



NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN

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NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN

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Digital photos should be 300 dpi, if possible.

On the Cover



1st Lt. Blake Hillerson, of the 426th Signal Network Support Company, takes aim at 50-meter targets Jan. 25 at the Central Region Biathlon Championships at Camp Ripley, near Little Falls, Minn. Hillerson is the top finisher in both the men's sprint and pursuit races.

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

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GUARD POSTS

Dispatches from the N.D. Guard Family

AFTER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE AND SACRIFICE, N.D. SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER THANKS THE GUARD

I have thoroughly enjoyed my tenure with the N.D. National Guard, which I began after my initial enlistment in the U.S. Army.

With my military career coming to a close, I, like many others before me, feel compelled to reflect on the years and ask myself why I chose to enlist and continue serving in the military for four decades.

Most of us share the same reasons for serving: the opportunity to serve our nation, to seek opportunities for advancement, to earn money for college, and to be a part of a professional military family. Opportunities to serve happen not by accident but with determination on our part along with planning and guidance from parents, school counselors, mentors and peers — all of whom have advised and supported us during our lives and careers.

As I look back at that many changes to our Guard, I realize that good leadership is the constant factor during all of the changes we've experienced.

I have always tried to emulate and shape my actions with the help of my favorite leadership quote: "Before you can effectively lead, you must make sure that your own house is in order."

We all may interpret the meaning of

this quote differently, but here's my take: I must meet or exceed the standards set forth by regulation, live by the Army and Airmen values and ensure my family and relationships are in order. I must accept, adapt, and grow with the changes that affect our National Guard and lead by setting the example.

As a senior leader, I realize that at times my own house can "get out of order." When this happens, I seek assistance from professionals who can help me work through my challenges. We must all continue to work together to remove the stigma that seeking help in our personal or professional lives is a sign of weakness or could threaten our careers. In reality, seeking and receiving needed help is a sign of good judgment and strength and allows us to get back on our feet. This, in turn, helps us to be in the best shape to do our jobs and perform our missions.

We all can agree that the tragic attacks on our homeland on Sept. 11, 2001, changed the world, our nation and certainly the National Guard. I am proud of the way our Guard immediately responded to this aggression and joined the fight in our country's defense. As a result, we evolved from the strategic reserve force



COMMAND SGT. MAJ. DAN JOB

Senior Enlisted Leader
N.D. National Guard

of the Cold War era to an operational force fully integrated with our active-duty counterparts.

With more than 6,000 mobilizations since 2001, our N.D. Soldiers and Airmen have participated in multiple deployments around the world. This has impacted affected all of us: Guard members, family members and employers. The war-related experiences we have gained in the Global War on Terrorism have proven our ability to effectively fight side by side with our active-duty counterparts as full partners with the skill sets and overall competencies that our Guard members have successfully brought to the struggle.

In closing the final chapter of my 40 years of military service, I challenge our leaders to continue to work hard to support and meet the needs of those who are responsible for our success in our federal and state missions. Our Soldiers, Airmen, military families and employers all play an important part in ensuring that the N.D. National Guard remains the best military organization in the world. I thank all of those responsible for our organization's success as well as those who have supported me and my efforts during my career.

Finally, please welcome the new senior enlisted leader, Chief Master Sgt. James Gibson, with the same great support and respect you've shown me. He will be an effective leader and serve our Guard well in the years to come.

Daniel R. Job



Photo by Sgt. Tyler Sletten, 116th Public Affairs Detachment

Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Job, senior enlisted leader for the N.D. National Guard, looks out the window of a UH-60 Black Hawk Helicopter June 20 en route to the 2012 Legislative Day at Camp Grafton Training Center, near Devils Lake.

MUSIC LESSONS

BAND BRINGS TALENTS TO SCHOOLS ACROSS STATE

By Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson
Joint Force Headquarters

Members of the 188th Army Band "Blues in Green" perform at Wahpeton High School in Wahpeton. As part of the Music in Schools Tour, the N.D. National Guard's 188th Army Band performed 15 concerts in three days, Jan. 7-9, across North Dakota. The purpose of the tour was to raise awareness about the Guard and to demonstrate that there are a wide variety of opportunities for young people considering joining.



Photo by Sgt. Tyler Sletten, 116th Public Affairs Detachment

A group of high school girls giggle with excitement as they grab their backpacks at the end of a school day. They had just gotten their picture taken with Josh, the guitar player.

"I love Josh," one exclaims as another flaunts the autograph she received from him.

Josh, who's better known in the N.D. Army National Guard as Spc. Peterson, was one of about 40 Soldiers who were doing a whirlwind three-day tour with the 188th Army Band.

Three of the band's ensemble groups — Three Time Rule, Clarion of Freedom and Blues in Green — performed in 15 high schools from Jan. 7-9.

How does it feel to be such a rock star? The question causes Peterson to blush.

"Do I enjoy the attention? Yes, of course I do. Who wouldn't? But a desire for attention is not why I do this. I play music in hopes of inspiring others to follow their own musical or nonmusical dreams. I love it when students come up to us after a performance and they are super excited to talk about instruments and equipment, life in the National Guard, starting their own bands, etc. When we are able excite students in a way that changes their perspective on what they can or cannot do, that is magical," said Peterson, who, by the way, is married.

That magic came in not just in becoming idols to the teenaged girls; the band's ensembles brought a greater awareness of both music and the National Guard to schools.

