



NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN

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December 2009



The Reason for the Season

Guardsmen Embrace
the Spirit of Christmas

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Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi.

On the Cover



Santa's Helpers: Chief Master Sgt. Paul Tangen and Lt. Col. John Flowers, of the 119th Wing, unload gifts for Veterans at the North Dakota Veterans' Home in Lisbon, N.D., December 2008. The gifts are given to Veterans at the nursing home by the N.D. Air and Army National Guard annually, using funds raised through personal donations by Soldiers and Airmen. See how more Guardsmen have given to their communities on page 8. (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

Celebrating the Holidays With Our Guard Family

Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.

— Calvin Coolidge

Seasons greetings to all our Citizen-Soldiers, Citizen-Airman, civilian employees, retirees, employers and our entire National Guard Family.

The holiday season is a great time to reflect on another year of achievements due to the efforts of the military and civilian members of the North Dakota National Guard. From our unit and individual mobilizations, to fighting floods; from assisting in tornado recovery, to earning unit awards; your hard work has been remarkable.

All who currently serve, our Veterans that have served, and our civilian employees, coupled with the loved ones who support us, comprise our North Dakota National Guard Family. It is this Family that we honor and celebrate every day, and it is the spirit of family that allows us to successfully complete our missions. The many accomplishments this past year stand as a testament to that bond.

In the midst of sending Soldiers and Airmen to war and welcoming others

home, for 100 days nearly 3,000 Soldiers, Airmen and civilian employees from the North Dakota National Guard and the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services teamed up with civil authorities and volunteers to fight historic spring flooding across our state. On the heels of record flooding, North Dakota Soldiers provided tornado relief to the citizens of Dickinson, while our Happy Hooligans for the first time were deployed to a combat zone with their organic aircraft (C-21).

Your Soldiers are leading peace-keeping efforts in Kosovo with the largest North Dakota Guard task force since the Korean War, while your Airmen earned their 13th Outstanding Unit Award. The Airmen of the 219th Security

Forces Squadron at the Minot Air Force Base became the first Air Guard unit ever to participate in the Personal Reliability Program (PRP), an important requirement for guarding nuclear weapons. We initiated our Military Service Center which serves military members of all branches of service, their Families and Veterans, as we continued our work with Ghana in the State Partnership Program. Our Civil Support Team stands ready to respond 24/7 here at home while our Guardsmen

“It is this Family that we honor and celebrate every day ...”



Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk

North Dakota National Guard Adjutant General

&

Connie Sprynczynatyk

Executive Director of the North Dakota League of Cities

operate Unmanned Aircraft Systems half-way across the globe. This fall we dedicated the Memorial to the Fallen in the Global War on Terrorism — our successful undertakings in 2009 would fill volumes.

Through all of this year's accomplishments, through the transformations and new missions we've assumed, the North Dakota National Guard remains steadfast in our commitment to neighbors and communities. This holiday season is a difficult time of separation for the more than 800 Soldiers and Airmen who are currently deployed, so please reach out to show extra support to the Families celebrating the holidays without their Guardsmen.

To our Soldiers, Airmen and Families: we are honored to serve with you. Connie and I thank you for all you do in the name of freedom and service.

Merry Christmas and may God continue to bless you in 2010.

Sincerely,

Connie
&
David H. Sprynczynatyk

Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk &
Connie Sprynczynatyk



Three 1-188th ADA Groups Deploying to Afghanistan, Iraq

Hundreds of people filled the Grand Forks Armory Complex Nov. 22 to show their support for three groups of N.D. Soldiers deploying to Afghanistan and Iraq. The Soldiers hail from the 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment.

“Today we have the most amazing Soldiers from North Dakota serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, Djibouti, Kosovo and beyond, and they’re doing an absolutely incredible job, and you will, too,” North Dakota Gov. John Hoeven told the deploying Soldiers.

It’s a first-of-its-kind mission for the N.D. Guard; two of the deploying groups will be operating the AN/MPQ-64 Sentinel Radar for the first time in a combat zone. The Sentinel can alert short-range air-defense weapons to sites of hostile targets. One group of eight will go to Iraq while the second group of 25 is headed to Afghanistan, where they will serve with another 39 N.D. Soldiers in the RAID (Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment) IV group. Capt. Walyn S. Vannurden, of Cavalier, N.D., will command both Afghanistan-bound groups. 1st Sgt. Gregory P. Brockberg, of Moorhead, Minn., is the senior enlisted Soldier.

RAID IV will replace RAID III, which is expected home in January 2010.

Guard Awarded for 45 Accident-Free Years

The N.D. National Guard received three National Safety Awards last month at the 2009 Aviation Safety and Standardization Conference in Orlando, Fla. The awards recognize excellence in aviation and ground transportation safety.

The first award was the Army National Guard Stellar Award for eight years without a Class A or B aviation or ground accident. The second award was the Distinguished Motor Vehicle Safety Award for 20 years without a Class A or B Army Motor Vehicle Accident. (A Class “A” accident is defined as damage costs of \$1 million or more or destruction of an Army aircraft, missile or spacecraft or fatality or permanent total disability. A Class “B” accident is defined as damage costs of \$200,000 or more or permanent partial disability or three or more people are hospitalized as inpatients.)

The third — and most extraordinary — award was the Distinguished Aviation Safety Award presented for 45 years with-



Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson

Gov. John Hoeven, center, shakes Capt. Walyn Vannurden’s hand after presenting three North Dakota flags to the leadership of the three 1-188th Air Defense Artillery units honored Nov. 22 before they head to Afghanistan and Iraq. Vannurden will command the two units deploying to Afghanistan. Pictured from left to right are Maj. Gen. David A. Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota National Guard adjutant general; Sgt. 1st Class Michael W. Kraft, who will lead the group headed to Iraq; Vannurden; Master Sgt. Richard J. Pecoraro (hidden); Hoeven; Congressman Earl Pomeroy; 1st Sgt. Greg Brockberg, senior enlisted Soldier for the groups deploying to Afghanistan; and Sen. Kent Conrad.

out a Class A or B accident. The award encompasses flight hours from all aircraft operated by the N.D. Army National Guard, both helicopters and airplanes, from November 1964 to November 2009. North Dakota’s 45-year award exceeded the next highest state by 15 years.

