



NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN

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On the Run Around the World



Also Inside:

Diverse CST Exercises

Firestorm of Training

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FEATURES



4 In Memory In Fargo

N.D. National Guard members run to raise awareness for Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) in an effort to help surviving military family members.



6 Making Marathon History

The N.D. National Guard marathon team runs in Nebraska's Lincoln National Guard Marathon, placing two runners on the All-Guard Marathon Team for the first time in history.



17 Ready With Red Cards

Airmen and Soldiers from the N.D. National Guard participate in Wildland Fire Behavior and Firefighting Red Card training, which teaches fire tactics and emergency response in the event the National Guard is asked to respond to wildland fires.

DEPARTMENTS

Guardian Snapshots	Pg. 10
News Briefs	Pg. 18
Sound Off!	Pg. 19

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ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

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Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi.

On the Cover



Deployed 119th Civil Engineer members Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Laney, right, and Staff Sgt. Alan Sporre, run a 10K as part of the Fargo Marathon at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia May 18, 2012. The Airmen from the 386th ECES wanted to celebrate the Fargo Marathon in their own way, but high temperature kept them from completing it at the same time as the marathon in Fargo, N.D. Laney and Sporre are deployed from the N.D. Air National Guard, Fargo, N.D. U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. James Whitlock.

GUARD POSTS

Dispatches from the N.D. Guard Family

CITIZEN-SOLDIERS: AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHINE

In September 2011, more than 55 N.D. Army National Guard Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 1st Battalion, 112th Aviation Regiment bid farewell to their friends, families and loved ones as we embarked on a year-long deployment to Kosovo, conducting missions in support of Operation Joint Guardian with Kosovo Forces (KFOR) 15. HHC, 1-112th took the lead role of an Aviation Task Force comprised of aviation units from North Dakota, Wisconsin, Wyoming and New Jersey, totaling 160 personnel with a fleet of 11 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. Our mission is to provide theater aviation support to the Multi-National Battle Group-East.

Our primary mission profiles include air movement of personnel and supplies, command and control (C2), quick response force (QRF), and medical evacuation. Secondary missions include intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, VIP transport, water bucket operations and training with ground troops. There are a significant amount of support activities that make our flight missions possible. Aircraft maintenance, flight operations, refuel operations, ground support equipment, communications, intelligence, administrative and logistical support are all critical components to the operational capability of our Task Force.

Day in and day out, the officers, non-commissioned officers and enlisted members of Task Force Aviation continue performing their duties in a safe and professional manner, never losing sight of their critical role in the accomplishment of our mission.

About a third of our unit is full-time

1st Battalion, 112th Aviation Regiment leadership and N.D. National Guard leadership pose for a group photo March 28 on the helipad at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. Pictured in the front row, from left, are Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Schuchard, 1-112th senior enlisted leader; Lt. Col. William Watson, 1-112th commander; Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general; and Command Sgt. Maj. Harley Schwind, state command sergeant major.

National Guard force, serving either as AGRs or Federal Technicians. The remainder of our unit members are truly "Citizen-Soldiers," or "traditional" Guard members that interface with the unit primarily during weekends and annual training events. Otherwise, they are students, civilian professionals, trade workers, independent business owners, and so on. During a typical Guard training year, the traditional Soldiers never really get the opportunity to showcase the depth and breadth of their talents and skills due to the short duration of their training events. In a deployed environment, the opportunity not only exists for these Soldiers to showcase their skills, but also to become a combat multiplier for the organization.

This is, in fact, the case for Task Force Aviation, KFOR 15.

I have never, in my 17-year career as a former active-duty member and now full-time National Guardsman, seen anything quite like this. Our "traditional" unit members have become the center of gravity for the operational success of our unit. Their military skills, combined with civilian skills and qualifications, have enhanced our capabilities and significantly increased our flexibility and adaptability, especially when presented with unforeseen challenges.



LT. COL.
WILLIAM WATSON

119th Civil Engineer Squadron
Commander

The additional sacrifices made by our traditional Soldiers during a deployment lie with the interruption to their civilian careers. Many of our Soldiers are uncertain of their employment status when they return, so they are applying for jobs and trying to stabilize their post-deployment plans. Yet, each duty day is conducted with mission focus and a positive, team-first attitude. I am humbled by the performance, character, capabilities and sacrifices made by our "Citizen-Soldiers." Also deserving of recognition are the supportive families, employers, schools and communities behind each Soldier.

It's been an honor and privilege to serve and deploy with the very finest our state and nation has to offer.

Lt. Col. William Watson



Photo by Capt. Joy Staab, MNBG-E, KFOR 15 Public Affairs Officer

Running to Remember

N.D. National Guard Members Team Up with Civilians for TAPS During Fargo Marathon

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

A mixture of about 70 N.D. National Guard members and civilians joined together during the three-day Fargo Marathon events, May 17-19, to raise money and awareness for TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors), which aids surviving family members of U.S. military personnel who died while serving their country.

The TAPS program supports anyone who is grieving the loss of a military member who has died as a result of combat, suicide, terrorism, homicide, negligence, accidents or illness.

The TAPS website (www.taps.org) states, "Our survivors

include mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, fiancés and other relatives of those who have died."

The cause hits close to home for N.D.

National Guard members and their families, as 12 members have lost their lives in combat, fighting the Global War on Terrorism since 2003, and more have been lost as a result of suicide and other causes.

Each military member lost leaves family members grieving and suffering trauma caused by that loss, and the TAPS program helps.

Moorhead, Minn., native Rachael Hill, who now lives in Alaska, ran the full marathon in memory of her husband, Capt. Jeff Hill, who was flying a C-17 training mission as a member of the 517th Airlift Squadron at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, when he died. They often ran together and this was the first race that she has done without him and her first full marathon.

Rachael also ran the youth run with her two sons, her sister, nephew and niece. Upon crossing the finish line, her nephew threw his fist in the air and said, "This was for Uncle Jeff!"

N.D. National Guard members running Fargo Marathon events for TAPS included N.D. Air and Army Guard ranks spanning from senior airman all the way through retired major general, as well as their children and families.