"Not only does it give the kids a professional ensemble to hear, but it's also something that they can see what they can do after school, even if they're not so gung-ho about joining the Army;

they can still play and perform in the ensembles, as well," said Jeff VanOort, Oakes High School band director.

The biennial tour hit southeastern North Dakota this time around, but the coordination doesn't get easier as time goes on. Sgt. Christopher Hanson, who works full-time with the Band and serves as the musical director for the Blues in Green ensemble, says that

"BEING IN THE BAND HAS BEEN A DREAM COME TRUE. FROM THE BEGINNING, I ALWAYS KNEW I WOULD BE A PART OF A MILITARY BAND. WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW WAS JUST HOW MUCH THAT BAND WOULD AFFECT MY LIFE. ... I HAVE FOUND MORE THAN JUST A MILITARY BAND, I HAVE FOUND A HOME. I HAVE FOUND A GROUP OF SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN THAT I HAVE COME TO LOVE AS FAMILY."

— SPC. JOSH PETERSON, 188TH ARMY BAND

coordinating the schools, schedule, music and travel plans remains challenging.

"It's totally worth it, though," he said after playing the last concert on the tour, in Lidgerwood, N.D. "The excitement and energy of these kinds of concert performances makes all of the time spent planning completely worth it."

His ensemble focused on hit songs that the students were likely to know well from radio play. Students of all ages stomped and clapped as Spc. Kacie Edwards Pahl belted out "Rumor Has It."

They rushed to the gym floor to dance along to Sgt. Paul Barta singing “What Makes You Beautiful,” and they waved their cell phone lights to “Make You Feel My Love.”

As Blues in Green brought those hits and more to Wahpeton, Wyndmere, Milnor, Hankinson and Lidgerwood, Three Time Rule was rocking Valley City, Tower City, Lisbon, Enderlin and West Fargo. Their set included songs such as “Living on a Prayer,” “China Grove,” “Life in a Northern Town” and “Sweet Home Alabama.”

“We all enjoyed the performance immensely,” said Melinda Hollenbeck, band director for Maple Valley High School. “We, the teachers, were very impressed by their energy, talent and professionalism. Our younger students, especially, were very amped up after the show. They loved it!”

The third ensemble, Clarion of Freedom, didn’t rock under the spotlights but rather provided the ceremonial music they’re known for, along with small group performances that included a Dixieland Combo, Full Battle Rattle Brass Quintet and a Woodwind Ensemble. They worked with band directors in Montpelier, Marion, Jamestown, Oakes and LaMoure to perform the school song at each location under the direction of the school’s own band director, who often joined in for part of the performance, as well.

“It was wonderful having Clarion of Freedom at our high school,” said Brandon Bondley, Jamestown High School’s band director. “They put on a very nice concert and even worked with one of our bands during its rehearsal time. It was a great experience for our students.”

While their variety of music likely isn’t what the students have on their iPods, it engaged the audience in various music styles mixed with a bit of fun. Among the highlights was Spc. Nathan Johnson, who would sneak around crashing large cymbals as the band’s senior enlisted leader, 1st Sgt. Brad Reed, looked on disapprovingly and tried to halt the mischievous behavior. Later, Johnson was caught curled up with a camouflage poncho liner and pillow, asleep on his tuba while the others warmed up. Like Peterson, he, too, got the girls’ attention.

“My daughter’s favorite player was the tuba player-comedian,” one audience member said of Johnson.

Coming down from three prom date requests on the original Music in Schools Tour in 2007, Hanson says it’s all part of being with the band. (And, sorry gentlemen, but their unit roster is full.)



Photo by Sgt. Tyler Sletten, 116th Public Affairs Detachment

(Above) Members of the 188th Army Band “Blues in Green” perform at Wahpeton High School in Wahpeton. (Below) Sgt. 1st Class Paul Helfter holds up a challenge coin prior to presenting it to Oakes Public Schools band director Jeff VanOort after a performance by the N.D. Army National Guard’s 188th Army Band Clarion of Freedom on Jan. 9 at the Oakes High School gymnasium.



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



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

Spc. Joshua Peterson plays the electric guitar as students participate on stage during a band performance Jan. 8 at the Lisbon High School auditorium, Lisbon, Peterson is a member of Three Time Rule, a rock and country ensemble from the N.D. Army National Guard’s 188th Army Band.



YOU CAN COUNT ON GENERATION Y

Countering Stereotypes, Embracing Differences for Improved Teamwork Across Generations

“Generational differences are not bad; they are just different. Don’t struggle with differences, celebrate them and use differences to the advantage of your organization.”

By Capt. Paul Dosch, 119th Wing Diversity Council

What is it these days with the younger generation?

We’ve all heard it before. Middle-aged and older folks scratching their heads about today’s youth, who are referred to as Generation Y or the “Millennials.” Their beltless pants hang down, and they have no respect for authority. They’re too busy playing video games or on Facebook — nothing like those venerated in Tom Brokaw’s book *The Greatest Generation*. Or, are they?

In an interview a few months after the July 22, 2003, attack in Iraq that killed Spc. Jon Fettig and seriously wounded Spc. Brandon Erickson, retired Command Sgt. Major Kevin Remington talked about how youths had been shortchanged with stereotypes. Remington served as the senior enlisted leader for the N.D. National Guard’s 957th Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge) and earned a Silver Star for his actions following the attack. We know what he means about stereotypes: headphones, sideways baseball caps, glued to a television, computer or cell phone. Little is expected of the youth of today. Raised in small families or as single children, they are said to be spoiled and self-centered. They got a ribbon for participating. Everyone got to score a goal. They received a pat on the back just for showing up. Their parents drove them around in minivans with signs of “Baby on Board” in the window.