119th Wing to Hold Annual Children’s Christmas Party

The N.D. Air National Guard Annual Children’s Christmas Party will take place from 2-4 p.m. Dec. 12 at the 119th Wing Dining Facility. Parents, make sure to bring a wrapped gift for your child. Great food and activities, including clown entertainment will take place. Also, rumor has it that Santa will be stopping by, via C-21, to visit the children.

Iraq Veterans Take Part in First Air Guard Reintegration

Airmen from the 119th Wing participated in a November reintegration event aimed to help them and their Families readjust to civilian life after a deployment. Twenty-three Security Forces Airmen who deployed to Iraq from February to August 2009 and 51 family members and friends attended.

The group heard from experts on suicide prevention, the five love languages, individual counseling, healthy sleeping habits, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), domestic violence and much more.

“We have a strong Hooligan family with a priority to look out for each other. One way to do that is to make sure that our Airman and their families know that there are people who care about them and

resources available if they need assistance,” said Jody Harms, 119th Wing Family Program coordinator.

This is part of the first sequence of events for the 119th Wing hosted by the Reintegration/Yellow Ribbon Office under the division of the N.D. National Guard Service Member and Family Support Division.

817th Engineer Soldiers Place in National Marksmanship Event

Soldiers assigned to the N.D. Army National Guard’s Jamestown-based 817th Engineer Company (Sapper) placed fifth in the Winston P. Wilson Marksmanship Sustainment Exercise (WPW) in Little Rock, Ark. Two teams that competed regionally in August participated in events with rifle, pistol, shotgun and machine gun

“While the competition shows how our shooters compare across the nation, it is important to understand the tremendous resource they represent as trainers for our units,” said Lt. Col. Stephen Herda, environmental program manager.

In the WPW, North Dakota’s “A” team took second place in the infantry trophy match, fourth in reflexive fire and rapid fire engagement and sixth in the unknown target distance for an overall fifth place out of nearly 80 teams competing.

Each state sends at least one team to the annual competition. Jamestown has represented the North Dakota team for about 20 years. Members of the “A” team who placed fifth were Spc. Tyrel Hoppe, Horace; Spc. Robert Mahoney, Fargo; Spc. Evan Messer, Fargo; and Sgt. 1st Class Gary Varberg, Hannaford.

Online Communities Make Faces Stick Out in a Crowd

By Sgt. Eric W. Jensen
Joint Force Headquarters

Before a few weeks ago, I had never heard of Kevin Colvin. I'm fairly certain the young bank intern from Massachusetts had no intention of revealing his identity to unknown, casual users of Facebook like me either. Nonetheless, Colvin became a reluctant Internet sensation after violating this unpatented social media slogan — what happens on Facebook, doesn't necessarily stay on Facebook.

Colvin's descent into Internet infamy began innocently enough with an e-mail to his employers explaining a sudden departure from work. The correspondence read: *Paul/Jill – I just wanted to let you know that I will not be able to come into work tomorrow. Something came up at home and I had to go to New York this morning for the next couple of days. I apologize for the delayed notice. Kind regards, Kevin.*

Something had come up, but it wasn't a family emergency. Instead, Colvin's urgent transmission was used as a ruse to attend a Halloween party in his home town of Worcester, Mass. The event was documented by attendees via digital photo and the images were promptly posted to Facebook.

Colvin may or may not have been aware that the photos had found their way onto the Internet. He also may or may not have known that his boss was Facebook savvy and had decided to do some fact-checking on Kevin's weekend whereabouts. What he uncovered was certainly a violation of employer/employee trust. A photo featuring Colvin dressed in a fairy costume, smothered in glitter and wielding a can of cheap beer and a wand overwhelmingly indicated that the family emergency had been a fib.

Kevin's boss humorously replied to Colvin's original message by attaching the photo and blind carbon copying their entire office. The message read: *Kevin – Thanks for letting us know – hope everything is ok in New York. (Cool wand). Cheers.*

This anecdote, while very amusing, illustrates the importance of practicing responsibility in an age of immediate and extremely accessible information. The entire communication landscape has changed, and with it, has brought tremendous challenges for military members. While we embrace social media sites, and use them to exchange ideas and maintain connectivity with friends and family while mobilized, commanders are legitimately concerned about operational security. How do we manage the use of social media effectively to deliver positive messages without tearing down public perception of our organization because of those who use sites and web tools irresponsibly? Many would suggest we should just cut the dragon's head off completely. I disagree. Here are a few statistics for the naysayers:

- By 2010, Generation Y, or the Millennial Generation, will

“The way we communicate our message is dictated by our entire force.”



Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith

Jack Harrison, director of National Guard Bureau Public Affairs (second from left) presents a National Guard Heritage print titled “9-11” to members of the North Dakota National Guard Public Affairs Office, including Staff Sgt. Billie Jo Lorus, Lt. Col. Rick Smith and Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson. The print and corresponding award was for Excellence in Public Communications in support of Domestic Operations for the team's communications support during North Dakota spring 2009 flooding. Social media sites, such as Flickr, Facebook and Twitter, allowed for the dissemination of critical emergency flood information to a wider audience. Much of the team, including Capt. Dan Murphy, who led the public affairs efforts during the flood, are deployed to Kosovo.

outnumber Baby Boomers ... 96 percent of them have joined a social network.

- If Facebook were a country it would be the world's fourth largest, ranking between the United States and Indonesia.
- There are more than 200 million blogs.
- Social networks and blogs are the fourth most popular online activities, which includes beating the use of personal e-mail.
- Around 64 percent of marketers are using social media for five hours or more each week during campaigns, with 39 percent using it for 10 or more hours per week. (*Information compiled by <http://econsultancy.com> and <http://socialnomics.net>*)

From a public affairs standpoint, we cannot afford to be a meek voice that uses reactionary methods for information engagement. This couldn't have been demonstrated any more comprehensively than during North Dakota's historic flood fight in the spring of 2009. By using social media methods, we were able to deliver critical information to the general public in a timely manner, helping to minimize the loss of property and contribute to the safety of our communities. We were also able to tell the N.D. National Guard's story more effectively.