Some of the TAPS runners knew the people who were lost very well, and some never met the military members for whom they ran.

It is a cathartic experience for some and a way to recognize the significant sacrifice by all military members and their families for others.

"The effort that I put into the run seems like a way to share the burden of loss"

— Senior Airman Rachel Salquist

N.D. Army National Guard 1st Sgt. Jeff Barta runs the Fargo Marathon May 19, Fargo, N.D. He carries the photo of N.D. Army National Guard Soldier Cpl. Nathan Goodiron on his back as he runs on the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) Run and Remember Team. Goodiron, a N.D. Army National Guard Soldier, was killed in action in Afghanistan.





Rachael Hill runs the Fargo Marathon May 19 for the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) Run and Remember Team in memory of her husband, U.S. Air Force Capt. Jeff Hill, who was killed during a training flight. She has run many races with her husband before he passed away, but this is her first race without him, and her first full-marathon.

“The effort that I put into the run seems like a way to share the burden of loss, and the money goes to a great cause,” said Senior Airman Rachel Salquist, of the 119th Security Forces Squadron, upon completing her first 5K for TAPS.

The TAPS Run and Remember Team has raised more than \$12,000, and still counting at press time, during the 2012 Fargo Marathon. Last year, more than \$33,000 was raised.

The names of the 12 N.D. National Guard members killed in Iraq and Afghanistan are familiar to most who will read this article, but bear repeating. They are Spc. Jon Fettig, Sgt. Keith Smette, Staff Sgt. Kenneth Hendrickson, Spc. Philip Brown, Spc. James Holmes, Staff Sgt. Lance Koenig, Spc. Cody Wentz, Spc. Michael Hermanson, Cpl. Curtis Mehrer, Sgt. Travis Van Zoest, Cpl. Nathan Goodiron and Cpl. Christopher Kleinwachter.

The run remembers them and their families, along with all of the others who paid the ultimate price for our country.

The nephew of U.S. Air Force Capt. Jeff Hill, who was killed during a training flight in 2010, holds a Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) Run and Remember sign May 17 as he watches heats of a Fargo Marathon youth run, Fargo, N.D. He is waiting his turn to run a one-mile youth race as a member of the TAPS Run and Remember team in honor of Capt. Hill.



Interact With Us!

View many more photos of the TAPS team in action at <http://bit.ly/2012FargoMarathon>. For more information on TAPS, go to www.TAPS.org

Deployed Hooligans Run the Fargo Marathon in Southwest Asia



Thirty-five members of the deployed 119th Civil Engineer Squadron ran Fargo Marathon events the same weekend as runners in Fargo were running those races — only several thousand miles apart. The deployed CES members were joined by deployed personnel from other states and ran distances of 5K, 10K and the half-marathon. Coordination with Fargo Marathon organizers ensured they earned the same race medals and T-shirts as their counterparts in Fargo.

The runners pictured above ran the 10K and half-marathon: (from left to right) Staff Sgt. Al Sporre, Chief Master Sgt. Pat Moore (Kan.), Staff Sgt. Krista Jepsen (Alaska), Capt. Sonia Bechtloff (Mo.), Lt. Col. Tomas DeFazio (U.S. Air Force), Lt. Col. Jon Wahlgren, Master Sgt. Jody Saatoff, Staff Sgt. Nik Guttormson, Staff Sgt. Bjorn Woodard, Senior Master Sgt. Tim Laney, Tech. Sgt. James Whitlock (Alaska), Chief Master Sgt. Scott Terry, Staff Sgt. Jake Thiel, Tech. Sgt. Tracy Winterquist, Tech Sgt. Derrick Grenz, Capt. Jason Olheiser, Senior Master Sgt. Tim McDowell, Chief Master Sgt. Tom Parks, Staff Sgt. Kristin Frovarp, Master Sgt. Jeff Coles (Ga.), Tech. Sgt. Josh Vance (D.C.), Master Sgt. Chad Peterson, Senior Airman Matt Preszler, Master Sgt. Tom Bradley (Alaska), Master Sgt. Steve Winterquist, Staff Sgt. Erin Eagleson, Staff Sgt. Coltyn Penberthy and Master Sgt. Brock Carlson. 5K runners left prior to the photo.

The Airmen left for the six-month deployment to Southwest Asia in December 2011 and will return home soon.

N.D. Goes All-Guard



Above, Capt. Jerod Tufte (foreground) and 1st Lt. Robert Meland start the Lincoln National Guard Marathon May 6, 2012, in Nebraska, among the hoard of 10,000 National Guard and civilian runners.



Marathoners Claim Two Records Across 26.2 miles

*Photos and Story by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp
119th Wing Public Affairs*

Seven N.D. National Guard marathon runners completed the 35th Annual Lincoln National Guard Marathon May 6 in Nebraska. The race serves as the qualifying event for the prestigious "All-Guard Marathon Team." Two members of the North Dakota team finished with qualifying times fast enough to earn them a place on the National Guard team of marathon runners. It's the first time in history that North Dakota has had more than a single runner qualify for the elite team.

Both Capt. Jerod Tufte, of Bismarck, N.D., and Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson, of West Fargo, N.D., ran the marathon fast enough to make the National Guard Marathon Team, from a field of 216 Army and Air National Guard runners from 44 states and two territories. It is the first time for Tufte and the second year in row making the team for Wieser Willson, which is the first time a female from North Dakota has made the team twice in two years.

"I am extremely proud of the North Dakota runners. They came ready to run their best, and certainly gave it all they had," said Lt. Col. David Skalicky, the N.D. National Guard Marathon Team coach.

Tufte ran the 26.2-mile marathon in 3 hours, 12 minutes, while Wieser Willson's time was 3 hours, 37 minutes, in grueling conditions, including 85 percent humidity at the start of the race and challenging hills throughout the course.



