Jazz, Stage and Concert bands will play at Custer Park, 321 W. Thayer Ave., Bismarck
- 7 p.m. Aug. 8 at the North Dakota Veterans Home, Lisbon
- 7 p.m. Aug. 9 at the Chahinkapa Zoo band shelter, Second Street and Seventh Avenue North, Wahpeton
- noon Aug. 10 Ceremonial Band performance at the VA Medical Center, 2101 N. Elm St., Fargo
- noon Aug. 10 'Three Time Rule' and 'Blues in Green' ensembles will perform



Photo by Sgt. Ann Knudson, N.D. National Guard

The N.D. National Guard's 188th Army Band Brass Quintet performs "Amazing Grace" during the 2012 Memorial Day Ceremony at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery May 28. About 1500 people attended the annual event.

in downtown Fargo as part of a Brown Bag Concert Series

In addition to the concerts, band members will serve as North Dakota State University's resident band during the school's Symposium on Music Education from Aug. 1-3.

Scholarships for Sons and Daughters

Fourteen sons and daughters of North Dakota military members are finding the way to college a little easier. They were awarded \$1,000 scholarships, from 'North Dakota Dollars for Scholars' in April. This scholarship is reserved specifically for full-time students who are dependents of North Dakota military members.

This year's recipients are Kasandra Cariveau, Chelsea Erickson, and Samantha Holly from Bismarck; Taylor Brenneman, Andrew Dosch, Julia Lemke, and Nicholas Schulz from Fargo; Devon Cote from Hillsboro; Jamie Bartlett from Steele; Lindsey Sherman from LaMoure; Aubrey Quintus from Mandan; Sarah DeSpiegelaere from Minot; Mason Haley from New Rockford; and Jarad Wolf from New Salem.

Students from the first graduating class of Judge Ronald R. Davies High School, Fargo, N.D., walk through the line to receive their diplomas June 9 at the Fargo Dome. The North Dakota Dollars for Scholars program is helping dependents of N.D. military members to go on to college by awarding \$1,000 scholarships. See website www.nddfs.org for more information about future scholarship opportunities.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing Public Affairs

Tom Kenville of Horace spearheaded the fund raising effort for the scholarships. As a retired Air Force and Air Guard member, he understands the stresses placed on military families. "Helping young people pay for higher education is so important," shares Mr. Kenville. "The military scholarship fund through 'North Dakota Dollars for Scholars' is an excellent way to touch military Families statewide."

The NDDFS Military Scholarship Fund was established in 2010 with the foresight and leadership of the city of

Fargo which truly appreciates and values the distinguished efforts of the city's and state's military Families. The fund accepts donations at www.nddfs.org.

North Dakota Dollars for Scholars Executive Director Laura Entzel states, "The Families express such heartfelt gratitude for the generosity of others in contributing to this fund. We strongly encourage people to consider donations to this, and other NDDFS opportunities, so we can make the difference for someone achieving his or her dream of higher education."

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Hearing God

By Chaplain (Capt.) Brock A. Sailer
Camp Grafton Training Center,
231st Brigade Support Battalion

Wouldn't it be nice to be able to speak directly to God like some of the people in the Bible did long ago? Wouldn't it be nice to have direct access to God and know more of what He is like, what He thinks of you, and find straight out what He wants you to be doing with your life? There are times where we take some blows in life and we think to ourselves, "If anytime I needed an audible word from God, it would be now." There are times when I am so confused on what to do next and I long for divine intervention.

The desire to see God more clearly and know Him more dearly is a good desire, one implanted in us by God. Even Moses, who spoke to God like a man speaks to his friend, wanted to know God deeper and

requested to see His glory (face). God responded by telling Moses "that no man can see God face to face and live." When life is the toughest and my heart is uneasy, it is difficult to settle myself down to just sit with God in reading His Word (the Bible) and communicating (prayer).