The way we communicate our message is dictated by our entire force. Please use caution when using social media sites. Remember that you are the message. Your appearance and actions hold more significance and implications than you may be aware of. Kevin Colvin learned through an embarrassing ordeal that what goes out on social media sites can always come back — most the time unannounced and in an awkward fashion. Don't be naïve in thinking that no one is looking because at least 300 million Facebook users are.

Strong Coffee, Strong Friendships, Strong Peace

"Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth ... to all upon whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:14)

Merry Christmas from Kosovo!

Recently, KFOR12 Multi-National Task Force-East (MNTF-E) hosted a luncheon at Camp Bondtseel for religious leaders from communities all over Kosovo. Muslim imams, Roman Catholic priests, presidents of Muslim councils, Serbian Orthodox priests and chaplains attended along with chaplain assistants.

Our primary mission as unit ministry teams is to support the spiritual needs of Soldiers. Our secondary mission is to engage local religious leaders in order to promote the peace in Kosovo. Together, MNTF-E unit ministry teams hosted the religious leaders luncheon as one of our first shared tasks.

At the luncheon, I spoke about "strong coffee, strong friendships and strong peace." Everywhere we go in Kosovo, we are served strong coffee; it is considered an act of kindness and hospitality. So, we drink a lot of coffee here.

But it's more than just having coffee. Coffee leads to conversations dealing with the stuff of life: family, community, education, faith. Meaningful and personal conversations lead to strong friendships, which become the foundation of peace in our

Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain (Maj.) Maury Millican
Kosovo Force (KFOR) 12



Courtesy Photo

Chaplain (Maj.) Maury Millican, right, and Capt. Dan Murphy, both of Kosovo Force (KFOR) 12, enjoy some conversation over a cup of coffee during a tour outside of Heidelberg, Germany, prior to their arrival in Kosovo. Murphy said, "We stopped someplace for a quick break and Chaplain Millican had himself some strong German coffee. He was wired from this ... even more than usual for those who know him."

communities. So strong coffee leads to strong friendships, which become the foundation for a strong peace.

And really, that is what we do as human persons every day, isn't it? We have coffee, build friendships, and live in peace with one another. Peacekeeping is not so difficult after all, as long as all of the parties are willing. It's just a little harder when people stop drinking coffee together.

This Christmas, take time to share some strong coffee (or your favorite beverage) with the ones you love, and the ones with whom you need to make peace. Strong coffee leads to strong friendships, which become the foundation for a strong peace.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God." (Matthew 5)

AFSO21 Develops Faster, More Efficient Organizations

By Staff Sgt. Tiffany Trombley
119th Wing

"Work smarter, not harder," is a phrase commonly heard throughout the military. In July, the Junior Enlisted Advisory Council invited members of the N.D. Air National Guard to learn how to do just that as we traveled from Fargo's Air National Guard base to Duluth, Minn.

Included in the itinerary was some classroom time, where Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century (AFSO21), was explained to the group by Master Sgt. Andrew Bair. What is AFSO21? AFSO21 was developed to eliminate any waste of Air Force time, equipment and manpower. How can we get the mission accomplished in a timelier, more efficient manner?

During the classroom portion, we

simulated running an aircraft manufacturing company. We started out with assigned jobs with a specific set-up. After a trial run where we made virtually no profit, we discussed a better way to set up our factory. After implementing our AFSO 21 changes, our factory wasn't perfect, but we made better use of our skills and turned out a significantly larger profit.

After the classroom portion, we took a tour of the Cirrus Aircraft Factory to see how a civilian company uses characteristics of AFSO 21 to improve their processes. At the factory, it was evident by the charts on the walls that they take continuous process

improvement seriously. Our tour guides explained how they continue to improve on their processes using the training as they guided us through the factory.

As a National Guard team, we need to ask ourselves "why" we do things the way we do them. It's easy to look at a process and say, "Well, we've always done it that way." Why? And is it the most beneficial to the military? As John F.

Kennedy once said, "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."



Become an Officer in the North Dakota National Guard

There are many ways to become an officer in the North Dakota National Guard. Here are some of the ways Guardsmen can pursue a commission and lead as an officer:

North Dakota Army National Guard

Officer Candidate School (OCS) is one of the avenues for Army Guardsmen to take toward becoming an officer. The mission of Officer Candidate School is to train, educate and commission officers to provide the Army with leaders of character who live by the "Warrior Ethos" and "Army Values." The state OCS option (traditional course) is a 15- to 18-month course conducted March to August that consists of two-week annual trainings and drill weekends at Camp Grafton Training Center.

The accelerated (fast-track) option is a consecutive eight-week program offered at three different locations and times throughout the year. This program is fast-paced and designed for Soldiers with more experience.

Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) is another way to earn a commission. ROTC is a college-based, officer commissioning program. It is designed as a college elective that focuses on leadership development, problem solving, strategic planning and professional ethics. The universities that offer ROTC in or near North Dakota include North Dakota State University, Dickinson State University, Concordia College, Minnesota State University Moorhead and University of North Dakota. A

Soldier's academic plan, along with other factors, determines the length of ROTC.

Typically it takes two to three college years. Cadets become eligible for commissioning when they graduate. Another option is direct commissioning. Soldiers who hold a nursing, medical, dental or physician's assistant degree may be eligible for a direct commission. Even those accepted into any of these schools may be eligible. Being an attorney or an ordained clergyman may make a Soldier eligible as well. The N.D. Army National Guard has openings for doctors, dentists, physician's assistants, nurse practitioners, chaplains and

Judge Advocate General's Corps officers.

Current incentives allow Soldiers to retain the Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) after commissioning. Those who choose to give up the SLRP may be eligible for the \$10,000 Officer Accession Bonus. In any situation, new officers will be eligible for the \$6,500 N.D. State Officer Bonus paid upon commissioning.

Some of the advantages to becoming an officer include the opportunity to lead the best Soldiers in the world, higher base and retirement pay, pride in accomplishments and becoming trained in another profession. To enhance your civilian and military career by pursuing a commission, please speak with your commander or contact the Officer Strength Management Force at 701-451-6044 or 701-328-9633.

