



# NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN

Volume 3, Issue 4

April 2010

## Back in the Fight

Guardsmen Called  
to State Active Duty  
for Flood Operations

» Also Inside:

Pilot for a Day  
Professional Development Workshop

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# NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN

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## ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

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 Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi.

## On the Cover



**Flood Fight 2010:** Spc. Christopher Jensen, of the 188th Engineer Company (Vertical), based out of Wahpeton, N.D., catches a sandbag on March 17 in the backyard of Konny and Darin Zins near Lisbon, N.D. Darin is a sergeant in the N.D. Army National Guard and is currently deployed to Kosovo as part of the NATO peacekeeping forces in Kosovo Force 12. In Darin's absence, the Guardsmen came to his aid to help protect the Zins' home from the rising flood water. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing)

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# VIEW FROM THE TOP

Comments from North Dakota National Guard Leadership

## Sometimes Instructions Are Not Included

My View From the Top is, perhaps, a little different from most. To help put it all in perspective, my daughter not so long ago said to me, "Dad, you do not follow instructions very well." Of course, I was somewhat taken aback by her comments. They seemed to come out of the blue. So I asked her, "What do you mean, I do not follow instructions very well?" I have followed the instructions of teachers, parents, coworkers and in the military I have followed orders my entire life.

She replied, "You never do what mother and I tell you to do." We both laughed about it, however, shortly after, a coworker told me the same thing: "Bill, you do not follow instructions very well," he said. So I asked him what he meant. He told me he wanted me to do a task a certain way, not the way I had done it. I did not think much more of it since I accomplished the task, just not the way he wanted it done.

Then it happened again at the General Officer Legal Orientation course I recently attended. I had stopped at the registration desk and asked the captain on duty for directions to the billeting office. After about a five minute dissertation on how to get to the building, the captain looked up and said, "You are not going to follow my directions are you, sir?" I replied, "No. Just tell me the building number and I will find it." So, after doing things my way this third time, I got it, and it caused me to reflect a little bit.

When I was a platoon leader, I received a lot of hard coaching and mentoring by all sorts, from young sergeants to command sergeants major, company commanders, various staff officers and battalion commanders. I always thought the Army trained me to be a leader, so I wanted to do what the Army trained me to do and I would bring my platoon along with me. Because, well, I knew they wanted to do the same things that I wanted to do. I wanted to build bridges, so we trained and built the Bailey Bridge and the M4T6 floating bridges. I wanted

to blow stuff up, and so we trained and blew stuff up. I wanted to run a quarry, so we trained and operated a quarry. I wanted to build roads and buildings and dig tank ditches, so again we trained and went out and did it. I wondered how the platoon kept up with me, but they somehow managed. But when we assaulted the hill for the third time, that was a defining moment where the platoon drew the line and one of the few times in my career where the "box" was actually defined for me with the help of the first sergeant and the company commander.

Everyone talks about thinking outside the "box," but from my perspective few have ever defined the shape or size of the "box." So, I always charted my own path within the guidance I was given. Most of the time it was a little vague and open to subjectivity in my mind until my commander told me otherwise. However, I always conducted the proper training needed for all the things I wanted to do. I always believed in setting Soldiers and units up for success. Conversely, I never asked for a lot of definition about the "box" as I never wanted someone else to set limitations on me.

As I continued in my career on battalion staff, I eventually learned not to micromanage several times over and the importance of letting go. Letting go of control is difficult but necessary to allow those junior officers and noncommissioned officers to experience those same opportunities I was given early on. Opportunities to grow and make their own mistakes. It also became more important to learn what my commanders liked to do and what they liked to delegate to ensure the Soldiers' and units' needs were covered down on.

Commanders generally want their staffs to take care of the day-to-day requirements, freeing them to provide guidance on what the unit needs to train on and what direction the unit needs to go. Commanders make these decisions based on personal experiences, observations, reports,



**Brig. Gen. William Seekins**  
 Land Component Commander  
 North Dakota National Guard

opportunities and a lot of input from the staff.

As a staff officer, I worked with many commanders whom, oddly enough, usually wanted to do the same things I did, much the same as my platoon followed along with the training I thought they needed. So, at the battalion and brigade level, we trained and participated in many exercises, projects and events. Every training event was bigger, better and more challenging than the previous year. This is where I learned the importance of having a vision and spreading the vision to ensure every Soldier in each unit understands where we are headed and how to determine their part in accomplishing the vision.

At the same time, though, I did not give specific instructions on how to accomplish the vision, but instead focused on what the end state was. By not micromanaging and allowing Soldiers and units to define their own path, they will grow and learn from their mistakes. We all have our own way of doing things, which is why our Army and Air Force has been so successful on the battlefield for decades. Some unpredictability can be a force multiplier at times. So, yes, perhaps I may not be very good at following instructions as I am always focused on the successful accomplishment of the mission and like to determine my own path to get there.

Sincerely,

Brig. Gen. William Seekins

**Military Youth Camps Available to Guard Children**

Registration is open for those who wish to participate in the Military Youth Camps this summer at the 4-H Western Camp in Washburn. The N.D. National Guard is supporting two camps, which are funded by Operation: Military Kids; the U.S. Army's collaborative effort with America's communities to support the children and youth impacted by deployment. The camps are intended for youth who are members of a military family.

The first of two Military Youth Camps supported by the N.D. National Guard will be open to ages 8 to 11 June 27-July 1. The cost is \$190, of which campers are only required to pay \$75. The remainder of the fee will be paid for by an Operation: Military Kids grant fund.

The second Military Youth Camp will be July 11-15 for ages 12 to 14 at the same rate of \$75.

Campers will enjoy a variety of activities, including water activities, outdoor survival fun and a military-themed obstacle course. The children also will have an opportunity to experience leadership roles in a squad environment.