What is amazing is that when I do communicate with God by reading the 'Living Word,' those questions that reflect the desire of my heart are satisfied. It is in the Word that I learn of the character of our loving God and my life is made more secure. It is reading the Bible where God tells me that He loves me, foreknew me, and wonderfully knit me together in my mother's womb (Psalm 39:13). In the Bible I find my life purpose when Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength; and love your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12:30-31). ■



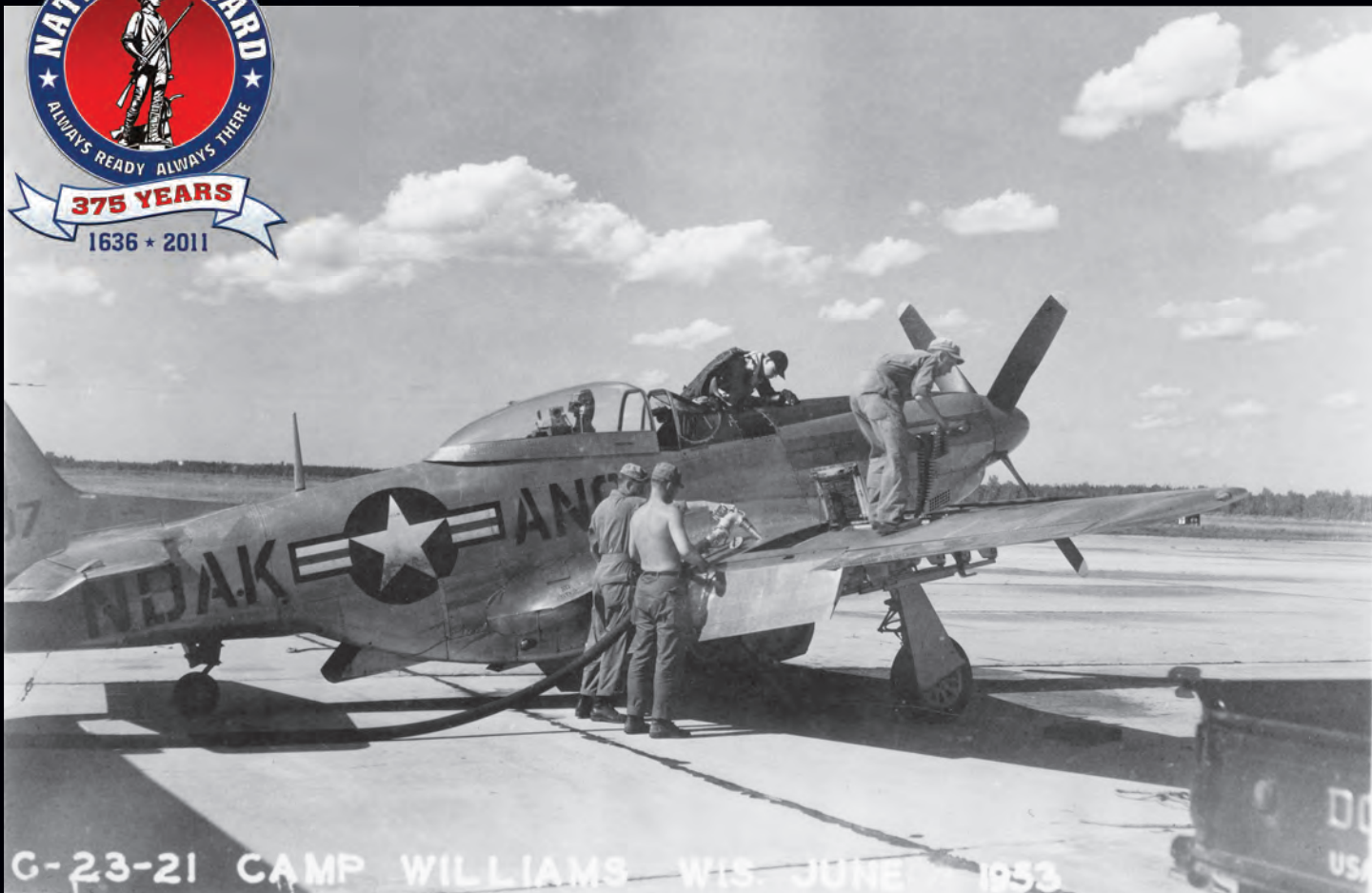
Chaplain (Capt.) Brock A. Sailer

*Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."
(Exodus 33:18)*

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dave Doods, 141st Maneuver Enhancement Battalion

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N.D. Air National Guard Historical Photo

North Dakota Air National Guard members refuel and reload a P-51 Mustang at Camp Williams, Wisc. during annual training 1953. Presently, going shirtless on the flight line is not authorized.