Above, Members of the 2012 N.D. National Guard Marathon Team walk to the start line in the pre-dawn hours prior to the Lincoln National Guard Marathon. Pictured from left are Lt. Col. David Skalicky, team coach, Staff Sgt. Brekka Carlson, Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson, Capt. Janet Masseth and Capt. Andrew Wetzel.

Left, Staff Sgt. Brekka Carlson, of Bismarck, N.D., raises arms in triumph as she runs across the artificial turf of the University of Nebraska football field while finishing the Lincoln National Guard Marathon on the 50-yard line of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Memorial Stadium.



N.D. National Guard Marathon Team coach Lt. Col. David Skalicky dumps water on Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson to cool her down as she competes in the Lincoln National Guard Marathon May 6. Wieser Willson finished the marathon with the third fastest time in her National Guard age group and 9th place among all National Guard females, qualifying her for the All-Guard Marathon Team for the second year in a row. Skalicky meets the N.D. runners at intervals around the course to offer support, including bananas and water.

Out of all of the Army and Air National Guard members across the United States, only 40 men and 15 women qualify to represent the Guard at a national level in marathon competitions as part of the All-Guard Marathon Team.

Under the best of conditions, marathon running is an individual kind of self-imposed hell, but it was apparent that all of the runners shared camaraderie and inspirational support for each other despite the competition to make the National Guard team as they constantly encouraged each other throughout the race day.

The first challenge is just to finish the intimidating 26.2-mile distance, next is to PR (set a personal record), and then the best runners race to make the team, win their age category, or the overall race. Both Tufte and 1st Lt. Robert Meland, of Bismarck, N.D., managed to set PRs despite the heat and humidity, and Wieser Willson came in 3rd place for her age division.

All of the National Guard runners have a race finishing time in mind, before and during the race, and the standard for the All-Guard Team is generally around 3 hours, 7 minutes for the men, and 3 hours, 53 minutes for the women. The time was adjusted slightly this year because of the difficult conditions.

The North Dakota team consists of Tufte, Wieser Willson, Meland, Capt. Andrew Wetzal, of Grassy Butte, N.D., Capt. Janet Masseth, of Bismarck, N.D., Staff Sgt. Adam Krueger, of Moorhead, Minn., and Staff Sgt. Brekka Carlson, of Bismarck, N.D. They are coached and supported by Skalicky, of Bismarck, N.D.

The seven runners had to meet a minimum qualifying time to make the N.D. National Guard Marathon Team just to have the privilege of running in the qualifying event for the All-Guard Marathon Team.

The North Dakota marathon team is made up of experienced runners who have completed more than 50 marathons between them, with only Krueger coming from the N.D. Air National Guard and the rest of the team coming from the N.D. Army National Guard.

Meland, who ran the marathon in 3 hours, 28 minutes, spoke for the team as he crossed the finish line and said, "It was a great race. I laid it all out there — that's what we do." ■



Above, Capt. Jerod Tufte, of Bismarck, N.D., blazes through the Lincoln Marathon course on his way to qualifying for the All-Guard Marathon Team May 6.

N.D. Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Adam Krueger, of Moorhead, Minn., competes in the Lincoln National Guard Marathon May 6. The Nebraska capitol building can be seen in the background as Krueger passes the 16-mile mark of the marathon.



Interact With Us!



Watch a series of videos of the N.D. National Guard Marathon Team at <http://bit.ly/2012MarathonTeam>. View many more photos of the team in action alongside elite National Guard runners from across the U.S. at <http://bit.ly/2012MarathonTeamPhotos>.

First Star

Goebel Reflects on Service, Becoming State's First Air Guard General

Looking at the white-haired man sitting in a wheelchair at a Fergus Falls, Minn., nursing home, a visitor can only imagine the life he has lived. Homer Goebel's memory obviously isn't as sharp as it once was, and his body never fully recovered from the stroke he suffered four years ago. His crisply buzzed white hair, though, hints at the life he once lived and a time when he wasn't called Homer, but "Brig. Gen. Goebel."

Even before that star was pinned on his uniform in 1963, making him the first Air National Guard general ever in the state, he was one of a small group of men accomplishing great things. Goebel and a handful others were hand-picked by Maj. Gen. Heber L. Edwards, N.D. adjutant general, to start the N.D. Air National Guard in January 1947. While the nation had military aviators before that time, the branch of service was in its infancy that year.

FOUNDING FATHERS

"It was great," Homer, 91, says of starting the new unit. "We were just doing what we were told and what we could."

Lt. Col. Richard D. Neece and Master Sgt. Howard Hassis, active Air Force men, provided guidance to get the new endeavor off of the ground. They joined with Goebel, who had three years of wartime experi-

ence as a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps, and others with similar backgrounds, to found the unit.

That first winter, 23 officers and 44 enlisted Airmen drilled in the basement of the armory in downtown Fargo. By the end

FIRST COMMANDERS SERIES — PART I

By Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson, Joint Force Headquarters



Courtesy Photo

Brig. Gen. Homer Goebel (center) visits with a major general as Col. Robert "Marsh" Johnson (right) looks on in this mid-1960s-era photo. Goebel served as the first N.D. Air National Guard detachment commander while Johnson, who died last month, oversaw flying operations.

of the year, there were 50 officers and 299 Airmen in the burgeoning unit, which signed an agreement with the City of Fargo to use surplus military facilities at Hector Field. That provided the squadron with airport installations, including a hangar that was little more than four bare walls, a city-operated fire hall and several pre-fabricated buildings that housed operations, supply, a dispensary and training areas.

"A lot was accomplished ... and I think he was very happy with what was taking place in the Air Guard," says Millie, Homer's wife of 69 years. "... and he enjoyed his work."

MEETING MILLIE

As a self-described "war bride," Millie says Homer "wasn't about to leave me home" during his Korean War service, which started when the unit was activated a few years later in 1951.

The two had met during World War II in Oklahoma, where Homer was a supply officer with the Army Air Corps and Millie was a switchboard operator. When Homer placed a call one day and then disappeared before it was returned, he had to face Millie's wrath on the phone once she tracked him down.