In January 2005 at the 119th Wing Airmen of the Year banquet, Remington and Erickson told their story to an enraptured crowd. A key takeaway from their presentation was that every generation can be great — the Millennials being no exception. Remington said that he saw nothing in Iraq linking his young Soldiers with the stereotypes of Gen Y. He said that when called upon, they stepped up to the challenge like any generation before.

Today, the 119th Wing Diversity Counsel’s focus is to promote the value of each generation and for all members to understand

that no generation is better than another; they are just different. Like racial, gender or religious differences, embracing the unique talents that different generations bring to the fight will only serve to strengthen our organization and help us to succeed together as a cohesive unit.

Each generation, or “cohort,” is distinguished by a roughly 20-year time span. Gen Y is generally defined as those born between 1982 and 2000. They make up about 30 percent of the U.S. population.

GENY DISTINCTIONS

Every person is an individual, but each generation has some unique characteristics. Sometimes they are over-generalized, but they can be useful in understanding where someone of a certain age is “coming from.” It may be helpful to step back and try to see the world through their eyes.

Generation Y doesn’t respond well to old-style military leadership of “do as I say.” That’s not bad; it’s just different. Gen Y wants to understand “why,” and there’s nothing wrong with that. They don’t respect authority because it is authority, they respect authority when it is earned. The U.S. Army has embraced the difference brought by Gen Y all the way down to basic training. Drill sergeants no longer scream at new recruits.

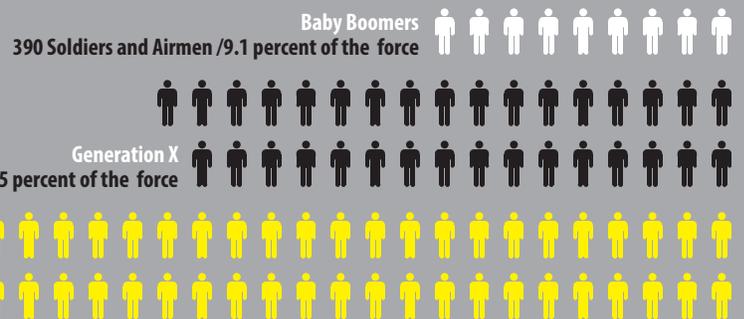
“Rather than stand up in front and look mean and maybe holler a little bit and go through an act, they simply live the values and then demand reciprocal demonstration of those values by the Soldier,” said Brig. General James Schwitters, who commanded the U.S. Army Training Center at Fort Jackson, S.C., and helped to rewrite the Army’s initial entry training policies and procedures.

Fear was replaced by mentoring and coaching, where drill

N.D. National Guard Generational Breakdown

Here's how the generations within the N.D. National Guard look:

The median age in the N.D. National Guard is 29.



sergeants lead by example to inspire recruits to respect rather than demand respect by training side by side with recruits. A nearly 50 percent reduction in basic training dropouts is attributed to the change in training philosophy.

Structure and hierarchy are not important to them. Millennials value diversity, family, community and creativity. They like to challenge the status quo. Millennials question and even reject social conventions. They are tolerant, open minded and optimistic.

Millennials are masters of multitasking. Members of the Boomer generation or Generation X sometimes scratch their heads at their children, wondering how they can operate without a quiet room to read or study. Today, their children need noise; they often say, "I can't study without the TV or my iPod on." This generation can do homework or read a manual while simultaneously watching a professional football game or sitcom. They can think on their feet.

They are committed to things they believe in, particularly family and volunteer work. Research summaries published several years ago in the Harvard Business Review presented data that Gen Y is the most civic- and family-oriented cohort since World War II. They have a different set of priorities and, unlike the unflattering stereotypes that they are concerned only with themselves and video games, their priorities might be surprising. Recent data from the Pew Center for Research asked Millennials what was the most important thing in their lives: 52 percent said "being a good parent" and 30 percent responded with "having a successful marriage"; 21 percent answered "helping others in need" while only 1 percent marked "being famous."

Lectures and overhead projectors — and even Powerpoint presentations — are considered old school. **They are at ease with e-learning and appreciate hands on learning opportunities.**

Generation Y is more diverse than any before. While 70 percent of U.S. adults 30 and older are white, the racial make-up of Millennials is 61 percent white.

WORKING WITH GEN Y

When working with Generation Y, there are some things for Boomers and Generation X to remember to improve production and results.

Teamwork is the norm for this generation. Starting in middle school, they have been trained to work in small groups with all

members accountable for the outcome. They can easily assemble a team from around the world to engage in an online battle of World of Warcraft. Use their skills in working within a group to complete important tasks.

They are experts at information sharing and asynchronous communication (think using Facebook or building websites). Most Millennials — 83 percent — report sleeping with or having their cell phone at their bedside. Communication is an area where all military branches can work to make strides.

Be a coach, not a drill instructor. Millennials want someone they can work with, not work for. They want to know "why." Use your mentor skills to train up the new generation of Airmen and Soldiers by showing them what to do, not by telling them what to do. They learn by hands-on work. Lectures and Powerpoint presentations are not helpful learning tools.