North Dakota Air National Guard

The Air Guard advertises for officer positions on an "as needed" basis. There has to be a valid position available on the N.D. Air National Guard manning document before announcing an interview board.

The 119th Force Support Squadron announces open positions in the North Dakota Guardian, the 119th Wing Public Web site (www.119wg.ang.af.mil) and on the Wing CoP in the official announcements page. Typically, the 119th Wing advertises for pilot positions in December or January.

The basic requirements to become an officer in the Air National Guard are:

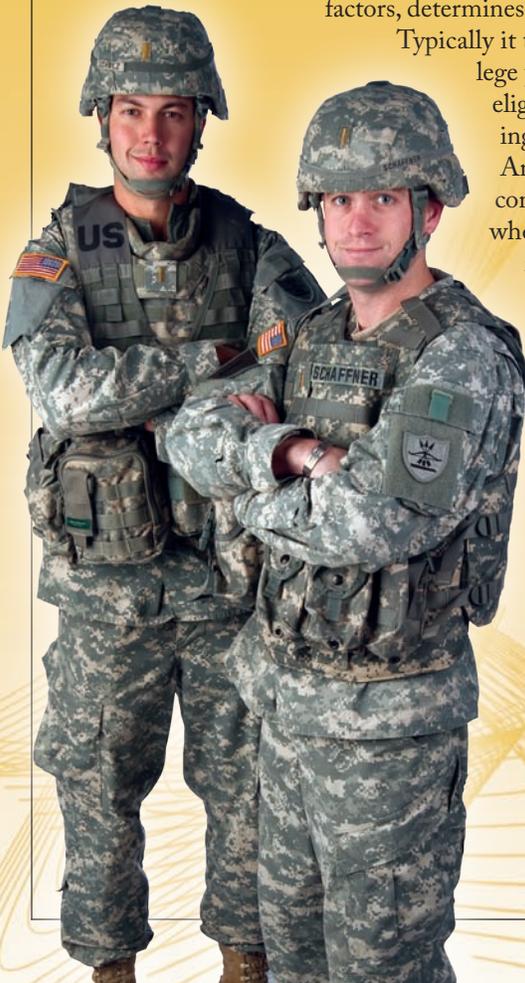
- Qualifying scores on the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test (AFOQT)
- Age (younger than 35, or have qualifying prior service up to the age of 40) Pilot: younger than 30
- Bachelor's degree (or have 90 semester hours from a four-year degree-granting institution)

The AFOQT can be given at the N.D. Air National Guard and any Military Entrance Processing Station or Air Force base.

The commissioning school in the ANG is called Academy of Military Science. Students are scheduled for the six-week course at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala., after their appointment package is approved by the National Guard Bureau.

Direct commissioning also is an option in the Air Guard. The 119th Wing is in need of doctors and chaplains. In addition, incentive opportunities may be available upon commissioning. Qualification for these programs is determined by career field selection. Officer bonus programs currently pay \$10,000 upon commissioning and career field qualification and health professional positions can receive up to a \$75,000 program upon commissioning.

Questions regarding officer positions or requirements should be directed to the Military Personnel Flight in the Force Support Squadron at 701-451-2246.



A Season of Giving

All Year Round

By Capt. Penny Ripperger
119th Wing

They call themselves the mid-shift.

They are the Airmen who work between the hours of 11 and o'dark thirty. This shift took on the challenge to make the world a better place and, unlike many of us, not just during the holiday season.

These Airmen of the 119th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) have a goal to complete one community service project per month. A goal like this may seem daunting, considering their unusual work hours, but according to Master Sgt. Steven M. Gibson of the 119th Wing SFS, mid-shift, it has become one of their priorities.

"It started last year (2008) when we as a shift decided to re-shingle a roof for Habitat for Humanity and Hope Lutheran Church," Gibson recalls.

Seven Airmen and other volunteers spent the day working on the roof from start to finish, which included tearing off the existing roof and installing new shingles for a woman who had lost her husband a few months prior.

Staff Sgt. Brian L. Erdmann, part of the mid-shift and one of the volunteers that day, commented how he was moved by the woman's reaction from their efforts.

"She was brought to tears when she saw what we had done. It felt good to help someone in need. There is a growing number of people in our community that can use a

helping hand from time to time when they're down on their luck. It definitely gives you a greater sense of appreciation for what you have," Erdmann said.

This example of teamwork prompted Chief Master Sgt. James E. Gibson, security forces supervisor, to challenge the entire squadron to run an event in the Fargo Marathon.

"Chief Gibson runs the half marathon every year and wanted to encourage Airmen to participate in the event to promote physical fitness and the team concept. So we, as a shift, took up this challenge and decided to run the 5K together," Master Sgt. Gibson said.

Master Sgt. Gibson explained how these two events forged a bond between the Airmen on shift and inspired them to do more.

"I've had several Airmen come to me with ideas of what to do. We keep our eyes open for opportunities and then decide as a group what we want to do next," Master Sgt.



Courtesy Photo

Above, Staff Sgt. Brian L. Erdmann (back) and Staff Sgt. Val N. Pulsinelli, both of the 119th SFS, volunteer during their off time to help drywall a Habitat for Humanity house this summer. Right, Staff Sgt. Jessica J. Green, 119th Wing SFS, holds the U.S. Flag as she runs the half marathon with Nathan Gaukler. Airmen of the squadron challenge each other to run an event in the Fargo Marathon each year.



Gibson said.

The third project took place this summer when the shift decided to sheetrock a Habitat for Humanity House.

"Drywalling the Habitat House was one of my favorite activities that we've done so far. It felt great to do something to help out the community," said Tech. Sgt. Willie H. Battle, 119th Wing SFS, mid-shift.

Working together brought an unexpected sense of pride for fellow comrades. Many of the Airmen went above and beyond to volunteer for a charitable cause.

"Several of my troops worked six to eight hours during our night shift and then showed up the next morning with no rest to help complete the project. That these troops would get off work and give up their sleep time to help a needy family inspires me," Maser Sgt. Gibson said.