For more information, contact Spc. Tonya Sigl, N.D. National Guard State Youth Coordinator, at 701-333-4803 or e-mail [tonya.sigl@us.army.mil](mailto:tonya.sigl@us.army.mil).

**North Dakota Marksmen Stay on Target at National Competition**

Eight N.D. National Guard Soldiers tested their marksmanship abilities by participating in the 2010 U.S. Army Small Arms Championship at Fort Benning, Ga., Feb. 20-27. The All-Army competition is an advanced combat live-fire training exercise. While the event is a competition, the overarching critical intent is to develop combat firing skills at the entry and intermediate level and to raise the standard of marksmanship across the entire force.

The N.D. National Guard fielded two teams at the All-Army event. The team members came from the 817th Engineer Company (Sapper), 3662nd Maintenance Company and Joint Force Headquarters. All competitors fired several individual and team matches using the M9 pistol, M16 and AK47 rifles. Two matches included road marches of two miles and 1.5 miles while carrying a full battle load prior to engaging targets.

Spc. Tyrel Hoppe and Spc. Evan Messer



Members of the N.D. National Guard Marksmanship Team take aim at the 2010 U.S. Army Small Arms Championship at Fort Benning, Ga.

Courtesy Photo

of the 817th were recognized for their achievements during the awards ceremony. Hoppe took third place in Match 2, Target Transitions, and was awarded a bronze medal. Messer took an overall third place in the E1-E4 category and was presented with a plaque and a Sergeant Major of the Army coin.

Overall, the North Dakota 817th Sappers placed 9th and the North Dakota B-team placed 20th out of 49 teams from across the Army, Army Reserve and National Guard.

Match results are at the Civilian Marksmanship Program Web site: [http://clubs.odcmp.com/cgi-bin/report\\_matchResult.cgi?matchID=5292](http://clubs.odcmp.com/cgi-bin/report_matchResult.cgi?matchID=5292).

**Some North Dakota Soldiers in Kosovo to Return in May**

An announcement March 8 from Headquarters of the U.S. Army in Europe indicated that about 550 U.S. Soldiers serving with Kosovo Force (KFOR) 12, Multi-National Battle Group-East, will be returning home before summer. About 160 Soldiers of the 231st Maneuver Task Force (231st Brigade Support Battalion), Valley City, N.D., and the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade of North Dakota are expected home in May versus the initial July or August mission end date.

According to U.S. Army Europe, "the change is in response to the improving security situation throughout Kosovo, brought about by the hard work and cooperation of the citizens and institutions in Kosovo. Under the Deterrent Presence plan [which is how Multi-National Battle Group-East is organized for operations], military forces throughout Kosovo have

been adjusted from 14,000 to a total force size of 10,000, by order of the North Atlantic Council, the civilian body that oversees NATO."

Soldiers in California, Hawaii, U.S. Virgin Islands, Kansas and North Dakota are all impacted by this change. The decision on which specific Soldiers return in May is being made based on particular positions and capabilities required by the ongoing mission.

After May, nearly 800 U.S. Soldiers will remain in Kosovo as part of the larger, 10,000-strong NATO peacekeeping force. Nearly 500 of those remaining will be North Dakota Soldiers. The change in U.S. troop levels in May will ensure a seamless transition with the incoming Soldiers of KFOR 13, which will be led by the Puerto Rico Army National Guard.

**N.D. National Guard Families of the Year Recognized at Symposium**

Both the Air and Army Guard Family of the Year were honored March 20 at a volunteer luncheon that took place at the Adjutant General's Symposium on Families at the Radisson Hotel in Bismarck. Annually, each branch of service chooses a family that has served the military community in an outstanding capacity. The two Families were nominated by their peers due to their support of the Guard as well as their activities and volunteer efforts.

Tech. Sgt. Francisco "Frank" Gonzalez and Senior Airman Kelly Gonzalez, of Minot, received Air Guard Family of the Year and Sgt. 1st Class Richard and Tess Haugen, of Dickinson, received Army Guard Family of the Year. The Gonzalez family was unable to attend due to participation in the flood fight efforts, but

the Haugen family was on hand to receive the award.

Gonzalez is assigned as the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of training for the 219th Security Forces Squadron at Minot Air Force Base. According to the Gonzalez nomination form, "Frank constantly seeks greater responsibilities within the squadron and strives to enhance his already immense professional knowledge base. The family significantly volunteers time and efforts in helping out squadron members during times of need. Numerous examples include moving, snow removal, home repairs and chaperoning field trips for children. This Family's selfless service and sacrifices have been instrumental without measure in ensuring the success of a complex and difficult nuclear security mission." Frank and Kelly Gonzalez volunteer numerous hours to help other Airmen and participate in professional events to enhance the overall image of the Guard.

Army Guard winner, Sgt. 1st Class Richard Haugen, of the 816th Engineer Company, and his wife and three children were nominated due to their positive impact on their community and care and concern demonstrated for Soldiers. According to the nomination form, "Richard volunteers for additional duties to include: suicide intervention officer, casualty notification officer, equal opportunity representative as well as teaching mini-lessons to local elementary school students. Joining Richard in demonstrating genuine care and concern is his wife Tess. As the leader of the Family Readiness Group, she has been instrumental in organizing activities for the Soldiers, spouses and children year-round. Care, concern, devotion and training are all great attributes for one to have.

Finding a family where these attributes are shared by all, make them a great choice."

**North Dakota Excels in Media Contest**

The N.D. Army National Guard received more print media awards than any other state in the 2009 National Guard Bureau Media Contest, leading with eight. The annual contest recognizes the best and brightest in the Guard's public affairs community, which includes more than 1,000 citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen from 54 states and territories. Additionally, the N.D. Air National Guard excelled in the Air Force photography categories, coming out with four awards.