They have information technology skills of which older generations can only dream. They accept technology as a way of life. Let them take the lead in technology. Consider the Air Force's recent concentration on cyber warfare. Who is better equipped to lead us into the realities of the future than the new generation?

Consider the current threats that our nation faces: organizations that are unstructured, flexible and nonhierarchical that use the Internet, social media and other unconventional weapons to wage war against structured, hierarchical organizations using conventional weapons. Millennials are equipped to handle the pace of change from a new enemy and the tools of a new kind of war.

Utilize their natural abilities to multitask. Like a juggler, they can keep more things in the air than any generation.

Earn their respect. If they believe in you and the organization, they will give you their all.

Embrace hands-on learning and utilize technology in training. Powerpoint is not utilizing technology.

Embrace the racial diversity of the upcoming generations. Diversity is a key to our strength.

Let them use their inclination of acceptance of others, their disdain of hierarchy and social convention, and their commitment to the wellbeing of others to build cohesive and diverse teams to maximize the utilization of the skills of the whole team. ■



4X

BIATHLON TEAM WINS REGIONAL COMPETITION FOR FOURTH STRAIGHT YEAR

(Above) A tear forms from the cold in the corner of the eye of Tech. Sgt. Danelle Card, 119th Wing, as she takes aim at 50-meter targets Jan. 25 at the Central Region Biathlon Championships at Camp Ripley, near Little Falls, Minn. The biathlon is a sporting event that combines the endurance of cross-country skiing and the skill and concentration of rifle marksmanship to determine an individual and team champion. The N.D. National Guard team placed first in the central region competition for the fourth year in a row, and Card is the first-place finisher in both the women's sprint and pursuit races. (Below) Members of the N.D. National Guard Biathlon Team, from left to right, Sgt. Adam Walsvik, of the 188th Engineer Company, Spc. Kellie Lindberg, of the 133rd Quartermaster Detachment, Master Sgt. Kent Pulst, of the 3662nd Maintenance Company, Lt. Col. Mitchell Johnson, of the 119th Wing, Maj. Micaela Brancato, of the 119th Wing, Spc. Jordan Becker, of the 3662nd Maintenance Company, 1st Lt. Blake Hillerson, of the 426th Signal Network Support Company, Lt. Col. Jon Wutzke, of the 119th Wing, Tech. Sgt. Danelle Card, of the 119th Wing, Maj. Eric Nordgren, of the 119th Wing, Sgt. Brandon Pulst, of the 133rd Quartermaster Detachment, and Col. David Skalicky, of the N.D. National Guard Joint Force Headquarters, Jan. 25 at the finish line of the Central Region Biathlon Championships at Camp Ripley.



By Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson
Joint Force Headquarters

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

"Feels like -8 degrees," read the weather report as one Guardsman after another slid to the starting line, angled the front tips of their skis toward the center, and waited for the countdown to signal their start in the Central Region Biathlon Championships in Camp Ripley, Minn., last month.

"(Today) wasn't 20 below like it was the last few days," Sgt. Jordan Becker optimistically said Jan. 25 after the competition officially began.

After training on Camp Ripley's ski trails and zeroing their rifles during a bitterly cold snap, the team of 12 Soldiers and Airmen — the largest group to ever represent the state at the competition — was ready to race.

And, race they did. Hard. Hard enough to pull off a fourth straight win at the competition that pits them against the best biathletes from 11 other states.

1st Lt. Blake Hillerson won both men's races during the competition — the 10-kilometer sprint race and 12.5-kilometer pursuit — and Maj. Eric Nordgren placed second in both races. Hillerson serves in the N.D. Army National Guard's 426th Signal Network Support Company and Nordgren is with the N.D. Air National Guard's 119th Wing. Both men have qualified multiple

times for the national-level team and competed around the world.

“I didn’t feel like I had anything extra today,” Hillerson said of giving his all in the sprint race.

Tech. Sgt. Danelle Card — last year’s novice winner — showed what a year of honing her skills could do, winning both of her races. Card led the women competitors with her first-place finish in both the 7.5-kilometer sprint race and 10-kilometer pursuit race. Maj. Micaela Brancato placed third in both races. Both women serve in the N.D. Air National Guard’s 119th Wing.

“It felt good,” Card said after her Jan. 25 race, and expressed optimism in recovering well for the following day’s competition. She was interrupted by another biathlete she competed with on the course who exclaimed, “You should’ve seen her attack that hill!”

The sprint course featured 301 meters of total climb, including a hill on the back-side loop before the finish that Card called “The Wall.”

Despite the challenges, even the team’s newest members performed well. Brancato won the women’s Novice category, which is open to all first-year biathletes, and Lt. Col. Mitch Johnson, who also serves in the 119th Wing, placed second in the men’s Novice category.

Col. David Skalicky, who has coached and recruited for the team for several years, said the team “is a product of excellence and commitment.”

Throughout the preparation and competition, Skalicky ran from the starting line — where he offered last minute advice and sent biathletes into the race with enthusiastic shouts and bell-ringing — to the marksmanship range to the penalty loop and back again.

He watched closely through a scope as team members fired at a series of five small, round targets 50 meters away, all while trying to control their breathing from the exertion of skiing and overcome the cold in their fingers to smoothly pull the trigger.