Airmen from other areas within SFS were also

"It was hard work, but it felt good to know that I was helping someone who needed help."

inspired by this mid-shift of do-gooders, which impelled them to participate in upcoming events as well.

"I heard what they were doing and have experience sheet rocking so I decided to volunteer. It was hard work, but it felt good to know that I was helping someone who needed help," said Senior Master Sgt. Robert W. Schultz, 119th Wing SFS Standard and Evaluation NCOIC.

TIP- A- COP, an event that benefits the Special Olympics, was the next event on their calendar. The Airmen volunteered to work shifts at two Fargo Applebee's restaurants, where they greeted people in the community and accepted donations in support of the cause.

This event hits close to home for Staff Sgt. Val Pulsinelli, 119th Wing SFS, mid-shift.

"My wife works with special-needs children, and I know how important the Special Olympics is to everyone. Most people will go out of their way to contribute something to the program," he said.

Erdmann, who worked security for the World Special Olympics in Anchorage, Alaska, in 2001 also participates in the local TIP-A-COP event each fall.

"It brings you closer to the cause behind the action while giving you a greater sense of community. It's also fun to talk to the Veterans who often come into Applebee's the night of the event and listen to their old military stories," Erdmann said.



Senior Airman Nathanael Beardson



Master Sgt. Eric Johnson

Retired Master Sgt. Albert C. Humphrey Jr., 119th Wing SFS, explains the "Tip a Cop" fundraising program to Applebee's customers during the annual benefit that supports the Special Olympics.

The Fargo Applebee's locations received \$1,326 in donations the day the Airmen were on shift.

The final event on the schedule for 2009 will consist of working for the Salvation Army Kettle Drive. The Airmen plan to ring bells at two locations Dec 7. It seems fitting that it also is Law Enforcement Day; the group of Airmen who volunteer their valuable sleep time to help those in need would also find a way to donate their time on a holiday that is dedicated to their career field.

"Getting out on Law Enforcement Day is a plus; it gives us a chance to greet the community," Battle said.

Showing his familiar grin he added,

"It's great to be able to help out a worthy cause."

As the New Year looms just around the corner, the Airmen will continue to hold on to their resolution not to change their ways in 2010 ... *no matter the time of day.*

Airmen of the Mid-Shift

Master Sgt. Steven M. Gibson
Tech. Sgt. Joshua D. Swisher
Tech. Sgt. Sam A. Ruiz
Tech. Sgt. Willie H. Battle
Staff Sgt. Brian L. Erdmann
Staff Sgt. Val N. Pulsinelli
Staff Sgt. Omar A. Arellano
Airman 1st Class Derek R. Jordahl

Other SFS Airmen who have helped

Senior Master Sgt. Robert W. Schultz
Master Sgt. James M. Casias
Staff Sgt. Jessica J. Green
Staff Sgt. Kellynn B. Johnston
Staff Sgt. Michael J. Bittner
Staff Sgt. Brian J. Kieselbach
Senior Airman Sheryl N. Job
Senior Airman Kristopher Jacobs
Staff Sgt. Brandi Grossman



A Tradition of Kindness

In just a couple of weeks, North Dakota Guardsmen will participate in one of their favorite missions of the year: delivering Christmas gifts to residents at the Lisbon Veterans' Home. Each year, North Dakota Army and Air National Guardsmen trade off taking the lead on the event, and this year it's the Army's turn to purchase, wrap and deliver the presents.

Guardsmen across the state have again donated to ensure those who have served before them have a happy holiday. The gifts purchased with those donations will be delivered at 1:30 p.m. Dec. 17. Guardsmen interested in helping to make the special delivery should contact their units.

THE LAST RIDE

Col. Robert Becklund
Steps Down as
119th Wing Commander
After Years of Taking the
'Bull by the Horns'



Col Robert J. Becklund visits the 219th Security Forces Squadron on Minot Air Force Base Aug 3, 2007. A small group of Airmen from the 119th Wing moved to Minot to begin the squadron in May 2007. Once fully staffed it will be the largest SFS in the nation. Most recently, the 219th SFS made history by being the first ANG unit to have the ability to place traditional Guardsmen on the Department of Defense Personnel Reliability Program.

By Lt. Col. Allen Albright, 119th Wing
Photos by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing

Ever think about all that goes on around a unit this size on a daily basis? Ever wonder what it's like to actually be the Wing commander? Not just to make one decision you have a personal interest in, but to really have to deal with all of it — every day. It's something most of us will never really understand.

I can't say for sure what it's like; I haven't done it. I didn't even stay at a Holiday Inn Express last night. I can say I have had an incredibly unusual seat to observe that perspective for the past few years. Being a Wing Exec is a tremendous opportunity to sit quietly in a chair in the corner of the room and learn. It's a mentorship program on steroids.

If you were the Wing commander, then on any given day there would be a congressman, an adjutant general, an angry spouse of a unit member, two unit commanders, a prominent businessman in the community, some FAM from the National Guard Bureau, the airport authority, an upset unit member and

a few others all demanding your attention and swearing to high heaven that you are in for huge problems if you don't give it to them. Trouble is, at least half of them will be correct. How does one person deal with it all? How do you handle a thousand personnel and a budget in the millions? What's important? What's not?

It's educational to see the look on a man's face after they walk into his office and tell him the leader of the free world is coming to Fargo, and that he is expected to meet the plane. I've seen it happen twice, to two different men. They don't make training schools for that sort of thing. The highs are very high, and the lows are truly low.

Having watched all of this a

couple of times around, it sort of reminds me of the rodeo. A couple of guys come up and say, "Hey, let us help you out buddy." Next thing you know, they've strapped your hand to a giant beast, pat you on the back with a smile, and shout out, "OK, let'er buck!" You take a quick look around for help and all you

see are clowns. Then that beast starts jumping and twisting and snorting, doing its best to refuse your simple wish to just live through the day.

It is here that you can truly learn invaluable lessons from the different people who hold that command position.

Each will bring different skills and ideas. It's a chance to stand back and watch. To choose in your mind what you would or would not do, and to see how it works out. I found that a lot of things I thought I knew would likely get me killed in the ring.