"I said, 'How dare you place a call with a general and then leave your office and not call me and tell me where you're at!'" she says.

"So he hung up the phone and he came up to the office to see who the hell would give him so much trouble. That was the worst mistake he ever made," she says, laughing, and turns to him, "Agreed?"

"No mistake," Homer says softly to her.

"... That was the beginning of this 69-year-old marriage," Millie laughs.

Her spunk never dwindled in those seven decades. It helped keep their growing family on track, too.

The couple had four young boys, including twin babies, by

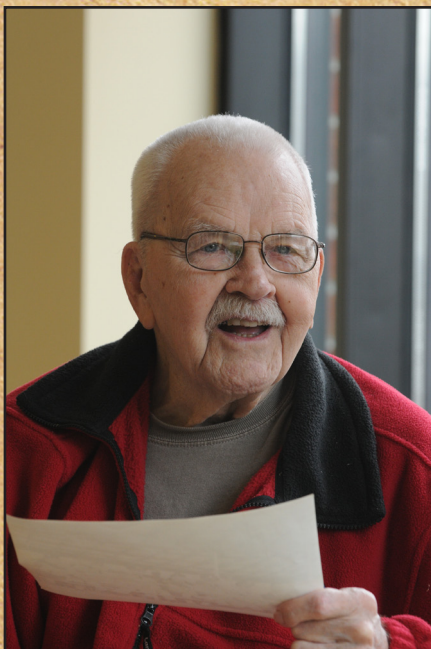


Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing Public Affairs

Retired Brig. Gen. Homer Goebel reflects on his service as one of the first Happy Hooligans during an April 2012 interview at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Fergus Falls.

fr Interact With Us!



For more on Goebel's story of service, family and life, watch the **video** at <http://bit.ly/GoebelVideo>.

See current and historical **photos** at <http://bit.ly/GoebelPhotos>.

Read about recently deceased **Retired Col. Robert "Marsh" Johnson**, who oversaw flying operations when the Air Guard began, in a special **online-only story** at <http://bit.ly/ColJohnson>.



Millie Goebel shows her husband of 69 years, Retired Brig. Gen. Homer Goebel, a photo from his time in the N.D. Air National Guard as they reminisce at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Fergus Falls, Minn., April 20. Homer was among the men selected to launch the Air National Guard in North Dakota in January 1947. He served as detachment commander and became the state's first Air National Guard general when he was promoted in 1963.

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

the time the Korean War began. Millie loaded them all in a car, along with a few boxes of possessions, and headed east to meet up with Homer before they took a boat to St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. Homer headed a supply department there for the next few years while other N.D. Airmen served at locations across the globe as part of the war effort.

POST-KOREA TRAGEDY

Once the war ended, the N.D. Air Guard reorganized. Homer continued to serve as the detachment commander on the full-time side and the chief of staff on the part-time side, while Col. Robert "Marsh" Johnson oversaw all of the flying operations for the unit.

When a deadly tornado hit Fargo in 1957, Homer was away with the Guard in Maxwell, La. The front page of the Fargo Forum newspaper showed his destroyed home with a headline focused on his son, Brian: "Little Boy, 7, Asked a Big Question Under Debris Trapping Family of 5 in North Fargo: 'Mommy Are We Dead Yet?'"



Courtesy Photo

Goebel accepts a plaque reading "Air Defense Command" from a lieutenant general. The N.D. Air National Guard became an active member in the U.S. defense structure when it began 14-hour Air Defense Command alert missions in August 1954.

The horrific account describes how the house lifted off of its foundation

and crashed into the neighbor's home. "Mrs. Goebel was blood-covered," the story reads. "Some had splattered on the youngsters."

Despite the tragedy, Millie's comments remain light-hearted in the story. It ends with a mention of Homer's military position and Millie's explanation as to why he wasn't with his family. "He is out helping the tornado victims."

"(The Guard) saw more of him than we did, that's for sure," Millie recalls 55 years later.

Millie says she knew what she was getting into when she married a man in uniform, and her accounts today — just as her series of collected family Christmas letters dating to the 1950s — detail her matter-of-fact perseverance and tongue-in-cheek humor despite whatever life had to toss at the military family.

GROWING AND CHANGING

"The Guard was very important to Homer, and he truly loved the N.D. Air National Guard. ... I never worried about another woman," Millie says, before pausing dramatically and leaning forward in her chair, "but I did a time or two worry about the Guard," she finishes with a hearty laugh.

From 1954-59, Homer led the Guard in field training at Volk Field in Wisconsin. In 1960, they decided to break from the Army-styled practice and do the training at home station. As chief of staff, Homer led the way in the transition. In the book "Citizens as Soldiers," he commented that the field training was more successful with the change: Maintenance was easier, time was saved when there was no need to move equipment, plus the pilots logged twice as many flight hours as the previous year.

The unit continued to grow and learn into the 1960s, with Homer becoming the first Air National Guard general in the history of the state after a Western Union Telegraph came on May 29, 1963, from Washington, D.C., informing him of the promotion.

Even with his spotty memory, it's one career highlight Homer recalls clearly.

"It was great, no question about that," he says.

Goebel retired with that star five years later. ■

GUARDIAN

Snapshots



Courtesy photo



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

Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, the N.D. adjutant general, left, and Col. Kent Olson, 119th Wing vice-commander, pin the rank of colonel onto the shoulders of Col. John Dougherty May 17 at the N.D. Air National Guard, Fargo, N.D. Dougherty is being promoted to the rank of colonel as he assumes the position of Operations Group commander in the 119th Wing.

Members of the 81st Civil Support Team from left to right, Sgt. 1st Class Mike Jennens, communication team chief, Connie Flanagan, wife of Maj. Patrick Flanagan, nuclear medicine science officer, Sgt. 1st Class John Noyes, medical noncommissioned officer, Sgt. 1st Class Brian Messmer, information systems analyst, Staff Sgt. Chris Keller, training non-commissioned officer, Amanda Keller, wife of Keller, participate in the Great American Bike race, which is a fundraiser for children and young adults with cerebral palsy and related disabilities. The event was April 28 at Bismarck Century High School, Bismarck, N.D. The 2012 team raised \$1,125 and biked a total of 78.32 miles.