In the sprint races, biathletes started in intervals, skiing a hilly loop before firing in the prone position, then skiing another loop, shooting from the standing position, and then a final skied loop — including overcoming “the wall” — to the finish line. For each target a biathlete misses on the marksmanship portion, they must ski a penalty loop before moving on. The longer pursuit races incorporate four rounds of marksmanship.

“Our biathletes actively recruited top talent from the N.D. National Guard to create a nationally recognized program,” Skalicky said. “We have yet to develop an Olympic biathlete, but the future looks bright! I am extremely pleased with the effort of our athletes and look forward to competing for the national title at the end of February.”

It wouldn’t be the first time North Dakota won the Chief of the National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships, which will take place in Camp Ripley this year. The team placed third nationally for the past two years and won three years ago.

“The team’s really grown,” Hillerson said of how things have changed since he first started competing. “(There’s) just a lot of depth that we’ve never had before.”

Other N.D. National Guard biathletes helping the team to a regional win included veterans Retired Lt. Col. Jon Wutzke, Master Sgt. Kent Pulst and Sgt. Brandon Pulst and newer members Sgt. Adam Walsvik and Spc. Kellie Lindberg.

“The leadership that we get from the veterans on our team really helps to develop our team, and we really need to continue to grow and continue to be strong for years out,” Becker said. ■



(Above) 1st Lt. Blake Hillerson, of the 426th Signal Network Support Company, launches out of the starting gate Jan. 25 at the beginning of the men’s 10-kilometer sprint race at the Central Region Biathlon Championships at Camp Ripley, near Little Falls, Minn. Hillerson is the top finisher in both the men’s sprint and pursuit races. (Below) Maj. Micaela Brancato, of the 119th Wing, smiles as she stands at the starting line of her first biathlon race — the women’s 7.5-kilometer sprint race at the Central Region Biathlon Championships. (Bottom) Biathlon coach, Col. David Skalicky, of the N.D. National Guard Joint Force Headquarters, encourages his N.D. National Guard team at the Central Region Biathlon Championships.



THE 119TH WING'S JUNIOR ENLISTED ADVISORY COUNCIL

Junior Airmen Organized to Affect Change, Promote Growth

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Eric Jungels, N.D. National Guard Public Affairs

(Below left) Senior Airman Sophie Miller, crew chief and member of the Junior Enlisted Advisory Council for the 119th Wing, places a wreath on a grave at the N.D. Veterans Cemetery, south of Mandan, on Dec. 15. The JEAC volunteered alongside nearly 1,500 others during the Wreaths Across America ceremony. More than 4,100 wreaths were placed on graves at the cemetery at the annual event sponsored by the N.D. Civil Air Patrol. Members of the JEAC volunteered as part of a daylong program in Bismarck that also included touring Fraine Barracks and visiting the Memorial to the Fallen in the Global War on Terrorism. (Below right) From left to right, Tech Sgt. Heather Mattson, Senior Airman Chelsea Nordquist, Senior Airman Sophie Miller and Airman JulieAnn Bischof, all members of the JEAC, place wreaths on graves at the N.D. Veterans Cemetery.

Interested in joining the JEAC?

Any 119th Wing Airman with the rank of Tech Sgt. or below and 10 years of service or less is encouraged and welcome to attend upcoming JEAC events and meetings. For more information, contact Tech Sgt. Heather Mattson, JEAC president, at 701-320-9072 or heather.mattson@hotmail.com.



It's unlikely that the 119th Wing's unit training assembly will fall on the weekend before college final exams this year.

Thanks to the many efforts of the Junior Enlisted Advisory Council (JEAC), leaders at the N.D. National Guard's Fargo-based Wing have a better understanding of the challenges facing lower enlisted Airman — including unique scheduling conflicts that can arise among those pursuing an education outside of the military.

Not only is the JEAC a group of dedicated Airmen looking to make an impact on the organizational and operational effectiveness of the Wing, it's also an outlet for information to be passed down from leadership to the lower ranks. Often, Wing leaders will sit in on JEAC meetings to share information and listen to concerns of the younger Airmen. Col. Rick D. Gibney, 119th Wing commander, makes a point to attend meetings.

"The Junior Enlisted Advisory Council is one of the groups I enjoy visiting at their monthly meetings," Gibney said. "It is a great

organization, which brings many diverse ideas to the table and is a voice for the Wing's junior enlisted. A voice I can appreciate as commander."

The JEAC, in turn, appreciates Gibney's endorsement.

"Col. Gibney really supports this council," Tech Sgt. Heather Mattson, 119th Wing unit training manager and JEAC president, said. "He emphasizes that we're the future of the Wing and that initiatives like this are important to ensuring the tradition and excellence of the Air Guard continue."

Gibney said one of the most important aspects of the JEAC is the group's seat at the Combined Council, where leaders meet every six months to network, identify organizational opportunities, and work through challenges. The seat ensures that junior enlisted members of the Wing have a voice that can be heard at senior leadership levels.