Many potential leaders are misled

"YOU DON'T MAKE PEOPLE ACCOMPLISH ACHIEVEMENTS LIKE THESE. YOU MAKE THEM WANT TO."



Above, Becklund high-fives his teammates, Capt. Jennifer Silbernagel (back) and Master Sgt. Melissa J. Woodard, during a team-building exercise titled "Survivor Ghana" while on a deployment to Ghana in September 2006.



Right, Becklund greets President George W. Bush as he lands on the ramp at the 119th Wing during a visit to North Dakota on Feb. 3, 2003.

Below, the 119th Wing receives its 12th Outstanding Unit Award on March 8, 2008. Units that make achievements of national or international significance have the opportunity to win the award, as do units that have been successfully involved in combat and military operations or been exposed to hostile actions by an opposing foreign force. Most units across the United States average only three to five awards, the 119th Wing has received thirteen awards, the most recent one in September 2009.



by what they think is a need for mostly brute strength and zealous courage to ride the beast. Yet even the 6-year-old in the front row of his first rodeo will tell you, "Mister, you ain't gonna beat that bull into submission." Turns out there is a high degree of calculated risk and finesse needed to learn to ride the big beasts. I've witnessed this lesson 10 different ways and Sunday, from my very first flight sergeant on active duty through the most recent Wing commander. You can use different methods to get there, but the bottom line is inescapable. There is a TREMENDOUS difference in leadership results from those who can "make you" and those who can "make you want to." You can only use that rank and position to "make" people do things for a limited time. They will give you only what they have to. They will rise to mediocrity at their highest, fall to complete failure at their worst. Yet for those who can take "men and machine," combine them in a unified purpose, infuse them with a sense of trust in yourself and each other, train them to a level where they are certain their confidence is justified — for that organization and the leader who walks with it, limits to achievement do not apply.

Admittedly there is no prescription or everyone would do it. Each person needs to take their unique skills and apply them in their own way. No magic list of do's and don'ts, yet the goal for whatever you do is the same: build trust, develop competence, create confidence and then turn them loose. Get that awesome power of the beast working with you, not against you. I've been in both types of organizations in my life. I'm pretty certain of my point on this one.

We will gather again this month to pass the flag once more. To Col. Bob Becklund, I would say you drew one of the more difficult rides any commander has ever had: *Transform a proud F-16 unit steeped in its own history and tradition with absolutely no*

desire to change. Take nearly half of your personnel and ask them to do something very different for a living. Take on two missions that aren't even in the Air National Guard inventory. (You can ask questions from those at a higher headquarters, but "we don't know yet" is the only answer you will ever get.) Lead your personnel to define their own answers until the "system" can catch up to the mission they must do every day. For good measure, strip out 10 or 15 percent of the unit's budget just to make it more challenging.

You don't "make" people accomplish achievements like these. You "make them want to." Sir, I've been in the military almost 28 years and counting. When it comes to that special touch in "making them want to" I have never met your equal. That was truly impressive! It's been a sincere honor to be on your staff. I think I speak for many when we wish you the best of luck in your next endeavor.

To Col. Ricky Gibney, welcome to the rodeo that is about to become your life! We're glad you are back with us. You may not even know it yet, but there is a nice surprise hidden behind the bucking beast. It will come at the point it first gets the best of you and you hit the dirt floor with a violent thud. About the time you expect that bull to send you into oblivion you see the best part of the whole rodeo. It's all the clowns — 'cause we got your back! We'll distract the angry animal while you get back on your feet. We'll dust you off and give you an idea or two, and get you ready to ride again. Soon enough, it'll all be just another day at the office. Welcome aboard, Colonel. Now someone pull the pin on the gate and "Let 'er Buck!"

Left to right, Nolan Gibney, 5, and Cormac, 7, sons of Col. Ricky D. Gibney, 119th Wing, participate in Operation Christmas Child at the 119th Wing. Airmen and volunteers from the family readiness group put together boxes to be distributed to needy kids all over the world during the holiday season.



Senior Airman Nathanael D. Beardson

Right, the All Veterans' Memorial at the Capitol Grounds in Bismarck is carefully engineered to allow the sun to shine directly on North Dakota at precisely 11:00 a.m. on Veterans Day.



Bill Prokopyk



Master Sgt. Eric Johnson

Airmen of the 219th Security Forces Squadron demonstrate searching procedures during the first Hooligan Day at Minot Air Force Base Nov. 4.

The sun sets behind the Sar Mountain Range in Kosovo outside of Camp Bondsteel, home to Soldiers of



GUARDIAN

Snapshots

164th Regional Training Institute combat engineer students detonate a breach charge at Camp Grafton Training Center. Urban breaching is just one of the components of the Soldiers' Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course.



Sgt. Jon Haugen

Kosovo Force (KFOR) 12.