"The successful results of this important media competition reflect the professionalism and competence of our public affairs team," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general. "Whether conventional print, broadcast or new media, our public affairs specialists continue to do a great job telling the story of the outstanding citizen-Soldiers and citizen-Airmen of the N.D. National Guard."

As a team, the N.D. National Guard Public Affairs Office took first place in the Special Achievement in Print Media category for the special flood edition of the North Dakota Guardian. The team also placed first in the Outstanding Initiatives in New Media category for their use of social media tools to tell the N.D. National Guard story. North Dakota's 116th Public Affairs Detachment, which is deployed to Kosovo, placed second in that category.

Sgt. Eric Jensen, North Dakota Guardian editor, earned two first-place awards, one for a feature article titled "The Party Crashers" on the National Guard's involvement with Zip to Zap in 1969, and

the other for a commentary about online communities. Lt. Col. Rick Smith, N.D. National Guard public information officer, placed third in the commentary category for a piece titled "The Art of Caring Leadership Through Attitude." Additionally, Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson, deputy public information officer-East, placed third for an artist-inspired story series that included pieces titled "The Art of War," "Brush with Greatness," and "Carving a Niche." Spc. Tiffany-Iris Heflin, a unit public affairs representative with the 191st Military Police Company, earned a third-place award in the Contribution by a Stringer-Photographer category for a photo titled "Down Range."

On the Air Guard side, Senior Master Sgt. David Lipp took home four photography awards. He placed first in the Sports Photo category and earned three third-place awards in the Photojournalism, Pictorial Photo and Picture Story (shown below) categories.

Judges reviewed 406 entries from the Army National Guard and 290 from the Air National Guard before making their decisions.

Lipp's winning Air National Guard entries will now move on to the Air Force Media Contest, an Air Force-wide competition. Before the March 25 deadline of this issue of the North Dakota Guardian, winners were announced for the Keith L. Ware Contest, the Army-wide media competition. The N.D. National Guard Public Affairs Office took first in the Outstanding Initiatives in New Media category. Willson took first in the Story Series category and Jensen took second in the Commentary category.

To view the winning entries, go to [www.ng.mil/features/MediaAwards/entries.aspx](http://www.ng.mil/features/MediaAwards/entries.aspx).



# Celebrating the Month of the Military Child

By Spc. Tonya Sigl  
State Youth Coordinator

Why is April the Month of the Military Child? It began in 1986 when the Department of Defense teamed up with various partners to recognize the sacrifices and applaud the courage of military children. More than 1.7 million American children younger than 18 have at least one parent serving in the military. It is estimated the U.S. Army has more than 900,000 military children with one or both parents having deployed multiple times. In the N.D. National Guard Family alone, we have about 2,200 children. Throughout April 2010, the U.S. Military worldwide (active, Guard and Reserve) will conduct a variety of fun and exciting events during which senior leaders will recognize the sacrifices and challenges of military children.

This year's theme is "Military Children — Everyday Heroes In Your Community."



Spc. Tonya Sigl and son, Jaxon.

The theme stresses the heroic sacrifices military children and youth make every day, especially during this time of persistent conflict. It also emphasizes that military children and youth are in every corner of the world, not just on military installations. Over the last few years, the military has made great efforts to reach geographically dispersed children and youth and this presents an opportunity to highlight those programs and services.

As the state youth coordinator for the N.D. National Guard, I would like to reach every child in North Dakota whose parent is serving in the N.D. National Guard and acknowledge them for *their* service. For the past four years, the youth program office has been sending out recognition certificates to Guard children whose parents request them. Also, the youth program office is focusing on the N.D. National Guard Youth Group. We meet every third Sunday of the month at a Bismarck location. This group is for N.D. National Guard children ages 10-17. For more information about the youth group, please contact the youth program office at 701-333-4803.

The following story from Meagan Olson, wife of 1st Lt. Christopher Olson, of the 188<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Artillery (RAID IV), shows just how important it is to

recognize children of deployed military members. She says:

"My husband is currently deployed to Afghanistan as part of the RAID IV mission. This is our second deployment as a married couple but the first with children. We have two daughters, ages three and one, and each day is an adventure.

Our 3-year-old attends preschool at Riverside Christian School in East Grand Forks, Minn. The school has been so inviting and supportive and we've met some great people. My daughter's teachers, Mrs. Janelle Hansen and Miss Melissa Hughes, have been wonderfully patient and understanding and even found a way to turn the deployment into a positive learning experience for her. My husband was invited to Skype with the children in the class. They shared some art, sang a song and said a prayer to keep him and his Soldiers safe. It was a great moment for my husband to get to see his daughter and her friends at school and also know that he wasn't forgotten. That support comes from everywhere.

What my daughter's teachers don't know is that she talks about this experience almost every day. She shares it with anyone who will listen. 'My Daddy got to talk to my friends at school. He is on a trip but he'll be home soon.'

'Thank you for not forgetting.'

Any questions about youth programming or activities, please contact me at 701-333-4803 or [tonya.sigl@us.army.mil](mailto:tonya.sigl@us.army.mil).

## Chaplain's Corner: Serving Those Who Serve

By Chaplain Candidate (2nd Lt.) Brian Kiefat

I've been in the National Guard for just short of 10 years now. It was one year ago this month that I made the transition from being a senior noncommissioned officer on the enlisted side to accepting a commission as a second lieutenant chaplain candidate. I can tell you with the utmost confidence that this last year that I have spent in the Chaplain Corps has by far been the most fulfilling yet. Let me tell you why.

My career in the National Guard has been life-changing, and I've had countless opportunities to see and do things I wouldn't have had the opportunity to do otherwise. I've also had the opportunity to travel all over the world to places such

as Scotland, Germany, Kuwait, Iraq and, of course, all over the good ol' USA! And every place I've been with the National Guard, I've had the wonderful opportunity to work alongside some of the greatest men and women in the nation while serving people in need.