Young pirates fought zombies, answered riddles and followed clues during a treasure hunt as part of a pirate-themed family event for N.D. National Guard Soldiers and their families May 5 at Camp Grafton Training Center, Devils Lake, N.D.



Courtesy photo



Two-year-old Jaxen Bentley gives a high-five to Spc. Bryan Moch, with the N.D. National Guard's 191st Military Police Company, after receiving a tour of one of the armored military vehicles at Military Appreciation Day in Bismarck N.D., hosted by the Chamber of Commerce on May 12.



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



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

Exercise evaluation team member Senior Master Sgt. Belinda Reep, of the 119th Medical Group, center, questions and advises 119th firefighters Staff Sgt. Travis Almer, left, and Tech. Sgt. Scott Kaufman May 10 at the N.D. Air National Guard, Fargo, N.D. The firefighters are treating a simulated eye injury during a tornado response exercise, and Reep is critiquing their response.

Senior Master Sgt. Charles Tersteeg, of the 119th Communications Flight, rides his bike home from work on Bike to Work Day, May 18, as the N.D. National Guard celebrates Bike to Work Week. Many Army and Air National Guard members across the state participated and T-shirts were given to those who chose to contribute to a healthier way to commute to work.

Father's Footsteps

Daughter Takes Leadership Role as Dad Retires

By Pfc. Zach Schuster
116th Public Affairs Detachment

2nd Lt. Emily Jefferson's first drill as a commissioned officer in the N.D. Army National Guard happened to be the last drill for her father, Sgt. 1st Class Duane Knoll.

After almost 25 years in aviation, first in maintenance and then as a helicopter crew chief, Knoll retired April 30. He'd spent half of his life in the Guard, and before he left he got to spend his last weekend in the Guard serving the state alongside his daughter.

"I guess it's kinda like 'Dad gets out of the way and lets the daughter take over,'" Knoll said.

It's primarily in Knoll's footsteps that Jefferson is trying to follow, she said; recently assigned as a signal officer, she hopes to re-branch to aviation and become a pilot.

"He's set pretty big footsteps himself out there for me that I have to fill," she said.

Jefferson, though, is eager to continue on with her family's military tradition, and her family is eager to see her do it.

Knoll was the one who convinced Jefferson to enlist, and he encouraged her to become an officer. When she was pinned last winter by her uncle, Col. Gordon Leingang — "One of my idols," Jefferson said — Knoll rendered her first salute.

Newly promoted 2nd Lt. Emily Jefferson hugs her uncle, Col. Gordon Leingang, who is the flight surgeon for the N.D. Army National Guard, after her promotion ceremony.



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

"It was almost like they were welcoming me to the start of my career, following in their footsteps," Jefferson said.

The ceremony where Jefferson was pinned and first saluted — a small event that, because of the class size and when she graduated, was entirely in her honor — offered Knoll the opportunity to give his daughter what he said may be his last salute.

Jefferson wants to learn all she can, she said, both from her father and from the Soldiers with whom she'll be working. Her experiences in training exposed her to the many different types of people there are in the National Guard, and what their knowledge and backgrounds can offer both to her and the organization, she said.

"It opened my eyes to the depth of the Guard," she said.

Her end goal, she said, is to work full time with the Guard; she wants to do everything she can to build herself into more of an asset to the organization.

An organization that, four years ago, she wasn't sure she wanted to join.

Looking back, it might seem natural that she'd enlist. She's lived her whole life surrounded by the military — her father enlisted a year before she was born, her uncle, Leingang, is the flight surgeon for the state, and her husband, Staff Sgt. James Jefferson, is in the Guard, as well.

However, until recently, she wasn't entirely sure that the military was the right choice.

By the time Jefferson, 26, enlisted as a commissioned officer candidate in October 2009 — at the same age as her father when he enlisted — she was married with a 2-year-old daughter and a four-year degree in exercise science and was looking for work in that field.

One day, though, Jefferson sat down with her father and asked him about joining the Guard. She wanted to know what the benefits were and what the commitment would be like. But also, she wondered if she should stay enlisted, like her father, or if she should go straight for Officer Candidate School.

"I said, 'Well, if I look back, I wish I would have went to OCS,'" Knoll said. "When I finally made that decision, I would have needed a waiver to get in, because I was beyond the age limit."

It was Jefferson's uncle who gave her the final push. He pointed out that, with her four-year degree, Jefferson could go straight into OCS.

Based on their advice, Jefferson decided to pursue her commission. Last winter, she graduated from the accelerated, eight-week OCS course.

It was difficult at times, Jefferson said.

"The hardest part was being sleep deprived the entire time," she said. "They work you physically, and you have classes all day long. So when it comes close to the end of the day and you're about ready for lights out, you still have your homework to do and it's up to you if you want to stay up longer and do it or try to get the four hours of sleep they give you."

What she learned, she said, was that it didn't matter if she failed at what she was doing. What mattered, she said, was how she responded.

"Once you get to the point in the training where you realize that's what they're doing, it makes things a lot easier," Jefferson said.

Next, Jefferson will go to Basic Officer Leadership Course, where she'll be trained in the specifics of the branch she was assigned. If things go her way, she'll come back from Fort Rucker, Ala., after about a year or more of training as a pilot. If not, she'll spend four months at Fort Gordon, Ga., training to be in the Signal Corps.

Either way, with her family there to support her, she'll return ready to continue their proud military legacy. ■



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

2nd Lt. Emily Jefferson signs her officer enlistment papers as her uncle, Col. Gordon Leingang, a flight surgeon for the N.D. Army National Guard, looks on.



Left, Sgt. 1st Class Duane Knoll gives his daughter, 2nd Lt. Emily Jefferson, her first salute after she was commissioned as an officer.

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

Right, Col. Gordon Leingang, who is a flight surgeon for the N.D. Army National Guard, signs the officer enlistment papers as a witness for 2nd Lt. Emily Jefferson, his niece.