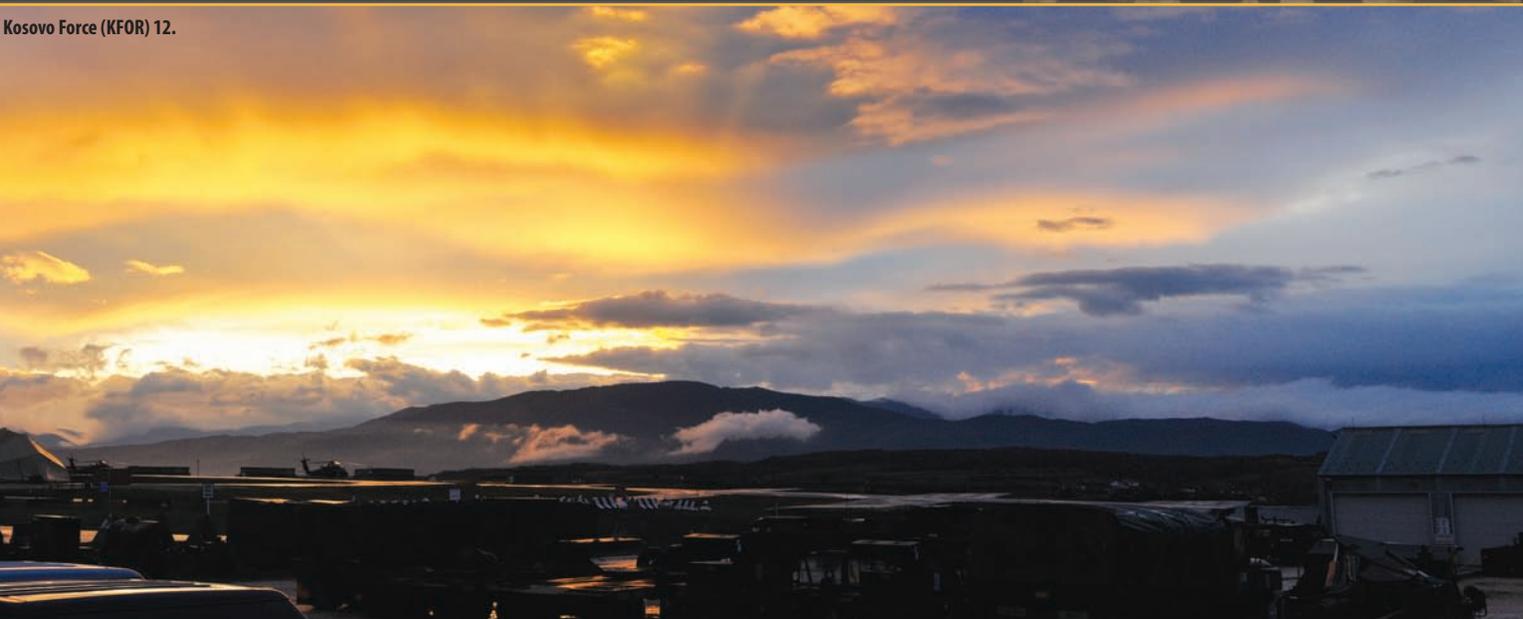


Photo Illustration by Spc. Chris Erickson



Soldiers of Detachment 42, Operational Support Airlift Squadron from left to right: Back row, Sgt. 1st Class John Zacher, Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Job, CW2 Kelby Hovey, Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk and Sgt. Ryan Dreher. Front Row, CW3 Mark Schlafman, CW5 Jerome Hager, CW4 Travis Bridwell and CW3 Tyler Bridwell

Courtesy Photo

Sky's the Limit

Guardsmen Fly High in Djibouti

Story By
Chief Warrant Officer 2
Kelby Hovey
Detachment 42,
Operational Support Airlift

For the second time in the past five years, Detachment 42, Operational Support Airlift (OSA) mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. With a total of eight N.D. Army National Guard Soldiers — six pilots and two operations noncommissioned officers — the unit deployed to Djibouti, Africa. The detachment operates two C-12 aircraft in support of Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA).

The 300-day mission for the unit consists of daily flight operations throughout the CJTF-HOA area of operations, which includes the countries of: Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Comoros Islands, Madagascar, Seychelles Islands, Mauritius and Yemen. The detachment has flown more than 400 missions and is operational 24 hours a day.

During August, September and October, Detachment 42 covered the demanding C-12 mission with only four pilots. The high operational tempo has resulted in each pilot averaging more than 70 hours per month. Additionally, the two C-12 aircraft have maintained a 96 percent operational rate.

“Much of our success is due to the outstanding maintenance support provided by our five Dyncorp contract personnel. As a result of their support and

the work ethic of the entire unit, the detachment has not cancelled a single mission tasked by CJTF-HOA. Detachment 42 has flown 815 hours, 767 passengers and 39,000 pounds of cargo in the seven months we’ve been mobilized,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Travis Bridwell, unit commander.

Despite being tasked only with passenger transport throughout the area, Detachment 42 has provided support for all mission requests. The unit has flown three medical evacuations as well as mail, water, and food (including Thanksgiving dinner) to Soldiers, Airmen and Seamen down range who would otherwise be without. Because of this, troop morale has been greatly improved.

Rep. Earl Pomeroy visited the unit in late August. Additionally, Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk and Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Job made a stop in Djibouti last month.

“Their support and the support of the entire N.D. National Guard is greatly appreciated. Two of the detachment’s deployed Soldiers currently have spouses serving in Kosovo. Without the help of family and friends and great communities, this mobilization would have been much more challenging. We appreciate and thank everyone for your continued support and we look forward to our return in February,” Bridwell said.



◀ MNTF-E KFOR 12 commanding general Brig. Gen. Alan S. Dohrmann, Bismarck, and MNTF-E Command Sgt. Major Jack W. Cripe, Dickinson, N.D., unfurl their task force colors during a Transfer-of-Authority Ceremony held at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. The unfurling of the colors represents KFOR 12's taking charge of peace-support operations in Kosovo.

engage with people and institutions. "We've trained very hard for this mission, really, for more than 18 months now," Dohrmann said. "We're all ready for the mission. I know the Soldiers are excited to get things started with the mission, and I'm very excited to get things started, too."

During the mid-day event, Dohrmann accepted responsibility of MNTF-E from Brig. Gen. Keith Jones, 40th Infantry Division (Forward), of the California National Guard, and the Soldiers under his command.

Maj. Gen. David A. Sprynczynatyk, N.D. National Guard adjutant general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Job, senior enlisted Soldier in the N.D. National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters, traveled from North Dakota to attend the Kosovo ceremony.

"I'm proud of each of our soldiers. Our people are doing a tremendous job. Our people are very professional in what they do and they're going to make a difference," Sprynczynatyk said. "So my message to our Soldiers was 'thank you for your service; I'm proud of you. You're doing a great job, and I appreciate the fact that I have the opportunity to visit with you, if just for a matter of days; for me it's a wonderful experience.'"

The incoming Soldiers under Dohrmann's command started arriving in Kosovo in late October.