Now, as a chaplain candidate, I not only get to work *alongside* the greatest men and women in the nation, I get to *serve* them, also! And doing so has been the highlight of my career.

I have the best job in the Army. I get to serve those who serve. I operate in an environment that allows me to support, encourage and care for military members who are in need. I get to provide counsel

for those who are confused, a listening ear for those who are burdened and a voice of hope and comfort for those who are weary.

Serving YOU has been one of the greatest honors of my life.

Last I heard, the National Guard was short several hundred chaplains nationwide. When I heard that, I couldn't help but think that there are many Soldiers and Airmen just like you who aren't getting the care and support they deserve.

With this shortage in mind, would you be willing to consider a career in the chaplaincy? Would you be willing to talk to a friend about serving as a chaplain? Or would you be willing to speak to your pastor or faith group leader about the opportunity he or she has to minister as a chaplain?

If this awesome opportunity interests you, please feel free to contact me at [brian.kiefat@us.army.mil](mailto:brian.kiefat@us.army.mil).



Chaplain Candidate (2nd Lt.) Brian Kiefat

# Direct Hit

## North Dakota Shoots Straight With 1st Place Win in National Biathlon Competition



Pfc. Cassandra Simonton

By Pfc. Cassandra Simonton  
Joint Force Headquarters

Sgt. Blake Hillerson takes aim at his targets during the relay race at the Chief of the National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships at Camp Ripley, Minn., March 7, 2010. Below, team members, from left to right, Sgt. 1st Class Kent Pulst, Capt. Eric Nordgren, Sgt. Blake Hillerson, Spc. Jordan Becker and Spc. Brandon Pulst display the North Dakota flag after taking first place in the biathlon competition.

The N.D. National Guard Biathlon Team won first place in a 22.5 kilometer relay at the national competition hosted by Camp Ripley, Minn., March 5-6. The team improved their time by seven minutes from previous relays.

To complete a circuit of a biathlon relay, each team member must ski a 7.5 kilometer loop then attempt to shoot five 50-meter targets with a rifle from the prone position using eight rounds. Any targets missed require the competitor to do a penalty lap. They must then race another 7.5 kilometer loop to arrive back at the shooting range for five more targets, this time while standing. After they finish firing, they must do one final loop then tag the next team member to begin their circuit.

"This is by far the best North Dakota has ever done," said team coach Spc. Jordan Becker, Devils Lake. "To sweep the whole event was really incredible."



Courtesy Photo

The N.D. National Guard's win at the competition was fueled partially by their prior success this year when they placed first at the regional competition.

"It inspired the team to work harder and push harder," Becker said.

"I thought we did great," said Sgt. Blake Hillerson, who will be travelling to Italy soon to compete against more than twenty other countries in the World Military Championship. He serves with the National Guard Bureau-led All-Guard Team. "Eric and Kent have made great strides, which propelled the team at the championship."

"I'm really excited," Hillerson said, who will be training until the competition. "It's a great opportunity."

"It was great that our Soldiers and Airmen could compete in an event that combines physical fitness and competitive shooting," Sprynczynatyk said. He said that if anyone is interested in trying the sport, equipment will be provided and opportunities will be made for them to become a part of the team.

"Only five people participated and it would be wonderful to have a dozen or more," Sprynczynatyk said. "We would certainly give Soldiers and Airmen the opportunity to do so."

"I think what they're doing, how they're doing it, their physical ability, their marksmanship and their dedication is stupendous, and I think more people should participate," said Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Miller, who also attended the event.

Miller said all Soldiers and Airmen who enjoy marksmanship and fitness would enjoy competing in biathlons.

"It's a sport that transcends ages where the youngest competitors are 23 and the oldest are over 50," Miller said.

Any Guard members interested in joining the biathlon team are encouraged to contact Becker at [jordan.robert.becker@ng.army.mil](mailto:jordan.robert.becker@ng.army.mil) or 701-739-3473. ■