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

Bombs to Brushes

81st CST Takes on Variety of Missions, Community Service

Exercise in Minot

By Spc. Cassie Simonton
116th Public Affairs Detachment

In one of two major exercises last month, the N.D. National Guard's 81st Civil Support Team took on a three-day Nuclear Weapons Accident/Incident Exercise, or NUWAIX, at the Minot Air Force Base.

"The Civil Support team is an important asset for responding to domestic emergencies and operations around the state," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general. "Practicing and training on response is the best way for the CST to remain a relevant and ready force for our community."

The team received the exercise scenario — a tornado had tossed a vehicle into a plane with weapons on board — via a phone call from Minot on May 7. They almost immediately moved out from their Bismarck base to respond.

Lt. Col. Larry Shirely, 81st CST commander, said his team members augmented the Department of Energy Radiation Assistance Program team during the multi-agency exercise that also incorporated the FBI, 5th Bomb Wing and U.S. Army North Command. Nearly 400 took part in the training. Foreign dignitaries from the United Kingdom, France, Netherlands and Turkey also came to observe.

"Our job is to assist (the Department of Energy) to determine whether radiation has been released and provide recommendations for the health and safety in the surrounding area," said Capt. David Jablonsky, with the 81st CST. "We have had extensive training in monitoring, identifying and determining radiation levels."

Maj. Lila Teunissen, medical operations officer with the 81st CST,



Photos by Spc. Cassandra Simonton, 116th Public Affairs Detachment



Above, Sgt. 1st Class Brian Messmer, with N.D. National Guard's 81st Civil Support Team, works in one of the unit's Civil Support Suites, a vehicle that allows the unit to have secure and unsecure phone and Internet access wherever it goes. From May 7-9, the 81st CST from Bismarck, N.D., participated in a three-day Nuclear Weapons Accident/Incident Exercise (NUWAIX) on the Minot Air Force Base involving nearly 400 people.

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Ferderer, Staff Sgt. Chris Keller and Staff Sgt. Jason Horner, members of the 81st Civil Support Team, assemble a device belonging to the Department of Energy that allows them to measure the amount of radiation in the air.

said one of the major benefits of exercises of this size is the increased visibility the Guard gains from entities with which it doesn't typically partner.

"Good relations between state and federal agencies are being built here," she said.

Building in Bismarck



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

Left, Lt. Col. Roger Prezler, the 81st CST physician assistant, right, assists in leveling the frame for a deck on a house that Guardsmen are helping improve.

Members of the 81st Civil Support Team traded in chemical suits and detection equipment for hammers and paintbrushes recently. The Guardsmen volunteered off-duty time to assist Rebuilding Together, a nonprofit organization that helps local veterans who need assistance. Through a Heroes at Home grant for supplies, the Guardsmen helped World War II veteran Cliff Oswald with renovations at his Bismarck home.

Maj. Lila Teunissen, a medical operations officer for the 81st CST, takes a break from painting.

Training in Montana

By Spc. Jennifer Joyce
116th Public Affairs Detachment

The N.D. National Guard's 81st Civil Support Team doesn't just respond to domestic operations and emergencies, sometimes it creates them. The pre-planned "emergencies" are used for training, so when called, they are ready.

The 21-member team took part in a multistate exercise May 14-18 in Billings, Mont.

The two-part exercise was one of countless events that the 81st Civil Support Team takes part in annually. North Dakota's CST worked in conjunction with South Dakota's 82nd CST, as well as Montana's 83rd CST, for the most recent training.

Together, the units worked to react to chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear emergencies with little to no advanced notice.

"Each section of the team is vitally important to each other's success. If we don't have one section, the team doesn't function," said Sgt. 1st Class John Noyes, a medical noncommissioned officer with the 81st.

Each CST set up operations at the scene, started briefings and planning, and assigned tasks during the first day. Survey team members prepared to suit up to "Level A" — fully encapsulated hazardous material protective suits — to conduct reconnaissance, survey and sampling at the training site. Other team members took on a decontamination area or managed operations, logistics, communications and medical operations.

On Day 2, Lt. Col. Larry Shireley, 81st CST commander, received a call to activate his team. Within minutes, the N.D. Guardsmen were in vehicles and ready to go. The day's scenario focused on a disgruntled food service employee with an alleged background in chemistry who may have tampered with food being served to the public. After local law enforcement secured the area and conducted a preliminary investigation, the team surveyed the area and took samples.

Lt. Col. Roger Preszler, a physician assistant for the 81st CST, performed pre-mission and post-mission medical monitoring to ensure safety and proper hydration. It was 86 degrees outside, but inside the HazMat suits, the temperature could reach 106 and hotter, he said.

After a day of refit, the CST headed out again. This time, the Guardsmen reported to an equipment storage area at the Billings Airport where terrorist activity was suspected.

The Guardsmen completed the mission and headed into the decontamination line, removing the more than 40 pounds worth of protective gear before post-mission medical monitoring. After just an hour in the suits, their path was marked by wet footprints made from significant sweat while working in the conditions. Teamwork got them through.

"Good communication is key to the success of joint Civil Support Team interoperability," said Sgt. 1st Class Brian Messmer, the communications information systems analyst for the 81st CST.

Shireley conducted his last after-action review before the team returned home and he retired. Lt. Col. Mark Quire now leads the team.

"It's kind of bittersweet, this last exercise for me," Shireley said. "I will certainly miss the camaraderie and being commander of this team. I'm really proud of this team for excelling as they have." ■

Photo by Spc. Jennifer Joyce, 116th Public Affairs Detachment



An 81st Civil Support Team survey member scans a door for hazardous materials as part of an exercise. The unit participated in a multistate training event from May 15-17 in Billings, Mont.



81st Civil Support team member Sgt. Ryan Mahoney, of Lincoln N.D., examines and documents possible hazardous materials for an exercise. The unit participated in a multistate training event from May 15-17 in Billings, Mont.