"For me to complete my mission and to continue on the path to a brighter future, we — the international community, non-governmental organizations, the institutions in Kosovo, municipal leaders, religious leaders, other formal and informal leaders, and, most importantly, the people in Kosovo — must work together as a team to build the brighter future that we all want for our children, wherever we call home," Dohrmann said.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

KFOR 12 Begins Mission in Kosovo

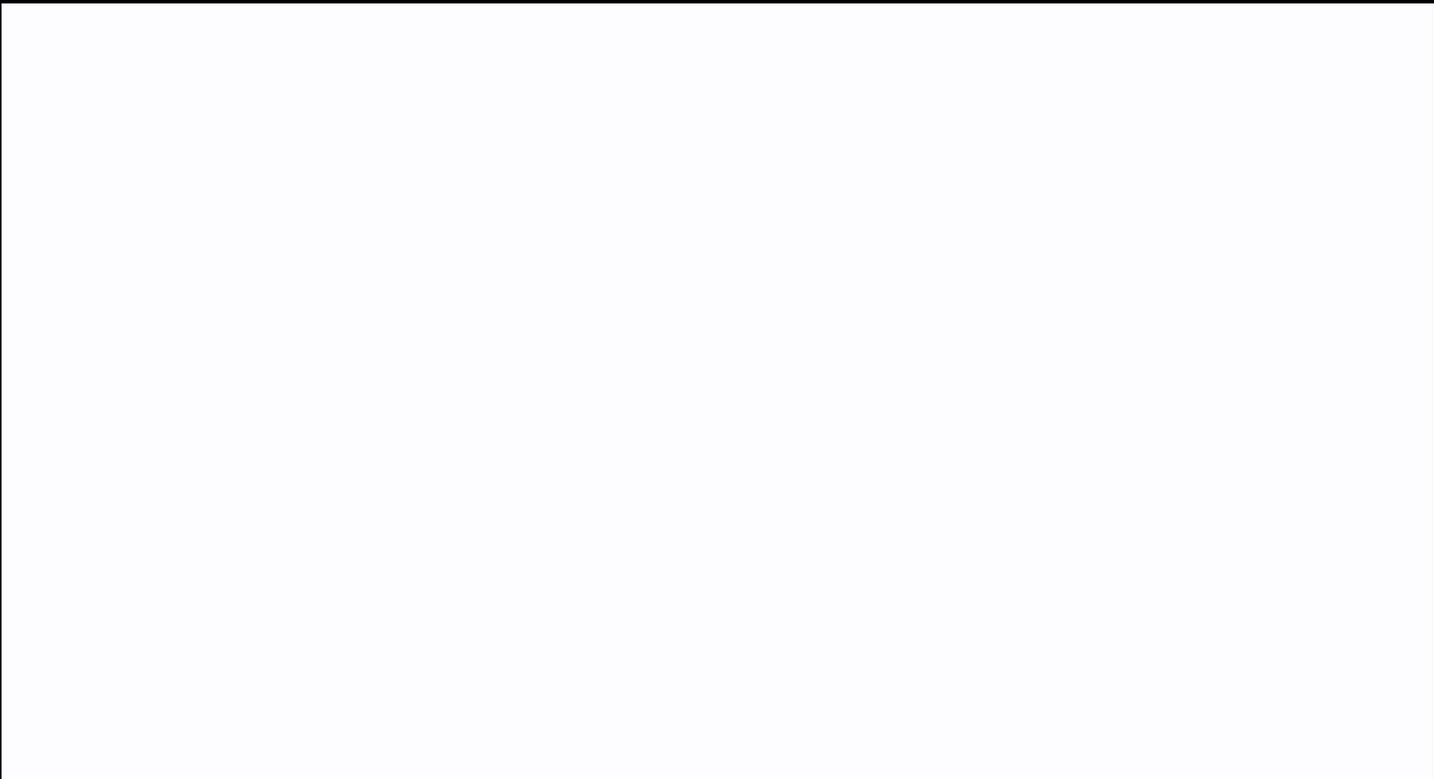
Joint Force Headquarters
Press Release

Nov. 14, 2009: It's one for the North Dakota history books. For the first time in N.D. National Guard history — which extends back to the Dakota Territorial Militia of the 1860s — a North Dakota general assumed command of forces overseas.

On that Saturday, during a Transfer of Authority ceremony, Brig. Gen. Alan S. Dohrmann, of Bismarck, N.D., took command of Task Force Falcon, part of the U.S.-led Multi-National Task Force-East (MNTF-E) in Kosovo. Five other NATO nations — Greece, Poland, Ukraine, Armenia and Romania — also serve in MNTF-E, which works to maintain a safe and secure environment and ensure freedom of movement in Kosovo.

More than 1,300 Soldiers comprise Task Force Falcon, the U.S. contingent of MNTF-E, of which about 600 are N.D. National Guard Soldiers. MNTF-E's area of operations stretches along Kosovo's eastern Administrative Boundary Line as one of five sectors where NATO peacekeeping forces conduct patrols and

- | UNITS IN MULTI-NATIONAL TASK FORCE EAST |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| . 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (FWD), N.D. National Guard |
| . Headquarters & Headquarters Company (N.D.) |
| . 116th Public Affairs Detachment (N.D.) |
| . 160th Finance Detachment (Ariz.) |
| . 37th Interim Brigade Combat Team (Mich.) |
| . 1919 Control and Reporting Center (Utah) |
| . 322nd Civil Affairs/ Det. 5 (Hawaii) |
| . 753rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal (W. Va.) |
| . 847th Human Resources Company (Minn.) |
| . 661st Military Police Company (Virgin Islands) |
| . 1-144th Field Artillery Battalion (Calif.) |
| . 231st Maneuver Task Force (N.D.) |
| . 2nd Combined Arms Battalion/137th INF. (Kan.) |
| . 957th Multi-role Bridge Company (N.D.) |
| . 2-151st Security & Support Battalion (S.C.) |
| . 1-777th Aviation Support Battalion (Va.) |
| . 2-147th Aviation Battalion (Ky.) |
| . 1-169th Aviation Battalion (Ky.) |
| . 1207th U.S. Army Hospital (Ga.) |
| . Ground Ambulance Detachment (N.D.) |



Sgt. Jesica Geffre

Spc. Jordan S. Huwe, of the 116th Public Affairs Detachment, salutes the U.S. flag on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. The flags were flown at half-staff to honor the fallen Soldiers who were killed by a gunman at Ft. Hood, Texas, Nov 5.