Beyond being an asset to the unit, the JEAC promotes growth



(Top left) Members of the 119th Wing's Junior Enlisted Advisory Council listen as Capt. Jeff Hoffer, N.D. National Guard historian, shares some of the history of Cold War-era tunnels during a tour at Fraine Barracks in Bismarck, on Dec. 15, 2012. (Top right) The JEAC members visit the Adjutant General's residence on Fraine Barracks. (Bottom right) JEAC members at the Global War on Terrorism Memorial in Bismarck. (Bottom left) From left to right, JEAC members Senior Airman Chelsea Nordquist, Senior Airman Sophie Miller, Airman 1st Class Tyrell Martin, Tech Sgt. Heather Mattson, Airman 1st Class JulieAnn Bischof and Tech Sgt. Jeremiah Boehler, all of the 119th Wing, stand in front of the Minuteman statue at Fraine Barracks.

and development among its individual members. Past JEAC President Brittany Schulz has said that the organization offers an excellent opportunity for young Wing members to step up and lead fellow Airmen.

"To me, being a leader is maintaining a positive attitude, being a good mentor, and setting a good example," Schulz said. "As the president of the Junior Enlisted Advisory Council, I had the opportunity to lead fellow airmen — and learn from them as well."

In addition to providing opportunities for growth through interaction with other Airman, the JEAC is active in providing its members with service learning opportunities. Recently, Mattson organized a daylong event in Bismarck that included participating in the Wreaths Across America program, touring Fraine Barracks and visiting the Memorial to the Fallen in the Global War on Terrorism.

After laying wreaths alongside 1,500 other volunteers at the N.D. Veterans Cemetery, south of Mandan, on Dec. 15, Mattson and five

other JEAC Airmen met up with Capt. Jeff Hoffer, N.D. National Guard historian, for a tour of Fraine Barracks.

"I am thrilled these young Airmen volunteered their own time to support an event at the N.D. Veterans Cemetery that honored those who served before us, but also that they took the initiative in requesting a tour of Fraine Barracks," Hoffer said. "It's great to see that the history of the N.D. National Guard is important not just to our senior leaders and retirees, but also to those who will carry the torch into the future."

Mattson, who also is a full-time sexual assault response coordinator (SARC) for the N.D. National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters, said the JEAC will continue to find opportunities to serve and grow. She encourages junior enlisted Airmen of the 119th Wing to get involved.

"We're here to support — and utilize the strengths of — our lower enlisted," Mattson said. "Those who want to be a part of the program are highly encouraged and very welcome to participate." ■

GUARDIAN

Snapshots



Staff Sgt. Brittany Schulz, of the 119th Operations Group, posts scheduling information for 119th Wing personnel during January's unit training assembly at the N.D. Air National Guard in Fargo. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathanael Beardson, 119th Wing Public Affairs)



Senior Airman Laura Hanson and Senior Master Belinda Reep, both in the 119th Medical Group, work with personnel medical documents during January's unit training assembly at the N.D. Air National Guard in Fargo. (Photo by Tech Sgt. Brady Schneider, 119th Wing Public Affairs)



Senior Airman Sophie Miller, of the 119th Maintenance Squadron, inspects a C-21 aircraft during January's unit training assembly at the N.D. Air National Guard in Fargo.

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathanael Beardson, 119th Wing Public Affairs)

THE WING AT WORK



Master Sgt. William Kennedy, of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron, performs explosive ordnance tasks during January's unit training assembly at the N.D. Air National Guard in Fargo. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathanael Beardson, 119th Wing Public Affairs)



Senior Airman Zachary Bjerke, of the 119th Logistics Readiness Squadron, secures a cargo pallet during January's unit training assembly at the N.D. Air National Guard in Fargo. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Bradly Schneider, 119th Wing Public Affairs)



Senior Airman Lilisa Reese, of the 219th Security Forces Squadron, simulates confronting a suspicious person during January's unit training assembly at the N.D. Air National Guard in Fargo.

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathanael Beardson, 119th Wing Public Affairs)



MUSIC IN SCHOOLS TOUR

(Above left) From left to right, Sgt. Melissa Struck, Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Schwind and Spc. Kathryn Zeltinger perform during a musical number by the N.D Army National Guard's 188th Army Band ensemble Clarion of Freedom Jan. 9 at the Oakes High School gymnasium. Clarion of Freedom is one of three ensembles from the 188th Army Band playing at 15 schools across southeastern North Dakota Jan. 7-9 as part of the Music in Schools Tour. The biennial tour raises awareness of the Guard as well as for musicianship in an interactive environment for schoolchildren. (Above right) Sgt. 1st Class Paul Helfter directs the 188th Army Band ensemble Clarion of Freedom as they perform at the Oakes High School Jan. 9. (Below left) From left to right, Staff Sgt. Kate Naujokas, Sgt. Steve Fraase and Spc. Kelsy Johnson play with Clarion of Freedom at Oakes High School. (Below middle) Oakes Public Schools band director Jeff VanOort, right, takes a turn directing Clarion of Freedom as it performs the Oakes High School song for students in the school gymnasium. (Below right) Staff Sgt. Kate Naujokas sings during the Clarion of Freedom performance.



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



BIATHLON

(Left) Maj. Micaela Brancato, of the 119th Wing, concentrates as she stands at the starting line of her first biathlon race Jan. 25. Her first race is the women's 7.5-kilometer sprint race at the Central Region Biathlon Championships at Camp Ripley, near Little Falls, Minn. The biathlon is a sporting event that combines the endurance of cross-country skiing and the skill and concentration of rifle marksmanship to determine an individual and team champion. The N. D. National Guard team placed first in the regional competition for the fourth year in a row, and Brancato is the third-place finisher in the women's pursuit and is also the first place novice racer in both the women's sprint and pursuit races. (Right) Tech. Sgt. Danelle Card, 119th Wing, takes aim at 50-meter targets at the biathlon championships. Card is the first-place finisher in both the women's sprint and pursuit races.