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To see more N.D. National Guard photos of the 81st CST go to:

<http://bit.ly/CSTinMontana>

Photo by Spc. Jennifer Joyce, 116th Public Affairs Detachment

Seeing Red

N.D. Forest Service Shows Guardsmen Basics of Wildfire Training

By Capt. Penny Ripperger
119th Wing

Airmen and Soldiers from the N.D. National Guard participated in Wildland Fire Behavior and Firefighting training May 4 - 6 in Fargo and April in Bismarck. The North Dakota Forest Service conducted the Red Card training, teaching fire tactics and emergency response in the event the National Guard is asked to respond to wildland fires.

"This is the basic introduction to wildfire training that we do on a yearly basis," said Sarah Tunge, fire manager with the North Dakota Forest Service. "We've had an excellent partnership with the Guard. It gives us a chance to get these individuals trained should we ever need to call them as an additional resource for the state of North Dakota."

The firefighting lessons were conducted through classroom training and field exercises, which covered terminology, fire behavior, weather factors and fire shelters.

The first day of class focused on weather and some of the basics of fire behavior, prepping the students for situations that they might come see in the field, said Tunge. "The second day dealt with the tools of firefighting, how we're organized, situations you may encounter on the fire line and how to suppress fires. On the last day, we do a field day," Tunge said.

In addition to the classroom training, a three-mile march with a 45-pound pack also is required to pass the course. Students had 45 minutes to complete the test without running, which proved to be challenging for some.

"The rucksack march was the hardest part. Walking that

Top, N.D. National Guardsmen train with fire shelters April 21 near Raymond J. Bohn Armory in Bismarck, N.D. The lesson was part of training provided by the North Dakota Forest Service to certify and re-certify 38 Army National Guard Soldiers in Wildland Fire Behavior and Firefighter Training. The training teaches fire tactics and emergency response in case Guardsmen are needed to respond to wildland fires. Right, Guardsmen practice digging a fire line during Wildland Firefighter Red Card Training in Fargo, N.D., May 6. The training took place at the 119th Wing's Regional Training Site.



Photo by Maj. Shannon Horton, J3/7 Training and Exercise Officer



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brady Schneider, 119th Wing

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brady Schneider, 119th Wing



Left, Guardsmen carry 45-pound backpacks during a timed three-mile march in Fargo, N.D. The march is part of the three-day Wildland Firefighter Red Card Training that took place at the 119th Wing's Regional Training Site May 4-6. Students must complete the walk within 45 minutes to obtain Red Card certification.

Bottom left, 1st Lt. Jonathan Fankhanel, left, of the 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, and Spc. Chris Carpenter, of the 188th Army Band, practice a timed deployment of personal fire shelters in Fargo, N.D.

Bottom right, Guardsmen learn about pumper truck operation near Raymond J. Bohn Armory in Bismarck, N.D. The lesson was part of training provided by the North Dakota Forest Service to certify and re-certify Soldiers in Wildland Fire Behavior and Firefighter Training.

distance at a fast pace and not being able to run made it a lot tougher than I expected," said Sgt. Levi Whipple, of Fargo, a member of the Edgeley and Wishek-based 815th Engineer Company (Horizontal).

On Sunday, the Guard students continued with more field exercises using hand tools to demonstrate methods of suppressing wildland fires. One exercise consisted of creating a fire line, with individuals working together to clear out vegetation by ditching the ground a width two-and-a-half times the height of the impending fire.

"It's hard work, but it feels good knowing you're helping your community, and that makes it well worth the effort," Whipple said.

At the completion of the Fargo and Bismarck training, the Airmen and Soldiers earned their certification in Red Card Training.

"Because this is a national certification, they can serve not only in North Dakota, but also in other states," said Maj. Shannon

Horton, training and exercise officer with the N.D. National Guard.

Once a person is "Red Card" certified, they only need to take a one-day course annually to maintain the certification. This year, about half of the Guard's 68 Red Card holders were recertifications.

When asked if he will recertify next year, Whipple responded, "Yes, I will definitely do this again."

We are proud of the Guardsmen that step-up to volunteer for this extra duty," Horton said. ■

fr Interact With Us!

View more photos of the Red Card training at <http://bit.ly/FargoRedCard> and <http://bit.ly/BismarckRedCard>. Watch video from the training at <http://bit.ly/NDNG2012RedCard>.

Photo by Maj. Shannon Horton, J3/7 Training and Exercise Officer

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brady Schneider, 119th Wing



Eight Years After Attack Wing Awarded Purple Heart

Nearly eight years after he was wounded during an attack, a N.D. National Guardsman was presented a Purple Heart Medal for injuries he sustained in Iraq. Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, and Gov. Jack Dalrymple presided over the May ceremony honoring Sgt. Michael Wing, of Surrey, N.D., at the Minot Armed Forces Reserve Center.

Wing served as a team leader when Company A of the 141st Engineer Combat Battalion was deployed from December 2003 through February 2005. Wing received a Combat Action Badge following an April 7, 2004, attack on his patrol.

On Sept. 16 of that year, Wing was serving as a gunner while his platoon conducted a route clearance mission when they were again attacked with small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades. An IED (improvised explosive device) detonated within 2 meters of Wing, who continued the mission and sought medical treatment for post-blast symptoms upon completion.

More than two dozen others with the 141st have already received Purple Heart medals for wounds sustained in action, and four Soldiers with the battalion were killed in Iraq: Spc. Phil Brown, Spc. James Holmes, Staff Sgt. Lance Koenig and Spc. Cody Wentz.



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

North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple congratulates Sgt. Michael Wing, with the N.D. National Guard's 164th Engineer Battalion of Minot, as he receives the Purple Heart Medal, presented by Maj. Gen. David A. Sprynczynatyk (right), N.D. adjutant general, in recognition of combat wounds received during Wing's 2004-05 deployment to Iraq.

Land Component Commander Receives General Star

David B. Anderson was promoted to the rank of brigadier general at Raymond J. Bohn Armory in Bismarck on April 30. He has led the N.D. National Guard's Land Component Command, which includes nearly 3,400 N.D. Army Guard Soldiers, since January.