# Happy Hooligans Host Special Day for Honorary Member

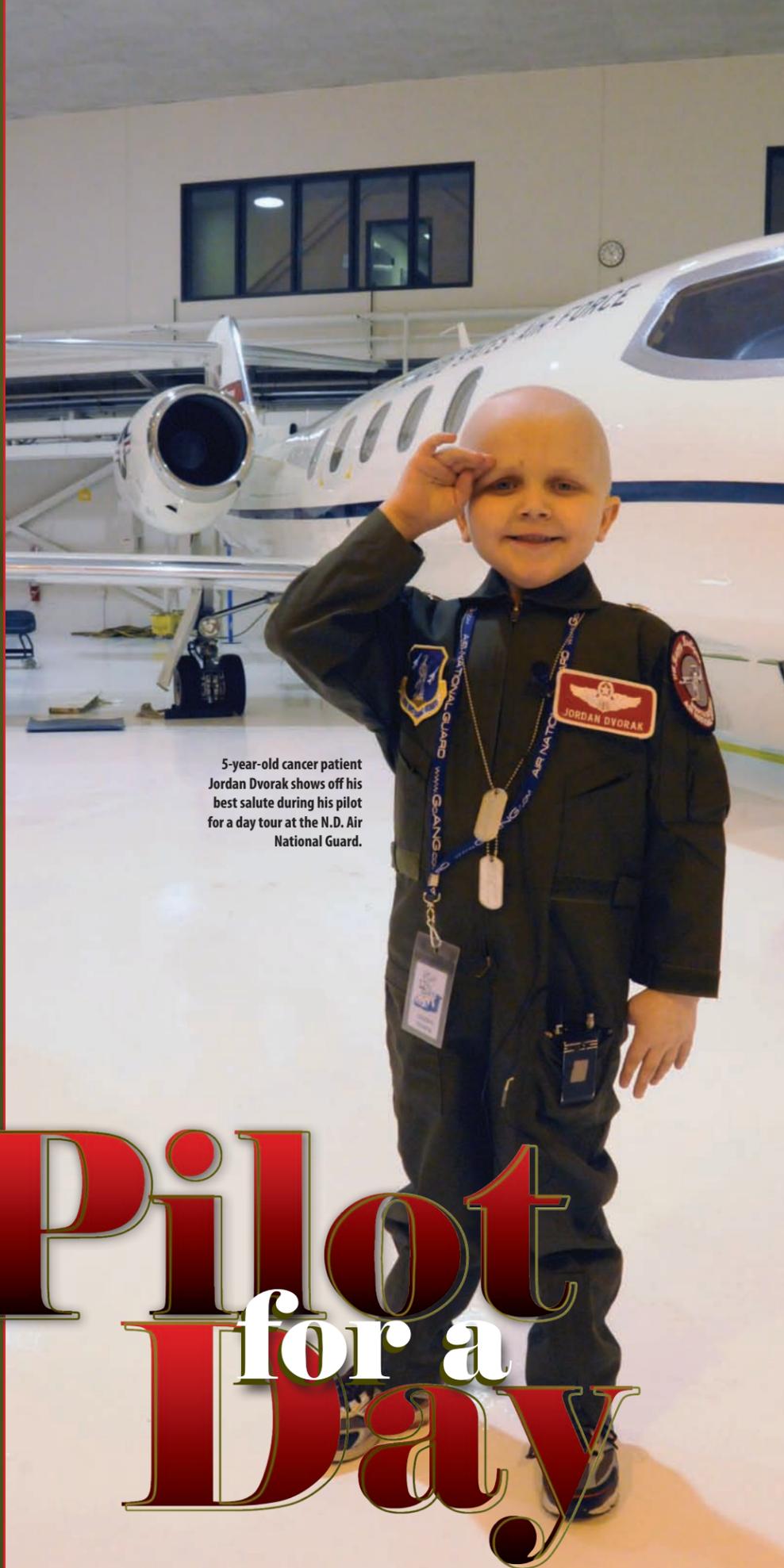
Story by Capt. Penny Ripperger  
 W/ Photos by  
 Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp  
 119th Wing

A young boy experienced first-hand what it's like to be a superstar as the Happy Hooligans gave him VIP treatment during their "Pilot for a Day" event at the North Dakota Air National Guard March 2.

Jordan Dvorak, of Grand Forks, N.D., had the opportunity to visit the base for the day. The 5-year-old was diagnosed with leukemia in August. Dvorak and his parents, Jason and Lavonne Dvorak, who are both police officers with the Grand Forks Police Department, and several of his friends from Creative Kids Daycare, visited the base where the Happy Hooligans showed them a day they would never forget.

"This was a day for Jordan, as he is in the stages of beating cancer. Our goal was to make this a special day with his family and friends, and for them to enjoy a break away from whatever challenges they may face. We were very excited to roll

# Pilot for a Day



5-year-old cancer patient Jordan Dvorak shows off his best salute during his pilot for a day tour at the N.D. Air National Guard.



1st Lt. Lee Teigen, of the 177th Airlift Squadron, right, takes an imaginary flight in the cockpit of a C-21 aircraft with 5-year-old cancer patient Jordan Dvorak during his pilot for a day tour March 2, at the N.D. Air National Guard, Fargo. Jordan gives his crew a thumbs-up during his C-21 control panel experience as part of his special day as an honorary general officer at the N.D. Air National Guard Wing. He has been diagnosed with leukemia, which is in remission.

out the red carpet for this little boy," said 1st Lt. Mathew Aiken, 119th Wing C-21 pilot and event organizer.

The Pilot for a Day program is not a new event for the Happy Hooligans. In the past, the Airmen hosted this cherished event with their previous mission of the F-16 Fighting Falcon, where they would

honor children, typically those fighting a life-threatening illness or condition.

In 2007, when the F-16 mission ended, the Pilot for a Day program was temporarily discontinued due to the high operations tempo brought on by the mission changes.

"This was the first time we've done Pilot for a Day with the C-21s. Everyone was excited to get this program started again. There are so many wonderful kids out there. If we can make it a memorable day for even a few of these brave kids, it's worth all the work," said 1st Lt. Lee Teigen, C-21 pilot and co-organizer of the event.

The day was jam-packed with surprises for Jordan and his friends. The first event was eating breakfast in the legendary "Hooligan Frame Room" with the pilots. Following breakfast, the group went on an interactive base tour to include a hands-on visit of the life support shop, an up close demonstration of the C-21 Lear Jets followed by a stop at the popular 119th Wing Fire Hall. "When we were en route to see the C-21s, it was announced that the fire hall was next and Jordan and his friends ran down the hall shouting, 'fire trucks, fire trucks, fire trucks!' It was a lot of fun hanging out with the kids ... a great reminder of how wonderful this program is," said Master Sgt. Eric Johnson, 119th Wing public affairs.

The day reached its end with a pizza party at the nearby Fargo Air Museum. The group of kids excitedly talked about their adventures of the day and one very exhausted but happy little boy in a miniature flight suit stood out from the crowd with the biggest smile of all.

The day was



Jordan and a few of his friends take a seat on the wing of the C-21.

Nearly 500 members of the N.D. National Guard attended the Professional Development Workshop March 11-14 in Fargo. The event coincides with the annual Combined Associations Conference, which is a meeting place for North Dakota Guardsmen to become involved with their respective associations: the National Guard Association of North Dakota and the N.D. National Guard Enlisted Association. These groups represent Guardsmen by providing states and its members representation before U.S. Congress for resources. Concurrently, the Professional Development Workshop is an event that provides informational presentations and educates emerging leaders in the N.D. National Guard and their Families about the organization's successes and challenges.