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





Photo by Staff Sgt. Brett Miller, North Dakota National Guard Visual Information



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brett Miller, North Dakota National Guard Visual Information

FREEDOM SALUTE

(Top) Members of the 1st Battalion, 112th Aviation Regiment (Security and Support) line up to be recognized and thanked during a Freedom Salute ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Bismarck on Jan. 13. Soldiers of the 1-112th Aviation Regiment returned home in September from a year-long deployment to Kosovo. (Left) Elected leaders look on as Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, thanks Capt. Karl Altenburg during the Freedom Salute ceremony. (Above) Gov. Jack Dalrymple thanks Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Schuchard, senior enlisted leader for the 1-112th Aviation Regiment, during the Freedom Salute ceremony. Schuchard was recognized for his 35 years of service and will soon be retiring from the Guard.



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CELEBRATING WITH THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

GUARD LEADERS, 188TH ARMY BAND BOLSTER GOVERNOR'S INAUGURAL CELEBRATION

By Spc. Kelsy Johnson, 188th Army Band

Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Kiel Skager, N.D. National Guard Visual Information

Members of the N.D. National Guard battled inclement weather and a power outage to attend and take part in Gov. Jack Dalrymple's inaugural celebration on Jan. 11.

The celebration, which was set to take place at the Bismarck Civic Center and Exhibit Hall, condensed to the Exhibit Hall after the main arena lost power the night before.

Guard leaders took part in many of the formal portions of the celebration, including the presentation of colors, the Pledge of Allegiance and the evening's grand march.

Lt. Col. Davina French, N.D. National Guard government affairs officer, led the Guard's involvement in the night's events.

"We were there to support and celebrate with the governor as he begins his second term in office," French said. "The Guard has a long-standing tradition of being present at inaugural events."

The 188th Army Band's jazz band performed at the event, in a bid to entertain attendees as they flowed into the Exhibit Hall and to provide music for the grand march.

Staff Sgt. Tim Knabe served as the jazz band's musical director during the evening's activities. This was his first time leading a

musical group for an inauguration.

"It was a great opportunity for us as a band to showcase our Soldiers and support a really unique event," Knabe said.

As the hall opened to the public, the band performed a full set of jazz, Latin and blues charts to entertain the crowd.

This year, the military band shared the stage with a number of local performers. In the hour preceding the opening ceremony, radio host Merrill Piepkorn from Prairie Public Broadcasting took the stage to feature local performers in the N.D. Talent Showcase. The Front Fenders, a Fargo band, played for the ball.

The jazz band became a part of a cross-section of N.D. music. Warrant Officer David Stordalen, the band's commander, said he was pleased to see so much local talent at one event.

"It was great fun to share the stage with all the other performers," Stordalen said.

Some things never change, however. The band guided the procession of government officials and military escorts through the exhibit hall for the grand march to tunes of the nation's service songs. The sea of dress blue uniforms, ball gowns and tuxedos makes this kind of event memorable for the observer.

"It's fun to have all that formality and

pageantry," Stordalen said.

Upon the governor's request, a jazz combo performed "At Last," made famous by blues singer Etta James, for the first dance. Sgt. Kacie Hughes sang.

As the governor's band, the 188th Army Band is often called upon for official government and military functions. According to Stordalen, the band has a good track record for this kind of event.

"We are there any time the governor needs us," Stordalen said, "whether it's flood duty or the inaugural ball." ■

The Governor's Inaugural Celebration took place at the Bismarck Civic Center Jan. 11. (Above) Gov. Jack Dalrymple, left, and Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, face the N.D. National Guard's color guard as the Soldiers present national and state colors at the beginning of the inaugural celebration. (Opposite page, clockwise from top) The 188th Army Band's jazz band performs Jan. 11 at Gov. Jack Dalrymple's inaugural celebration. Capt. Dan Murphy, N.D. National Guard public information officer, leads attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance, as Lauren Gray, master of ceremonies for the event, looks on; newly re-elected Gov. Jack Dalrymple addresses and thanks the crowd alongside his wife, Betsy; Lt. Col. Davina French, N.D. National Guard government affairs officer and N.D. National Guard event manager for the inaugural celebration, directs Chief Warrant Officer Theresa Hersch, executive assistant to the N.D. adjutant general, and the children of Lt. Gov. Drew Wrigley and his wife, Kathleen, at the entrance of the grand march during the event; Brig. Gen. Alan Dohrmann, left, N.D. deputy adjutant general, escorts Lt. Gov. Drew Wrigley and his wife, Kathleen, during the grand march.



Photos by Chief Warrant Officer Kiel Skager, N.D. National Guard Visual Information



Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Jungels, N.D. National Guard Public Affairs



Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Jungels, N.D. National Guard Public Affairs



Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Jungels, N.D. National Guard Public Affairs



Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Kiel Skager, N.D. National Guard Visual Information

Runs to Honor the Fallen, Support TAPS Programs

Two runs this summer will benefit the nonprofit TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors) on both the state and national level while honoring those who have died in service to their country.

On May 16-18, TAPS Run & Remember will take part in its third year at the Fargo Marathon events. Walkers and runners can take part as individuals or teams in any race during the weekend — from the 5K to the full marathon — while raising money online for TAPS. Participants receive a TAPS running singlet and can upload a photo of the person they will run in memory of. The photos will be laminated and placed on runners' shirts during the race. There is no registration fee, but participants are encouraged to donate or raise at least \$30 to cover the cost of the shirts.