"Anderson's innovation and forward-thinking has been a continual asset to the N.D. National Guard, and I thank him for his continued service to our state and country. He has made a tremendous impact mentoring Soldiers throughout his career," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, who presided over the promotion ceremony.

A native of Oakes, N.D., Anderson earned a bachelor's degree from North Dakota State University and was commissioned as a second lieutenant through the school's ROTC program. He earned a master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

"Leading the great Soldiers of the N.D. National Guard is both a huge responsibility and a tremendous opportunity," Anderson said during his promotion.

June Events to Honor Fallen Guardsmen

A trio of West Fargo, N.D. Several events throughout the summer will honor the memory of N.D. National Guard service members who died in the Global War on Terrorism.

On Sunday, June 10, the fifth annual Memorial Road March will step off from Fraire Barracks in Bismarck at 9:38 a.m. – the same time as Sgt. Travis A. Van Zoest and Cpl. Curtis R. Mehrer were



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

Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk (left), N.D. adjutant general, administers the oath of office to newly promoted Brig. Gen. David B. Anderson a few moments after his promotion on April 30 at the Raymond J. Bohn Armory in Bismarck, N.D.

killed in action. The men were serving with the 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment in Afghanistan when they died on June 6, 2006. The march concludes at the N.D. Veterans Cemetery in Mandan.

Registration for the march, which honors all of North Dakota's fallen, begins at 8:30 a.m. that day at the Bank of North Dakota. T-shirts and memorial pins can be purchased, with proceeds benefiting North Dakota family readiness groups and TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors). For more information, contact Amanda-massagecarecentre@hotmail.com.

Later this month, a 12K Fallen Soldier Run/Walk will take place in Devils Lake. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. June 23 at Roosevelt Park, and the run follows at 8 a.m. The 12K route proceeds from the park to the flagpole at Camp Grafton Training Center's headquarters, with transportation provided back to the park. Cost to register is \$25/person or \$60/family of three or more. All proceeds benefit North Dakota's TAPS. For more information, call 701-230-1559 or 701-662-0620.

Later this summer, the eighth



Master Sgt. Randy Anderson, 741st Missile Squadron facility manager, conducts daily checks of the water systems at the Foxtrot-01 missile alert facility near Minot Air Force Base Sept. 1. Facility managers in the missile field are responsible for the overall safety of the facility and its residents while assigned to the MAFs. This is one example of the type of work being offered to N.D. Air National Guard members through the air base.

U.S. Air Force Photo by Senior Airman Michael J. Veloz

annual Memorial Motorcycle Ride in Remembrance of All Fallen Soldiers will leave from Stutsman Harley Davidson in Jamestown at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 18. Registration (\$15/bike and \$5/passenger) will be from 8:30-10:30 a.m. that day. For more information, call Mark McMahon at 701-952-8355 or Steve Geigle at 701-269-1484.

Minot Air Force Base Offers Opportunity

The 91st Missile Wing at the Minot Air Force Base seeks N.D. Air National Guard members to serve on 90- to 180-

day tours. Guardsmen will be on orders and will not need to fulfill the PRP (Personnel Reliability Program) requirements during the temporary duty.

The needed positions include facility managers, who are trained on site, which is open to any AFSC (Air Force Specialty Code), and missile chefs, which must have a 3M0X1 AFSC. The duty days will be four days on and five days off.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Shaun Hermes at 701-723-6293 or shaun.hermes@minot.af.mil or Master Sgt. Mike Harden at 701-723-1461 or michael.harden@minot.af.mil.

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Being There for Each Other

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bruce Krogstad
119th Wing

Most of us like to think of life as being fair and benevolent. Most of us also like things to be reasonably predictable, or at least under our control. However, sometimes life is none of the above.

This spring, I attended several funerals with the Hooligan family. One was for a World War II veteran, another was for a family member in his 20s and the most recent was for an Airman in his 40s. Coping with the consequences of death is never easy, particularly if we are close to the deceased or to the family of the deceased. Untimely deaths of young people are particularly painful, something the N.D. Army National Guard has been all too familiar with lately.

While helping with aero-evacuation overseas a few years ago, I had numerous opportunities to visit with Army Guard members who lost a battle buddy. In some cases, it was someone they had known for a lifetime. The sense of loss in some of these cases was on par with the loss of a family member. This is the mixed blessing of being in the Guard; we develop long-term friendships that create deep angst when a buddy dies. The close community of the Guard also is that which enables us to effectively comfort grieving Guard

family members simply by being there with them and for them during times of bereavement.

Grief is not limited to death. It also can apply to any number of losses or even to a sense of uncertainty about our futures. The Hooligans recently learned there is a possibility that we might not have any manned aircraft on the base in the not-too-distant future. Suddenly, the notion of job security leaped to the front of some of our member's minds. Even though there will be more new positions created than potential ones lost, should this occur, issues of potential loss are creating anxiety for many.

While the worry is premature, the specter of doubt has been created and vocational uncertainty is present. Well before any jobs are threatened, the grieving process for some has begun. None of us seek out adversity, but all of us have been placed where we are for the purpose of not only fulfilling a mission but also for the purpose of being there for other Guard members who need support during times of actual or anticipated loss. We are not in this life alone, thank God; we are the N.D. Guard, and we are there for each other. ■



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



Courtesy Photo

Col. Rick Gibney, 119th Wing commander, right, runs next to civilian Steve Henning during one of Gibney's eight Lincoln National Guard Marathons. His best time for the race was 2 hours, 49 minutes. He ran the marathon for several years as a N.D. Army National Guard member before this 1987 race, which he completed while serving as a N.D. Air National Guard F-4 weapon systems officer (WSO) captain. Gibney's marathon PR (personal record) was 2 hours, 37 minutes, which he ran in Vancouver, Canada. See more historical N.D. National Guard photos at <http://bit.ly/NDNGHistoricalPhotos>.