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Top, Sgt. 1st Class Mark Wanner carries the North Dakota Legion of Merit while accompanied by his family. Right, Best Warrior competition runner-up Spc. Nathan Svihovec and winner in the noncommissioned officer category, Staff Sgt. Jason Lothspeich, display their awards next to Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. National Guard adjutant general.



Addressing the crowd was a host of distinguished visitors, including Director of the Air National Guard Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III and the Acting Director of the Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Raymond W. Carpenter.

The Professional Development Workshop also featured updates via phone from commanders leading units overseas, including Kosovo Force 12, 188<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Artillery Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment (RAID) IV and Company C of the 2/285<sup>th</sup> Aviation Assault Battalion.

A Bowman, N.D., Soldier who received the Silver Star medal in February was honored again with the North Dakota Legion of Merit award. Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mark A. Wanner, a former N.D. National Guard Soldier, now serves with the Ohio

Right, An honor guard comprised of N.D. Army National Guard Soldiers and N.D. Air National Guard Airmen brought in the colors to kick-off the Professional Development Workshop on March 12. Below, North Dakota Gov. John Hoeven addresses the nearly 500 attendees at the 2010 Professional Development Workshop.



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

National Guard. He received the Silver Star for showing "extraordinary disregard for his own personal safety while engaging the enemy to save the life of a fellow Soldier" on May 31, 2009, while deployed to Afghanistan.

The best of the best North Dakota Guardsmen also were recognized during the Combined Associations Conference banquet. This respected group included:

Staff Sgt. Jason P. Lothspeich, of the 817<sup>th</sup> Sapper Company, was the Best Warrior for the noncommissioned officer category while Spc. Justin A. Huber, of the 191<sup>st</sup> Military Police Company, was the Best Warrior for enlisted Soldiers.

Senior Airman Eric R. Foss, of the 219<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, was this year's



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Airman of the Year. Staff Sgt. Wesley J. Heit, of the 119<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group, was the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, while the Senior Noncommissioned Officer of

the Year title was earned by Master Sgt. Shane J. Amundson, of the 119<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron.

The 2009 Officers of the Year also were honored in their respective categories. In the N.D. Air National Guard, Maj. Jerrad Krapp was named Field-Grade Officer of the Year and Capt. Grant Larson was named Company-Grade

Officer of the Year. Krapp serves with the 119<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, and Larson is the 119<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron commander. For the N.D. Army National Guard, Maj. James R. Olson was named Field-Grade Officer of the Year and Capt. Amber Monette was named Company-Grade Officer of the Year. Olson is currently deployed to Kosovo. Later this year, he'll return to his full-time National Guard job as the operations and training officer for the 141<sup>st</sup> Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. Monette recently returned from a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan where she served as the commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 188<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Artillery Regiment's RAID III mission. She works full-time as the Battalion's training officer. ■

Miss the 2010 Professional Development Workshop? Watch video from the event: [www.ndguard.ngb.army.mil/news/videos/thetagtownhallmeeting/Pages/](http://www.ndguard.ngb.army.mil/news/videos/thetagtownhallmeeting/Pages/)

# Professional Development Workshop 2010

Story by Eric W. Jensen & Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson, Joint Force Headquarters

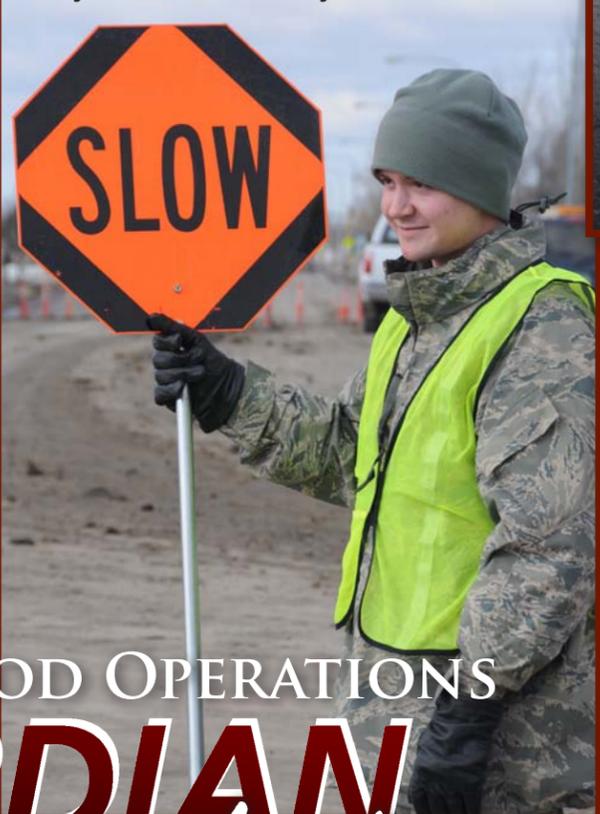
Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. National Guard adjutant general, speaks to community officials March 16, at the Fargo, N.D., City Hall. He addressed National Guard assistance with flood fighting activities, as Col. Brad Derrig, of the 119th Wing, left, and N.D. Gov. John Hoeven, right, listen.



Airman 1st Class Casey Pritchard, of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron, assembles a section of an experimental AquaFence March 17 in Fargo. The AquaFence was installed by the N.D. Air National Guard as a test flood barrier to see if it might be effective for use in future flood protection.



Senior Airman Ryan Ness, of the 219th Security Forces Squadron, holds a traffic sign March 16, on a busy street in Fargo. Ness helped control traffic at an entry point for dump trucks carrying clay used in dike building along a drainage area where floodwater was rising.



Tech Sgt. Kevin Reinhardt, of the 119th Logistics Readiness Squadron, signals a forklift driver as he completes filling a 1.5-ton sandbag with sand from a cement truck March 19 at the N.D. Air National Guard, Fargo. The large sandbags are used for UH-60 helicopter sling-load operations to battle rising floodwaters.