For more information, go to www.tapsrunandremember.org/fargo or contact local volunteer coordinators Amy Wieser Willson (amy.m.wieserwillson.mil@mail.mil) or Penny Ripperger (penny.ripperger@ang.af.mil).

On June 22, a 14K Fallen Soldiers Run/Walk will take place to remember the 14 N.D. National Guard Soldiers who have died in the Global War on Terrorism. Request a registration form early or



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

From left to right, Sgt. 1st Class Tim Moen, of the N.D. Army National Guard, along with Master Sgt. Teresa Terry and Capt. Jennifer Silbernagel, both of the N.D. Air National Guard's 119th Logistics Readiness Squadron, run past the Fargo Theater at about mile 3 of the half-marathon May 21, 2011, in Fargo. The runners are among 160 who are part of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) Run & Remember Team that raised more than \$27,000. TAPS provides direct support to families who have been impacted by a death in the military regardless of geography or circumstance.

register the day of the race at Burdick Arena in Devils Lake. The walk/run will start at 8 a.m. at the arena and end at the Edwards House at Camp Grafton Training Center. Participants will be bussed back to the arena afterward.

Registration costs \$25 for individuals or \$60 for families of three or more. All participants will receive a T-shirt. For

more information, call Dawn at 230-1559 or Kristi at 701-351-0021.

TAPS is a 24/7 tragedy assistance resource for anyone who has suffered the loss of a military loved one, regardless of the relationship to the deceased or the circumstance of the death. For more information, go to www.taps.org. ■

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Two Army Guard Units Receive Alert for Possible Mobilization

Two N.D. Army National Guard units received alerts for possible mobilization in January. The Jamestown-based 817th Engineer Company (Sapper) and the 814th Medical Company (Area Support), based out of Bismarck with a detachment in Grand Forks, have been notified of the possible mobilization by leadership teams.

If the 817th Engineer Company is mobilized, about 100 Soldiers would serve in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in the spring of 2014. The unit previously served in Iraq from June 2007-June 2008 and as Company B, 141st Engineer Battalion from Dec. 2003 until Feb. 2005. The unit specializes in combat

engineer tasks.

Soldiers with the 817th are from 34 communities across N.D., as well as eight Minnesota communities and one from Texas.

If the 814th Medical Company mobilizes, about 65 Soldiers also will serve in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in early 2014 for as long as one year. This would be the unit's first mobilization in support of the Global War on Terrorism, although the 814th served on overseas deployment training exercises in Ghana and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The unit also participated in the Guard's emergency flood response in 2011 in the Bismarck-Mandan area. The unit's missions include performing triage and medical evacuation, providing emergency trauma services and operating troop medical

clinics.

Soldiers with the 814th are from 20 communities across N.D., as well as two Soldiers from Minnesota and one from Utah.

N.D. National Guard units that are mobilized include the Williston- and Hazen-based 818th Engineer Company (Sapper), Bismarck-based 1919th Contingency Contracting Team, Bismarck-based Detachment 42 (Operational Support Airlift), and about 30 Soldiers from the Fargo-based 191st Military Police Company with Joint Task Force Guantanamo. There are no N.D. National Guard Airmen deployed overseas at this time.

Also on alert for possible mobilization is the Grand Forks-based 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment. ■



Chaplain's Corner: Kill 'em When They're Small

By Chaplain (Maj.) Corey Bjertness

There was a man who had spent his whole life in the desert. He decided to visit a friend. On his way, he walked on railroad tracks. He'd never seen a train before or the tracks on which it runs. At one point during his journey on the tracks, he heard a whistle. He had no idea what it is, so he just stood there and listened as the sound got louder. And, sure enough, the train hit him. Luckily, it had only been a glancing blow. The man was thrown, head over heels to the side of the tracks.

Late one evening, after about a week

of recovery in a hospital, he finally visited his friend's house. While in the kitchen, he suddenly heard his friend's tea kettle whistling. Quickly, he grabbed a baseball bat from a nearby closet, and he proceeded to bash and batter the tea kettle into an unrecognizable lump of metal.

His friend rushed into the kitchen, looked over the scene, and asked the man, "Why'd you ruin my good tea kettle?"

The guy, who had grown up in the desert, replied: "Man, you gotta kill these things while they're still small. They're nasty when they get big."

In this simple joke, there is a good lesson for those of us who wear the uniform: We should take care of issues

when they are small, because often they are nasty when they get big.

It is not a bad lesson for those who train themselves to ignore their personal needs for the greater good of the country. Even though we are "hooah," we still need to be faithful about maintaining ourselves for the good of our families, ourselves and even God.

Jesus said, "Whoever can be trusted with very little, can also be trusted with much."

I believe this is true. If you are faithful in taking care of the little things, you will be blessed with much. Much hope in the future. Much peace! Much! ■



FIRST TO AID



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Johnson, 818th Engineer Company

Sgt. Stuart Hammer, a medic for the 818th Engineer Company, Task Force Warhammer, gives medical attention to a local Afghan boy while conducting a route clearance patrol in southern Afghanistan. N.D. Soldiers with the 818th Engineer Company (Sapper) are nearing the end of a yearlong route clearance mission, which is critical to the safety of coalition forces and Afghan citizens.