A quick response force (QRF) dump truck from the N.D. Army National Guard hauls a load of clay to an emergency over-land flood site March 18 in Lidgerwood, N.D. The QRF personnel and equipment were dispatched from their staging area at the 188th Engineer Company in Wahpeton, N.D., in an effort to prevent the floodwater from engulfing the southeastern parts of Lidgerwood.



Staff Sgt. Neil Horner places a sandbag onto a pile as he creates a flood barrier March 21 at the rural Kindred, N.D., home of Dave and Susan Hartfiel. Horner and Sgt. 1st Class Sam Hansen, right, are part of the 815th Engineer Company (Horizontal), of Wishek, N.D., and worked as a quick response force (QRF) team. The QRF personnel and equipment were on alert at their staging area at the Hickson, N.D., Community Center when they got the emergency call to create a flood barrier against the rising overland floodwater, which had begun to creep into the lower level of the Hartfiel house.

The N.D. National Guard, as well as the Department of Emergency Services (DES), the Governor's Office and other state, county and city agencies, spent months preparing for a possible state flood response. As of March 15, 2010, Gov. John Hoeven began calling up Soldiers and Airmen to serve on State Active Duty in Region 4, which includes the following counties in southeastern North Dakota: Steele, Traill, Barnes, Cass, Ransom, Sargent and Richland. Here, Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, of the 119th Wing, documents the opening days of the N.D. National Guard's response to flooding across the Eastern side of the state.

# 2010 FLOOD OPERATIONS

# GUARDIAN

## Snapshots

A prominent Department of Defense award was recently bestowed on the N.D. Air National Guard. The Happy Hooligans' 177<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron received the 2009 Joint Operational Support Airlift Center (JOSAC) Squadron of the Year award for the U.S. Air Force in the small aircraft category.

Marine Lt. Col. Scott Payne, presented the award to the 177<sup>th</sup> ALS Commander, Lt. Col. Rick Omang, on behalf of JOSAC and the U.S. Transportation Command at the N.D. National Guard Professional Development Workshop March 12.

"Today we're recognizing a significant accomplishment that doesn't happen very often. Lt. Col. Omang is the commander of an Air National Guard squadron, a Guard squadron that is competing with active-duty squadrons in the Air Force," Payne said.

"This is a prestigious award and speaks volumes about the talents and abilities of the Happy Hooligans. These Airmen were the best in the world when they flew fighters, and now, after only a couple of years into their new mission of the C-21 Lear Jet, they have once again proven that they are the best in the nation," said N.D. Gov. John Hoeven.

JOSAC is the airlift branch of the U.S. Transportation Command, headquartered at Scott Air Force Base, Ill, that specializes in air transportation of senior defense officials within the continental United States. Currently, 89 units support JOSAC, with the Happy Hooligans being one of them. Units are comprised of aircraft squadrons from all branches, to include the Marine Corps, Army, Navy and Air Force.

"The Happy Hooligans continue to excel in all their missions," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. National Guard adjutant general. "The 119<sup>th</sup> Wing, through a multitude of aircraft, continues to demonstrate superior performance worthy of Department of Defense recognition. These Airmen ensure that the N.D. National Guard leads the way in excellence for the entire nation."

After the Happy Hooligans ended their 60-year fighter mission in January 2007, they started the new mission of the C-21A Lear Jet. In 2008, they began supporting missions for JOSAC, providing airlift to dignitaries all over the United States.

"JOSAC is a unique mission for us because our pilots get to interact with so many individuals on a daily basis. You can be sure that the Happy Hooligans and the great state of North Dakota are recognized by our customers," said Lt. Col. Rick Omang, 177<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron commander.

The Happy Hooligans have been in the lead since October 2009 for the number of



Capt. Christopher Domitrovich and 1st Lt. Treff Wagner, both of the 177<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, pilot a C-21 aircraft as they maneuver down the taxi-way prior to launch at Hector International Airport. The N.D. Air National Guard C-21s have deployed to southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and have escorted numerous dignitaries around the U.S.

Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

missions they have flown for JOSAC. From October to February, they flew 997 hours, which is 141 hours more than any other unit in their category flying for JOSAC in the nation.

"Our customers often request us to fly for them because we keep our aircraft in excellent condition, we're well-trained at what we do, and we treat our passengers with the Midwest hospitality that the Happy Hooligans are known for," Omang said.

In a letter announcing the JOSAC Squadron of the Year award, Navy Capt. Peter R. Davenport, chief of JOSAC, stated, "The 177<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron's dedication and professionalism set the mark for all other C-21 units in the Department of Defense. We sincerely appreciate the superior effort of your Happy Hooligans, crews and support personnel alike, while performing the OSA (operational support airlift) mission."

The N.D. Air Guard has embraced the C-21 mission and made it their own. The Happy Hooligans made Air Force history by creating a military maintenance program for the C-21 aircraft at the 119<sup>th</sup> Wing. This was the first of its kind program for the entire Air Force since the maintenance of C-21s had previously been done by civilian contractors. Because of this program, N.D. Airmen were able to keep their maintenance jobs while waiting for the new C-27J Spartan aircraft mission that is expected to arrive in about 2012.

In addition, last summer the Happy Hooligans deployed several of their C-21 Lear Jets, to include pilots and maintenance personnel, to Qatar, which was another first for the 119<sup>th</sup> Wing. Never before had the Happy Hooligans deployed their aircraft into a theater of war. Within two months of being deployed, they won 'Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit of the Month' in June 2009.

"The Happy Hooligans have a tradition of excellence that continues to flow into their C-21 JOSAC mission, Predator mission and I know when the C-27 mission comes to Fargo, we'll see excellence in that mission too," said Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, director of the Air National Guard.

The Happy Hooligans have been making a name for themselves from the start with the C-21 mission and they don't plan on stopping anytime soon, leaders say.

"Regardless of what we're flying, whether it's the current mission of the C-21 or our future mission of the C-27, we will do everything we can to ensure that we are the best at it. That's what



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp



Staff Sgt. Shawn Weismiller

Top, Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, director of the Air National Guard (second from left), shakes hands with Lt. Col. Rick Omang, 177<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron commander, at the Professional Development Workshop in Fargo March 12. Omang is displaying the Joint Operational Support Airlift Center award with Lt. Gen. Robert R. Allardice, commander of the 18<sup>th</sup> Air Force (far left), and Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. National Guard adjutant general (far right). Above, Omang performs a preflight inspection before conducting combat operations July 26, 2009, while deployed in Southwest Asia.

being a Happy Hooligan is all about," Omang said. "It's still early, but we're already ahead for the most JOSAC flying hours for March. Hopefully, we'll keep it up and take the lead for the sixth month in a row." ■

# Destination: Everywhere

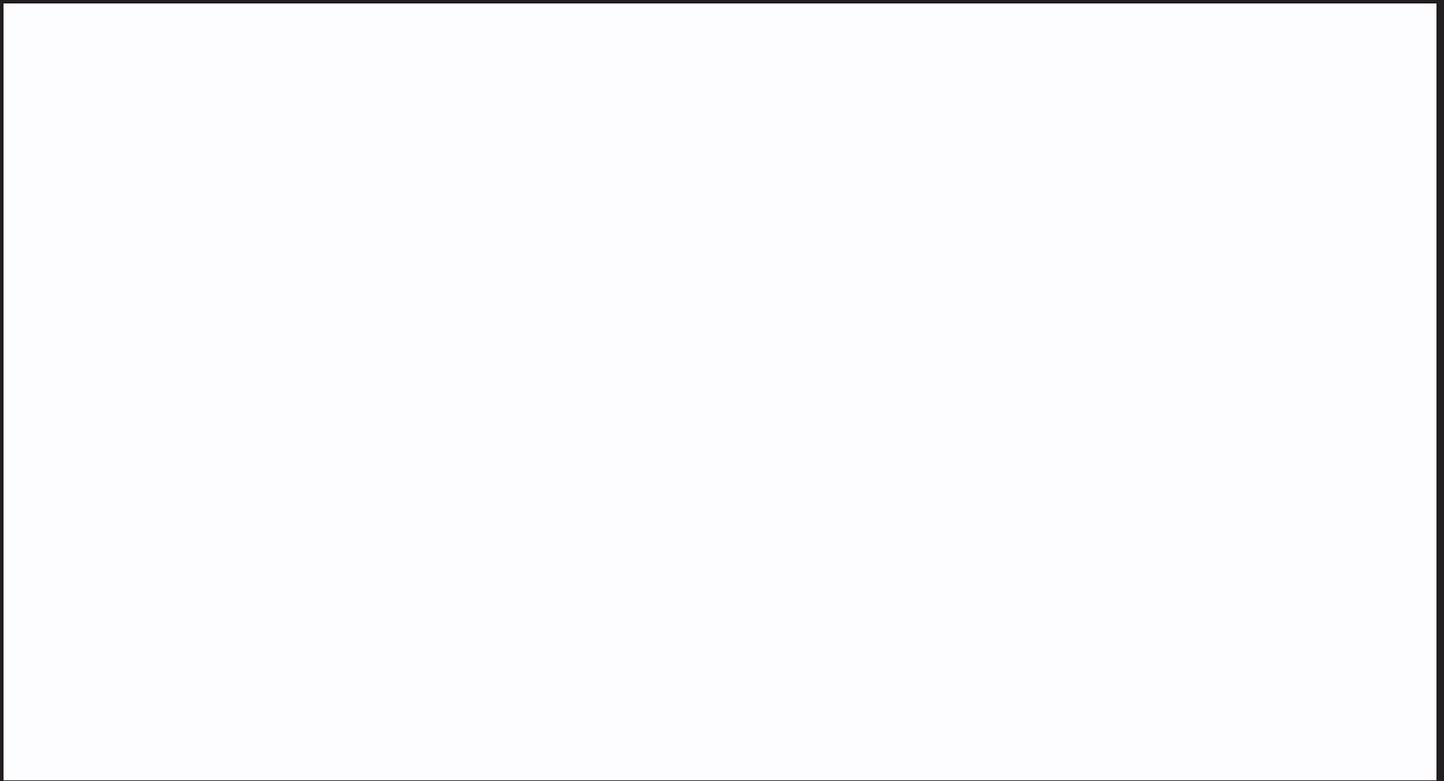
**Hooligans Earn JOSAC Award for Superior Performance Across U.S., World** *By Capt. Penny Ripperger 119<sup>th</sup> Wing*



## AIRMEN OF THE YEAR

From left to right, Staff Sgt. Wesley J. Heit, Master Sgt. Shane J. Amundson and Senior Airman Erik R. Foss display their awards from the Outstanding Airman of the Year Banquet for the 119<sup>th</sup> Wing March 6, 2010.

Amundson received the honor of Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year, Heit was named Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and Foss is the Airman of the Year. If you missed highlights from the Outstanding Airman of the Year Banquet, what the video at [www.119wg.ang.af.mil/videoarchive/index.asp](http://www.119wg.ang.af.mil/videoarchive/index.asp).



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. National Guard adjutant general, right, interviews with radio announcer Drew Wrigley on 1100 AM radio March 12. The statue in the forefront was presented to Maj. Gen. Sprynczynatyk and the N.D. National Guard after radio station 1100 AM listeners voted N.D. Guardsmen as N.D. Persons of the Year for 2009. The N.D. National Guard participated in highly visible flood fighting activities all around the state of North Dakota during historic flooding in the spring of 2009, contributing to high regard for the Air and Army national Guard throughout the state.